



Note from the President



Dear Academicians and Affiliated Members,

Three months after the first Newsletter I am back to you with a short summary highlighting the most relevant EAA-related activities.

As it has been announced in the previous “EAA Newsletter”, novel actions have been taken towards the recognition of the “Clinical Andrologist” title also at the UEMS level. During the past few months I have been in contact both with the UEMS President and the newly elected ESE President. The ESE Executive Council has invited me to take part in their meeting in Dublin and to present our plans concerning the UEMS “Multidisciplinary Joint Curriculum in Andrology”. I am happy

to announce that the ESE Council does support our request and further actions are ongoing with the UEMS Endocrinology section and are planned with the Urology sections. I am going to keep you posted on further progresses in my next letter.

I also have another interesting piece of news concerning our educational activities. Following the presentation of the preliminary data on the EAA multicenter study entitled “Standardisation of male genital tract colour - Doppler ultrasound parameters in healthy, fertile men” (ECA 2016, Barcelona), interest towards this diagnostic tool has greatly increased. In order to provide an appropriate training for those who are willing to learn this technique, an “EAA Ultrasound School” has been established in Florence. The school is starting in November 2015 and it includes a 4-week, intensive hands-on training (further information are provided in this Newsletter and on the EAA website).

I am sure that many of you are already aware that we now have a modernised website designed by our webmaster. I hope you will regularly visit it not only to get news about travel grants, scholarships and meetings but also because you will find our “virtual library” interesting. This will also include abstracts of recently published top andrology papers and the coming EAA Guidelines (see further details in this issue). The “librarians” appointed by the Executive Council are Professors Andreas Meinhard and Hans-Christian Schuppe from Giessen and their mandate will expire in September 2016. You are all welcome to get in contact with them and propose outstanding papers which you would like to be included in the library.

While on the subject, I cannot avoid to mention the exciting news from the world of genetics of male infertility where growing evidence suggest a truly masculine role for the X chromosome! After the discovery of the first recurrent, patient specific X chromosome-linked deletion with potential clinical significance (Lo Giacco et al 2014), now an even more promising finding is about to be announced: the first X chromosome-linked gene mutation, with potential diagnostic and prognostic value which has been published in NEJM (Yatsenko et al 2015). A short description of the study can be found in this issue from Dr Tuettelmann, one of the PIs directing the study. Needless to say, this publication is of great benefit to andrology since publishing in such a prestigious journal confers further importance to our field. Let's hope it will help to promote male reproductive health-related research topics in the frame of Horizon 2020.

Finally, I am very happy to announce that during the first half of 2015 19 new members, both clinicians and biologists, have joined the EAA. For the first time three Portuguese scientists applied to the EAA, increasing the number of countries of origins of our members to 33! The EAA, by its status, represent a platform for interaction between basic and clinical andrologists and as I wrote in my first presidential letter, the promotion of new affiliated members is one of the priorities.

Wishing to all of you a beautiful summer,

Csilla Krausz

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EAA Executive Council

Csilla Krausz – President

Dimitros Goulis – Secretary

Hermann Behre – Treasurer

Members:

Gert Dohle
Andrea Isidori
Osvaldo Rajmil
Wolfgang Weidner

Ex-officio:

Jorma Toppari
Ewa Rajpert-De Meyts



Update on new EAA members

AFFILIATED MEMBERS

Dr. Alexandra Amaral, Department of Developmental Genetics, Max Planck Institute, Berlin, Germany

Prof. Medhat Amer, Adam International Hospital, Mohandesein, Giza, Egypt

Dr. Marco Bonomi, IRCCS Italian Auxologic Institute, Endocrinological Research Laboratory, Milan, Italy

Dr. Frederic Chalmel, University of Rennes 1, Rennes cedex, France

Dr. Mats Holmberg, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden

Prof. Zdravko Kamenov, Clinic of Endocrinology, Alexandrovska University Hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria

Dr. Kirils Ivanovs, "IVF Riga" Reproductive Center, Riga, LATVIA

Dr. Katarina Link, Reproductive Medicine Center, Skane University Hospital, Malmo, Sweden

Dr. Daniel Moreno Mendoza, Fundacio Puigvert, Barcelona, Spain

Dr. P. Navarro Costa Institute of Hystology and Developmental Biology, Lisboa, Portugal

Prof. Vincenzo Rochira, Unit of Endocrinology, NOCSAE, University of Modena, Modena, Italy

Prof. Taneli Raivio, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Physiology, University of Helsinki, Finland

Dr. Marta Sochaj, 1st Department of Urology, Medical University of Lodz, Lodz, Poland

Update on EAA Training Centres

The EAA Training centre of Giessen has been re-accredited by the EAA EC on the 30th March 2015 for a period of 3 years.

