

Report of Pediatric Pathology CME at Kolkata, January 17th -20th 2019

This CME was jointly organised by Association of Indian Pathologists of North America (AIPNA), Tata Medical Centre (TMC) and Park Clinic, Kolkata and was held at Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata. It was attended by delegates from all over India as well as Nepal. The meeting had a total of 165 delegates and 25 speakers from India and 6 international speakers from USA and UK. There were 2 pre-conference workshops on Perinatal autopsy techniques (held at IPGME&R) and Molecular techniques in Pediatric Pathology (TMC), attended by 35 and 25 delegates respectively, which was held on 17th Jan. Dr. (Col) Deepak K Mishra, Director, Department of Laboratory Sciences, TMC Kolkata was the organising chairperson along with Dr.Uttara Chatterjee (Park Clinic and IPGME&R) and Dr.Paromita Roy as the organising secretaries.

The meeting was inaugurated by Director of Medical Education, Govt. of West Bengal, Prof.Pradip Kumar Mitra along with Prof. Mammen Chandy, Director, TMC, Kolkata, Prof.S.Ranganathan, chief resource person and co-ordinator, AIPNA. The occasion was also graced by Professors Usha Kini and Nandita Kakkar, the President and Secretary of Association of Pediatric Pathologists, India, from St.John's Hospital, Bangalore and PGIMER, Chandigarh. Prof.Usha Kini in her Presidential address went through the journey of Pediatric Pathology in India, emerging as a discipline with details of her seminal contribution in the field of Hirschprung's disease. She also mentioned the key role played by Prof.VV Joshi as a mentor who has helped and promoted pathologists with an interest in Pediatric Pathology in India over decades.

The sessions included lectures on germ cell tumours, lung cysts and pleuropulmonary blastoma group of tumours, ciliopathies and current molecular advances in neuroblastoma. A multidisciplinary team session was organized, discussing cases along with radiologists, surgeons and oncologists from TMC, Kolkata. The second day covered soft tissue tumours, a commonly encountered and a tricky problem in children with world renowned experts like Prof.Rita Alaggio and half a day session on hematolymphoid malignancies, the commonest malignancy in children. This included acute lymphoblastic leukaemias, paediatric MDS and other rare myeloid disorders as well lymphomas. There were 2 sessions of blinded slide exchange between national and international faculty followed by lively discussion and participation from the audience. Neuropathology pertaining to pediatric patients was discussed in details with emphasis on WHO 2016 updated classification, with minimal work

up guidelines, especially in resource constrained settings along with developmental neuropathology. Current molecular classification of medulloblastomas, using immunohistochemical markers and pediatric low grade gliomas were discussed in details.

There was case based learning by 14 national faculty over 2 days. The cases with the relevant histories had been put up on the website for the registered delegates to view earlier. This included an interesting variety of both neoplastic and non-neoplastic conditions.

There was also a meeting of the executive body of Association of Pediatric Pathologists, regarding dates and venue of the next meeting. The 2020 conference will be held in Chennai at SRMC, Porur. Also rules and regulations regarding inducting full and associate members would be formulated and possibilities of starting a journal on the subject in the future were discussed.

A lively cultural programme was organised by Ms Mom Chowdhury and troupe. They performed, Rabindrasangeet and contemporary Bengali and Hindi songs, which was applauded and appreciated.

Workshops

The Perinatal Autopsy workshop held at IPGME&R and was attended by 35 delegates and 7 faculty members, including renowned perinatal pathologist, Prof.Irene Schiemberg from London. The workshop included video demonstration of perinatal autopsy techniques and lectures on cystic diseases of the kidney, lung pathology, neonatal infections and congenital cardiac abnormalities. There was also live autopsy demonstration followed by case discussion by faculty members. The cases had been put up on the website for the workshop delegates earlier. There was also demonstration of interesting dissected cases, brain cutting session and glass slide viewing sessions for these cases. The workshop was coordinated by Prof Uttara Chatterjee.

The workshop on Molecular techniques in Pediatric pathology was held at TMC, Kolkata and was attended by 25 delegates. Dr.Rita Alaggio was present during the work shop. It included Lectures on 'Role of molecular tests in diagnosis of paediatric solid tumours' and 'Role of molecular tests in diagnosis of paediatric hematological malignancies', along with overview of basic techniques in molecular pathology. The delegates, divided into 2 batches were able to get hands on experience of basic techniques in Cytogenetics. This was coordinated by Dr. Deepak K.Mishra along with Dr Mayur Parihar and Dr Neeraj Arora.