



EFCS
European Federation of
Cytology Societies

The EFCS Newsletter



Issue 4/2021



EFCS NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends and Colleagues

The summer of 2021 is over, but unfortunately the COVID pandemic is not. However, despite recent setbacks in a few countries, we are now facing a much more favorable scenario when compared to last year, so we must stay optimistic!

We are so thankful to the Organizing Committee of the last European Congress of Cytology, the speakers and, of course, all participants! Thanks to them, we can say the event was an enriching success! It took place in the wonderful city of Wroclaw, Poland, and the feedback we got from everyone was very good, to say the least!

For the first time ever, an EFCS Congress was held as a hybrid event. Everyone involved (participants, chairs and speakers) was able to choose between participating on-site or online (live &/or recorded). This, of course, constituted a tremendous task for the polish organizing committee, which dealt wonderfully with the challenge! We could not miss this opportunity to publicly thank all their effort and commitment in making this a very successful event!!

We hope you find as much pleasure in reading this Newsletter, as we do in preparing it for you. Please share it with all your members! Your feedback is always of great importance, so do not forget to email us (residentsyoung@efcs.eu). You can also reach us through our Twitter account - @efcsyoung. Let's keep in touch!!

Ricardo Veiga, MD

EFCS Residents and Young Pathologists Committee

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For more information about the EFCS, visit our website!

<https://www.efcs.eu/>



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Message from the NEW EFCS Secretary General

Dear colleagues and friends,

From October 7th, 2021, I have started my three-year mandate in the position of the EFCS Secretary General. A few weeks later, while I am writing these sentences, I am still excited and honoured, but deeply conscious of the responsibility and intense work it will bring. I think about EFCS, cytology projects, ideas, and issues all the time. But I love it, and I am committed to it.

EFCS's great projects, both scientific and educational, together with all other important activities, will continue, and new projects will be encouraged and designed.

Conferences / Tutorial

The trademark of the EFCS education is the EFCS Tutorial. Next year, the 13th EFCS Tutorial will be organized in Trieste from 3rd to 17th of June. It is planned to be a real face to face meeting, and hopefully it will be, because there is no better learning of cytology than with onsite microscopy plus expert lectures.

In 2022, we are heading to America! From 15th to 20th of November 2022, a joint event of the 21st International Congress of Cytology (ICC) and 70th American Society of Cytopathology Annual Scientific Meeting will be organized. Call for presentations is open until 24th of January 2022, so don't miss this opportunity! EFCS is a partner of the congress, so I do expect a high number of European participants presenting our expertise and science.

Moreover, not just for next year's congress, EFCS has been intensely working together with the International Academy of Cytology and American Society of Cytopathology for many decades, as well as with many other Cytology Societies in the World. We do cherish our deep friendship and close connections between us. There are not so many cytologists/cytopathologists worldwide, so we better hold together.

The participation of cytopathology in the European Congress of Pathology was organized by the ESP Cytopathology working group, which is EFCS affiliated. This continuous collaboration is of great value for increasing influence and perception of cytology.

Future European Congresses of Cytology are planned to be organized in Budapest (Hungary) in 2023 and Leipzig (Germany) in 2024. Both interesting and beautiful venues with dedicated hosts.

Scientific Projects

Three EFCS current scientific projects are progressing well, and we expect interesting results and important conclusions. You can find out more about this topic further down this Newsletter.

If you have any project proposal or an idea to discuss, please contact us! We can offer help in networking with other experts and scientists, and all the support you might need.

E-learning

E-learning and webinars became our reality, so together we already published webinars which are available on the EFCS website. We do plan to record and publish more lectures, with some of them already in preparation. Everything was created using the Eurocytology.cloud platform, including this year's virtual EFCS Tutorial. Both Eurocytology.eu web site (dedicated to education) and Eurocytology.cloud platform are incredible assets to e-learning, and the EFCS is dedicated to support and develop them further.

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Cytotechnologists

In the scope of EFCS activities, projects aimed for cytotechnologists are one of the most prominent. QUATE aptitude tests for cervical screening competencies were organized many times during EFCS Congresses and Tutorials, as well as independently. This year, a local QUATE was organized on the 6th of November in Zagreb, Croatia.

The QUATE Survey was issued by the EFCS a couple of months ago, aiming to get your opinion about the need and future of QUATE aptitude test. If you have not sent your answer, please do so. It will be of great value for determining the future direction of QUATE testing with possible development of e-QUATE.

