First edition of Focus meeting

New meeting aims to improve outcomes in onco-urological cancers

Young urologists show interest

The EAU Young Urology Office and the Young Academic Urologists boards have strongly supported this initiative. We would like to thank all these members sincerely including, of course, Prof. Seluck Silya, our EAU-YAU chairman.

FOCUS was also supported by national scientific societies involved in uro-oncology, including the French Association of Urology (AFU) and its Cancerology Committee (CC-AFU), and the Groupe d’Etude des Tumeurs Uro-génitales (GETUG). Thus, the scientific committee included both regional experts and CC-AFU Chairmen (Prof. Mijain, Prof. Rouprêt, Dr. Razet, Prof. Bensalah, Dr. Murez).

Scientific programme with six sessions

The scientific programme, prepared by a multidisciplinary team of urologists, oncologists and radiation oncologists, was designed with a focus on peri-treatment strategies aimed to improve outcomes in prostate, testis and kidney or bladder cancers, with six scientific sessions and 2 industry-sponsored symposia.

Prof. Michel Souléil, Head of the Urology Department of the Toulouse University Hospital (FR), has supported this ambitious event since the beginning of the adventure and chaired his first edition. His warm introduction set the tone for a friendly meeting.

Sexual function preservation

To mention just one example, one of the prostate cancer sessions focused on sexual function preservation and encompassed outstanding presentations by Dr. Thomas Bessede on the surgical anatomy of neurovascular bundles, by Dr. Richard Gaston on the maximal peri-prostatic preservation during robot-assisted radical prostatectomy, and by Prof. Olivier Chapet on optimised radiotherapy doses to improve erectile function preservation.

The ‘European Corner’, involving several YAU members, enticed interactive debates on the management of oligo-metastatic patients in kidney (Dr. U. Capitanio, Milan, IT) and prostate cancer (Dr. P. Del, Ghent, BE).

On Friday morning, a Joint Session including key opinion leaders from GETUG, AFU and EAU-YAU was led by Dr. Guilhem Roubaud, medical oncologist from Bordeaux (FR) and Idir Ouzaid (YAU kidney cancer working party), urologist from Paris (FR).

The kidney and prostate cancer management in 2018 (discussion of CARMEN, STOMP, HORRAD trials), the recent changes in guidelines and the potential disparities among countries and health care systems were discussed.

Insights into metastatic prostate cancer

Among the distinguished guest speakers was Prof. Fred Saad, Head of the Department of Urology in the CHU, Montreal (CA). He delivered a brilliant lecture on the management of hormone-sensitive and castration-resistant metastatic prostate cancers in the light of recent data from phase III randomised trials recently presented at international meetings. Numerous uncertainties and future hopes were addressed for this field, which is in continuous motion.

Prof. Nicolas Mattet, chairman of the EAU Prostate Cancer Guidelines, gave a lecture on the ‘Integration of MRI in the management of prostate cancer’, with special reference to the recent PRECISION study.

In his critical analysis he concluded that a step forward can be made by implementation of these recent data in the current update of the guidelines. Indeed, at the end of his talk, he revealed that, for the first time ever, an EAU recommendation will be included in the guidelines on making an MRI before taking biopsies in the treatment. Breaking news and applause from the audience!

Save the date

Save the date: the second edition of the FOCUS meeting is scheduled for 17 and 18 October 2019 under the umbrella of EAU-YAU and the presidency of Arnaud Mejean, Chairman of the French Cancerology Committee, principal investigator and first author of the CARMENA article.

Toulouse is waiting for you!

Young Urologists/Residents Corner

VCMS in cooperation with the ESRU

Education day ‘Minimal Invasive Surgery in Urology’

The Dutch Surgical Society for Medical Students (DSSMS, or in Dutch ‘VCMS’) focuses on students with a special interest in surgery. Its local departments were founded in the eight Dutch academic centres.

The aim is to offer supplementary extracurricular education in surgical specialties to medical students in their bachelor phase. The national board (VCMS Nederland) oversees the local branches, provides supplementary surgical education for medical students in a Master Academy and organises national events for members and associated parties. This educational activity is provided in cooperation with surgical specialists, residents and commercial companies. During the Master Academy, senior medical students (co-assistants) are offered extracurricular surgical education. This year, the Master Academy has about 120 members. During the course of this year, seven Saturdays will be devoted to three areas: Surgical Anatomy and Imaging, Surgical Knowledge, and Surgical Practice and Skills.

Surgical practice and skills

On Saturday 15 December 2018 the module centred on Surgical Practice and Skills took place. This day was organised at the LUMC (Leiden University Medical Centre) with the topic: ‘Minimal Invasive Surgery in Urology’. The structure of this day was composed in cooperation with Dr. J. Gómez Rivas (Chairman ESRU), T. Brouwers (Project Manager Education and Training, EAU Office, NL) and Dr. F.J. Zonderman (urologist, UMC, Amsterdam, NL). Several lectures were given and VCMS members could gain some hands-on experience during the workshops.

Dr. C.A. Geesom-Laan (urologist, Aljrine Hospital, Leiden, NL) began the day with an introduction to laparoscopy. It covered the anatomy of the peritoneum, the physiology of the pneumoperitoneum and haemostatic principles during laparoscopic procedures. After the introductory lecture, there were two rounds of workshop in parallel groups, aiming to stimulate small-scale education. During the first two workshops the working principles of the endoscope, the cytroscope and lithotrite were investigated. Donald Schweitzer (Master Academy member and student-researcher urology) guided the VCMS members in the simulated treatment of endoscopic renal stones with the aid of flexible ureteric-reneoscopes.

