

ESTP Newsletter 2026 (1)

Editor: Amy Narewski

Administrative Assistant to the ESTP Executive Committee

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



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2026	
<u>June 21-24</u>	STP 45th Annual Symposium: The Pulse of Progress: Advancing Knowledge on Cardiovascular Toxicity, San Diego, California (USA) Link
<u>September 29-October 2</u>	ESTP Beyond Morphology: The Pathologist's New Toolbox in a Data-Driven Era, Krakow, (Poland) Link
<u>November 2-4</u>	RITA Panel Meeting, Virtual Meeting (Online) Link
<u>November 19-20</u>	BSTP 41st Annual Scientific Meeting "Of Mice and Men: Synergy between Veterinary and Human Pathology", Cambridge (UK) Link

The ESTP council

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

President's Column

Dear Members,

Welcome to the first ESTP newsletter of 2026! As we look ahead to a year filled with scientific advancement, collaborative meetings, and foundational new initiatives, I am reminded that the true strength of our European Society of Toxicologic Pathology lies entirely in the dedication of its membership community.

Reflecting on Innovation and Expertise

We kicked off this spring with our **33rd Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology** seminar in Hannover. This exceptionally run event highlighted several outstanding case studies from recent toxicity investigations.

It was also an absolute pleasure to recently engage with so many passionate early-career toxicologic pathologists and residents during the Toxicologic Pathology training program module

hosted at the University of Bern, which focused on *Drug Development including Alternative Methods*. This comprehensive, twelve-module program—run in cooperation with the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover—continues to be a cornerstone of our educational mission.

Looking to the future, I highly encourage you to register for our **23rd ESTP Annual Congress** in Krakow, Poland (September 29 – October 2, 2026). This year's theme, *"Beyond Morphology: The Pathologist's New Toolbox in a Data-Driven Era,"* perfectly captures the evolution of our field. The scientific program will feature cutting-edge molecular technologies—such as spatial proteomics, metabolomics, and MS imaging—as well as the strategic integration of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in toxicopathology. It promises to be a pivotal touchpoint for modern drug discovery and risk assessment.

Cultivating an Inclusive Community

I am also incredibly proud of the launch of the **ESTP Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Initiative**. Spearheaded by our dedicated committee members, this initiative is designed to cultivate an environment where every single member feels valued, empowered, and respected. Throughout 2026, you will see new dedicated content on our webpage, the rollout of specialized DEI Guidance Documents focusing on cultural intelligence and neurodiversity, and collaborative efforts alongside the Early Career Pathologists Network to support the professional growth of our field's next generation.



Vanessa Schumacher, Annette Romeike and Silvia Guionaud at the Toxicologic Pathology

Module at the University of Bern.

A Call to Serve: Shape Our Shared Future

Finally, as highlighted in the accompanying letter sent to our membership, **ESTP is a society led by its members, for its members**. Everything we value about this organization exists because individuals chose to step forward and steward its mission.

We are still seeking volunteers for open leadership roles on the ESTP Executive Committee, especially:

- **Treasurer**

Please note: You do not need to be a senior figure or have prior experience in governance to make a profound impact. What matters most is your commitment, curiosity, and a genuine desire to give back.

Detailed board duties are available on our website, and you can reach out directly to myself, Neus, or Lars (via the ESTP contact form at top of this letter) to discuss how your unique talents can help us thrive.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to toxicologic pathology. I look forward to seeing many of you later this year in beautiful Krakow!

Sincerely,

Vanessa Schumacher *ESTP Chairperson*

A Call to Serve and A Chance to Shape Our Future

Dear fellow members of ESTP,

Our society has always been more than a professional association. ESTP is a living, international community. It was built by scientists who believe that collaboration, integrity, and shared purpose can move our field forward in ways no single person ever could. Everything we value about ESTP exists because members like you chose to step forward.

Today, we invite you to do so again.

We are seeking volunteers for open leadership roles on the ESTP Executive Committee, both for current opportunities and to build a pool of interested candidates, that drive the scientific, educational, and outreach activities of our society.

