

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024



TAKE A
LOOK
INSIDE

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Contents

.....	0
ECP 2024	2
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ESP	3
By Prof. Peter Schirmacher.....	3
MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR	4
By Prof. Marta Cohen.....	4
UPDATE FROM THE ECP 2024 FLORENCE LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE	5
By Prof. Gabriella Nesi.....	5
MESSAGE FROM THE ESP TRAINEE SUBCOMMITTEE	6
By Dr Alexandra Vilaia and Dr Pui-Yuen Lee.....	6
ESP INTERVIEW SERIES	8
Interviewee: Professor Yuri E. Nikiforov, Founder and President, World Tumor Registry.....	8
Interviewer: Professor Marta C Cohen.....	8
IN MEMORIAM: PROFESSOR HANS KONRAD MÜLLER- HERMELINK	10
RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS	11
By Prof. Falko Fend.....	11
UPCOMING EVENTS	12
By Prof. Falko Fend	12
ESP CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME 2024	14



See you in
Florence!



European
Society of
Pathology

36th European Congress of Pathology

*Multidimensional Pathology –
Cornerstone of modern diagnostics*

7–11 September 2024
Fortezza da Basso, Florence, Italy

www.esp-congress.org

Message from the President of the ESP

By Prof. Peter Schirmacher



Dear ESP members,

We are heading towards the ECP 2024 in Florence and the last preparations are maturing. I can assure you that the programme, the

speakers' line up and

the whole setting are fantastic, and we are all looking forward to it. ECP 2024 will again be the leading Pathology meeting worldwide and I hope to see you all in Florence. It is a MUST to be there.

But ESP is far more than our annual congress. We are looking back to a wonderful ESP Academy in May in Malta, where many of our highly promising junior members had assembled. The Master Class has established its pinnacle position in diagnostic training, and we have substantially increased EScoP training courses and webinars in the different fields of Pathology. Your feedback as participants has been highly supportive, which assures us that we are on the right track and that we have to further intensify these activities.

The ESP exists for its members and would be nothing without them. Giordano training fellowships and travel bursaries are reaching record numbers in 2024. ESP is also offering new scholarship for EMMP (European Master for Molecular Pathology) in 2024/2025. At the same time, we have been able to keep the membership fees very low (free for Pathologists in training!). Did you know that in 2024 ESP has for the first time more than 4500 members with 40%

junior membership! In Florence we will welcome again a record number of participants from more than 100 countries.

With these growing numbers and impact come responsibilities. We have highly intensified our outreach to politics, other scientific and medical societies, and industry. Several collaborative agreements with other societies have been finalised in the last months and there are more to come; it is necessary that the voice of Pathology is heard and considered e.g. in political decision making, clinical guidelines and diagnostic strategies of the future.

All these activities would be impossible without our fantastic team in the ESP office that plans, calculates, supports and follows up all these activities. All team members deserve a big, big thank you! Moving to our new, well positioned and much more functional office in Brussels and taking the organisation of our events in our own hands have been a major step forward. Therefore, a hearty welcome to our new event management team in the ESP family; it is great to have you with us and even in this short time your activities, expertise and new ideas have already paid off for the ESP!

Dear members, for our impact membership and activities are key. Please be an active member, spread the news, inform Pathologists who are unaware of the ESP and its portfolio. Come to our meetings and especially the ECP, learn from and discuss with leading Pathologists, submit your research, participate in the working groups and visit the ESP booth and help to shape with us the future of our wonderful discipline, Pathology.

See you all in Florence!

Sincerely yours

Peter Schirmacher, ESP President

Message from the Editor

By Prof. Marta Cohen



Dear members of the ESP, dear colleagues and friends

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Prof Hans Konrad Müller-Hermelink on

11 May 2024. Prof

Müller-Hermelink was an outstanding pathologist with great expertise in haematopathology and thymic tumours. His leadership at the Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg (1985-2009) attracted investigators and research collaborators. His obituary can be read in full in the newsletter.