An important paper entitled "Recommendations of the European Advisory Committee of Cytotechnology and European Federation of Cytology Societies for Training and Education of Cytotechnologists in Europe" was published in the beginning of 2021. This collaboration between the EFCS and the EACC was extremely important. These recommendations should serve as a model for the organisation of cytotechnology education on a national level with unified and defined criteria.

Cytopathology training

EFCS next educational project will focus on doctors. Cytopathology training in Europe is different from country to country. Thus, there is a need to develop and propose recommendations with the aim of harmonizing training programmes in cytology/cytopathology. For this purpose, we are planning to issue a survey which will give us insight about the current situation of specialty and/or subspecialty (fellowship) training in cytopathology. In collaboration with UEMS Section of Pathology, we hope to develop the ETR (European Training Requirements) for subspecialty training in cytopathology. This is a long-term goal for the EFCS and the educational committee, and, in my opinion, well worthwhile for the future of cytology.

Young EFCS

Young EFCS and residents' section is one of the most active sections in EFCS. The fresh ideas, projects, and activities, which are abundant, will lead to the wider activation of young pathologists / cytopathologists. The most important project will be developing the EFCS Network of Educational Centres, a database of institutions in Europe which will offer educational stays according to their expertise. This Newsletter you are reading, as well as three previous issues, are the result of the tremendous effort of YEFCS headed by Ricardo Santana Veiga. I am sure that YEFCS will continue to grow. After all, young people are our future.

Member Societies

There are 25 European countries and 3 countries outside of Europe that comprise the EFCS. We are big! However, we are not always aware of each other's situation and specificities. I think that our communication should be more intense and informative, allowing us and our members to share activities, challenges in cytopathology, and achievements from all the excellent, experienced, and young doctors in our countries. We would like to be a platform for advertising all national scientific meetings. Please, just send us the info, no matter the language. We are open to all ideas, discussions, problem-sharing, etc, so please contact us/me.

(continues on the next page)



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Gratitudes

I wish to congratulate prof. Jerzy Klijanienko, president of the EFCS and president of the 43rd European Congress of Cytology for the success of the congress. Jerzy will stay EFCS president for the next year and I do thank him for his unselfish engagement.

Prof. Ambrogio Fassina has been the EFCS's treasurer since 2012, he is an EFCS constant, a wise, and calm person. I do thank him for his support and advice in all matters and concerns.

I am so grateful to all EFCS Council board members, which all expressed a wish to continue our/their work. We are one friendly assembly, and together, we will reach new highs for cytology.

In the end, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the past EFCS Secretary General, Prof. Beatrix Cochand-Priollet, for bringing new energy to the EFCS and initiating valuable projects which all came to life during her three-year mandate. She made the EFCS important and influential again in the world of cytology. She is a kind and motivating person, and it was a great gain and pleasure to work with her.

Sincerely,

Danijela Vrdoljak-Mozetič
EFCS Secretary General



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Message from the President of the 2021 European Congress of Cytology

The 43rd ECC was held on October 3-6 at the Wrocław Congress Center. The Congress Center, currently included in the UNESCO list, is located in the exhibition complex built in 1913 by the famous German architect Max Berg. The Convention Center is located close to a ZOO, landscaped park and the Japanese Garden. It is conveniently connected to the city center by tram and bus lines, which were sponsored by the Municipal Transport Company, with free use to all attendees. The Bridge Wrocław MGallery Hotel, located near the cathedral, was an official Congress hotel and the presidential dinner was organized there.

The scientific content of the 43rd ECC was rich and varied. The 43rd ECC held 132 different scientific sessions: 5 Keynote courses, 21 Companion Meetings, 29 Symposiums, 29 Workshops, 12 Slide Seminars, 3 Free Papers sessions and 1 International Academy of Cytology exam.

The 43rd ECC involved over 600 people: 558 delegates (213 on site, 345 online), and a staff team of more than 50 people, from technical support, volunteers, etc. It was also a very globalized event, with delegates coming from 51 different countries, from all 5 continents. Expectedly, around 90% of delegates came from Europe.