The EAA Training centre of Barcelona, Fundació Puigvert, has been re-accredited by the EAA EC on the 22nd June 2015 for a period of 3 years.

Update on EAA Clinical Andrologist Exam

The next exam is scheduled for the 2nd of October 2015, Rome, University "La Sapienza".

Educational Courses

EAA Ultrasound School

The European Academy of Andrology (EAA) Executive Council recently approved the establishment of an "EAA Ultrasound School" focusing on "Male Genital Tract and Penile Ultrasound" with a dedicated course. The main objective of the Ultrasound School is to offer high-quality training to all physicians interested in andrological ultrasound. This will help to a) train highly competent operators in andrological ultrasound, and b) standardize andrological ultrasound methods in Europe.

The Ultrasound Course will take place at the EAA Centre of Florence (coordinator Dr. Francesco Lotti) and a maximum of 5 fellows per year can attend the Course (EAA members have priority access). The Course contains two modules: i) a theoretical part, lasting for a full day, will host all the fellows; ii) a practical part, based on several ultrasound sessions, lasting for a total of 4 weeks (either consecutive or not). Fellows will individually take part in ultrasound sessions of scrotal, transrectal and penile ultrasound, under supervision. After a final theoretical and practical exam the fellows will obtain

the EAA Ultrasound School certification. Information about the application process and a detailed description of the Ultrasound Course are available on the EAA website (<http://www.andrology-academy.net/>).

Grants

It is our great pleasure to inform you that the EC has approved during the last skype meeting (30th of March) two "scholarship grants" (see details below and the EAA website):

1) EAA Scholarship Grant, worth €5000, is awarded to a young clinician or researcher (age limit 40 years), member of the EAA, who submit the best application to attend a minimum of 4 months training in one of the EAA centres to improve personal knowledge and research skills in clinical/basic andrology.

2) Bayer- EAA scholarship, worth €1500 is awarded to a clinician, member of the EAA who submit the best application to attend a minimum of 4 weeks training in one of the EAA centres to improve personal skills in clinical andrology.

The deadline for presentation in 2015 closes the 20th of July

The applicant must provide:

1. A signed application form (as downloaded from the website).
2. A brief description (abstract of max 1000 words) of the training and research activity that will be carried out in the hosting EAA centre.
3. A signed CV (European CV format).
4. An invitation letter signed by the hosting EAA centre (free format).

The grant will be evaluated by the Executive Council members and scored on the basis of the abstract/project and CV. Applicants will be notified as to whether their application has been successful within 5 weeks from the closure of the call.



"Travel grants" from Bayer, Besins, Fundació Puigvert, IBSA Foundation: Please remember that the deadline has been extended to the 30th of July, 2015. We would like to remind you that travel grants can be used also to cover travel expenses for short term visits to EAA Training centres.

Multicentre Studies

EAA Multicenter Ultrasound Study: an update

In 2012 the European Academy of Andrology (EAA) promoted a multicentric study entitled "Standardisation of male genital tract colour - Doppler ultrasound parameters in healthy, fertile men", aimed at investigating the colour-Doppler ultrasound (CDUS) features of the entire male genital tract (MGT) in healthy fertile subjects, in order to obtain "normative" parameters for scrotal and transrectal CDUS. The study is designed as a prospective, cohort, multicentric, international, observational study. Currently 14 EAA Centers are joining the project: Ancona, Italy; Barcelona, Spain; Catania, Italy; Cairo, Egypt; Florence, Italy; Giessen, Germany; Halle-Saale, Germany; L'Aquila, Italy; Leipzig, Germany; Lodz, Poland; Muenster, Germany; Rome, Italy; Stockholm, Sweden; Tartu, Estonia. Florence is the Coordinator Centre and the coordinator is Dr. Francesco Lotti. 200 healthy, fertile subjects will be enrolled in the study. So far 127 subjects have been enrolled, 127 scrotal and 100 transrectal ultrasound have been performed. The Coordinator Centre inform all the other Centers about the advancements of the project every two months by issuing an updated report, which will soon be available on the EAA website. Standardization of MGT-CDUS parameters in a healthy, fertile population is an essential step for improving our diagnostic skills in identifying etiological factors of male infertility.