ESTP is led by its members, for its members. Volunteers are the conscience, the creativity, and the continuity of our organization. They ensure that our meetings remain vibrant, our standards remain high, and our voice remains credible on the international stage.

In a time when science faces growing complexity and increasing scrutiny, strong, engaged scientific societies matter more than ever. Your willingness to serve directly shapes how ESTP supports early-career researchers, influences scientific dialogue, and fosters a culture of professionalism and inclusion across borders.

Leadership is not about titles; it is about stewardship. **By volunteering, you help safeguard the mission and future of ESTP.**

While volunteer service is an act of generosity, it is also deeply rewarding.

- You will help set priorities, shape initiatives, and guide decisions that affect our discipline globally.
- Leadership roles strengthen skills in governance, communication, strategic thinking, and consensus-building; skills that are valued far beyond ESTP.
- You will work closely with dedicated colleagues from around the world, expanding your professional network and raising your profile within the scientific community.

Consequently, many who serve describe a renewed sense of motivation, gaining a broader view of the field and the satisfaction of giving back.

You do not need to be a senior figure or have held such roles before. What matters most is commitment, curiosity, and a desire to contribute.

ESTP's strength has always come from members who decided that the society's success was their responsibility. If you have ever benefited from an ESTP meeting, guideline, mentorship opportunity, or collaborative network, this is your chance to help make those experiences possible for others.

We encourage you to consider where your talents, energy, and perspective could make a difference - whether in a leadership role or through focused work in a committee or working group. A description of all ESTP executive and Councilor positions is available on our website at:

https://www.eurotoxpath.org/members/index.php?id=board_duties

Together, we can ensure that ESTP continues to thrive, evolve, and stand as a model for international scientific cooperation.

Don't hesitate to contact us by email today! We look forward to welcoming the next generation of ESTP volunteers.

With respect and optimism,

Vanessa Schumacher

Neus Prats

Lars Mecklenburg

Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology XXXIII

by Prof. Robert Klopfleisch

On March 26 and 27, 2026, the 33rd Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology (XXXIII) meeting took place at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover. As in previous years, the meeting was organized in an exceptionally smooth, welcoming, and—characteristically—well-catered manner.

Led by Theresa Störk, the university staff prepared breaks in an exemplary manner. After the last presentation on Thursday, an informal get-together with complimentary food and drinks gave even more opportunities to exchange. This included explicitly the doctoral and PhD students of the University who presented posters featuring results of their work. When adjourning the meeting, Andreas Beineke emphasized the relevance of toxicologic

pathology in training of veterinary pathologists and as important field of employment.

The presented case studies from toxicity investigations provided an excellent overview of the essential contribution of toxicologic pathology to modern drug development. A keynote lecture on the pharmacology of incretin therapeutics gave valuable insight into this developing pharmaceutical class with major benefit to public health, not only with respect to obesity, but also related diseases. Besides the impressive efficacy of GLP1 agonists, emerging dual or even triple agonists are more efficacious and may present with a distinctly different benefit risk ratio.



Across nine presentations focusing on less “classic” and more contemporary findings from toxicity studies, a wide spectrum of test items was covered, encompassing diverse chemical structures, modes of action, and target organs in various animal models. Collectively, these presentations reinforced several well-established principles central to toxicologic pathology:

1. Species differences are critical. Animal models remain indispensable for predicting human responses, yet they are inherently imperfect.

2. *Toxicity studies are like a box of chocolate.* Unexpected findings continue to emerge, underscoring that such studies cannot yet be replaced by purely theoretical or in silico approaches, yet.
3. Mammalian organisms are highly complex. Accurately modeling this complexity in alternative systems will require substantially more data and experience.
- (4. Pathologists are highly necessary for safety evaluation of new drugs but economically they may be a costly bearer of bad tidings for their employers.)



The two-day program featured ten excellently prepared and delivered presentations.

