EHA Scientific Working Group
Leukemia diagnosis: morphology and flow cytometry.
Chair MC Béné – Co-Chair G Zini

Report 2016

This SWG works in close relationship with Work package 10 (WP10) of the European LeukemiaNet and has the same aims related to the initial steps of diagnosis in hematological malignancies. These groups initiate and promote consensus recommendations for both morphology and flow cytometry. Two atlases have been published which are freely available on the ELN website at www.leukemia-net.org respectively of bone marrow cells and normal bone marrow flow cytometry. Recommendations are provided in terms of preanalytical precautions and antibody panels. The group is also interested in minimal residual disease and works together with the ELN party devoted to myelodysplastic syndromes.

Membership is open, as both laboratory and clinical personnel of all levels are invited to take part to the annual meetings at EHA and at ELN.

In 2016, the fourth meeting of the SWG took place in Copenhagen. The session was well attended. This year’s topic was “Morphology and flow cytometry in the diagnosis of myelodysplasia”. The voting system using smartphones was not as successful as expected. Gina Zini presented morphologic characteristics of myeloid dysplasia, Peter Bettelheim dealt with erythroid and megakaryocytic dysplasia. The input of flow cytometry, which is increasingly recognized as a diagnosis help, was presented by Teresa Westers.

Late in February, results of the Harmonemia group, initiated within ELN WP10 were published in Leukemia.

Pr. Gina Zini has continued her work with the morphology faculty, for the 6th morphologic work-up via internet through whole smear imaging (WSI). Five cases of peripheral blood and bone marrow smears together with cytochemistry have been circulated to 18 participants from 10 countries. A 100% agreement was obtained. An editorial on the topic of the year, “Innovation”, was proposed and appeared in Haematologica.

In October, the 9th meeting of the international working group on flow cytometry in myelodysplastic syndromes, initiated within the ELN, met in Paris.

The SWG is now preparing the 2,5 days symposium that will take place in February 2018 (8-10) on “Integrated diagnosis strategies in oncohematology for the management of cytopenias and leukocytosis”.

Pr. Béné has given presentations at meetings in Milan (ISLH, May), Prague (Flow Course, May), Edinburgh (ESCCA, September), Rio de Janeiro (Clinical Laboratory, October), Bonita Springs (ISCC, October).
We are involved in several chapters of the new WHO classification.
Pr Gina Zini, as scientific secretary of the ICSH (International Council for Standardization in Haematology) has been involved in several sessions aimed at the harmonization of diagnostic procedures in the hematology laboratory. She has given presentations at meetings in Vellore-India (HAEM@cmvcvellore (Haematology/Haemostasis Education Meet, February), in Milan (ISLH, May), in Mumbai-India (Best of EHA – 2016, July), in Seoul – South Korea (Lab. medicine 57th Annual meeting, November), in Hradec Králové (Czech and Slovak 17th Annual Meeting of Lab Hematology, November).

Board

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Publications of the board members related to the SWG interests in 2016.


**Conflict of interest.**

Gina Zini and Marie C Béné declare no conflict of interest.

**Sponsoring**

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