Preliminary data (evaluation of 55 subjects) have been presented at the ECA Congress in Barcelona in October 2014 (see pdf file of the proceedings at the following link: http://www.andrologyacademy.net/Downloads/ECAProceedings/ProceedingsECA_2014.pdf). Detailed information about the study is available at <http://www.andrologyacademy.net/studies.php>

Guidelines

EAA GUIDELINES

The EAA Council and the Guideline Committee (**E. Rajpert-De Meyts** and **Giovanni Corona**) have selected a number of topics in need for uniform management guidelines.

Invitations to lead authors, who are recognised authorities in these topics, have been sent. We are pleased to inform the EAA members that the work has begun on the following guidelines:

- Management of Klinefelter syndrome in adults (lead author: **Michael Zitzmann**, Germany)
- Management of oligo-astheno-terato-zoospermia (lead author: **Aleksander Giwercman**, Sweden)
- Management of azoospermia (lead author: **Csilla Krausz**, Italy)
- Diagnosis and management of male osteoporosis (lead author: **Dirk Vanderschueren**, Belgium)
- Management of sexual dysfunction in patients with thyroid disease (lead author: **Emmanuele Jannini**, Italy)
- Diagnosis and management of gynecomastia (lead author: **Niels Jørgensen**, Denmark)
- Cryopreservation of semen (lead author: **Herman Tournaye**, Belgium)
- Ultrasound examination of male reproductive tract (lead author: **Francesco Lotti**, Italy)
- Diagnosis and management of male accessory genital glands infections (lead author: **Hans-Christian Schuppe**, Germany)

Suggestions from the EAA members for additional topics are welcome!



News from the EAA journal "Andrology"

The first impact factor (IF) of "Andrology" has been released by the Thomson Reuters Web of Science. The IF is 2.3 and this figure is expected to increase next year, because the first IF includes citations gathered within one year only (2014) to articles published during one year (2013), instead of the customary two year period of citations and publications.

EAA Congresses

Report on EAA accredited meetings:

The "Endocrine Aspects in Andrology" symposium took place on 13-15 March 2015, in the Medical School, University of Crete, Heraklion, Greece.

The symposium had been put under the auspices of the European Academy of Andrology, who had provided financial support through an educational grant and accredited the symposium with four (4) credit points, that could be used towards the "Clinical Andrology" examination, according to the EAA/ESAU joint educational curriculum. In addition, the symposium had been endorsed by the European Society of Endocrinology, who had also provided financial support through an ESE Small Meeting Grant, as well as TransPOT, a European Commission FP7-funded program awarded to the University of Crete Medical School to enhance technology and research in Translational Medicine.

The program of the symposium covered a broad spectrum of basic and clinical aspects of Andrological Endocrinology. Among the many scientific highlights, it is worth to mention the opening lecture given by Prof. Ilpo Huhtaniemi. This lecture focusing on "Molecular aspects of gonadotropin action" summarized some of the recent "cutting edge" data of this world leading gonadotropin-researcher. The more clinically focused presentations covered different aspects of Endocrinological Andrology, including hypogonadism, androgen replacement, androgen insensitivity, inflammation and sex hormones, Klinefelter and Kallmann syndromes and testicular maldescent. Three young scientists (Magdalena Bentmar Holgersson, Linus Kvist and Stefania Lymperi) presented their work and were awarded travel grants by the European Academy of Andrology. The relatively limited number of participants added to create an intimate atmosphere, which facilitated lively discussions, following each oral presentation. The multi-disciplinary background of participants did also contribute to good and nuanced exchange of ideas. There is no doubt that in Greece, like in other European countries, there is a high need of spreading the knowledge about clinical as well as research aspects of Andrology. This symposium was, therefore, very welcome by the participants who, at the end of the meeting, asked for a follow-up event in 2-3 years.

