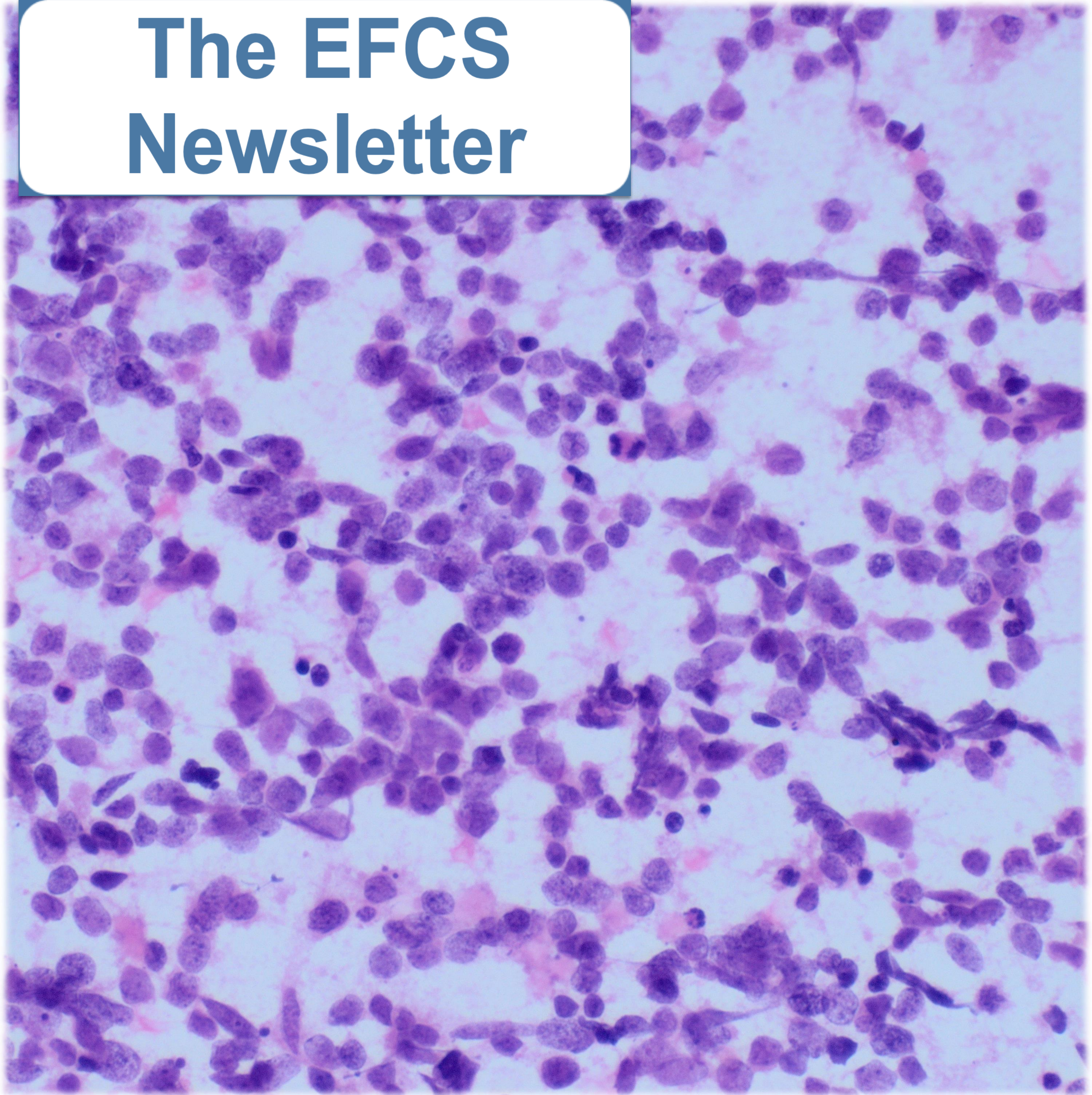




**EFCS**  
European Federation of  
Cytology Societies

# The EFCS Newsletter



## Issue 4/2023



# EFCS NEWSLETTER

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**EFCS**  
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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

There have been several important events during the last few months. First of all, our cytological family could meet at another very successful European Congress of Cytology. We had been waiting for such a meeting in Europe for two years and it finally happened in October - with many exceptional sessions, prominent speakers and enthusiastic attendees - in the beautiful city of Budapest, Hungary. Many thanks to Laszlo Vass and everyone who helped organizing this event!

