

## ALPS Meeting

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### ALPS 2011 Meeting, Madonna di Campiglio, 26th-30th January 2011

For the 6th year, the beautiful resort of Madonna di Campiglio hosted the Alpine Liver and Pancreatic Surgery meeting from 26th-30th January. This meeting continues to grow annually and there was again this year a high level of lively, informative presentations, followed by informal discussion around current hot topics in HPB surgery. For the first time the meeting was held in collaboration with the Dutch Society for Gastrointestinal surgery. As in previous years, contributions came from distinguished international guests, consultants and numerous trainees. Alongside the offerings from the surgical community we were pleased to be joined by expert speakers from related non-surgical specialties and from industry.

Professor William Traverso (Idaho) opened the meeting with a discussion about the natural history of intra-ductal papillary mucinous neoplasms (IPMN) of the pancreas. As well as

discussing the basic science of this disease process, and the treatment of it, his talk also included some fascinating endoscopic images of IPMN in the pancreatic duct. Later in the programme Professor Traverso discussed the importance of non-operative alongside operative treatment of pancreatic cancer and the recipe for a perfect Whipples.

Professor Oliver Busch, the former president of the Dutch Society for Gastrointestinal Surgery commenced the Dutch contribution by sharing his experiences of managing post operative complications after pancreatic surgery. In other sessions, the current president, Dr Marc Bemelmans (Maastricht) provoked an interesting discussion surrounding the application of enhanced recovery principles in HPB surgery. In particular he and his colleague Dr Ronald van Dam encouraged international collaboration to design and conduct

high-quality trials to provide robust answers to the research questions surrounding this topic.

The Italians were represented by Professor Claudio Bassi (Verona) who spoke about the role of surgery in chronic pancreatitis. Professor David Tuveson (Cambridge) updated the delegates on the progress being made in the non surgical treatment of pancreatic cancer. His talk was complemented by that of Professor Duncan Jodrell (Medical oncology, Cambridge) who discussed the challenges of finding suitable chemotherapy agents to treat HPB cancers. These talks were followed by that of Dr Bill McCulloch who discussed the pharmaceutical industries frustration at the legislation that makes it difficult for them to develop new drugs to help combat HPB cancers. Bill should also be thanked for his memorable after dinner entertainment!

Professor Rowan Parks (Edinburgh) discussed obstructive jaundice and in particular discussed the question of relieving jaundice prior to performing curative surgery. Novel strategies for dealing colorectal metastasis presented by Mr Francesco Polignano (Dundee), whilst Professor John Primrose invited discussion and comments regarding a trial designed to investigate the best treatment for incurable metastatic colorectal cancer. Mr David Lloyd (Leicester) reviewed the evidence supporting the use of ablative therapies and Mr Mohammad Abu Hilal talked about Southamptons experience with major laparoscopic liver resections.

In keeping with previous years all the trainee presentations were of a high standard. The award for the best scientific presentation went to Mr Luke Devey (Edinburgh) for his work on T-cells and their role in hepatic

*Natalie Peel, Chris Johnston, Andrew Robson, Erica Revie, Luke Devey, Mike Grocott, John Primrose, Jenny Richards, Rowan Parks, James Garden*





*The Dutch hepatobiliary surgeons in a typical setting*

ischaemia reperfusion injury. Dr Hjalmar van Santvoort (UMC Utrecht) was awarded a prize for his clinical trial on the prevention and treatment of infected necrotizing pancreatitis.

Prior to the closing remarks made by Professor James Garden and Professor Claudio Bassi, Dr Mike Grocott, consultant in intensive care, Southampton gave the closing lecture entitled: Extreme physiology: Lessons from Everest. Dr Grocott's talk about the 2007 Caudwell Extreme Everest expedition was fascinating not only due to the wealth of scientific information that they obtained on their adventure but the logistics and organisation required to get more than 200 people to Everest base camp was incredibly impressive. The images of the trip shown during Dr Grocott's talk were awe inspiring and he seemed particularly pleased with one of an anaesthetist getting her own back by taking muscle biopsies from a surgeon!

Of course we managed to squeeze in some ski time between lectures. Skiing in Madonna di Campiglio is perfect for both novice and intermediate skiers.

The resort was both quiet and picturesque. We were fortunate enough to have excellent weather to enjoy the scenery and the slopes. Surrounding the well kept pistes were stunning views of the Dolomite mountains. The swooshing down the

slopes was punctuated with lively debate and scrumptious food at the Restaurant Cascina Zeledria during the lunchtime 'meet the experts' sessions. The research ideas and enthusiastic chatter spilled out onto the chairlifts after lunch. The expert skiers were to be found racing down the slalom on the second day. Mr Francesco Polignano challenged Anna, our medical student ski instructor to a race only to be soundly beaten! Better luck next year!

Many thanks to Professor John Primrose (Southampton), his able assistant Elise, and Professor James Garden (Edinburgh) for organising and co-ordinating this excellent academic programme. Special thanks to Anna for her patience and being so generous with her time. As in previous years, we were tremendously grateful to our industry sponsors Acculis, SIRTeX and LOTUS for their sponsorship of this event. As this meeting goes from strength to strength we look forward to ALPS 2012 -

<http://www.augis.org/pdf/events/ALPS2012.pdf>

**Natalie Peel, Edinburgh**

*Special guest speaker Bill Traverso and his wife with Colin Johnson and Claudio Bassi*