The pathology community was also saddened to learn of the passing of Dr Christopher D. M. Fletcher on Sunday, 28 July 2024, at the age of 66, surrounded by his family. Dr Fletcher MD, FRCPath, served as Physician Chief of Onco-Pathology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Vice Chair of Anatomic Pathology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School. He specialised in diagnosing tumours, with a focus on soft tissue tumours and sarcomas. His early training at St. Thomas' Hospital provided a solid foundation in pathology, particularly in musculoskeletal malignancies. Dr Fletcher was a giant in soft tissue pathology. His contribution to the progress in this field has been incommensurable and groundbreaking. His adherence to morphology in the era of molecular pathology was the polar star to navigate in these new and unexplored waters. Professor Rita Alaggio, Co-Chair of

the Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology Working group said: *"He was a mentor of a generation, to the many young visiting pathologists he accepted in his laboratory as well as to the thousands of pathologists attending courses and sending him difficult consults. Ironic, strong, generous. He leaves an immense inheritance"*.

In this issue of our Newsletter, you will appreciate the message from the ESP President, Prof. Peter Schirmacher. You will also find out about the activities of the Trainee Subcommittee, chaired by Dr Alexandra Vilaia.

The 36th ECP, to be held between 7 and 11 September 2024 at Fortezza da Basso in Florence, Italy, is just a few weeks ahead. In this issue, the Chair of the Organising Committee, Prof. Gabriella Nesi, presents an update. The organisers have prepared an exciting scientific and social programme, anticipating another successful congress.

You can find more detailed information about the Congress at the ECP website. <https://www.esp-congress.org/>

This summer we have a record-breaking period of heat and sea surface temperatures in the North Atlantic have climbed to their highest in at least four decades. In the midst of the hot wave, we enjoyed the European football Championship held in Germany, where in a tense final match we witnessed Spain beat England 2-1. The other big sport event was the Paris Olympic Games, also affected by heatwaves who had made organisers concerned about the safety of athletes. The risk of heat-related deaths appears to have risen across most of Europe, and heat stress risk has spread beyond the hottest parts of the day for both

medium (e.g., cycling or football) and strenuous (e.g. rugby, or mountain biking) activities, according to the *2024 Europe report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: unprecedented warming demands unprecedented action* (Volume 9, Issue 7, E495-E522, July 2024). The Lancet report states that temperatures in Europe are warming at twice the rate of the global average, threatening the health of populations across the continent and leading to unnecessary loss of life. No doubt climate change is already affecting the health of our population, and this requires immediate action from all countries.

Besides the hot wave in Europe, I do hope you are enjoying summer and are taking the time to relax and re-charge batteries for the year ahead.

I am looking forward to seeing you in the beautiful city of Florence!

Prof Marta Cohen OBE
Editor of the ESP Newsletter

Register to ECP 2024 Florence!

<https://www.esp-congress.org/congress-account.html>

Update from the ECP 2024 Florence Local Organising Committee

By Prof. Gabriella Nesi



The 36th European Congress of Pathology is fast approaching, and the Italian Society of Pathology is looking forward to welcoming you all to Florence. Being a global icon of art and beauty, home to countless ingenious artists, Florence will complement the educational and networking events of the congress. Its historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, abounding in famous museums, churches, piazzas and gardens. The Official Tourism website of the Municipality of Florence <https://www.feelflorence.it/it> gives the necessary information to fully experience all that the city has to offer, while promoting sustainable tourism. The link <https://www.feelflorence.it/en/node/12591> will assist with any queries regarding accessibility.

Florence is easy to reach. Its airport has direct flights to and from many European cities, and high-speed trains connect it to all the major Italian destinations, including Venice, Rome and Milan. It is a compact, walkable city with convenient public transport, including buses, trams and taxis. Environmentally friendly options such as bike, e-bike and kick-scooter sharing are also available <https://www.feelflorence.it/en/mobility>.