The new EFCS President, Marianne Engels, was introduced during the Congress. Together with Ralf Heine, she is responsible for the 45<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Cytology, taking place in June 2024 in Leipzig, Germany. The preparation for this event is in advanced stage and full scientific schedule should be available soon. Thanks to the organizers we should be seeing more active young cytopathologists – Young EFCS will have two scientific sessions and many chairs invited young cytopathologists to actively participate in their sessions. It seems that cytology is doing great and it still can be attractive to young pathologists - that should make us happy!

And the last news related to the European cytology is that the host city for the next EFCS Tutorial was announced; in 2024 we will meet in Wroclaw, Poland.

More info about EFCS events can be found on the EFCS website (<https://www.efcs.eu/>) and ECC2024 in Leipzig has its own dedicated website (<https://cytology2024.eu/>).

Happy New Year and see you in 2024!

**Pawel Gajdzis**  
*Residents and YEFCS Committee*



**ECC 2024**  
45<sup>th</sup> European Congress  
of Cytology

Cytopathology  
The clinical  
interface

**Leipzig - Germany**  
23-26 June



# EFCS NEWSLETTER

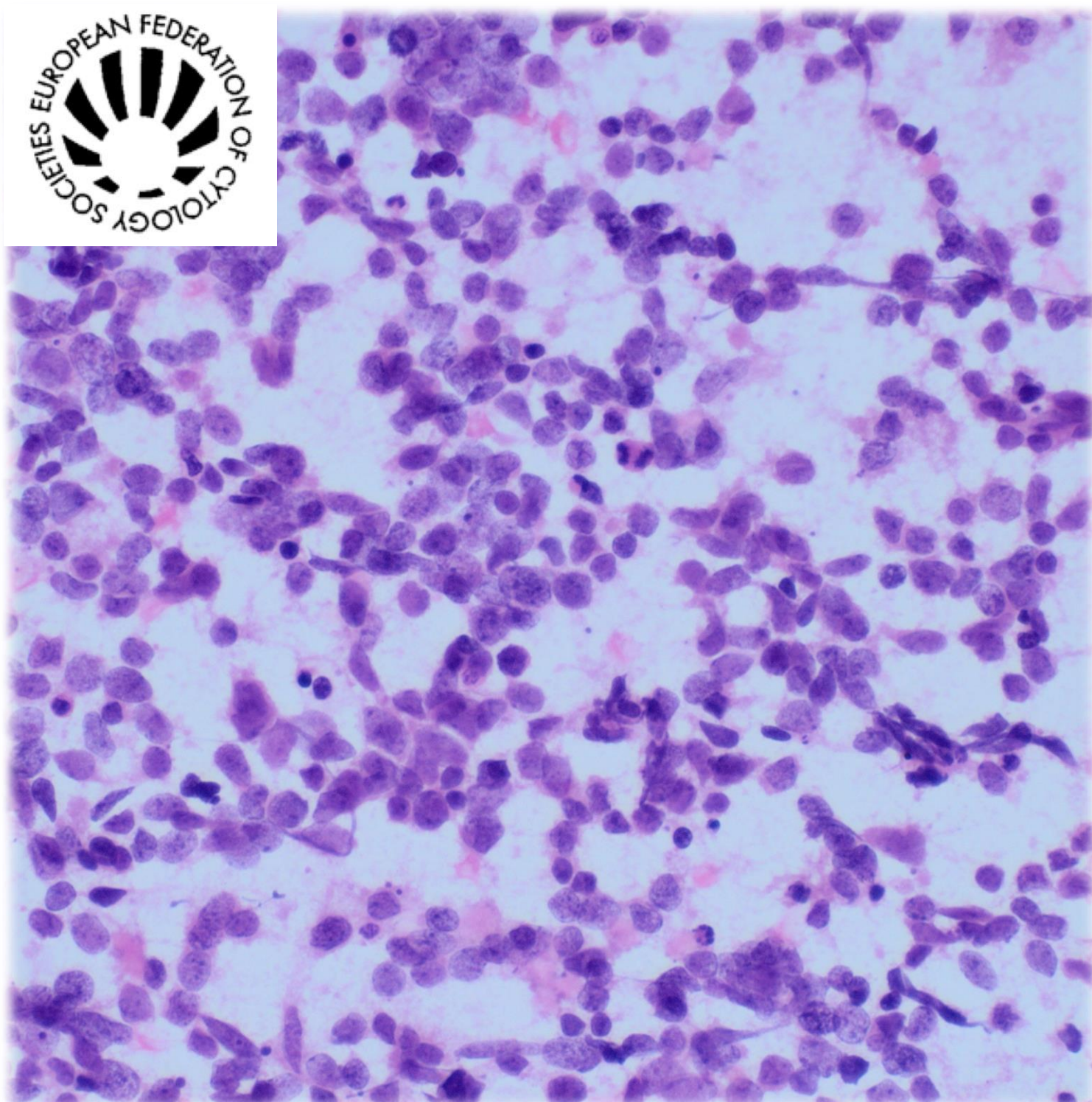
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Cover photo:  
Small cel lung carcinoma (HE)



