

## New Year January 2021 Newsletter

From the Society for Ultrastructural Pathology to our colleagues and friends

*Happy New Year 2021*

Hoping all are well and wish you good health as we enter a new year.

It has been a difficult start of the new decade. The WHO announced in March 2020 a global pandemic of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) which to date has affected millions of people worldwide and has taken the lives of enumerable loved ones. Many countries are experiencing a current surge in COVID-19 and the pandemic course for the future is uncertain.

In March 2020, following the WHO announcement of a pandemic state and the global restrictions on travel and “in-person” meetings, all local, regional, national and international meetings have been postponed and/or have transitioned to virtual meetings. The SUP has promptly responded to the situation, and in March the board decided to postpone ULTRAPATH XX, originally planned for June 2020 in Amsterdam, to a future date in 2021. Although we start the new year with promising vaccine distributions, the trajectory of the global health situation is uncertain. The WHO and nations guidelines may keep the current restrictions or may allow the opening of international travel and large gatherings of “in-person” meetings in the summer months. We are closely following the situation and contemplating the possibility of further postponing ULTRAPATH XX to 2022. We are at present negotiating with the meeting venues in Amsterdam to establish a date, which will be posted on the website when available. For those that already had registered for the ULTRAPATH XX 2020 we offered the option of transferring the registration fee to the next meeting (with no additional cost added) or a refund.

For those that opted for a refund these were processed in the spring. For additional questions on refunds please contact the Amsterdam ULTRAPATH 2020 organizing coordinator Nicole van der Wel (n.n.vanderwel@amsterdamumc.nl).



### **Past Meetings**

USCAP 2020 meeting was in Los Angeles at the LA Convention Center, February 28-March 5. This was the last in-person meeting event for the pathology societies. The SUP Companion Meeting (CM) took place on Sunday March 1. The meeting was well attended.

USCAP 2020 SUP CM topic and program were as follows:

**Contemporary Role of Ultrastructure in Tumor Diagnosis: Potential Contribution to Targeted Therapy**

moderators Dr. Josep Lloreta-Trull and Dr. Eric Wartchow

- Josep Lloreta-Trull** Potential Impact of Electron Microscopy in Cancer Treatment
- Paola dal Cin** Genetic Targets in Sarcomas
- Cyril Fisher** Is There a Role for Electron Microscopy in Soft Tissue Tumor Diagnosis?
- Maria Merino** Contribution of Electron Microscopy to the Diagnosis of the New Subtypes of Renal Tumors
- Joaquim Bellmunt** Renal Tumors: A Model of the Joint Venture of Oncology and Pathology

Both Drs. Maria Merino and Joaquim Bellmunt could unfortunately not attend the meeting. Dr. Lloreta-Trull graciously volunteered on a short notice to present these additional talks.

We want to thank all speakers for sharing their depth of knowledge and for their stimulating and educational presentations. And a big thank you to Dr. Lloreta-Trull for his continuous contributions and support of the SUP.



The Microscopy Society of America/Microanalysis Society annual meeting Microscopy and Microanalysis 2020 was a fully virtual meeting that took place in Milwaukee, August 4-7, 2020.

The Fourth International Renal Pathology Society Conference, originally planned in Warsaw, Poland, April 2020, was held on November 19-21, 2020. All presentations were virtual. The meeting video presentations can be accessed at a cost through the renal pathology society website.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the European Society of Pathology and XXXIII International Congress of the IAP, original “in-person meeting” on September 2020 in Glasgow, Scotland, was a virtual meeting held on December 6-8, 2020. The ESP EM and Renal Pathology working groups had a joint session. Joint slide seminar Nephropathology/Electron Microscopy: Challenging renal biopsies.

I welcome anyone to contribute information on above and other Electron Microscopy oriented past meetings.



## **Future meeting(s)**

The SUP and Renal Pathology Society (RPS) will have a joint Companion Meeting at USCAP 2021. The CM will focus on COVID-19. The allocated time per CM is 1.5 hours (compared to the 3.0 hours per Society for “in-person” meetings) with the following program:

### **Title: Searching for Covid-19**

Chair: Giovanna M. Crisi, M.D. Ph.D., UMMS-Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, MA

Co-Chair: Serena Bagnasco M.D. PhD., Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

Covid-19-related pathology and the kidney

Vanesa Bijol M.D. Northwell Health - Hofstra University, Lake Success, NY

Ultrastructural identification of Coronaviruses

Sara Miller Ph.D. Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

Update on testing for Covid-19

Alan Wells M.D. D.M.Sc. University of Pittsburgh / UPMC, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

I welcome anyone to contribute information on other national and international Electron Microscopy oriented future meetings.



