



EFCS
European Federation of
Cytology Societies

The EFCS Newsletter



Issue 1/2021



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New Year, New Projects!

We are glad to let you know that the New Year of 2021 brings you the new EFCS Newsletter!! This is a recently created EFCS official document to regularly deliver to you the most relevant activities and plans of the EFCS and its official partners, as well as some interesting case challenges for you to review and test your knowledge!

We hope you find it useful and interesting!

Please email us with your feedback (residentsyoung@efcs.eu), so we can make this newsletter better in the upcoming issues!

We wish you all a Happy New Year!!!

**More
information
about the EFCS
on our website!**

**[https://
www.efcs.eu/](https://www.efcs.eu/)**

Message from the EFCS Board

How is it possible to survive in front of such a crash? Everywhere in the world we hoped the pandemic would be finished by summer time, and everywhere we have been disappointed. All we were left with, was the incredible impact that this had in our private as well as in our professional lives.

Eventually, however, it will end. In the meantime, we have to work! To work with our colleagues in our own labs, to maintain the scientific level, the discussions, the quality control, etc. This, of course, is essential, but not enough.

We were all some kind of scientific “globetrotters”. Not in the sense of travelling or visiting cities, but having the opportunity to meet colleagues in other countries and sharing our experiences with them, learning from their own experiences, or deciding to work together in close collaboration during an informal conversation. We learned that personal and individual contact is very often the first step to international work, guidelines, new terminologies, and, in the end, better patient management. Therefore, today and during the upcoming weeks, maybe even months, we have to do our best to maintain this frame of mind!

For those of you who have already the experience of “the good old days”, it is relatively easy to keep in touch, to organize discussions with colleagues we have visited/spent time with. Unfortunately, this is likely less obvious for our young colleagues, who are just starting their professional life. For them, and in order to maintain this like-minded European Federation in the future, we have created our EFCS Residents and Young Pathologists Committee! This very active committee is sending you today its first newsletter! You will receive 4 issues every year, like the Vivaldi’s four seasons (just to put some music in our projects)! You can contact them via email: residentsyoung@efcs.eu. Please use this email as often you would like and help us keeping these activities alive!

Last but not least, inform all your residents and young colleagues that a digital platform is planned to be available on our restyled website soon! There, they will find the Young EFCS Network area, where members can contact each other, share educational tools, develop international projects together and have access to a digital platform with many tutorials and trainings on various topics! I am very confident Cytopathology will stand up to this pandemic! Stay tuned!

Warm regards,

Beatrix Cochand-Priollet MD, MIAC, PhD
EFCS General Secretary



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Current status of the 43rd European Congress of Cytology, Wroclaw 2021

Due to the uncertain sanitary situation in Europe, the 43rd European Congress of Cytology, which was initially scheduled for October 2020, was postponed to October 3-6, 2021. This move requires a new organisation and a “refreshed” program. Scientific novelties have appeared, cytology methodologies may have been changed.

At this time, we are working on updating the scientific programme. At the moment, the congress is scheduled for more than 100 sessions of all types, and 5 keynote speakers. Modifications of the speakers and titles of certain symposia may occur. This requires intense correspondence with the Chairs who, in turn, have to contact their colleagues. All these changes are systematically included in the congress on-line program: <https://cytology2021.eu>.

We have also undertaken new research concerning the sponsorship of the congress. Actions are being carried out with local authorities but also at industrial level. At this time, we have the support from the city of Wroclaw, which proposed us to take charge of the costs of the congress buildings and logistics. Others sponsors should be found.

With the change of dates, a lot of work for hotel reservations and the cultural program must also be redesigned. You will have all information on the congress website in real time.

Since we do not know what will happen during the upcoming months, we are also preparing the organisation of a hybrid, or even a totally virtual congress, although we know that the most desired form is a live congress!

A need to actually see each other and to share our cytology experiences is very palpable. Being the first event of this type, after a long period of COVID contingencies, we hope to have as many delegates as possible, including yourself!

Please join us!

Jerzy Klijanienko MD, PhD, MIAC
President of the 43rd European Congress of Cytology



For more information, please visit
<https://cytology2021.eu/>



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Message from the EFCS Residents and Young Pathologists Committee

Dear all,

The EFCS Residents and Young Pathologists Committee (ERYPC) is really glad to welcome you all to the first ever issue of the EFCS Newsletter! This new project of ours is meant to deliver to all of you:

- 1) First-hand messages from EFCS Board of Directors, Committee members, and active cytopathologists around the world, from the more senior ones to the young specialists and residents;
- 2) The most relevant upcoming activities and plans of the EFCS and its official partners;
- 3) Educational contents, such as clinical cases, diagnostic challenges, quizz-like questions, etc.;
- 4) Interesting trivia facts about Cytopathology.

