Dear Readers,

The 12th European Congress of Neuropathology (ECNP2020) is around the corner and the organizers are happy to announce that it will remain possible to submit late-breaking abstracts until April 30. If you plan to attend, do not miss the early-bird registration deadline. The pre-congress Euro-CNS tumor course is fully booked, but the waiting list may still be open. The European Examination will take place right after the ECNP2020, in Odense. Those interested may express their interest to the Examination Chair, Prof. Tibor Hortobagyi. Zita Reisz from Hungary is a new European Fellow of Neuropathology: She successfully passed the examination last December. Last but not least, we share with you a detailed report on the European Congress of Pathology 2019, written by M. Honavar and C. Godfraind, the Euro-CNS team that organized a neuropathology session and a joint session at this event.

With kind regards,
The Euro-CNS News Editorial Team

Report on the 31st European Congress of the European Society of Pathology

The 31st European Congress of the European Society of Pathology took place from the September 7 – 11, 2019 at Acropolis in Nice. Here, 3,900 delegates from 92 countries met for 150 sessions and around 577 posters. On the sunny days, the Nice palaces conferred a deep poetic flavor to the old city owing to their yellow to reddish tall facades aligned along narrow streets, intermingled with pleasant Renaissance churches, all of which remain from the Italian past of the city. On the only rainy day, socca, a traditional Niçoise pancake made of chickpea flour, helped to warm-up chilled bodies.

At the same time, swimming 1.9 km in the “Baie des Anges”, cycling 90 km to climb the Vence pass, and running 21.1 km alongside the “Promenade des Anglais” was the task of women and men gathered in Nice for the 2019 half-Ironman World Championship. Similar to those athletes, pathologists nowadays have to dominate additional fields. They include molecular pathology, immune reactions to cancers, and artificial intelligence. However, the challenge of establishing the first microscopic diagnoses must have been just as difficult as our tasks today.

Those additional fields involved in the diagnosis were discussed at various sessions throughout the meeting. Their importance was exemplified by the size of stands rented by biotech companies involved in molecular testing and artificial intelligence, as well as those of pharmaceutical companies selling drugs boosting the immune reaction of patients affected by cancers. The launch of the first of the 5th Edition of the WHO Classification blue books, Digestive System Tumours, dominated the sessions and it emphasized the need for and the place of molecular diagnosis in current pathology practice.

The Brain Tumor session, supported by Euro-CNS, focused on “neuronal-glial tumors” and illustrated this evolution. The session’s subject was chosen by the former President of Euro-CNS, Professor Anne Vital. Prof. M. Thom described DNT, ganglioglioma, and MVNT during her talk titled “Most frequent benign mixed neuronal-glial tumors”. Dr. M. Honavar talked about “Rare mixed neuronal-glial tumours” and had the difficult task of helping us understand “diffuse glio-neuronal tumor/PLENTY” and described other, better established entities. As did Prof. M. Thom, Prof. C. Godfraind illustrated the impact of methylome analysis in the diagnosis of neuronal-glial tumors when talking about “Malignant neuronal-glial tumors”. “New FISH tools in diagnosis of neuronal-glial tumors” was the subject developed by Prof. P. Varlet. Dr. F. Forest nicely ended the session by illustrating cases of neuronal-glial tumors from the French Network of Brain Tumors (RENOCLIP-LOC) during his talk.

Euro-CNS also supported a joint session with the electron microscopy working group of the European Society of Pathology on “Storage diseases and Neuropathology: diagnosis and new treatment strategies”. The session was co-chaired by Prof. G. Cennachi and Prof. C. Godfraind. It illustrated how, in the age of molecular biology and AI, electron microscopy is still an important tool in clinical diagnosis and research. Finally, a talk dedicated to precautions for handling CJD in the pathology laboratory was also sponsored by the Euro-CNS.

Submitted by M. Honavar and C. Godfraind
Co-Chairs of the ESP Euro-CNS Neuropathology session
Nice 2019.