City map showing Congress Venue and Florence top attractions

The Congress Venue, **Fortezza da Basso**, is a masterpiece of Renaissance military architecture, commissioned by Alessandro de' Medici and constructed between 1534 and 1536. This massive fortress, strategically located in the heart of the city, has been the main congress and exhibition centre in Tuscany since 1967. Its interiors have been recently remodeled to provide a state-of-the-art convention centre with all the spaces and facilities needed to house large diversified events <https://www.firenzefiera.it/en/spaces/fortezza-da-basso/fortezza-da-basso>.



Fortezza da Basso

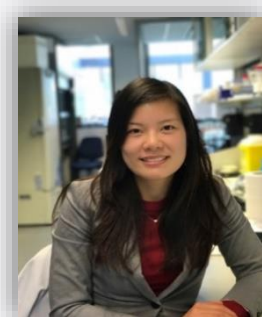
Splendid Florentine settings will assure the success of the ECP 2024 social events. Our traditional Congress Concert will be held in Palazzo Vecchio in the stunning Salone dei Cinquecento, the Great Hall of the Five Hundred, built at the end of the fifteenth century to accommodate the meetings of the Florentine council. The vast frescoes and elaborately decorated ceiling will offer the perfect frame for this event, and the programme includes music to celebrate the legacy of Giacomo Puccini on the 100th anniversary of his death.

We wish you all a safe trip and are looking forward to our meeting in Florence!

Prof. Gabriella Nesi

Message from the ESP Trainee Subcommittee

By Dr Alexandra Vilaia and Dr Pui-Yuen Lee



Dear colleagues,

Summer is finally here, and we are counting the days until we meet again, either in person or virtually, for the 36th European Congress of Pathology. This year's meeting in Florence will mark an important milestone for ESP Trainee Subcommittee!

The clock is ticking and the speakers are ready so check the programme and get ready for the exciting sessions! No matter if you are an expert or just a trainee at the beginning of your career, mark your calendars and join us for our joint session titled "Lung Pathology – from Beginner to Expert" in collaboration with the Pulmonary Pathology Working Group. Prominent speakers will guide you through non-neoplastic, neoplastic lesions and transplant pathology. We look forward to learning from each of them (and you) and as always, questions, comments, and active participation are highly encouraged during the Q&A!

The last day of the Congress will be a busy one for ESP Trainee Subcommittee. We will start the morning with a stand-alone session and finish with the Trainees General Assembly. Blending with the artsy air of Florence, our standalone session, "Colours, Frames, and Pixels: What Stories Does Pathology Narrate?" will combine pathology with art. Six speakers will bring art, disease, artificial intelligence and the art of doing and teaching pathology into discussion. We hope this catches your interest, and that you will join us in Florence!

The Trainees General Assembly will bring new faces and represents a good opportunity to meet with fellow colleagues and representatives to hear and discuss the TSC activities. As previously announced, a call for a new Chair and Co-Chair of the ESP Trainee Subcommittee had been sent. As we are still working on the appointment process, we would like to thank again all those who showed interest for the positions. We are happy and are looking forward to introducing to you the new team of Chairs during the 36th European Congress of Pathology.

In a garden where laughter fills the air, we gather this year for a special affair. With appetizers and pizzas to delight, we have another game in our minds. What is this event, where bonds grow tight? Yes, you are guessing right, it is the **Trainees Social event!**



Together with the Local Organising Committee Trainees and huge support from ESP, we organised yet again another wonderful social event. The event will take place in the heart of Florence, at Villa Vittoria, in a beautiful garden, ready to surprise you with its Italian charm. Local food and games are a must at our events, and we will not let you down this year! Are you eager to join us?

Check out our social media account on X @ESPTrainees and your emails for the latest news and seize your ticket!

As you may have anticipated, this will be our final newsletter as Chair and co-Chair of the Trainee Subcommittee. We want to express our gratitude for your support, participation, and enthusiasm over the years. It has been a wonderful adventure, we've learned a lot, and hopefully made a positive impact representing residents at the European level.

