ESTP Newsletter 2025 (3)

Editor: Amy Narewski
Administrative Assistant to the ESTP Executive Committee

(ESTP contact link: https://www.eurotoxpath.org/contact.php)

Content

Calendar	1
The ESTP Council	2
President's Column	2
11th ESTP International Expert Workshop	4
2nd Joint BSTP/ESTP Congress in Manchester, UK	5
ESTP Pathology 2.0 & STP SIG "Complex in vitro models & Pathology at 4th MPS World Summit in Brussels	6
ESTP Pathology 2.0 & STP Complex in vitro models (CIVM) & Pathology SIG received the Toxicologic Pathology 2025 Best Review Paper Award	7
TOX'2025, 8-10 October 2025, Mátraháza, HUNGARY	7
Announcement of Classic Examples 2026	9

2026	
January 14	**TiHo Hannover (sponsored by ESTP)** Toxicologic Pathology Training Program, Module "Drug Development including Alternative Methods" Hybrid: online and Bern (Switzerland) LINK
March 26-27	**ESTP** Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology XXXIII, Hannover (Germany) LINK
April 14-15	**TiHo Hannover (sponsored by ESTP)** Toxicologic Pathology Training Program, Module "Molecular and Digital Pathology" Hybrid: Online and Nantes (France - selected online sessions of the MADPATH course) LINK
June 21-24	**STP** STP 45th Annual Symposium: The Pulse of Progress: Advancing Knowledge on Cardiovascular Toxicity, San Diego, California (USA) LINK
September 29-October 2	**ESTP** Beyond Morphology: The Pathologist's New Toolbox in a Data-Driven Era, Krakow, (Poland)

The ESTP council

Chairperson	Vanessa Schumacher	*Secretary*	Raffaella Capobianco
Vice President	Lars Mecklenburg	*Treasurer*	Kuno Würsch
Past Chairperson	Silvia Guionaud	*Designated Chairperson*	Neus Prats
Congress Councillor	Anna-Lena Frisk	*Councillor for Digital Pathology*	Lise Bertrand
Councillor to represent University Teachers	Ingo Gerhauser	*Councillor for Residents and Early Career Pathologists*	Laura Polledo
Councillor for Nomenclature	Ute Bach	*Councillor for Electronic Communication*	Rupert Kellner
Councillor for Classic Examples	Thomas Nolte	*NTP Representative*	Eveline de Rijk
BSTP Representative	Zuhal Dincer	*SFPT Representative*	Céline Thuilliez
Hungarian STP Representative	György Selenyi	*Chair, Awards Committee*	Theresa Brömel
STP liaison, Chair of the Scientific and Regulatory Standards Committee	Annette Romeike	*Chair, Clinical Pathology Committee*	Monika Keresztes
Chair, Pathology 2.0 Working Group	Josep Monné	*Chair, "Guess What" Committee*	Susanne Rittinghausen
Admin Assistant to the ESTP EC	Amy Narewski	*ToxPath Journal Liaison*	Kerstin Hahn

President's Column

Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been a truly remarkable year for the European Society of Toxicologic Pathology. I am delighted to share updates on our recent successes and the continued progress in delivering our strategic plan.

The highlight of the past few months was undoubtedly the **2nd Joint BSTP/ESTP Toxicologic Pathology Congress** in Manchester, UK, from September 23-26, 2025. The congress, themed **"Carcinogenicity in the 21st Century: Challenges of New Methodologies, Strategies, and their Impact on Pathologists"**, was an extremely engaging and successful joint venture, marking the 22nd ESTP congress and the 40th BSTP congress. The scientific program, developed by the Scientific Organizing Committee, was vibrant and explored current and emerging approaches for carcinogenicity evaluation, including topics on *in silico*, *in vitro*, and *ex vivo* technologies. Thank you to the Scientific Organizing Committee for their excellent work. Special thanks to the co-chairs Thomas Nolte and Ute Bach (representing ESTP), and Jon Carter and Zuhal Dincer (representing the BSTP). It was wonderful to connect with so many of you, and to hear the positive feedback about the congress.