## Message from the EFCS President

Dear Colleagues,

It's a great honour for me to become president of the EFCS - not by election, but because of the fact that the German Society will host the next European Congress of Cytology in Leipzig in June 2024. Together with my colleagues from Germany I shall do my very best to organize an interesting congress for the community of cytologists from Europe and beyond.

Leipzig is a wonderful city in the eastern part of Germany - vibrant with activity and life, firmly grounded in a long history. As an old trading centre since medieval times, Leipzig has always been open not only to material goods, but also to ideas from foreign regions. It has been a centre for publishing houses since long. For music and art Leipzig is widely renowned. In the more recent periods of German history the citizens of Leipzig have played a crucial role in reaching a peaceful reunification of our country.

As I'm not a pathologist, but a clinician by training, I'm well aware of the difficulties which may result from suboptimal communication and mutual misunderstanding between different professional groups which are engaged in patient care. In different respects cytopathology offers a chance to bridge this gap between clinic or ward and the lab. These thoughts have led to the motto of the forthcoming congress: "Cytopathology - the clinical interface".

In the EFCS I'm very grateful for collaborating with excellent cytopathologists in the Board of Directors and in the Council Board. I sincerely hope that the upcoming congress will be a great success for the cytology community in Europe and beyond. For this common goal we will be working hard during the next months.

Köln, 16.10.2023

**Marianne Engels**  
*EFCS President*



## Message from the Past EFCS President

The 44th Congress of the European Federation of Cytology Societies took place in Budapest on 1-4 October 2023. I took the responsibility as the main organizer and as President of this meeting with fears following long hesitation. We have extended time, but it was turbulent, complicated, and “colorful.” At that time - 2020 - it was hopeless.

*“Everything is theoretically impossible until it is done.”* wrote Robert A. Heinlein the American science fiction author, aeronautical engineer, and naval officer. Anyway, we tried to do it.

Finally, the Congress was highly active and an event full of life. We decided to renew a bit the structure of the “common type” Congresses while maintaining a bit from the traditional meetings as well: we had Melting Point sessions on hot topics instead of plenary sessions with proportionally longer discussion parts. The participants liked it! We plan to produce at least some publications based upon the above spontaneous but directed discussions. I hope once we can fulfill this promise as well! All the Slide Seminars were based on virtual slides – a Congress with personal participation and virtual microscopy! This actualized proposal was also a success. I know, we must learn a lot from all our mistakes we might have committed, still a somewhat new organizational concept was partially born!