As always, we encourage you to reach out to us during the congress or via email [@esp.traineesubcommittee@esp-pathology.org](mailto:esp.traineesubcommittee@esp-pathology.org) if you have any questions, concerns, or need any support we can provide.



Warm regards,

Dr. Alexandra Vilaia
Dr. Pui-Yuen Lee

ESP Interview Series

Interviewee: Professor Yuri E. Nikiforov, Founder and President, World Tumor Registry

Interviewer: Professor Marta C Cohen



Dr Yuri Nikiforov is a Professor of Pathology and Vice Chair of Molecular Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh, USA. He earned his MD and PhD at Minsk Medical Institute in Minsk, Belarus, where he also completed internship in Anatomic Pathology. He moved to the USA in 1993 to pursue his interest in pathology and molecular genetics of post-Chernobyl thyroid cancer. His main clinical and research interests are in thyroid cancer pathology and genetics and molecular diagnostic of tumours. He is an author of over 250 peer-reviewed publications and a senior editor of the textbook "Diagnostic in Pathology and Molecular Genetics of the Thyroid". He is an elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and has received numerous international awards.

Q: What is the World Tumor Registry?

A: The World Tumor Registry is an international non-profit organization with the goal of creating a comprehensive, searchable, open-access repository of diagnostic microscopic images of human cancers from different geographic regions, populations, and environmental and socio-economic settings. It will serve as an innovative educational and practical diagnostic resource for pathologists-in-training, practicing pathologists, and other professionals interested in cancer care and research. The WTR aims to compile thousands of cancer cases from each anatomical site in the form of

high quality diagnostic whole slides images contributed from all over the world. All tumor cases are annotated with clinical, immunohistochemical, and genetic information, verified by expert pathology editors, and can be searched using innovative search engines.

Q: Why was it developed?

A: After practicing pathology in two different countries and interacting with pathologists from different regions of the world, it became clear to me that there is very different access to educational and reference materials for pathologists and trainees leaving in different countries. Further, I had realized how fragmented and locally-sourced most textbooks and databases are, and that we do not even know for sure if cancer in different ethnic populations and environmental settings has identical morphology. Further, my experience with organizing international studies, like one where we reclassified one type of thyroid cancer as non-cancer (NIFTP) showed me how isolated we remain and how difficult it is to conduct a study that would represent all world populations. The World Tumor Registry was created to address all of these issues.



Q: What do you expect to achieve with this project?

A: Our goal is, by taking advantage of the modern digital imaging capabilities and cloud technology and fostering global scientific and educational collaboration between

pathologists, to create a catalog of all tumor types and subtypes, including rare and new entities, that represent every region of the world. This catalogue of human cancers, searchable by cancer diagnosis, microscopic features, and in the future through the AI-powered image comparison, is and will be freely available for everyone. It can be searched and studied with no login or registration required, like we use Wikipedia.

Q: How far into the WTR journey is the project

A: The WTR is envisioned as a collection of registries of individual cancer sites. Our first project, Thyroid Cancer Registry, that initiated last year, allowed us to build and optimize the WTR case management platform and website. It became available to the public in March of this year and as of today contains ~30% of the final capacity of ~3,000 tumor cases. Work on creating the next two registries, of breast and lung cancer, starts this year, It will be followed by the registries of all other cancer sites.

Each cancer site registry will be curated by the Editorial Board of twenty expert pathologists equally representing five world regions: Africa and Middle East, Asia and Oceania, Central and South America, Europe and Northern Asia, and Northern America. The Editors upload deidentified cases from their own practice and accept them from contributors practicing in their region.

Q: How to join/contact or contribute?

