

19th European Congress of Pathology

Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 6-11, 2003

Abstracts





Abstract Review Board

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ABSTRACTS

Prologue

Seven hundred and twenty one abstracts from 62 countries have been reviewed and accepted for 16 oral presentation and 40 poster presentation sessions at the 19th European Congress of Pathology in Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 6-11, 2003. This important contribution, mostly by younger pathologists and scientists, provides an excellent complementary programme to the 104 congress sessions and to the plenary keynote lectures prepared with invited speakers, internationally recognised experts in more than 20 different areas of our medical discipline.

The Abstract Review Board, chaired by R. Golouh and J. Lamovec, accepted most of the abstracts in the form submitted, with minor mostly linguistic changes being made in some cases. The preferences of authors for oral or poster type of presentation have been respected whenever possible. The high quality of most of the abstracts expresses the vitality, richness and prominence of our branch's contribution to biomedical science and the medical care of patients. The final selection of the best six of 23 pre-selected abstracts, for oral presentation at the plenary award session, was made by the Selection Committee, A. Llombart-Bosch, M. Sobrinho-Simões, and G. Bussolati, based on their scientific quality and originality of contribution. Furthermore, from 20 pre-selected best poster abstracts, the three best will be honoured by Congress Awards that will be presented at the same plenary session of the closing day of the Congress. Additionally, the best free paper contribution in the field of liver and digestive tract pathology will be selected by the Selection Committee complemented by D.G. Tiniakos and will be given the special, George Tiniakos Award.

It has become obvious that, for both scientific and professional reasons, our discipline requires organ and technique oriented sub-specialisation. However, congresses covering all areas of current pathology by means of invited lectures and free paper presentations, play an important role in establishing an appropriate balance between the need for sub-specialisation and the harmful effects of a complete splitting of our discipline.

Another important aim of the European Society of Pathology from its inception has been to keep together pathologists from all European countries, irrespective of their geographical and political borders, to promote professional and scientific exchange and to contribute to harmonisation among countries in relation to our discipline. There is no doubt that the collapse of the Iron Curtain has been a crucial turning point. In that sense, the significantly increasing number and quality of submitted free paper abstracts, with a concomitant increase in attendance at congresses, of pathologists from countries of the former Warsaw Pact, contributes to exchange and harmonisation within our medical branch and, to some extent, may represent a step towards the forthcoming European unity.

Finally, the Congress organisers would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Congress main sponsor, Ventana Medical Systems, for its financial support of this publication, and to the publishing house Springer-Verlag and the editor, G. Klöppel, for making it possible for all abstracts to be published in the September 2003 issue of the European Society of Pathology official, highly respected journal, *Virchows Archiv*.



Gianni Bussolati
President
European Society
of Pathology



Dušan Ferluga
President
19th European Congress
of Pathology