All the above was only possible with the tremendous help of the K&M Congress Company and Katalin Mátray who under extremely difficult circumstances gave her full heart into the organizational work. The 3DHitech Company on the other side did the virtual microscopy. Every single participant also put a lot of effort into this endeavor! Special thanks go to Danijela-Mozetič the Secretary General of the EFCS, to Ambrogio Fassina the Treasurer, whose task was –besides their elected functions-bound responsibility- to contribute to the scientific merit of the event by teaching the audience at a very high level during the Congress and during the half day meeting at the Semmelweis University as well. Without the challenging work of all the Sessions, Melting Points, Slide Seminars, “common type” session’s Chairs and participants everything would have been impossible.

There are two main – as some of you already used this expression – “skyrocketing” events- circumstances worth mentioning extra: The weather was unbelievable nice, calm, and friendly, with shining sun giving an extraordinarily beauty for the city. Additionally, the participants’ warm and lovely heart has also contributed to the final nice, human atmosphere which made this Congress – I hope- unforgettable! The second event to be mentioned as an extra was the Keynote lecture (Prof Schmitt) that gave us a well understandable meanwhile widely extensive view of cytology, history, nature and everything which was worth mentioning. Extra thanks shall go to everyone and on the top of this to God (Weather) and to the keynote speaker (Fernando) for activating our cortical cells, and mood during these breathtaking events.

**“Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world.” – Louis Pasteur**

I strongly hope that this congress was really a torch to illuminate the world! Thank you all! Let us meet in Leipzig for an even more scientific and human Meeting!

**Laszlo Vass**  
*Past EFCS President*

### ECC 2023 in Budapest – Photo Memories (1st day)



### ECC 2023 in Budapest – Photo Memories (2nd day)



### ECC 2023 in Budapest – Photo Memories (3rd day)





### ECC 2023 in Budapest – Photo Memories (4th day)



### Report: 32nd Meeting of the German Society of Cytology in Halle November 2-4, 2023

In the last weeks of 2023, the 32nd Meeting of the German Society of Cytology took place in Halle where the president of the society, Dr. Ralf Heine, is working as head of a large clinical department in St. Elisabeth - St. Barbara Krankenhaus. The meeting was also 21st Halle Tutorial on clinical cytology in pneumology, founded by Ralf Heine more than twenty years ago.

After an interruption of four years the meeting of the society was held as a presential meeting once again. It took place in the Institute of Anatomy of the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg in a beautiful historical building near the old city centre of Halle.

A session on varied up-to-date topics opened the meeting: Artificial intelligence in cytology, cytology of thyroid, effusions, liver masses, pancreas, biliary tract and the breast have been treated in interesting talks. Two longer talks on benign lung diseases were following. On Friday and Saturday topics from lung cytology alternated with talks on other topics of general cytology. In two microscopy halls several microscopy workshops on gynaecological cytology and on various non-gynae topics were held in parallel to the lectures.

The keynote lecture held by Dr. Ash Chandra from London on "The International System for Reporting Serous Fluid Cytopathology" was one of the highlights of the meeting. An online-session on telecytology was held by colleagues from Istanbul, Chicago, Baku and Hamburg. A practical demonstration of online cytopathology worked fine.

**Marianne Engels, 17.12.2023**

Fig. 1: The lecture hall, a historical anatomic theatre.



Fig. 2: One of the microscopy halls.



## Report: EFCS Annual Cytology Tutorial in Toulouse (France)

June 16-18, 2023

This year's EFCS Annual Cytology Tutorial was again a great success. The 14th annual EFCS tutorial of Cytopathology was held on June 16-18 in Toulouse (France). The event was chaired by Giovanni Negri and co-chaired by Arrigo Capitanio, and the local Host was Monique Courtade-Saidi. The Tutorial followed the classic format, based on on-site microscopy workshops and lectures covering the most important topics in Cytopathology. Eighty-six virtual slides were available in advance to the participants and were discussed live at the end of each microscopy workshop using the eurocytology.cloud platform. Nine tutors from Croatia, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland were involved in the lectures, including eleven different topics: Urine, breast, thyroid, respiratory tract, pancreatic, serous effusions, salivary gland, soft tissue and gynaecological cytology. Lectures on ROSE, molecular and digital cytology, and HPV have also been included. Social activity included a welcome party and get-together dinner in the background of the beautiful city of Toulouse.