At the congress, we also celebrated the achievements of our colleagues:

- Congratulations to **Charlotte Lempp** for receiving the ESTP Publication Award for her publication "A Minimal Approach to Demonstrate Concordance of Digital and Conventional Microscopy in Toxicologic Pathology"
- Congratulations to **Ute Bach**, the recipient of the ESTP Science Award

Preceding the congress, the **11th ESTP International Expert Workshop** on **"Adversity Determination of Female Reproductive Findings in Animals and Their Relevance to Humans"** was held on September 22, 2025, in Manchester, UK. This event successfully brought together the ESTP and the European Teratology Society (ETS) for the first time, fostering new ideas and collaborations among the 150 international participants. The primary goal was to increase consistency in the determination and interpretation of adversity for female reproductive pathology findings in animal studies.

Our ESTP strategic plan continues to advance on multiple fronts:

- **Training Program:** The next cycle of the **Toxicologic Pathology Training Program** is running from summer semester 2025 to winter semester 2027/28, featuring 12 modules in a hybrid format in Hannover and other European cities including Barcelona and Bern. This cycle excitingly allows ECVP residents from training centres across Europe to attend.
- **Pathology 2.0:** The Pathology 2.0 Committee continues **driving progress through its six subgroups** dedicated to strategic fields within the toxpath community. The Pathology 2.0 & STP SIG also received the **Toxicologic Pathology 2025 Best Review Paper Award** for their article on **Complex In Vitro Model Characterization** and look back on a successful jointly organized session at the 4th Microphysiological Society World Summit titled **"Bridging the Translational Gap: Advancing MPS Through Pathophysiologic Insights"**
- **Future Events:** Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for the **Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology XXXIII** on March 26-27, 2026, in Hannover, Germany. Also, don't miss the 2026 ESTP Congress, **"Beyond Morphology: The Pathologist's New Toolbox in a Data-Driven Era,"** in Krakow, Poland.

I encourage you to consider one (or more!) of the many opportunities to engage as an active member of the ESTP. We rely on our diverse and committed member community to further our society's impact.

As the year draws to a close, I wish you all a successful finish to 2025 and a relaxing holiday season filled with well-deserved rest and joy. I look forward to our continued collaboration and shared progress in the new year.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Schumacher,
ESTP Chairperson

11th ESTP International Expert Workshop

The 11th ESTP International Expert Workshop was held on September 22, 2025, in Manchester, UK, focusing on the topic**: "Adversity Determination of Female Reproductive Findings in Animals and Their Relevance to Humans."** The workshop was organized by a multidisciplinary team of 20 experts, representing diverse fields including toxicologic pathology, clinical pathology, reproductive toxicology and regulatory toxicology, as well as regulators from health authorities. It was attended by 150 participants from 20 countries, and for the first time, the ESTP workshop brought together two scientific communities, the ESTP and the European Teratology Society (ETS). This joint workshop not only enriched the discussions but also fostered new ideas and collaborations within the field.

The meeting started with a review of best practices for adversity characterization of pathology findings in nonclinical toxicology studies, providing a foundational context for a more in-depth exploration of the specific challenges associated with evaluating adversity in the female reproductive system. The primary goal of the workshop was to increase consistency in the determination and interpretation of adversity of female reproductive pathology findings in animal studies. Another goal was to give recommendations for consistent communication of adversity in the pathology report and overall study report. Finally, the workshop aimed to highlight some specific factors influencing translatability and overall female reproductive risk assessment, and in particular, the intrinsic differences in hazard identification and risk assessment between pharmaceuticals and chemicals. A key take-home message was that justification of adversity or non-adversity is more important than the designation itself, notably for an organ system where functional endpoints are only evaluated in specific study types. Following the workshop, a document with the case studies, panel recommendations, and major discussion points from the meeting will be published.

The organizing committee sincerely thanks the audience for the lively discussions and valuable scientific contributions, the experts for their time and great knowledge, and the ESTP for having sponsored and supported the workshop.

The organizing committee,

Ute Bach
Heike Marxfeld
Emmanuelle Balme

2nd Joint BSTP/ESTP Congress in Manchester, UK

The 2nd Joint BSTP/ESTP Congress, held from September 23rd to 26th, 2025, in the vibrant city of Manchester, UK, was a resounding success, gathering over 200 participants from 20 different countries. The congress centered on the timely theme of **"Carcinogenicity in the 21st Century: Challenges of New Methodologies, Strategies, and Their Impact on Pathologists."**

Manchester, known for its rich industrial history and transformation into a hub for advanced materials, digital industries, and life sciences, proved to be an ideal backdrop for our discussions. The dynamic environment facilitated engaging dialogues among attendees, promoting a collaborative atmosphere.