Keynote speakers were:

- Dr. Gaëlle Pierron (Somatic Genetic Unit Deputy. Genetic Dpt. Institut Curie Paris, France), presenting «Genomic markers in Sarcomas in daily practice - From molecular diagnosis to therapeutic target»;
- Prof. Catherine (Kate) Cuschieri (Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, UK) presenting «HPV primary screening pathways; negotiating the international landscape»;
- Prof Richard J. Cote (Washington University, St. Louis, MO, USA), lecturing «Circulating Tumor Cell Capture, Interrogation, Imaging, Automated Analysis and Culture: New Tools and Biologic Insights»;
- Prof Adel K. El-Naggar (MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA), speaking on «Diagnosis and Genomics of Salivary Gland Neoplasms: M.D. Anderson Perspectives»;
- Prof William C. Faquin (Harvard Medical School & Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA), lecturing »Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma and Other Salivary Gland Cancers«.

Companion Meetings were organized by China, Croatia/Greece, Czech Republic/Slovakia, EACC (European Advisory Committee of Cytotechnology), Euro-Asia, Finland, France, Germany, India 1 and 2, Italy, Japan, Lower Silesia, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom and USA (American Society of Cytology).

Workshops had 430 participants and occurred in 3 rooms. The excellent quality of the microscopes and the image analysis system were sponsored by Olympus.

A total of 72 abstracts were submitted. After elimination the of seven, 24 were selected for oral presentations and 41 as e-posters. Five authors were distinguished as the best academically abstracts and qualified for a free entry for the 44th ECC in Budapest in 2023 (Sebastian Chakrit Bhakdi, Roberto Dina, Jose Jimenez Heffernan, Jindřich Lukáš and Patrycja Sordoń).

Jerzy Klijanienko

President of the European Congress of Cytology 2021

ECC 2021

3-6 October | Wrocław, Poland

43RD EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF CYTOLOGY





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Case Challenges!

Case Challenges!

(Answers on the next page!)

1

Routine cervical sample. Female, 32, no medical history of note.