## **Publications**

Innumerable publications have flourished on Covid-19 pathology with electron microscopy ultrastructural findings. These are all available through PubMed.

One that I would like to mention is a Letter to the Editors by Drs. Goldsmith and Miller cautioning the interpretation of ultrastructural findings as Covid-19 particles (CS Goldsmith and SE Miller. Caution in identifying coronaviruses by electron microscopy. JASN31:2223–2229, 2020)

Completion of revision of the chapters for Ghadially 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Ultrastructural Pathology of the Cell and Matrix, is in progress. Publication is estimated for late 2021-2022.



### **SUP Council Members**

Dr. Guillermo Herrera announced his resignation as Treasurer of the SUP. We are extremely grateful for his support and having stepped into this position in 2016 when Dr. Tucker had to resign. Dr. Herrera has been a longstanding member of the SUP and has served before in the position as Treasurer and President of the SUP. Dr. Herrera has made significant contributions to the field of Electron Microscopy, is an outstanding ultrastructural and renal pathologist, and a dear colleague.

Dr. Eric Wartchow, current Secretary, will be stepping in as the Interim Treasurer until next Board Elections. The President has appointed Sara Pawlak to be an assistant Secretary to assist Dr. Wartchow during this time.

SUP council members are elected at the biennial ULTRAPATH meetings. Since ULTRAPATH 2020 was cancelled to a future date, new council members have not been formally elected. Council members may retain their positions until the next ULTRAPATH meeting or virtual “ad hoc” election.

### **Membership**

Consider becoming a member of the Society for Ultrastructural Pathology. Visit the SUP website. <https://www.ultrapath.org>

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so by logging into the website.

For those that have already renewed their membership, thank you for supporting the SUP.



### **In Memoriam**

The Pathology community mourns the passing of Dr. Juan Rosai on July 7, 2020. Dr. Rosai has been one of the most influential figures in pathology, an icon in the field, and has made enormous contributions to surgical pathology. From early on Dr. Rosai embraced the introduction of new technologies and promoted these as adjunct in refining pathology diagnoses, including Electron Microscopy (EM), immunohistochemistry, molecular, and more recently digital pathology. In 1968 Dr. Rosai and Dr. Hector Rodriguez published a seminal paper first introducing the concept that Transmission EM could be used in tumor pathology to

differentiate histologically similar tumors based on fine ultrastructural findings. Dr. Rosai thus established EM as an essential tool in defining the cellular features of neoplasms, and subsequently described the ultrastructural characteristics of many tumor types. We have lost an educator, a teacher, a mentor, a lecturer, a consultant, a leader, an inspirer, and a wonderful colleague.

Dr. Wick summarized Dr. Rosai's influence in diagnostic Electron Microscopy in the 2016 special edition of Seminars in Diagnostic Pathology: A Festschrift to Dr. Juan Rosai (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0740257016300326>).

Selected hyperlinks to tributes to Dr. Rosai

Dr. M.R. Wick <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcp/aqaa174>

Dr. L.P. Dehner <https://doi.org/10.5858/arpa.2020-0567-ED>

Dr. M.C. Dugan <https://www.captodayonline.com/juan-rosai-master-of-the-neoplastic-universe/>



The SUP mourns the loss Dr. Peter Ingram, a longstanding member of the SUP with significant contributions to the Society and Electron Microscopy. Our deepest condolences go out to his family.

I am very thankful to Dr. Ann LeFurgey for sharing an “in-memoriam note” of Dr. Ingram, the link to which is: <https://www.ultrapath.org/sites/ultrapath.org/files/PeterIngram.pdf>

Dr. Ingram's obituary: <https://legacy.co/3n1nJiR>



The SUP encourages international collaborations of Electron Microscopy societies and working groups. We need to gather our knowledge and expertise to guide the juniors in the field, and to emphasize the present and future role of EM in diagnoses and in innovative research.

We encourage members to share any SUP-worthy news, advances in the fields, and to post questions and interesting cases on the upcoming website page.

We thank Charlie Register for his support in managing the website. <https://www.ultrapath.org>

Very best wishes for the coming year.

Stay safe and healthy,

Giovanna M Crisi  
President SUP