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

Report 2014

This SWG works in close relationship with Workpackage 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 2014, the second meeting of the SWG took place in Milan. This session was as usual divided in two parts and devoted to “Diagnosis and follow-up of B-cell disorders, from CLL to myeloma”. The first, animated by Pr. Gina Zini and Pr. André Tichelli proposed morphological challenges to the audience, monitored with voting boxes. The second part was devoted to flow cytometry in myeloma and included a presentation and discussion with Pr. Andy Rawstrom. Pr John Gribben was also invited but got locked up in transportation mishaps. The audience was numerous but tended to dwindle by the end, due to the late hour and obligation for attendees sponsored by the industry to reach back their group for dinner. The change of time and new hour for this SWG on Saturday at eight in the morning has been already noticed by regular participants. It will be interesting to see how this new schedule will work. Nonetheless, the session was followed by several contacts more questions and sequels during the year such as the much longer session organized in Dubai during the 5th Emirates Hematology Conference.

The SWG applied by EHA and is in the process of organizing a 2,5 days Scientific meeting on October 10-12, 2015 in Barcelona on “Integrated approach to demanding hematological diagnoses, from MDS to leukemias”

During the year, Pr. Gina Zini has continued her work with the morphology faculty, via internet through the Medial Microscope. This resulted in the presentation at the ISLH meeting in Den Haag in May 2014. The project is being extended to a larger faculty of volunteer participants.

On the flow side, Pr. Béné has given presentations at meetings in Vienna (April and August), at an ISLH-sponsored session in Cesme (Turkey) at the KABUD meeting, and at the Austrian Flow Cytometry Society in Innsbrück (October). Members of the WP10 and SWG participate to the work of the subgroup interested in myelodysplastic syndromes.
which produced recommendations and met in Vienna in November. We are also still involved in a working group preparing ICSH recommendations on AML and MDS diagnosis. Finally, the Harmonemia project about harmonization of flow cytometry on 23 different platforms was presented at ESCCA (Lisbon, September) and ICCS (Seattle, October).

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.

Board
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Publications of the board members related to the SWG interests in 2014.


Conflict of interest.
Gina Zina and Marie C Béné declare no conflict of interest.

Sponsoring
The Harmonemia project is supported in part by Beckman Coulter.

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