By periodically delivering such contents, we believe we will be able to strengthen the bond between us and our associates, a crucial aspect to all of us in the EFCS.

Indeed, our present (and still uncertain) situation due to the COVID-pandemic has dramatically changed our lives. However, we must not let it affect the spirit of collaboration, teamwork, and healthy networking needed for the development of joint research and educational projects. As a member of the ERYPC, I strongly believe this Newsletter will shed some light on our "Cytology" lives. In parallel to all the official e-mails and more traditional means of contact you have to deal with regularly, you will now have free access to a compilation of these very valuable contents, in an informal, concise, reader-friendly, and reliable way.

This Newsletter is just one of the new projects the ERYPC is committed to. As most of you probably know, the EFCS created this committee because it felt the need for having a team more dedicated to the young members of our societies (specialists and residents). Our role is to develop projects and initiatives more tailored for the young and enthusiastic community of european cytopathologists. So pay attention to the upcoming months, as we expect to announce other thrilling and exiting projects! Last but not least, we would really appreciate your feedback, ideas and suggestions, so do not hesitate to contact us! Our e-mail address is residentsyoung@efcs.eu.

Please share this Newsletter with all your colleagues and residents, so that our activities and projects can reach an ever increasing number of cytopathologists!

Best wishes and stay safe!

Ricardo Veiga MD

Co-Chair of the EFCS Residents and Young Pathologists Committee

Did you know that George Papanicolaou worked as a rug salesman?

That's right! Life was not always easy for the father of Cytology! Back in October 1913, he and his wife arrived in New York city with little money in their pockets. After finding a place to stay, they found a job at Gimbel's department store, where Andromache (his wife) sewed buttons, and George Papanicolaou sold rugs.

These and other very interesting facts about Papanicolaou's life can be found in a beautifully written paper by George A. Vilos called "The History of the Papanicolaou Smear and the Odyssey of George and Andromache Papanicolaou" (Obstet Gynecol 1998;91:479-83).

Ricardo Veiga MD

Co-Chair of the EFCS Residents and Young Pathologists Committee



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Message from the International Academy of Cytology

It is a great joy to see the birth of the EFCS Newsletter in this difficult year of 2020. However, it is in difficult times, that great decisions are made. All the cytology community in Europe and around the World is showing how cytology is important. Despite the several times many people predicted the end of cytopathology, the evidence is showing that, more and more, cytopathology is becoming increasingly important as a medical branch.

Following this tendency, the International Academy of Cytology (IAC) has joined forces with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to publish a series of cytopathology reporting systems, which will present an international approach to the cytopathology of various body sites, and mirror the WHO Classification of Tumours series (with links between the two series). This standardised approach will include the key diagnostic cytopathological features of each particular lesion or neoplasm, which will improve the quality of diagnosis, reporting, and subsequent diagnostic procedures. The reporting systems will include options that will recognise the variations in the availability of diagnostic modalities and management in low- and middle-income countries, where cytopathology is particularly useful and is increasingly available in the absence of histopathological services. These international systems will be able to be used worldwide.

The new publications series will be guided by a Cytopathology Editorial Board, consisting of standing members and experts (many of them from the EFCS) around the world. The Board will liaise closely with relevant groups, internationally, to ensure that areas of overlap are proactively managed.

This initiative, together with the creation of the EFCS Residents and Young Pathologists Committee (ERYPC) are a kind of endeavours that give us a good dose of optimism regarding the future of cytopathology.

