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Letter from the Chairman

ENETS is celebrating a decade since its founding in 2004 and we have come such a long way as a Society in terms of conferences, guidelines, Centres of Excellence and involvement in clinical trials. On behalf of the ENETS Executive Committee, as well as our Advisory Board, I am delighted to present this latest edition of the ENETS Newsletter as the new Chairman. Please find enclosed in this edition a report as well as photos of the ENETS conference in Barcelona March 5–7, 2014 where there were >1600 participants.

In this year, we are looking forward to the further progression of ENETS projects such as the Centres of Excellence (CoE). Since its pilot phase in 2007, the aim was to insure that patient- and quality-focused diagnostics and therapies of NET patients were sustained and further improved through adherence to ENETS guidelines and the support and implementation of certification procedures carried out by specialist auditors. Thank you to those auditors for giving their time and experience as well as to the support of GSG Consulting GmbH/ENETS-CERT Company, which was commissioned by the ENETS executive committee to handle the certification procedure. To date we have 26 Centres in 10 countries and this will be further expanded in the next year. The ENETS CoE will assure NET patients and referring doctors that they can easily seek specialists across Europe who can provide the highest quality care and be associated with clinical trials in order to advance care.

In addition, I would like to announce that ENETS is further strengthening its educational channel. We have now introduced new CME courses focusing on the ENETS guidelines. The courses are offered through a separate accredited e-Learning database which can be accessed through the ENETS website. On successful completion of each module a UEMS-EACCME certificate will be achieved. We kindly ask current and new members to create a new log-in membership, as their details are required to enable CME certification.

The coming year will see the announcement of the following:
• New ENETS Grants
• Fellowships
• Summer School
• Plans for an Excellence Academy for the ‘rising young NET stars’

There will be consensus papers on Bronchial NETs and Carcinoid Heart Disease. The ENETS registry project has had a long journey, and we now have found a new company that meets ENETS requirements and offers a more realistic programme in order to successfully take the project forward with Ivan Borbarth and Chris Verslype leading it.

The Advisory Board and elections to it are undergoing a strategic review including enhanced involvement of specialist nurses and patient advocates and plans will be announced for the next AGM.

Thank you to Elizabeth Zach, our administrator (and so much more) since the origins of ENETS, who has returned to the USA. She has been an incredible asset to ENETS over the years and she is well known to so many of you. We thank Elizabeth for her dedication and hard work and wish her well for the future. As Elizabeth has departed, we are delighted to welcome Vanessa Tatum as coordinator and project
Ongoing topics were the Ki-67 thresholds. Here we have seen a number of publications especially challenging the thresholds in pancreatic NEN, as well as the continuing discussion regarding the sensitivity and specificity of Chromogranin A.

The discussion regarding Chromogranin A was reinforced later in the day, when Irvin Modlin presented data on the validation of a molecular multi-transcript gene blood signature, which outperforms Chromogranin A in the detection of gut neuroendocrine tumors. He claims that this assay, which comprises 51 circulating gene transcripts, is more sensitive than Chromogranin A in detecting GEP-NET disease irrespective of site and is also elevated in ~95% of patients presenting normal Chromogranin A levels.

The discussion regarding the differences in biological behaviour and therapeutic stratification between G3-NEC and G3-NET from last year was continued, though with varying results especially regarding therapeutic stratification, as demonstrated by D. Mandair in his presentation on Thursday and M. Heetfeld in the ENETS-NANETS Young Investigator Symposium.

Enthusiasm was quite high as Guido Rindi presented his proposal on a new three tier grading system specifically generated for pulmonary NEN. The statistical analysis was as rigorous as we’ve come to expect of Dr. Rindi’s works and showed the prognostic accuracy and efficacy of the proposed system.
In the afternoon, two much-anticipated presentations shed light on the final results from CLARINET, a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study focusing on PFS in patients with entero-pancreatic NEN treated with Lanreotide Autogel. This study of >200 patients clearly demonstrated the significant benefit of Lanreotide Autogel in extending PFS. The study reinforced the findings from the previous PROMID trial (randomized double-blind study in 84 patients of Octreotide LAR for midgut NET) in demonstrating the anti-tumor effects of somatostatin analogues. Dieter Hörsch from Bad Berka presented preliminary results from two phase 2 trials on the effect of the tryptophan hydroxylase inhibitor Telostritat Etiprate in a cohort of patients with Hedinger Syndrom.

The afternoon was also highlighted by the much appreciated interactive case discussions on appendiceal and gastric NEN.

Young investigator and NANETS
Friday, March 7th began with a joint symposium for young investigator and NANETS. This was held for the first time at ENETS Annual Conference. Topics ranged from studies in basic and molecular science to clinical and epidemiological analyses, including the above mentioned presentation by M. Heetfeld on differences in characteristics and treatment effects in G3-NET vs. G3-NEC. M. Heetfeld later received the Young Investigator Award for his presentation.