Announcements

Abstracts: Late-breaking abstracts will be accepted until April 30, 2020

Development in e.g., molecular pathology, especially in the tumor area, goes fast. Therefore, the organizers will have a section of “late breaking abstracts” for which you can submit until the end of April. The abstracts will be included in the conference app but not in the printed version of the abstract book. They will be presented as posters.

To be accepted, late breaking abstracts must:
– Contain novel data (not previously presented)
– Be of outstanding scientific quality
– Fit the topics of the congress
– Add value to the scientific program
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For submitting late-breaking abstracts use the online abstract submission link on the congress website.

Please send an email to: janne.christiansen@rsyd.dk to inform us that you submit a late-breaking abstract. We will then retrieve it from the system and have it reviewed.

Congress registration

Please note the deadlines for early and regular registration fees:
- Early-bird registrations until March 3, 2020
- Regular registration fees from March 4 – May 18, 2020
- Late registration fees from May 19, 2020

New European Fellow in Neuropathology: Zita Reisz, Hungary

Euro-CNS has recognized and welcomed the following doctor as European Fellow in Neuropathology: Zita Reisz, MD, EFN, Histopathologist and Clinical Fellow in Neuropathology, Department of Clinical Neuropathology, King’s College Hospital, London, UK/Department of Pathology, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary.

The examiners have declared that Dr. Zita Reisz is competent to practice independently as diagnostic neuropathologist. She has been elected as European Fellow in Neuropathology (EFN) and received a formal Certificate of Competence in Diagnostic Neuropathology. The Board of Examiners and the Executive Committee of the European Confederation of Neuropathological Societies extend their warmest congratulations to Zita. The conduct of the EFN examination is described in detail on the Euro-CNS website.

Zita Reisz about her experience with the exam: “I had been working as a pathology trainee (specialist registrar in Histopathology) for 3 years at the Department of Pathology, University of Szeged, Hungary. During my training I developed special interest in neuropathology, and I was given a task to improve both biopsy and autopsy reporting services. For this, I visited the Department of Clinical Neuropathology, King's College Hospital, London in 2017 and obtained good experience as an observer. I also attended several Euro-CNS courses in Neurodegenerative, Developmental, as well as in Muscle and Peripheral Nerve topics, which provided an excellent background and practice for the Euro-CNS exam preparation.

After my successful histopathology board exam in 2018, I got an opportunity to work at King’s College Hospital as a neuropathology specialty registrar, where my mentors supported me to sit the Euro-CNS exam. The 2-days-long exam was very intense and required strong concentration and a broad knowledge in every field of neuropathology. On the other hand, it also gave opportunity to see some very interesting cases and enjoy the challenges in a friendly host department. I believe that this exam gave me further motivation for continuous improvement of my knowledge. I am very pleased and proud to become a European Fellow in Neuropathology.”

Submitted by Zita Reisz, MD, EFN London, UK/Szeged, Hungary

European examination in neuropathology 2020

The next European examination in Neuropathology will take place on June 8 and 9, 2020. This is on the Monday and Tuesday following the 12th European Congress of Neuropathology that will be held from June 3 – 6 in Odense, Denmark. The examination will be held at the Odense University Hospital. For application details please visit the Euro-CNS website.

All information on the Euro-CNS Courses and the European Examination can be found at www.euro-cns.org.

Upcoming courses in neuropathology

1. Euro-CNS Basic Course in Neuropathology, March 17 – 20, 2020, Aachen, Germany. The course is intended for trainees in general pathology, neuropathology, neurology or neurosurgery but also for neurobiologists and PhD students in neurological sciences. Specifically for those who, in the course of their PhD research, will be involved with the neuropathology of, for example, neurodegenerative diseases, developmental diseases, brain tumors, or white matter diseases.

2. CME Course “Tumours of the Central Nervous System” (pre-congress course), June 1 – 3, 2020, Odense, Denmark. This course is fully booked, but the waiting list may still be open. If you are interested to be waitlisted, please contact the course administration as indicated on the Euro-CNS website.

Editorial Team

Euro-CNS News

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