Species and sex differences: not always predictable or explainable

Dr. Greville-Heygate presented results from a toxicity study of a phosphodiesterase 6 (PDE6) inhibitor. In a 9-month study in male dogs, administration of the test item led to atrophy of the retinal outer segments, a finding not observed in female dogs or in comparable long-term studies in rats. Beyond highlighting an unexpected retinal toxicity associated with this class of compounds, the study underscored both the importance and limitations of multi-species

testing. While such studies enhance translational predictivity, interspecies differences—including those relevant to humans—may remain unexplained at the molecular level and are not currently predictable using in silico approaches. *Toxicity may be more than a direct toxic effect on a cell or tissue*

Dr. Rau presented a repeat-dose toxicity study of a neuropeptide Y receptor 2 (NPY2R) agonist developed for sustained weight reduction. Increased mortality was observed in treated animals. Notably, this effect was not attributable to direct toxicity of the peptide but rather to secondary consequences: altered gastric pH and delayed gastrointestinal motility led to bacterial overgrowth, mucosal erosion, and ultimately systemic inflammation/sepsis. The discussion focused on the extent to which these findings show species-specific gastrointestinal physiology in the mouse and their potential relevance for humans.

Divergent adverse effects within a single tissue

Dr. Cossic reported results from a 14-day repeated-dose study of a small-molecule kinase inhibitor that induced both trabecular bone accumulation and cortical bone loss within the same skeletal structures. This paradoxical effect illustrates the complexity of biological systems and highlights the challenges of replicating such integrated responses in non-animal models, such as in vitro systems. Even tissues traditionally considered relatively static, such as bone, may exhibit highly heterogeneous responses to toxic insults.

Immune modulation in monkeys may lead to reactivation of latent virus infection with tissue damage and tumor formation. Is this translatable into the human setting?

Dr. Torrigiani and Dr. Müller, followed by Dr. Hartung and Dr. Laurent presented two independent studies involving immunomodulatory compounds in non-human primates. In both cases, immune modulation led to reactivation of latent or subclinical viral infections. This resulted in multi-organ lesions in one study and the development of B-cell lymphomas in the other. A key focus of the discussion was the translational relevance of these findings, including which viral agents might be involved in humans and how such risks could be managed clinically.

These renal toxicities are human relevant

Prof. Dr. Jan Hinrich Bräsen presented cases from nephrotoxicity in patients under antitumor therapies, highlighting the value of electron microscopy imaging for accurate diagnostics in the kidneys. The focus on the “target species” (i.e., the human patient) adds an important perspective to the preclinical field.

“Inert” excipients and transporter particles are not always toxicologically inert

Dr. Wilson together with Dr. Gröters and Dr. Schaudien presented four repeat-dose studies investigating chemically and pharmacologically inert excipients and transporter particles. Despite their intended inertness, these materials induced adverse effects in multiple organs due to tissue accumulation, macrophage uptake, and secondary immune responses. In some cases, lysosomal function appeared to be impaired, likely due to overload. These findings highlight the central challenge in biomaterial design: achieving sufficient stability for function while ensuring effective clearance by physiological mechanisms.

Antisense oligonucleotides: multiple mechanisms of toxicity and again species differences

Dr. Terry presented a repeat-dose toxicity study of antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs) in mice and provided a clear and instructive overview of ASO-specific toxicities. These can be broadly categorized into hybridization-dependent effects (on-target or off-target sequence binding) and hybridization-independent effects. The latter include toxicity due to accumulation, proinflammatory responses, and aptamer-like interactions. The presentation also emphasized the limitations of murine models in predicting human toxicity for this class of compounds.

These presentations gave insight into several recent development programs of various sponsors, underlining the utmost relevance of the seminar for training and expert exchange purposes in toxicologic pathology, but also beyond, covering toxicology and drug development.

I am already now looking forward to “Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology XXXIV” in 2027. Mark your calendar, they will be held on March 18 and 19, 2027!