A: We invite all of you to join the community of WTR users and check out the already available Thyroid Cancer Registry by going to the WTR website (www.worldtumorregistry.org). Further, we invite you to contribute to this collection of world knowledge by submitting de-identified tumor cases, particularly those of rare or diagnostically challenging cases that occurred in your region. Your authorship will be prominently acknowledged on the case page. You can

contribute cases using the instructions and interactive map of Editors on the WTR website or contact us directly at contact@worldtumorregistry.org. We also welcome individual donations and sponsorship by the academic institutions and industry partners interested in supporting this global educational and practical resource and the WTR mission to improve cancer diagnosis and patients' outcomes in every region of the world.

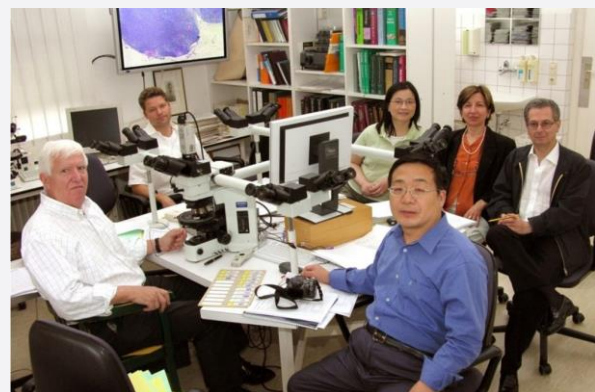
Lastly, we invite everyone to visit the WTR booth #49 at the upcoming ECP2024 in Florence on September 7-11 to learn more about WTR and how you can use it to better diagnose cancer in your practice.

In Memoriam: Professor Hans Konrad Müller-Hermelink



It is with profound sadness that the Thymic and Mediastinal Working Group of the ESP announces the passing of Professor Hans Konrad Müller-Hermelink on May 11th, 2024. Professor Müller-Hermelink was a distinguished expert in the study of lymphatic tissue cells and thymic epithelial cells, excelling in both optical and electron microscopy. His contributions to the fields of hemopathology and thymic pathology, as well as to advanced molecular and genetic research, have left an indelible mark on medical science.

He was a key collaborator with Professor Karl Lennert in Kiel, significantly contributing to the advances and new concepts in Lennert's seminal work, "Malignant Lymphomas Other Than Hodgkin's Disease" (1978). As the Director of the Pathology Institute at Würzburg University from 1985 to 2009, Professor Müller-Hermelink and his team established one of the premier diagnostic centers for hematopathology and thymic pathology.



Scientific meeting in Würzburg 2009

In the thymoma research community, Professor Müller-Hermelink is renowned for his groundbreaking 1985 publication in *Virchows Archiv*, which proposed the histogenetic classification of thymomas. This classification was later integrated into the World Health Organization (WHO) classification scheme in 1999, a collaboration led by Professor Juan Rosai with Müller-Hermelink's and WHO committee support. This WHO classification, which he refined as an editor of the 2004 WHO Classification of "Tumours of the Lung, Pleura, Thymus, and Heart," remains a cornerstone of thymoma diagnosis worldwide.

Professor Müller-Hermelink was a valued consultant for pathologists globally. His leadership at the Würzburg Institute attracted researchers from around the world,

fostering significant scientific advancements. His expertise, dedication to research in thymic pathology, and his personal warmth and friendliness will be deeply missed.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Mirella Marino, Philipp Ströbel, Alexander Marx, Andreas Rosenwald, Anja Roden, Jan von der Thüsen

Recently Published Books

By Prof. Falko Fend



Diagnostic pathology. Molecular Oncology

Third edition
Editors: Mohammad A. Vasef and Aaron Auerbach
Elsevier 2024

The successful Diagnostic Pathology series takes an approach which is focused on the busy pathologist/pathology resident who wants to get information on a diagnostic problem as quickly and as concisely as possible. Therefore, these books more resemble a compilation of checklists for disease entities with a common structure than a conventional pathology book. This approach is not meant for in-depth reading, and you may like the concept or not, but it probably

reflects our current work environment with constant aiming at maximum efficiency.