ENETS Life Achievement Award
This year’s ENETS Life Achievement Award was awarded to Eric Krenning from Rotterdam. After the dedication was delivered by Dik Kwekkeboom, a presentation on the present and future of PRRT was held to the delight of the audience by Eric Krenning himself.
Consecutively, the ENETS Centres of Excellence Certification ceremony took place. Four new centres were certified this year.

The afternoon saw a highly controversial discussion on apparently resectable liver metastases. Surgeons and oncologists obviously enjoyed the spirited arguments as the audience was also highly engaged. Many participants were disappointed that the much anticipated session “What’s new in my field” was the penultimate programme point, since many participants had to catch an early flight back home.

Last but not least, the conference closed with the concluding remarks of ENETS outgoing-Chairman Kjell Öberg and incoming-Chairman Martyn Caplin, who announced and invited to next year’s conference.

**Postgraduate Course**
Introduction by Martyn Caplin

The Postgraduate Course has continued to grow and this year remarkably there were greater than 600 participants. The course covered the updates and case discussions topics in enteropancreatic and bronchial NETs. As ever the quality of the speakers led to excellent feedback.

Report by Stephan Felder

The Postgraduate Course was directed to novices but was also a great overview to those more experienced in the field of Neuroendocrine Neoplasias (NEN) and was chaired by Martyn Caplin. The audience had the opportunity to take a glimpse on the complexity and the pitfalls of NEN case management of today. The Course focused on scientific and clinical fundamentals such as familial syndromes (MEN I) or NEN specific histological approaches and suitable clinical cases such as Bronchial, Midgut NEN or even rare entities like Insulinoma or Vipoma. Leading scientists from all over the world and ENETS representatives were kindly pleased to answer questions.

To bring home the message, one might quote Mr. Jensen (USA), who introduced the public to Gastrinoma – with emphasis on management. "It remains hardly impossible to summarize the field of Gastrinoma or respectively NEN in limited speaking time or even a few words.” All in all the Postgraduate Course served as an impressive and profound „preconference warm up".

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L. Fischbein during her Abstract talk

L. Yang holding his talk at the ENETS-NANETS Session

M. Veenstra speaking to a full hall

K. Öberg (left) is handing over the Life Time Achievement Award to E. Krenning.
The Award Ceremony at a glance!

From left: K. Öberg, H. Lahner receives the Certificate CoE for the University Hospital Essen, Germany.


S. Smith receives the Certificate CoE for the Birmingham, UK.

The representatives receive their award certificates from K. Öberg.

K. Öberg awards J. Crona with the 3rd prize for the best abstract in the category Basic Science.

F. Ruszniewski and B. Kos-Kudla receive an award from K. Öberg for serving the ENETS Executive Committee.

K. Öberg awards I. Marinoni with the 2nd prize for the best abstract in the category Basic Science.

K. Öberg awards D. Mandair with the 3rd prize for the best abstract in the category Clinical Research.

I. Geh, T. Shah, S. Smith and J. Ayuk of the University Hospitals Birmingham, NHS Foundation Trust, UK, receive from K. Öberg the ENETS Certificate in recognition as an ENETS Center of Excellence (CoE).

K. Öberg and M. Bucau, 1st prize for the best abstract in the category Basic Science.

K. Öberg awards M. Heetfeld for the best abstract presented during the ENETS-NANETS Young Investigator Symposium.

K. Öberg awards L. Mills with the 1th prize for the best abstract in the category clinical research.

K. Öberg awards L. Kvols (left) – Life Achievement Award Recognition 2014 because of an (illness-related) absence in 2013.
Conference Impressions!

B. Wiedenmann, L. Bodei and C. Verbeke share a laugh in an intermission during Session 6.

R. Garcia-Carbonero talks about Medical Oncology during the Sessions ‘What’s New in my Field!'

U. Pape giving an enlightening views on Familial NET case presentation during the Postgraduate Session.

ENETS staff at the registration desk always willing to give the right answers!

R. Jensen enthuses the audience with his talk.

Audience members keen on participating in discussions are always welcome!
ENETS NET-CME is offered online and introduces new courses focusing upon the ENETS guidelines.

Preparing for the Poster Session!

Outgoing-Chairman Kjell Öberg and incoming Chairman Martyn Caplin holding final talks to end the conference.

ENETS Newsletter
A Newsletter for Medical Professionals and ENETS Members

D. O’Toole, A. Perren, U. Pape, M. Caplin and K. Öberg during the plenary session.

A spontaneous group picture amongst participants!

G. Åkerström talks about ‘Resection of Mesenteric Disease – How Far Should the Surgeon Go?’.
The 12th Annual ENETS Conference will be held in Barcelona, 11–13 March 2015.

Online registration and abstract submission opens
1 September 2014 via the ENETS website: www.enets.org

Also, please stay tuned to the program, which will be placed online by 1 September 2014 as well!