

Geropathology Research Network sponsors workshop

The Geropathology Grading Committee, part of the Geropathology Research Network, held its semi-annual slide reading workshop at the University of Washington Medical Center campus in Seattle, WA October 27-28, 2017. The two-day event consisted of slide reading of tissues from aged mice with the objective of updating guidelines for the Geropathology Grading Platform (GGP). The GGP is a system for assessing the presence and severity of lesions associated with old age using the mouse as a prototype. Grading is based on a numerical score with incidental lesions scored from 0 to 1 and significant lesions scored from 0 to 3. This provides a systematic accumulation of scores from tissues from each mouse in order to generate a composite score that can be used to compare different ages and strains of mice, the presence or absence of a specific gene, or response to an anti-aging drug. The committee added several new tissues, refined the scoring ranges, and developed additional descriptions to match specific lesion grades. The complete upgraded guidelines will be made available in a subsequent publication.

The committee discussed ways of entering and storing GGP scores into a database system. There was a consensus that the preliminary work with REDCap should be pursued for this purpose to provide a format for efficient data entry at the time of slide reading.

The committee also devoted time to discussing the future of anatomic geropathology in general and specifically the role of the committee within the Geropathology Research Network. There was enthusiastic support for moving the agenda of the Geropathology Research Network forward, with an emphasis on promoting the concept and application of geropathology to aging studies, recruitment of new people into the network, either with established expertise or as potential trainees, expanding the GGP to other preclinical animal models, and developing a translational component to connect with human aging studies.

Attending the workshop, as shown in Figure 1, were Kerri Casey, DVM, DACVP, Department of Comparative Medicine, Stanford University, Marcia A. Ciol, PhD, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Washington, Denise M. Imai, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of California Davis, Warren Ladiges, DVM, MSc, DACLAM, Department of Comparative Medicine, University of Washington, Denny Liggitt, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Department of Comparative Medicine, University of Washington, John Morton, Research Scientist, Department of Comparative Medicine, University of Washington, Smitha PS Pillai, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Shabnam Salimi, MD, MSc, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Maryland, Tim Snider, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Department of Veterinary Pathology, Oklahoma State University, Jessica Snyder, DVM, DACVP, Department of Comparative Medicine, University of Washington, Kateryna Tonyuk, Research Scientist, Department of Comparative Medicine, University of Washington, José Vilches-Moure, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Department of Comparative Medicine, Stanford University, Erby Wilkinson, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Department of Pathology, University of Michigan.

The next workshop is tentatively planned for March, 2018 at the UC Davis campus, Davis, CA. Details will be posted on the Geropathology Research Network website at <http://www.geropathology.org/>.

Figure 1. Geropathology Grading Committee workshop participants. From left to right: Shabnam Salimi, Smitha Pillai, Kerrie Casey, Jose Vilches-Moure, Tim Snider, Jessica Snyder, Erby Wilkinson, Warren Ladiges (kneeling), John Morton, Kateryna Tonyuk, Denise Imai. Not pictured Marcia Ciol and Denny Liggitt.