Fernando Schmitt MD, PhD, FIAC

General Secretary of the International Academy of Cytology



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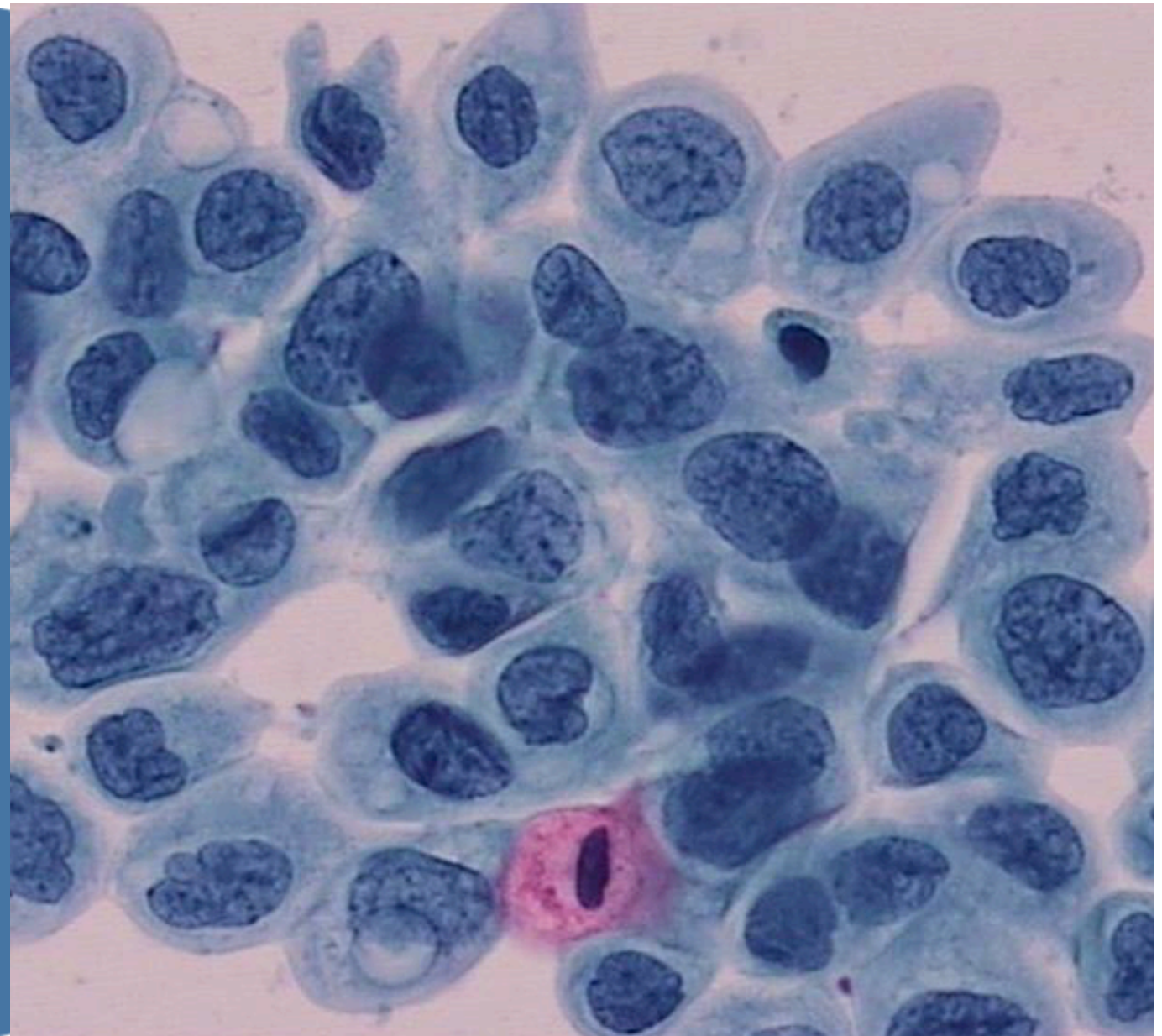
Case Challenge!

(Answers below)

Case 1

Female patient, 23 years, routine gynaecological examination with pap test. Last menstrual period 10 days ago, nulliparous, asymptomatic. Pap test revealed cells with hyperchromatic nuclei. How would you report it?