The major part of the content of the symposium will be available to the broad audience with interest in Andrological Endocrinology, as the majority of speakers are willing to produce review paper for "Hormones", the official journal of the Greek Society of Endocrinology.

European Congress of Andrology 2016

Letter from the LOC chair, Prof. Gert Dohle

Dear Friends,

The department of Andrology of Erasmus MC in Rotterdam, the Netherlands is pleased to organize the ninth European Congress of Andrology in 2016. Rotterdam is a dynamic and friendly city in the heart of Holland with excellent facilities for this congress and many cultural activities. The city has recently been nominated as the top-10 place to visit by the New York Times for its fascinating modern architecture, including the brand new central station and surroundings, the museums, the top restaurants and the new indoor food hall.



There are many things to see in Rotterdam, including boat tours through Europe's largest harbor, the space tower, Delft haven (an 16th century harbor area) and a spectacular view from the Erasmus bridge over the city and its modern architecture.

A social evening is planned in the nearby city of Delft, birth place and town of Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, who first discovered spermatozoa in the 17th century and of Reijnier de Graaf, who first described the anatomy male and female internal genitalia in much detail.

We very much look forward to meeting you for this congress and are confident that it will be a most memorable event for all participants.



Forthcoming EAA accredited meetings/courses

- 24th Summer school "Basics and clinics of human reproduction - an interdisciplinary approach"; Muenster, Germany (September 9th – 11th 2015).
- EDMaRC Workshop: From primordial germ cells to spermatozoa; 24-27th November, 2015; Copenhagen, Denmark
- Course in Male Sexology; 16-18th September 2015, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark

EAA virtual Library

At the beginning of June a letter has been sent to all EAA members from the co-directors of the Virtual Library, Prof. Andreas Meinhardt and Prof. Hans-Christian Schuppe. New entries into the library are scheduled three times per year (every 4 months). Each term, a couple of recently published papers covering both basic and clinical research in Andrology will be selected and highlighted on the library webpage. Links to respective abstracts or, if open access is available, full texts will be installed. The focus of this section will be on news from 'outside' the EAA. An additional section of the new virtual library should reflect what's going on 'inside' EAA, and will include papers with high interest to our community published by the EAA centers. The papers will be selected by the Centre directors.

Breaking News

Successful identification of an X-linked gene causing meiotic arrest and azoospermia

In this collaborative study recently published in the New England Journal of Medicine and led by Frank Tüttelmann (Institute of Human Genetics and Centre of Reproductive Medicine and Andrology, Münster, Germany) and Alexander Yatsenko (Magee-Womens Research Institute, Pittsburgh, USA), mutations in the X-linked testis-expressed gene 11 (TEX11) were identified as cause for meiotic arrest and azoospermia. In the first step of this study, high resolution array-CGH was used to screen azoospermic men and, indeed, a recurring deletion of three exons in TEX11 was identified in two patients. Because this gene was previously shown to be a prerequisite for completing meiosis in knock-out mouse models, it immediately became an interesting candidate for further analyses. By sequencing TEX11 in larger groups of azoospermic men, more pathogenic (truncating and splice) mutations were detected, while no mutations were found in controls. Overall, mutations in TEX11 could be identified in 2.4% of azoospermic men and in as many as 15.2% of patients with meiotic arrest.

In conclusion, mutations in TEX11 are to date the first major single gene defect in azoospermia and mutation screening may be introduced into routine diagnostics in the fertility workup. This study also underlines the superiority of broad, genome-wide mutation screening in comparison to candidate gene approaches and the need for collaborative research in male infertility.

Reference:

Yatsenko AN, Georgiadis AP, Röpke A, Berman AJ, Jaffe T, Olszewska M, Westernströer B, Sanfilippo J, Kurpisz M, Rajkovic A, Yatsenko SA, Kliesch S, Schlatt S, Tüttelmann F. X-Linked TEX11 Mutations, Meiotic Arrest, and Azoospermia in Infertile Men. *N Engl J Med* 2015 May 13. [Epub ahead of print]

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