The Fifty-one participants (cytotechnologists, residents and pathologists) came from 22 different countries (Armenia, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, French Guiana, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, Madagascar, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom) took part in the courses, resulting in a highly interested, interactive and receptive international group. All the lectures were recorded, and participants received a link to look again at the presentations.

The participants' feedback has been very positive, with most participants judging the event quality as excellent and extremely useful. Overall, over 90% of the participants would recommend a future tutorial to a colleague and found the virtual slides helpful. Most participants judged the quality of all lectures and workshops as excellent.

Overall, it was a very successful Tutorial and a motivation to continue to organise these events in future years.

Giovanni Negri and Arrigo Capitanio





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### **Report: The EFCS QUATE aptitude test 2023**

During the 44th European Congress of Cytology in Budapest, Hungary two QUATE exams took place, on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2023.

The QUATE (Quality Assurance, Training and Examinations Committee) Aptitude Test is an international exam organised by the European Federation of Cytological Societies (EFCS) as one of the EFCS educational projects. The QUATE test aims to objectively assess the ability and competence of cytoscreeners and cytotechnologists in cervical cytology screening, either on conventional Papanicolaou, SurePath, or ThinPrep slides. The candidates are expected to have a good understanding of the general principles of a cervical cancer screening programme and cytological findings in cervical cytology. Successful completion of the QUATE exam ensures an EFCS certificate, which confirms the candidates' screening competence and contributes to achieving a high standard in cervical cancer screening in their respective cytology laboratories.

The QUATE exam in Budapest was organised by the QUATE Committee with the support of EFCS as well as the Cytopathology Section of the Hungarian Society of Pathology, the organiser of ECC 2023.

Twenty-five candidates attended the exams. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, seventeen candidates, 6 from Denmark, 3 from Israel, 2 from Austria, 2 from Estonia, and one from Italy, Slovenia, Romania and Ukraine each. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, eight Hungarian candidates attended the exam with the paperwork translated into Hungarian language. At the written part of the exam, all of the candidates were equally focused on the MCQs trying to respond accurately to cervical screening and morphology-based questions. In the practical part of the exam, six candidates screened ThinPrep slides, six SurePath, and thirteen conventional slides (five on the first day of the exam and eight on the second). Apart from sitting the exam, most of the candidates participated in the ECC and had the opportunity to attend excellent lectures and slide seminars and exchange knowledge and professional experience.

The passing rate was 56%, which means that 14 out of 25 candidates were successful. Unfortunately, the most common reason for failing the screening part was repeated overcalling of negative slides as abnormal. However, in 28% of the failures, the reason was calling the abnormal slides negative.

The organization was excellent, with quality microscopes, facilities, and refreshments. Thanks to our hosts, especially Dr Péter Pogány, from the Cytopathology Section of the Hungarian Society of Pathology, a few minor challenges were easily overcome.

The organising committee of QUATE Budapest consisted of Asst Prof Sandra Moslavac, MD, PhD, Dr Péter Pogány, and Asst Prof Danijela Vrdoljak-Mozetič, MD, PhD, Secretary-General of the EFCS.

The next QUATE examination will be offered at the 45<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Cytology, Leipzig, Germany, in June 2024.

**Sandra Moslavac**  
**QUATE Chair**

### Report: The EFCS QUATE aptitude test 2023



### Report: The EFCS QUATE aptitude test 2023



## Announcement of the 10th National Congress of Cytopathology with International Participation in Türkiye

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

We have the honour and pleasure to invite the global pathology community to the 10th Turkish National Cytopathology Congress, which will be held in Istanbul from April 19th to 21st, 2024, in collaboration with the Federation of Turkish Pathology Societies and the Turkish Society of Cytopathology. The event will take place at Acıbadem Mehmet Ali Aydınlar University, Kerem Aydınlar Campus. Our tenth congress will be graced by the presence of attendees from around the world, making it a truly global gathering. We warmly welcome international participants to join us and contribute to this enriching experience.

