European Academy of Andrology Newsletter

Edition: December 2023



Note from the President

Dear EAA Members,

As 2023 draws to a close, I am looking back at the recent events in the andrology field. Close to my heart was the 32nd edition of the Summer Academy organized by the Center of Reproductive Medicine and Andrology in Münster, which concluded with a Symposium honouring my former mentor Prof. Ebo Nieschlag, the founder of the EAA.

I was also pleased that the 2nd edition of the ANDRONET-EAA School in Semen Analysis was held in Stockholm in October, and I thank Lars Bjørndahl for the organisation of this educational event. Our educational mission is best served by the EAA-accredited Andrology Training centres and I am very happy to announce that we have now one more center in the Middle East – in Doha (Qatar). Many thanks to Csilla Krausz and the EAA Accreditation Committee for the work and site visit.

The autumn months were mainly busy preparing the next European Congress of Andrology (ECA2024), together with the Program Organising Committee and the Local Organising Committee led by Jan-Bernd Stukenborg. I personally visited the venue in Stockholm and was pleased with what I saw. Please follow the development of this important event on the newly established website: www.eca2024.com.

With warm wishes for a peaceful Holiday Season and a very successful New Year 2024,

Hermann M. Behre



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Reports from EAA-endorsed educational events

The 5th Andrology Symposium (11 September 2023), Zagreb, Croatia

The EAA Centre Zagreb, with the support of the Centre of Excellence for Reproductive and Regenerative Medicine (EU grant KK.01.1.1.01.0008.), organized the 5th Andrology Symposium. The Symposium covered a variety of andrology topics (i.e. foetal testis development genetics, 3D systems for spermatogenesis *in vitro*, epigenetic markers of non-seminomatous testicular germ cell tumours, predictive models for spermatozoa presence in biopsies of azoospermic men etc.). Apart from the local scientific community, the Symposium hosted two lecturers from abroad: Klementina Fon Tacer (*Director, Texas Center for Comparative Cancer Research (TC3R)* and Monika Fijak (*PI, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Justus-Liebig-University Giessen*). Especially notable

was the Young Ph.D. Session that encompassed a total of 7 short but exciting presentations of Ph.D. students. The Symposium ended with an informal gathering and a visit to Zagreb's upper town.



Some of the participants of the 5th Andrology Symposium in Zagreb. Ph.D. students (in the front) presented various interesting andrology topic.



Exploring Zagreb: Monika Fijak (*left*), Davor Ježek, Klementina Fon Tacer

The 32nd Summer Academy: "Basics and clinics of human reproduction" and Symposium "Milestones in Andrology" (25-29 Sept 2023), Münster, Germany

This recurrent event was organised by Stefan Schlatt and Sabine Kliesch, the Directors of the Centre of Reproductive Medicine and Andrology, Münster University, which is also accredited as an EAA Training Centre. The on-site course covered the full spectrum of andrology, with the following topics of talks and seminars: biology and endocrinology of reproduction with focus on androgens, sexual differentiation, biology of germline stem cells, male and female (in)fertility, pre-implantation diagnostics, fertility preservation and ART, male and female contraception, sexual and erectile dysfunction, ageing in reproduction, genetic diagnosis of male infertility, semen analysis, epigenetics, andro-urological surgical procedures, transgender medicine, and bioethics in reproduction. The course was held in English and the faculty included recognised experts in the field from Germany and abroad.



Group picture from the Symposium "Milestones in Andrology" held in Münster in honour of Prof. Ebo Nieschlag. He is pictured in the centre of the first row with his wife Susan. Several EAA members participated in the event. *Photograph courtesy of the organizers.*

The highlight of the event was the closing Symposium "*Milestones in Andrology: from Androgens to Sperm*" which was held in honour of Professor Ebo Nieschlag. The speakers reviewed the many illustrious achievements of Prof. Nieschlag, among which was his major role in the foundation of the EAA, and his service as the first President of the EAA. The EAA Executive Council was represented by President Hermann Behre, Secretary Ewa Rajpert-De Meyts, who summarised the history of the EAA, and Aleksander Giwercman, who presented an entertaining vision of the future of the field seen from his perspective of the current co-Editor of *Andrology*.