Interesting plenary lecture

After lunch, Drs. E.J. Van Gennep (urologist, LUMC, NL) gave a lecture on laparoscopic and robotic surgery in the urological field and compared periperoptive results of minimal invasive surgery techniques. Dr. R.F.M. Bevers (urologist, UMC, NL) took the attendants through radical nephrectomy step by step, including the positioning, different approaches (trans-peritoneal versus retro-peritoneal) and known (anatomical) stumbling blocks. After the plenary lectures, the groups were switched and attended the other workshop. These were the trappings of the laparoscope, the Da Vinci robot and exercises with eye-hand coordination for students during training sessions in laparoscopy simulation boxes as well as with the different stitching techniques during conventional suture, laparoscopic suture and suture with the Da Vinci robot. The latter was under the guidance of Dr. O.R. Brouwer (resident urologist, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, NL) and Drs. Van Gennep.

Networking

The day ended with a networking activity during which students and specialists could share their experiences of the day. The broad range of theoretical knowledge and practical skills was highly appreciated by our members. We thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this VCMS Master Academy education day.

For more information on VCMS, the Master Academy and national events, please visit www.vcms.nl/Nederland.

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The 1st edition of the annual FOCUS (Forum d’OnCo-Urologie du Sud) took place on 11 and 12 October 2018 in the ‘pink city’ of Bordeaux. The south-west region of France is known for its epicurean way of life, rugby culture and its carnivility!

FOCUS is a national congress aiming to address onco-urological topics which focus on the optimization of both functional and oncological outcomes. We organised a 2-day meeting with national and international experts with many interactive discussions on the important issues within prostate, urethralia, kidney, penis and testis cancers and were happy to attract approximately 150 participants for the first edition.

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National Board VCMS. From left to right: Arman Sunnanson, Manous Huijben,uyen Ladenjikha, Irina Van Pils, Bas Dabeijsher, Zos Hartvelt, Jocelle Van Loon
The year 2018 was one of the most fruitful ones for the YUO (young urologists office) of the EAU so far because its two main arms - ESRU (European Society of Residents and Urologists) and YAU (Young Academic Urologists) - accomplished some great achievements and successfully carried out several projects in this period.

During a board meeting held in Amsterdam and led by Dr. M. Sedlacek (NL) (chairman of the YUO), Juan Gomez Rivero (ES) presented a summary of the ESRU activities in 2018. He highlighted the realisation of the EURODay during the Annual EAU Congress in 2018 and also the open collaboration with ESU with regard to training and education projects such as the Endo-urology Olympics. And we should not forget, of course, the efforts to create the Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NOTSS) course.

EURODay Guidelines Cup
The results of the first edition of the Guidelines Cup during EURODay were really promising and received well by the audience. We look forward to the realisation of the second edition of the Guidelines Cup to be held in 2019. There will be some improvements, such as a preceding online phase. The final phase will take place during the EURODay in Barcelona with attractive prizes for the winners. EURODay is presenting an attractive programme for residents and young urologists which should not be missed during the 34th Annual EAU Congress in March 2019 in Barcelona.

The Young Academic Urologists (YAU) is a group of talented and renowned young European urologists (< 40 years old). Its main goal is to promote high-quality studies in order to provide strong evidence for the best urological practice, to promote educational programmes in order to boost European training standards and to create a platform for close international cooperation for the future urology leaders in Europe (and beyond).

Current and future role of YAU
The YAU members have a meeting twice a year, and this year’s fall meeting was situated in Amsterdam during the 20th EMUC meeting. The meeting was opened by the chair, Prof. Selcuk Silay, who gave an inspiring talk on the current and future role of YAU. Next, the chairs of the subgroups presented the achievements of their groups. This year, a total of 44 publications was indexed and a few awards were won. YAU subgroup members active as reviewers of urological journals will take on a role as academic references, supported by young colleagues with a high, worldwide urological scientific production. This seems to be the start of a great tradition, since, out of the last 5 Matula prize winners were a member of YAU and the winner of this prize in 2018 was the YAU chair, Prof. Selcuk Silay (TR).

Time for pleasure
All groups shared new ideas with great enthusiasm, and although you felt that the presented cases were truly problematic, you encountered an even worse case yourself? If so…

For a new series in the YUO section of European Urology Today we need your contribution!

Have you ever encountered a patient case that was extremely challenging but were able to resolve it despite the odds?

Have you ever had a case which seemed common at first but the situation changed in an instant and you had to deal with every urologist’s worst nightmare?

Have you ever attended a Nightmare Case session and although you felt that the presented cases were truly problematic, you encountered an even worse case yourself? If so…

How to use YAU resources efficiently
Next, Umberto Capitanio, Chairman of the Renal Cancer Group, showed how to conduct an influential study using YAU sources. Being a YAU member creates the opportunity to easily connect with the Guidelines Office, the Sections Office and the ESU, the natural partners within the EAU for the development of clinical, educational and investigational projects.

How can we learn from these cases to help us treat our patients better and enhance our everyday practice in the future.

Please send the details of your personal Nightmare Case and photos to: Dr. Zsuzsanna Zotter, eut@uroweb.org