In recent years, the emergence of targeted treatments has made it necessary to provide diagnoses and guide treatments with smaller samples. This has increasingly emphasized the importance of cytopathology in daily pathology routines and education. The aim of this congress is to share and discuss new developments, ranging from basic cytomorphology to molecular tests and digital cytopathology applications. Updated cytopathology reporting systems also hold a significant place in the content of our congress. Esteemed educators from both domestic and international backgrounds will share their experiences with us.

We are also delighted to announce the launch of our dedicated website for the congress at <https://www.sitopatoloji2024.org/en/>. Please visit our website to access the scientific program.

A highlight of the congress will be the participation of esteemed international speakers, including:

- Dina R. Mody from Weill Cornell Medical College and Houston Methodist Hospital, Houston, Texas, USA
- Güliz Barkan from Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Illinois, USA
- Michael J. Thrall from Weill Cornell Medical College and Houston Methodist Hospital, Houston, Texas, USA
- Sinchita Roy Chowdhuri from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, USA
- Syed Z. Ali from The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

The congress will offer a rich scientific program featuring a basic cytomorphology course, interactive digital case sessions, slide seminars, and a range of lectures, oral presentations, posters, and industry-led satellite meetings. Simultaneous English-Turkish and Turkish-English translation will be available in the main hall to facilitate a truly inclusive experience.

We invite you to join us in the historic and beautiful city of Istanbul, where the continents of Asia and Europe converge. Our aim is to provide an intellectually stimulating and socially memorable experience at a reasonable cost, benefiting as many participants as possible. We eagerly anticipate your participation and hope to create lasting memories together in the spring of 2024.

Warm regards,  
**Prof. Dr. İlkser AKPOLAT**  
President, Turkish Society of Cytopathology

## Announcement of the 10th National Congress of Cytopathology with International Participation in Türkiye



### 10<sup>th</sup> National Congress of Cytopathology with International Participation

Up-to-Date Cytopathology in All Aspects, from Traditional to Digital

### Online Registration System is Available Now!

Please click for all details  
[www.sitopatoloji2024.org](http://www.sitopatoloji2024.org)

**April 19-21, 2024** Acıbadem Mehmet Ali Aydınlar University,  
Kerem Aydınlar Campus, Atasehir-Istanbul / Türkiye



## SEE YOU IN LEIPZIG!

# The 45th EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF CYTOLOGY

## Leipzig (Germany), 23-26 June 2024

Dear colleagues,

It's our honour and pleasure to welcome you to Leipzig for the **45th European Congress of Cytology**. In collaboration with colleagues from several other European Societies we've devised a program covering a **wide scope of topics**, including "classical" subjects like cervical cancer screening, but also rather new topics like artificial intelligence and its role in cytology.

The motto of the congress "**Cytopathology: The Clinical Interface**" points to some specific features of cytological practice in Germany. Many members of the German Society of Cytology are clinicians and are bridging every day the gap between clinical practice and diagnostic work at the microscope. More than one session will focus on this close **interaction**, including **lectures** and **discussion**, but also **live demonstrations** in collaboration with our colleagues in clinical departments.

**Leipzig** is a city in Saxony in the eastern part of Germany. Leipzig has been a center for trade since old times – the Leipzig trade fair dates back to 1190 – and now is an economic center of the region. Leipzig has a long tradition in music and art and in book publishing. Leipzig is home to **one of the oldest universities in Germany and now a center of science**.

Leipzig has hosted the ECC before: In the dynamic times of the "Wende" in September 1990 Prof. Dr. Peter Leonhardt, who died a few months ago, organized the 18th ECC in the German Democratic Republic.

So, we invite you to come to Leipzig in June 2024: Join the meeting, present your research and meet colleagues and friends.

**We look forward to see you in Leipzig!**

For the German Society of Cytology,

**Dr. med Marianne Engels, FIAC**

**Congress President**



## **SEE YOU IN WROCLAW!**

### **The 15th EFCS Annual Cytology Tutorial**

### **Wroclaw (Poland), 23-27 September 2024**

# 15TH ANNUAL EFCS TUTORIAL

September, 23-27 2024

Lower Silesian Chamber of Physicians (Dolnoslaska Izba Lekarska)  
Wroclaw - Poland





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