2nd ANDRONET-EAA School in Basic Semen Analysis, Stockholm

The second edition of the School was held in October (9-13 Oct 2023) at the specialized unit: Andrology, Sexual Medicine & Transgender Medicine (ANOVA) of Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, one of the two EAA-Training Centers in Sweden. The programme of the School covered *"Theory and training in basic semen examination according to WHO 2021 and ISO 23162:2021"*, and the expert tutors were Lars Björndahl, and Magdalena Larsson Chatziantonis. In addition to the extensive lecture program, this School included 'hands on' laboratory exercises, hence, the attendance was limited to seven participants from Sweden and abroad.



Lars Björndahl

Accreditation of EAA-training centres

Following a long break caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the EAA Accreditation Committee, now led by the immediate past President Csilla Krausz, has resumed activities with full force. We are pleased to announce the accreditation of a new EAA training centre in Doha (Qatar) and the re-accreditation of several other EAA centres.

New EAA-certified Andrology-training Centre in Doha

The Andrology and Male Fertility Unit at Hamad General Hospital in Doha (Qatar), directed by Dr Sami Al-Said (EAA Academician), has since 2022 sought formal accreditation as an EAA-Training Centre. The Unit's medical staff includes two other EAA Academicians; Drs Mohamed M. Arafa and Ahmad Majzoub. The application from the Unit has been positively pre-approved by the EAA Accreditation Committee and the site visit by Professors Csilla Krausz (Italy) and Eduard Ruiz-Castañé (Spain) took place on 2 November 2023. Since then, the EAA Accreditation Committee and the Executive Council have approved their report and formally accredited the Unit in Doha as the EAA-Training Centre.





Left: The staff in the andrology laboratory. Right: Senior physicians of the Andrology and Male Fertility Unit and the EAA evaluators during the site-visit in Doha, Qatar. The Unit's Director Dr Sami Al-Said is standing between Csilla Krausz and Eduard Ruiz Castañé.
Photographs courtesy of E. Ruiz-Castañé.

Re-accreditation of existing EAA centres

During the year 2023, several EAA centres were re-accredited, either based on self-reported activities over the last 3 years or after a site visit by the representatives of the EAA Accreditation Committee (the site visits take place every 6 years). The following centres were re-accredited for the next 3 years:

Based on the activity reports:

- **The EAA Centre in Leuven** (Belgium)
- **The EAA Centre in Lodz** (Poland)
- **The EAA Centre in London** (UK)
- **The EAA Centre in Catania** (Italy)
- **The EAA Centre in Riga** (Estonia)

Based on the site visits by EAA inspectors:

- **The EAA Centre in Budapest,** Hungary (February 2023), visitors: Csilla Krausz and Davor Ježek
- **The EAA Centre in Florence,** Italy (September 2023), visitors: Manuela Simoni and Ewa Rajpert-De Meyts

At this Newsletter's preparation time, the re-accreditation of 3 additional EAA Centres is pending: **the EAA Centre in Stockholm** (Sweden, October 2023, visitors Hermann Behre and Niels Jørgensen), **the EAA Centre in Thessaloniki** (Greece, November 2023, visitors: Francesco Lombardo and Eduard Ruiz-Castañé) and **the EAA Center in Copenhagen** (Denmark, December 2023, visitors Dirk Vanderschueren and Aleksander Giwercman. The accelerated re-accreditation program will continue in 2024.

News from the Journal

Guidelines articles

The EAA's Guidelines Committee, led jointly by Giovanni Corona and Dimitrios Goulis, has commissioned and published in *Andrology* two important clinical practice guidelines based on high-quality evidence:

- Krausz C, Navarro-Costa P, Wilke M, Tüttelmann F. **EAA/EMQN best practice guidelines for molecular diagnosis of Y-chromosomal microdeletions: State of the art 2023**. *Andrology*. 2023 Sep 6. doi: 10.1111/andr.13514. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37674303.
- Wang C, Meriggiola MC, Amory JK, Barratt CLR, Behre HM, Bremner WJ, Ferlin A, Honig S, Kopa Z, Lo K, Nieschlag E, Page ST, Sandlow J, Sitruk-Ware R, Swerdloff RS, Wu FCW, Goulis DG. **Practice and development of male contraception: European Academy of Andrology and American Society of Andrology guidelines**. *Andrology*. 2023 Sep 20. doi: 10.1111/andr.13525. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37727884.

The contraception article is the very first example of clinical practice guidelines prepared jointly by the EAA and the ASA, our sister society in America.