Picture 1



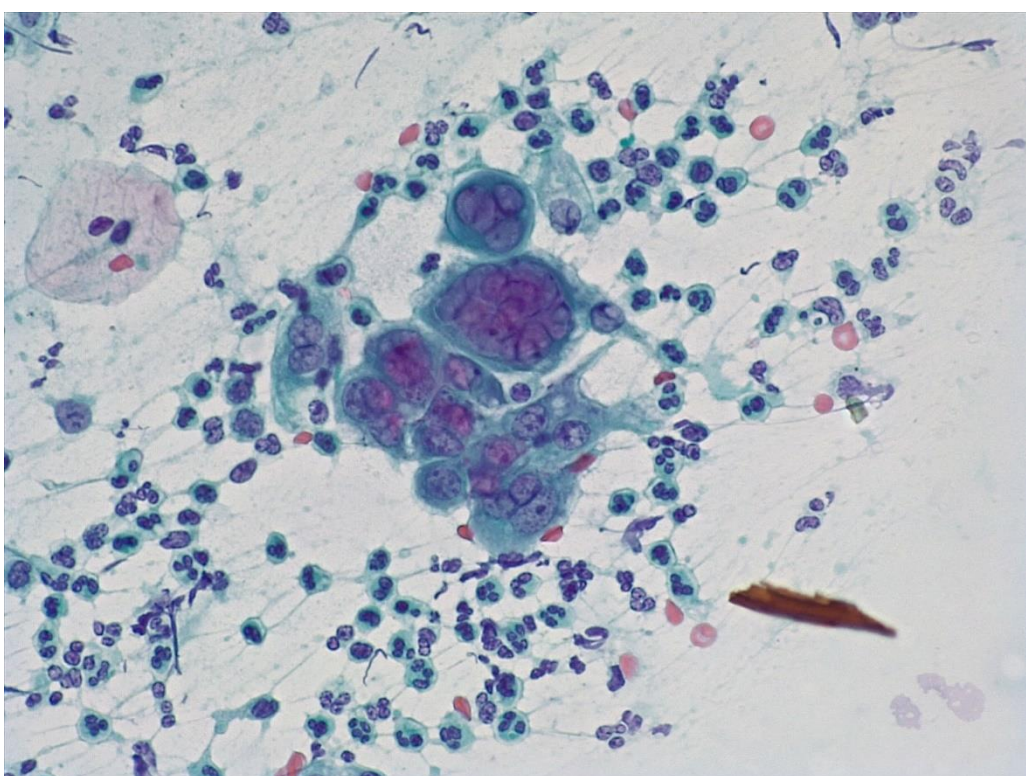
Picture 2

Questions

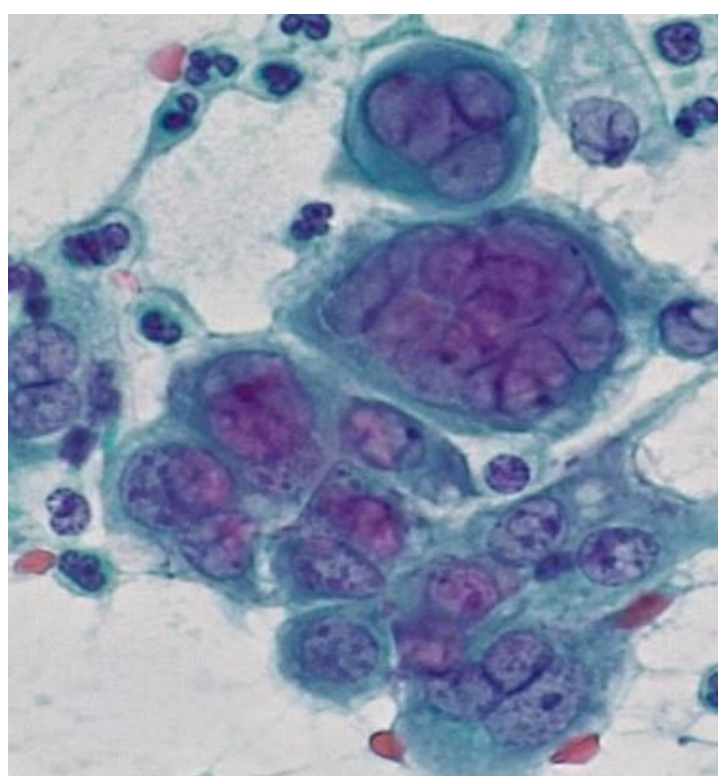
- Describe what you see.
- What is it?
- What is its significance?

2

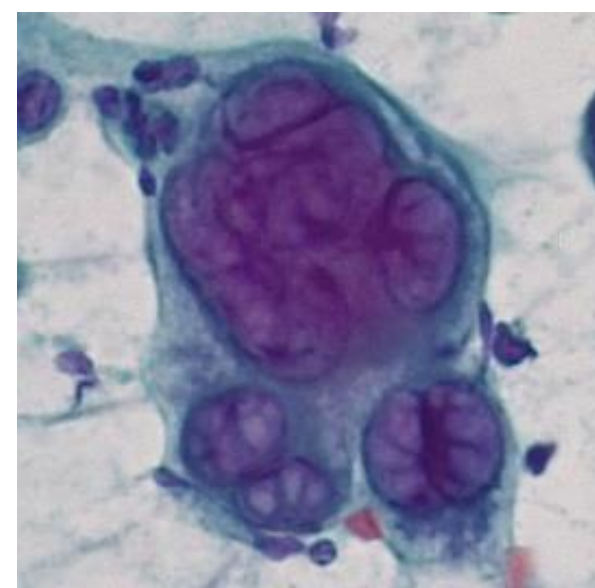
Cervical sample. Female 31, discharge, red appearing cervix.



Picture 3



Picture 4



Pictures 5

Questions

- Describe what you see.
- What does it represent?
- What is its significance?

ANSWERS

1

Routine cervical sample. Female, 32, no medical history of note.