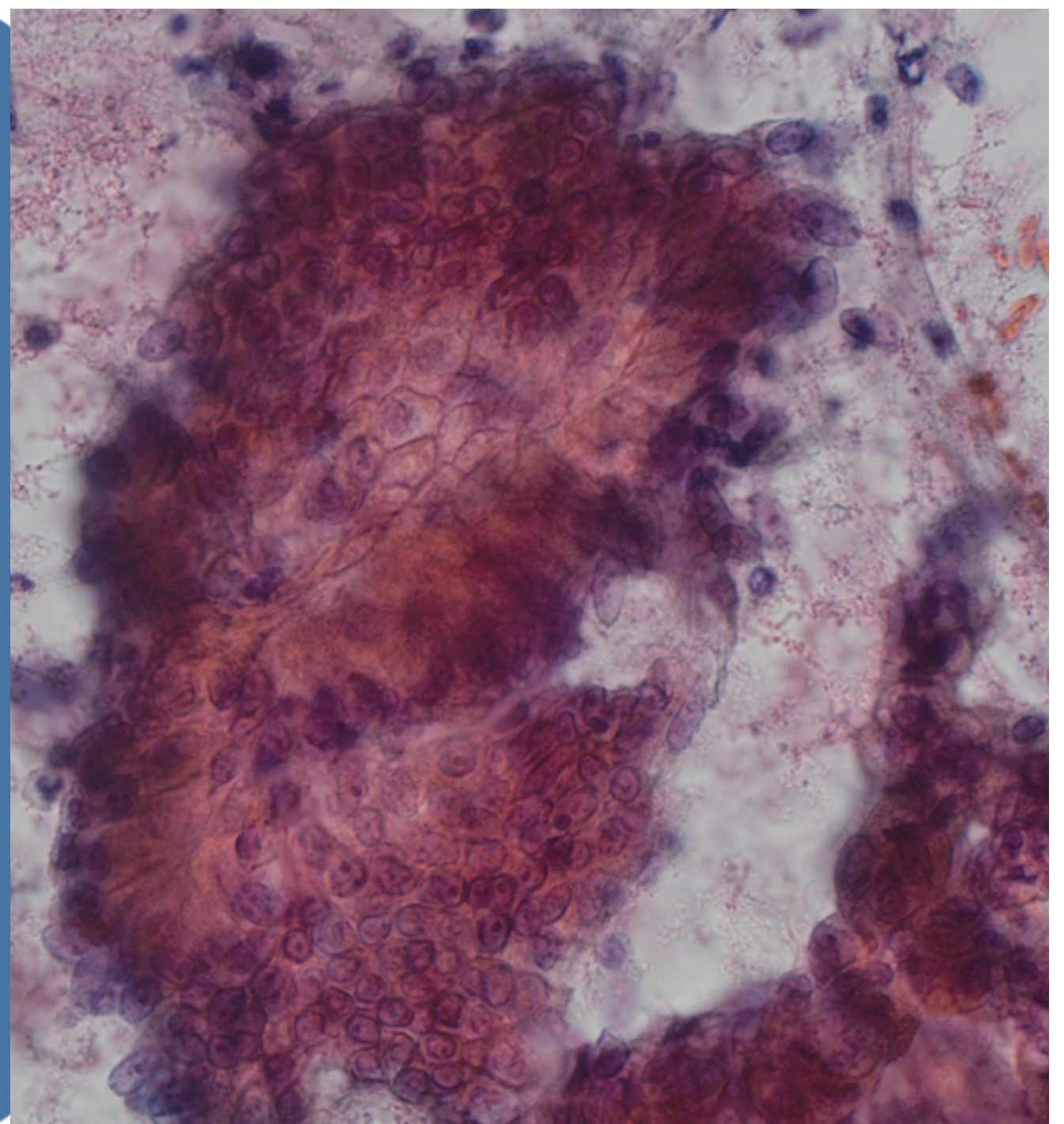
- A) Reactive, benign metaplastic squamous cells, routine cervical screening recommended.
- B) High grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (HSIL), HR HPV test recommended, if negative, repeat cotesting after 12 months.
- C) High grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (HSIL), HR HPV test recommended, if positive, refer to colposcopy.
- D) High grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (HSIL), direct referral to colposcopy.



Case 2

Female patient, 44 years, routine gynaecological examination with pap test. Last menstrual period 8 days ago, 2 births, asymptomatic. Pap test revealed cells and clusters with irregular honeycomb appearance and distinct, red nucleoli. Background of erythrocytes, partially haemolysed. HR HPV test was negative. How would you report it?

- A) Normal endometrial glandular cells, routine cervical screening recommended.
- B) Reactive and inflammatory changes of benign endocervical glandular cells, routine cervical screening recommended.
- C) Atypical endocervical cells – favor neoplastic, direct referral to colposcopy and biopsy.
- D) Atypical endocervical cells – nonspecific (NOS), referral to colposcopy, if negative, repeat cytology for 6-12 months.



Cases and pictures provided by **Danijela Vrdoljak Mozetic MD, PhD**
Chair of the EFCS Educational Committee



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Thank you for your time!
Please send us your feedback to
residentsyoung@efcs.eu



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