Recent and upcoming special issues

In the second half of 2023, *Andrology* published one special issue containing the programme and abstracts from the annual meeting of the American Society of Andrology (ASA), and a very interesting thematic issue (the fourth this year) focused on DNA integrity of spermatozoa:



- **"Sperm DNA integrity"** (Vol. 11, issue 8, Nov. 2023), guest editor R. John Aitken

There are other special issues in the pipeline. If human androgenetics or animal genetic models are your fields of interest, consider submitting your latest work to the next one - on ***Genetics of Male Infertility,*** guest editors: Maris Laan, Donald F. Conrad & Kenneth I. Aston.

Editorial rotation



Wei Yan

At the end of 2023, Marie-Claude Hofmann (ASA) will step down after four years of her editorial work, and Aleksander Giwercman (EAA) will replace her as the new Editor-in-Chief, after two years (2022-2023) as Deputy Editor. On 1 January 2024, Professor **Wei Yan** (Los Angeles, California), appointed by ASA, will become the new Deputy Editor. We extend our gratitude to Marie-Claude Hofmann for her dedicated work for *Andrology*, wish the best to Aleksander Giwercman in his new role, and congratulate and welcome Wei Yan!

New EAA Members



We welcome our new members, who have joined the EAA or were promoted to Academicians since July 2023. In particular, we warmly welcome the young NYRA-EAA members.

Academicians:
Ahmad A. **Majzoub** (Doha, Qatar)

Regular Members:
Rachid **Aboutaieb** (Casablanca, Morocco), Mohammed Sultan Mahmoud **Amaireh** (Amman, Jordan), Hassan **Beltran Del Rio** (Monterrey, Mexico), Klaudia **Brożyna-Tkaczyk** (Lublin, Poland), Bartosz **Brzoszczyk** (Bydgoszcz, Poland), Piotr **Byczkiewicz** (Łódz, Poland), Alessandro **Ciarloni** (Ancona, Italy), Emily **Delgouffe** (Brussels, Belgium) - *NYRA,* Ramzy R. M. **Elnabarawy** (Cairo, Egypt), Jorge de Jesús **González Moncayo (**Chihuahua, Mexico), Iurii V. **Kastrikin** (Moscow, Russia), Sandro **Lütolf** (Biel, Switzerland), Thibault **Masai** (Mons, Belgium) – *NYRA,* Khalid **Mustafa** (Doha, Qatar), Sorin **Nedelea** (Bucharest, Romania), David **Pening** (Brussels, Belgium) – *NYRA*, André **Rios dos Santos** (Gunanabara, Brasil), Adrian **Sadovnic** (Chișinău, Moldova), Chiara **Scibetta** (Padova, Italy), Ondřej **Šimoník** (Vestec, Czech Republic), Daniele **Tienforti** (L'Aquila, Italy).



Event Calendar

8-10 February 2024
European Society for Sexual Medicine (ESSM) Congress 2024
Bari, Italy
https://www.essm-congress.org/



5-7 March 2024
5th Budapest School in Basic Clinical Andrology, Budapest, Hungary
NOTE: combined with the examination for the EAA Clinical Andrologist certificate
https://eaaschool.eu/



11-14 March 2024
10th Copenhagen Workshop on Endocrine Disrupters, Copenhagen, Denmark
https://www.cow2024.dk



12-15 March 2024
5th International Conference on Gonadotrophins and Receptors, Tours, France
https://www.lestudium-ias.com/events/icgr-v-5th-international-conference-gonadotropins-and-receptors



5-8 April 2024
39th Congress of the European Association of Urology (EAU), Paris, France
www.eaucongress.uroweb.org

EAU24

29 April – 2 May 2024
American Society of Andrology (ASA) Annual Congress, Denver, Colorado, USA
https://andrologysociety.org/

2–5 May 2024
27th North American Testis Workshop, Denver, Colorado, USA
https://andrologysociety.org/testis-workshop/

11–14 May 2024
European Congress of Endocrinology (ECE2024), Stockholm, Sweden
https://www.ese-hormones.org/education-and-training/european-congress-of-endocrinology/ece-2024/

4-6 September 2024 ***(save the dates!)***
ECA-2024 – 13th European Congress of Andrology, Stockholm, Sweden
https://eca2024.com/

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