

Overview over the IFSTP symposium at ICTX (Tampere Finland, July 12-15, 2004)

Aim of the symposium

The aim of this symposium sponsored by the International Federation of Societies of Toxicologic Pathology (IFSTP) is to update toxicologists on the state of the art of toxicopathology and to show, how this discipline is best used in toxicity testing. In particular the symposium provides an overview over the current status of classical toxicopathology including the utility of pathology in drug discovery, examines the value of special 'trouble-shooting' studies following adverse toxicopathological findings and addresses the role of pathology in regulatory processes. The symposium concludes with an outlook on the future development of and challenges in toxicologic pathology.

- **Introduction**

D.E. Prentice, PCS Consultants Ltd., Gartenstrasse 7, CH-4132 Muttenz; Switzerland

R.A. Ettlín, Novartis Pharma AG, WKL-125.1307, CH-4002 Basel, Switzerland

- **Classical toxicopathology: recent developments**

John M. Finch, Inveresk Research, Tranent EH33 2NE Scotland, UK

Classical H&E sections will also in future play an important role in the evaluation of the safety of new compounds. However, newer and more refined tools increase the value of classical toxicopathology, which will be summarized in this symposium. In particular drug discovery support has become important to improve the selection of compounds before they enter the development pipeline.

- **Trouble shooting in toxicopathology: applications and methodology**

C. Rousseau, Health Canada, 19 Klonike Road, Wakefield, QU JOX 3G0, Canada

If the development of compounds is terminated for toxicity reasons, pathology findings are very often the main cause. To determine the relevance of such findings, often special studies are needed. Examples will be discussed.

- **The role of toxicopathology in the regulatory process and submission**

H.E. Black, Hugh E. Black & Associates, Inc., 270 Sparta Ave., Upper Lake Plaza, Suite 205, 07871 Sparta NJ, USA

Registration of new compounds is so complex that it must be managed by a team of specialists. This presentation will focus on the role of pathologists in this process and show, how important their contribution is to risk assessment.

- **Current and emerging challenges in toxicopathology**

S. Fukushima, Osaka City University Medical School, Department of Pathology, 1-4-3 Asahi-machi Abeno-ku, Osaka, 545-8585, Japan

Current and emerging challenges in toxicopathology include e.g. safety testing of GM foods, integration of novel molecular-biological tools into toxicopathology and the ever-increasing demand for quality assurance. This presentation will summarize some of these aspects and outline future developments.

- **Final discussions and conclusions**

D.E. Prentice and R.A. Ettlín