“Molecular Oncology” is based on the same concept. However, this book is unique, because it tries to encompass the complete relevant practical knowledge, as well as the diagnostic process for the full range of tumor entities in a nutshell, ranging from basic facts over conventional H&E morphology to advanced molecular tests. In addition to a lot of mostly good quality micrographs demonstrating the morphological and phenotypic features of a given disease entity, the recurrent genetic alterations and relevant molecular diagnostic features are listed, in the context of the other findings and the potential differential diagnoses. The book contains 9 major sections, with the first 2 giving a good overview on currently used molecular techniques ranging from cytogenetics to high throughput approaches and 2 sections on molecular genetic tests in haematopoietic neoplasms and solid tumours. 4 chapters cover the molecular pathology of the different categories of neoplasms.

Although there is some repetition (e.g. mastocytosis appears both under the heading of c-kit mutations and as disease entity in the section on myeloid neoplasms), this helps to easily catch on up a topic, irrespective whether one reviews the entity or the diagnostic test. Most of the references are from the last 10 years and up-to-date, also considering recently updated classifications and novel therapeutic developments.

Even if one might prefer conventional textbooks, this stringent distillation of tumour pathology in a single volume succeeds remarkably well in providing an up-to-date, concise manual for everyday use.

Upcoming Events

By Prof. Falko Fend

ESP Courses and other events

ESP course for Molecular Pathology on
Lung Cancer

2-3 October 2024

Nice, France

Programme and registration via this [LINK](#)

ESCoP course for Breast Pathology

17-19 October 2024

Thessaloniki, Greece

Programme and registration via this [LINK](#)

ESP workshop on Digital Pathology

21-22 October 2024

Porto, Portugal

Fully booked! Next editions coming in
2025

ESP-ECO webinar:

“Young Cancer Professionals’ Roundtable:
Challenges in The Education of Young Can-
cer Professionals”

24 October 2024 at 15:00-17:00

Programme and registration via this [LINK](#)

ESCoP course for Gastrointestinal Pathology
November 2024

Sofia, Bulgaria (registrations will be an-
nounced soon)

ESCoP Course for Infectious Diseases
December 2024

Antwerp, Belgium (registrations will be an-
nounced soon)

ESP Masterclass on Gynaecopathology
January 2025

ESP HQ, Brussels, Belgium (registrations
will be announced soon)

ESCoP course for Dermatopathology
January 2025

(registrations will be announced soon)

ESCoP course for Nephropathology

January 2025

(registrations will be announced soon)

ESCoP course for Head, Neck and Ophthal-
mic Pathology

February 2025

(registrations will be announced soon)

Selected Upcoming Pathology Confer- ences

World Cancer Congress 2024/UICC

17-19 September 2024

Geneva, Switzerland

[https://www.uicc.org/what-we-
do/events/world-cancer-congress/world-
cancer-congress-2024](https://www.uicc.org/what-we-do/events/world-cancer-congress/world-cancer-congress-2024)

22nd meeting of the European Association
for Haematopathology (EA4HP)

21-26 September 2024

Dubrovnik, Croatia

<https://www.ea4hp-sh2024.com/>

Joint Annual Meeting of SGPath and
ÖGPath 2024

26-28 September 2024

Feldkirch, Austria

[https://regis-
tration.maw.co.at/pathoherbst24](https://regis-
tration.maw.co.at/pathoherbst24)

UEG Week 2024

12 – 15 October 2024

in Vienna, Austria and online

<https://ueg.eu/week>

*The multidisciplinary UEG Week and Post-
graduate Teaching (PGT) are the premier
venues for researchers from across the
globe to present their latest findings.*

International Academy of Pathology (IAP)
World Congress
26-31 October 2024
Cancun, Mexico
<https://iap2024.com>

KSP 2024
76th Annual Fall Meeting of the Korean So-
ciety of Pathologists
1st International Congress of KSP
31 October – 1 November 2024
Seoul, Korea
kspcongress.org

ESP Corporate Partnership Programme 2024

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