Picture 1



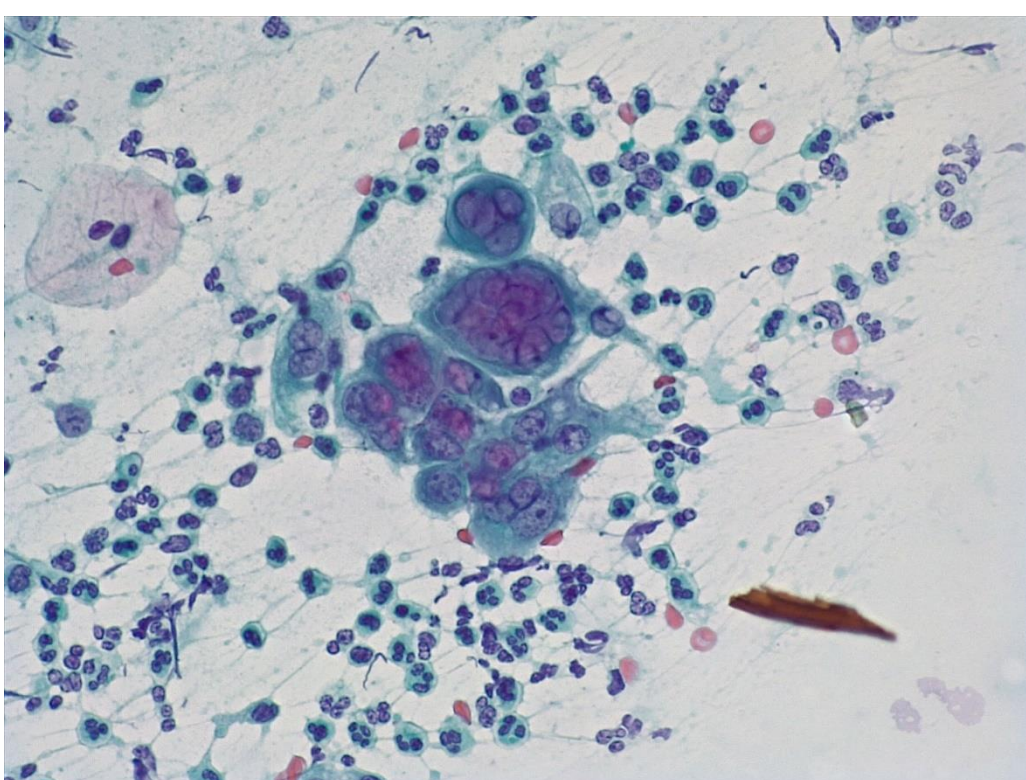
Picture 2

- This is a partly coiled strand of mucus, with a darker central part and a more translucent periphery.
- This is a Curschmann's spiral. They are far more commonly seen in respiratory samples and indicate an increased viscosity of secretions. They do not need to be treated but can reflect any underlying viscus mucus condition such as asthma in respiratory samples.
- In cervical samples they are of no significance. One study found an incidence of 1:1704 cervical samples and concluded that *"..Curschmann's spirals in cervicovaginal smears are an uncommon finding with no clinical significance, ... they are formed from endocervical mucus .."*

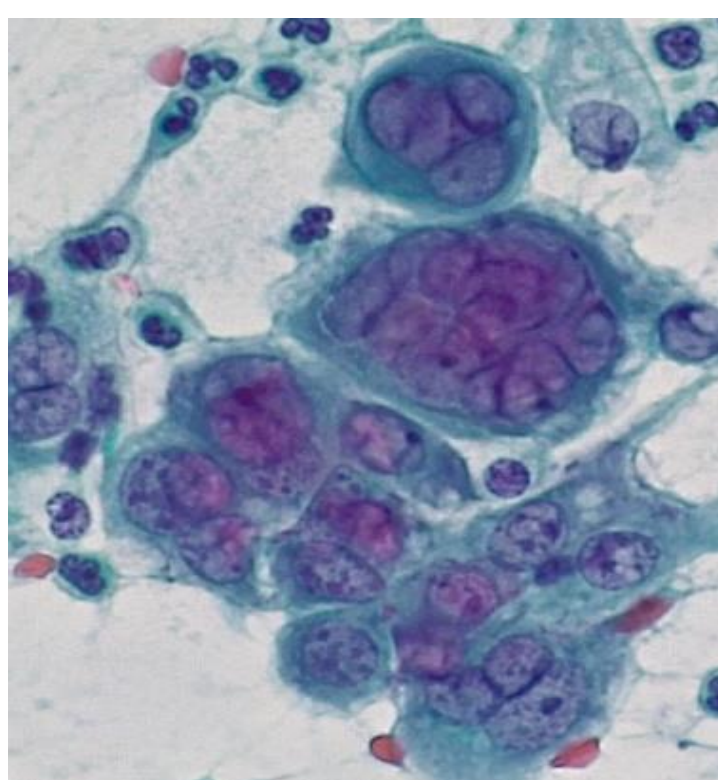
Acta Cytol. Jan-Feb 1984;28(1):5-8. Novak PM et al.