Congress Highlights

The congress featured five major thematic areas, inaugurated by a thought-provoking **Keynote Lecture by Prof. Samuel Cohen**. He provided a comprehensive overview of the evolution of the 2-Year Bioassay, raising important questions regarding its necessity in current practices.

The subsequent sessions delved into a variety of topics:

Carcinogenesis / Best Practices: This session presented diverse perspectives from pathologists, toxicologists, and CRO representatives, culminating in a lively audience discussion that underscored the importance of a multidisciplinary approach. The second **Keynote Lecture by Prof. Sven Rottenberg** focused on carcinogenesis and addressed molecular mechanisms and genomic instabilities. It was followed by discussions on **new approach methodologies**—potential alternatives and complements to traditional bioassays, including in silico tools and New Approach Methodologies (NAMs). **New modalities**: This thematic area included discussions on recent advancements in carcinogenicity testing of new modality drug candidates such as AAV therapy, oligonucleotides, protein degraders, and CAR T-cell therapies. **Data Interpretation**: Attendees engaged in discussions on statistics, historical control data, and the peer-review process, emphasizing the significance of sound interpretation in toxicopathological research. **Carcinogenicity Risk Assessment**: The final session addressed innovative screening approaches and the Weight of Evidence (WoE) approach.

These thematic areas were enhanced by various case studies, INHAND presentations, and 22 high-quality scientific poster contributions, fostering insightful discussions throughout the congress.

The congress was not only about academic exchange; it also provided excellent networking opportunities. Attendees took advantage of breaks to engage with numerous exhibitors and

continued discussions in a more informal setting. The Welcome Reception at the hotel bar, Cloud 23, offered a stunning view of Manchester, creating an unforgettable atmosphere for participants to connect.

BSTP celebrated its **40th anniversary** with a memorable Birthday Welcome Reception that added to the festive spirit. The Congress Dinner, held at the Science and Industry Museum, was another highlight, allowing attendees to unwind and enjoy an evening of great company and dancing.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the dedicated team of scientists, the SoC, who worked tirelessly to put together the program, our professional PCO, and all the presenters whose outstanding contributions helped make this congress a success. Your efforts are deeply appreciated! Finally, we also thank our co-chairs from BSTP, Jonathan Carter and Zuhal Dincer. It was great organizing this congress with you.

In the meantime, the majority of presentations are available on the private environment of the ESTP website. We look forward to the next opportunity to gather at the upcoming **ESTP Congress in Krakow, Poland from 29 September – 2 October 2026**!

Thomas Nolte and Ute Bach, ESTP co-chairs

ESTP Pathology 2.0 & STP SIG "Complex in vitro models & Pathology at 4th MPS World Summit in Brussels

Julia Kühnlenz & Nadine Stokar-Regenscheit

The 4th Annual Microphysiological Systems (MPS) World Summit took place in Brussels from June 9-13, 2025. This global summit brings together over 1,500 international experts to explore advancements in MPS research, focusing on sharing NAMs use cases, adoption challenges and validation efforts, promoting human-relevant testing methods, and aligning with initiatives from regulatory bodies.

MPS World Summit pathology session speakers and chairs (from left to right): Frank Seipel (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Randolph Asthon (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Nadine Stokar-Regenscheit (Roche), Julia Kühnlenz (Bayer), Passley Hargrove-Grimes (NIH) and Vanesa Ayala (EMPA St.Gallen)

This is the 4th time our working group organized a dedicated pathology session called "Bridging the Translational Gap: Advancing MPS Through Pathophysiologic Insights", with this year's session chairs: **Nadine Stokar-Regenscheit** (Roche) **& Julia Kühnlenz** (Bayer).

It was an inspiring and insightful week where we had the opportunity to meet with industry colleagues, regulatory bodies, academia, and vendors. These interactions reinforced existing collaborations and opened doors for new partnership opportunities and raised awareness of Pathologists as the partner of choice for model development, characterization and in vivo-in vitro correlation.

ESTP Pathology 2.0 & STP Complex in vitro models (CIVM) & Pathology SIG received the Toxicologic Pathology 2025 Best Review Paper Award

The STP annual symposium took place in Chicago this year from June 22-25. The symposium was a huge success with an exciting scientific program that focussed on neuropathology and incorporated talks highlighting cutting edge technologies available to the pathologist. Of note, **Kerstin Hahn** (Roche) of the ESTP Pathology 2.0 Spatial Omics group gave an engaging presentation on the use of spatial transcriptomics in CNS drug development.