Introducing the ESTP Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Initiative

The ESTP is proud to launch a new DEI Initiative designed to raise awareness on DEI and cultivate a community where every member feels valued, respected, and empowered.

Our Mission

- Providing educational resources to help ESTP members expand their understanding of DEI topics.
- Promoting inclusive practices within ESTP events, communications, and collaborative activities.
- Raising awareness of challenges experienced by underrepresented groups within toxicologic pathology.

Planned Activities for 2026

- DEI Newsletter Section in the ESTP Newsletter featuring educational resources, details on upcoming events and webinars, as well as inspirational stories from members who are championing DEI
- Dedicated DEI content on the ESTP webpage
- Collaboration with the Early Career Pathologists Network to support the career development and professional growth of early career pathologists in the field of toxicologic pathology
- Development of DEI Guidance Documents (e.g. on gender, neurodiversity, and cultural intelligence)
- Ongoing Evaluation & Member Feedback on DEI initiative effort

Contact & Address

ESTP Contact: see link at top of newsletter

DEI Members



Agnieszka Karol



Laura Setyo



Sarah Kirschner-Kitz



Massoud Rezzaee

‘Beyond Morphology: The Pathologist’s New Toolbox In A Data-Driven Era’

**23rd ESTP annual congress, Krakow
(Poland)**

29th September – 2nd October 2026.

Dear colleagues and friends,

The [European Society of Toxicologic Pathology \(ESTP\)](#) is pleased to invite you to the 23rd ESTP Annual Congress entitled ‘Beyond Morphology: The Pathologist’s New Toolbox In A Data-Driven Era’.

The Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) comprising internationally recognized experts is preparing a very interesting and diversified program showcasing new tools and approaches that are reshaping our profession - within and beyond morphologic examination. Invited speakers will address cutting-edge molecular technologies like spatial proteomics, metabolomics and MS imaging, new approach methodologies (NAMs), and the different applications of AI in toxicopathology. In addition, advances in the areas of genetically engineered animal models, alternatives to NHPs, group housing and virtual controls will be covered. The program will be balanced between brief introductions into selected methods, reviews of regulatory aspects and requirements for a strategic implementation in discovery and risk assessment, and ample core examples illustrating successes and limitations, predictability and translatability, and the pathologist’s role in the development and application of new tools and approaches.

The lectures, oral presentations and posters will be accompanied by a trade exhibition introducing new equipment, technologies, and services. The social program will include the welcome reception (29th September 2026), and a congress dinner (01st October 2026).

In conjunction, an **IATP Satellite Symposium** is planned to take place immediately before the congress, for which a separate registration will be needed.



The congress takes place in Krakow from the 29th of September to the 2nd of October 2026. Located in southern Poland, Krakow is the second largest and one of the oldest cities in Poland. The official capitol and the seat of Polish Monarchs from the 11th to the 16th century, the city boasts an architectural legacy ranging from the early Romanesque to the Modernist periods. In the well-preserved historic Old Town, one of the first UNESCO World heritage sites, you can visit the Wawel Hill complex with the Cathedral and Royal Castle, the Jagiellonian University founded in 1364, one of the world’s oldest universities, and Europe’s largest medieval town square with St. Mary’s Basilica and the Renaissance cloth hall

Sukiennice. You also shouldn't miss the historic Jewish quarter of Kazimierz - an important center of creativity, cultural life, and gastronomic delights - or the nearby Wieliczka Salt Mine – a one-of-its-kind, hidden place of mystery and legends. In the evenings, you will fall in love with mouthwatering Polish culinary specialties and the unique atmosphere in the historical cellar bars dedicated to live music. We look forward to seeing you in Krakow!

With kind regards

Chairs of Scientific Organizing Committee on behalf of the ESTP

Anna-Lena Frisk

Distinguished Scientist Pathobio PSTS ,
Johnson & Johnson, Innovative Medicine,
Belgium

Bhanu Singh

Head of Toxicology and Pathology, Drug
Discovery, Calico Life Sciences LLC, USA