2

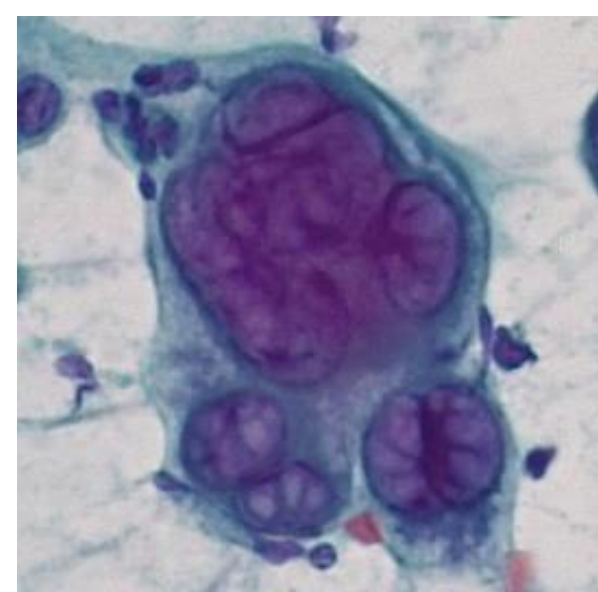
Cervical sample. Female 31, discharge, red appearing cervix.



Picture 3



Picture 4



Pictures 5

- Enlarged, multinucleated cells, with nuclear moulding. The nuclei are large with pale uniform chromatin and peripheral chromatin condensation often described as "ground glass" in appearance. Intranuclear viral inclusions can be seen as round bodies in the centre of the nucleus if present.
- This is Herpes Virus infection (HSV).
- The appearances are similar if present in any active infection irrespective anywhere in the body. They indicate infection by HSV. In the cervix, this is usually HSV 2. It is often painful and the cervix ulcerated. It is sexually transmitted and may involve anti-viral drug treatment. HSV 1 appears cytologically the same and can be found in the head/neck/respiratory tissue, often in immunocompromised patients.

Clinical case and pictures provided by **Paul Cross**
EFCS Educational Committee - Quate



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Summary of activities of the EFCS Scientific Committee

Chairs – Ivana Kholova; Massimo Bongiovanni

1) Online survey on **Immunocytochemistry practices in European cytopathology laboratories** was led by Irena Srebotnik Kirbis and results are available in publication by Cancer Cytopathology: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32598103/>

2) At the moment, data from **Interobserver and Intraobserver Study on Mild Squamous Atypia and HPV Status** are prepared for publication. The aims of the study were to evaluate the interobserver and intraobserver variation in low grade squamous lesions and to evaluate HPV status biases among cytopathologists expertized in HPV screening/triaging. There were 15 expert cytopathologists from 13 countries (8 females). The data was presented as an oral free paper at the 43rd European Congress of Cytology in Wroclaw and as a poster at 69th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Society of Cytopathology. As the slides were digitalized, also compliance with digital cytology was assessed. The core group led by Ivana Kholová was formed by Giovanni Negri, Maria Nasioutziki, Beatrix Cochand-Priollet, Ambrogio Fassina, Massimo Bongiovanni, Arrigo Capitanio, Paul Cross and Laura Ventura.

3) Core group of the next survey on **cytopathology terminology use in Europe** has been formed. The questionnaire is finetuned at the moment, and the pilot study will be performed at the turn of the year. The core group members are Ivana Kholová (lead), Massimo Bongiovanni, Beatrix Cochand-Priollet, Philippe Vielh, Paul Cross, Danijela Vrdoljak-Mozetic, Guido Fadda, Esther Rossi, David Poller, Ashish Chandra, Marianne Engels, Ambrogio Fassina, and Pinar Firat.

4) Project on **cell blocks** has recently started and you will soon hear about it!

The projects can be initiated by members of all affiliated societies.
Any idea? Contact us!



Ivana Kholova
Co-Chair of the EFCS Scientific Committee



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Farewell Message from the EFCS Past Secretary General

For the EFCS, the end of a three-year period is just over. As such, I have been asked to share my thoughts about this period, which has not resembled any other considering the 18-month pandemic and an almost worldwide total lockdown. Such a situation has never happened before. It was not really like a war, since more or less we had to maintain our activities, especially as medical doctors. Nevertheless, being the general secretary of the EFCS during such a period was an incredible challenge! When I was elected in Madrid, in May 2018, I was aware that this position was, first of all, an honor, but also a great task with numerous responsibilities, requiring utter commitment. With the pandemic, I realized it was also absolutely necessary to maintain all the actions possible. Albeit through different channels, keeping a kind relationship between colleagues who used to work together and those who were prevented from doing so, due to covid, was mandatory. So was to organize scientific meetings and common projects.