Steven Laing and Rhada Surra at STP in Chicago at the award ceremony.

At the awards ceremony, on the last day of the conference, **Steven Laing** (Genentech) **and Radha Sura** (Gilead) were pleased to represent both the ESTP Pathology 2.0 and STP CIVM & Pathology SIG. We were awarded the 2025 Best Paper Award for a review for our article "Complex In Vitro Model Characterization for Context of Use in Toxicologic Pathology: Use Cases by Collaborative Teams of Biologists, Bioengineers, and Pathologists." Congratulations to the entire team!

TOX'2025, 8-10 October 2025, Mátraháza, HUNGARY

This year the annual conference of the Hungarian Sister Society of the ESTP was held in Mátraháza, one of Hungary's favorite resort places in close neighbourhood of Kékes, the highest peak of the country. The venue was the Lifestyle Hotel Mátra, one of the wellness hotels of largest capacity within the area.

The event started with a food toxicology session focusing on chemical contaminants in food within the scope of the recent integrated and unifying approach of One Health. This concept was introduced in the dynamic and interesting plenary lecture delivered by **Miklós Süth**, director of the Institute of Food Chain Science and vice rector of the University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest. Traditional parts of the scientific program of the three days included sessions of ecotoxicology, forensic and clinical toxicology as well as quality assurance and two parallel poster sessions. In addition to these, on the second day there was a short session of three lectures titled Toxicology of Nonhuman Primates and Exotic Animals addressing toxicologic pathology and diagnostic veterinary pathology. The first talk of the session was delivered by one of our invited speakers, **Lars Mecklenburg**, the present vice chairperson of the ESTP.

His brilliant lecture “Toxicologic Pathology of Non-Human Primates” was as spectacular as concise and audience-tailored providing insight into the field including the history and conditions of the use of non-human primates in drug development and illustrated presentation of spontaneous pathology in purpose-bred cynomolgus macaques as well as typical test article related microscopic observations reported for common modalities and procedures.

Our second speaker **Matthias Rinke** delivered a kind of very interesting status report of his beloved “Otter Project” started in 2016 at the Hannover Veterinary School in his talk ”What Can Lutra, the Otter Tell Us about Toxicology” referring to a very popular Hungarian book on the story of Lutra the otter which was luckily translated to German in 1973. The presentation focused on pollutional aspects, in particular, exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs) which has been extensively documented for species directly or indirectly linked to pest rodents via the terrestrial food chain, and recently also within the aquatic food chain evidenced by elevated AR levels measured in multiple otters, compared to freshwater fish.

In the third lecture of the session, our other invited speaker **János Gál**, founder and head of the Department of Exotic Animal and Wildlife Medicine Department at the University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest delivered a very interesting and nicely illustrated collection of toxicoses in exotic animals and wildlife due to consumption of poisonous plants or toxin-contaminated feed, medication dosing errors and inappropriate use of pesticides.

As always, the second day of the event was finished with the annual general assembly and the congress dinner. This year was special in that the AGA included the election of a new Executive Committee for the next five years changing the prior practice of electing members of the EC for three years. The number of new membership applications endorsed by the AGA was in line with a solid tendency of increase over the past years which – together with the number of registered congress participants (188) – may give ground for cautious optimism about the future.

The third and final day of the congress concluded with the still well-attended last session of QA.

György Selényi, Hungarian STP Representative

Announcement of Classic Examples 2026

Dear Colleagues,

The annual seminar "Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology" is internationally recognized as a unique and excellent opportunity for training and continuing education. The next edition of the seminar will be held March 26-27, 2026, at the Hannover Graduate School for Neuroscience, Infection Medicine and Veterinary Sciences (HGNI), at the Department of Pathology of the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, Germany. As in the past, it will be co-sponsored by the European Society of Toxicologic Pathology.

Some background information: The surveys conducted after the past five meetings revealed 1) end of March to be the most suitable time for the meeting (71% agreement in 2025); 2) a preference to hold the meeting on Thursdays and Fridays (68-83% agreement) and 3) a preference for meetings in person (53-83% agreement in the past three years).

We will continuously monitor participant's feedback to keep high standards for the seminar.

For more information see the ESTP homepage at ESTP Meetings (eurotoxpath.org) .

Charlotte Lempp and Thomas Nolte on behalf of the organizers