We also had to postpone the ECC foreseen in Wroclaw, Poland, in October 2020, and to decide for the future without any objective certainty about the sanitary context. As you can imagine, this was a very stressful period. Nevertheless, today I am in a position to confess that it turned out to be a very exciting and positive time. All because of the many keen colleagues we have in the EFCS. I know that in our time, the new habit is to thank each person belonging to a team, regardless of your job (scientists, artists, politicians, etc). Sadly, this can weaken the real meaning of words, and sound only like politeness. But in our Federation, trust me, the members of our council board have been exceptionally amazing.

First of all, I would like to thank Ambrogio Fassina. Ambrogio is a friend of mine since many, many years ago, but during these three years, he was also my best crutch for making decisions. The tutorial in Trieste was cancelled less than two months before the announced date. « No problem! ». In just a few weeks, Giovanni Negri, along with the unbelievable technical help of Arrigo Capitanio and the availability of all the speakers, had transformed a presential tutorial into a virtual one, receiving the visit of 122 registered participants from 24 countries and around 11.000 connections.

At the same time, Danijela Vrdoljak-Mozetic contacted different colleagues in Europe, asking them to participate in EFCS webinars, in order to offer our members some good quality training in cytopathology. Colleagues like Marianne Engels and Franco Fulciniti have kindly accepted!

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Moreover, the QUATE could not be organized as usual, so Paul Cross immediately created a working group including a cytotechnician, Allan Wilson, and younger cytopathologists, like Pawel Gajdzis and Kathrin Ludwig, in order to imagine a new concept for this exam.

For all our activities, we have tried to adapt our way of communicating to the new and unforeseeable context: two twitter accounts were created - one for the EFCS the other for the YEFCS. Ricardo Veiga had created the canvas of our EFCS seasonal newsletter, with 3 issues already been published before this one. The aim of these newsletters is to be in touch, to inform the community about the most important actions of the council board, to propose some cases for diagnosis and to tell you a beautiful story! This year, thanks to Maria Nasioutziki, Papanicolaou's life has no more secrets for us and thanks to Louis Thienpont we now know everything about EFCS birth and life.

Since the beginning of my mandate, I had always thought this was one of the most essential actions I had to carry out: to know our history! And we have done it!

Finally, introducing common scientific and multi-countries studies is, in a scientific society, likely the best way to communicate! And thanks to Ivana Kholova and Massimo Bongiovanni, we have been behind studies about the ASC-US - with the participation of 15 « experts » cytopathologists from 13 countries. They have also finalized an inquiry about immunocytochemistry in Europe, with a follow-up publication. Currently, a collaborative work on cell block with the UK NEQAS is under way, thanks to Irena Srebotnik-Kirbis and Margareta Strojan-Flezar, with the help of a working group chaired by Giancarlo Troncone. Last but not least, an inquiry about terminologies is under way, which will include a vast participation of many European cytopathologists who do not exclusively belong to the council board.

In the same way, thanks to Fernando Schmitt and Philippe Vielh, many European cytopathologists, and the EFCS itself, we are now officially included in different projects with the ASC, as well as with the JSC.

And to conclude, our fantastic and now unforgettable 43rd hybrid European Congress of Cytology in Wroclaw. Thanks to Jerzy Klijanienko, the president, and his outstanding technical team, it was possible to finish my term with fireworks!

So, you have understood that the common thread of all these actions is to include all the colleagues who have an expertise and who want to share it with other colleagues. With the new technologies, it is now feasible to work closely together, whatever the country you work in.

Last September, in Paris, in our Georges Pompidou Center, I saw a beautiful exhibition devoted to a painter called Georgia O'Keeffe. She said, «*Where I was born and where and how I have lived is unimportant. It is what I have done with where I have been that should be of interest*».

Beatrix Cochand-Priollet
Past EFCS Secretary General



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Thank you for your time!

Please send your feedback to residentsyoung@efcs.eu



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