Dear Members of the Healthy Stomach Initiative,

We are delighted to present the first HSI newsletter 2018. This document provides an update on recent HSI activities & meetings and an outlook on upcoming events and initiatives.

Please, don’t hesitate to contact us (office@d-s-europe.com) if you would like to add any content or if you have any information that you would like us to include in the next edition of this newsletter.

We are very proud the HSI is a steadily growing project with public awareness events for stomach health as well as apprising most current knowledge among experts in the field of digestive diseases. Thanks to our sponsors and supporters this important global HSI initiative has the prospect to further thrive.

We call on all members of the HSI initiative to continue with their valuable contribution in the upcoming events and meetings and kindly ask you to save the dates for approaching events and meetings. We are looking forward to all your input and participation.

Your HSI Team

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**Summary HSI Meetings DDW, UEGW & APDDW 2017**

**HSI @ Digestive Disease Week 2017, Chicago, IL**
Prof. Chan introduced the open-labeled, single-blind, randomized trial on Aspirin for prevention of metachronous gastric cancer after ESD. Prof. Leja provided an update on the Gistar Study. Dr. Grad presented an update on gastric cancer in Romania and Dr. Venerito reported on the staR project progress. Prof. Graham enlightened us with a report “common illusions originating from Hp RTC’s” while Prof. El Omar delivered highlights and updates on international publications on stomach health. Prof. Malfertheiner reported on the successful HSI public awareness event, held in conjunction with the EHMSG congress in Magdeburg in 2016 and Prof. Meuraud announced plans for HSI activities during the 2017 EHMSG congress in Bordeaux. Prof. Wu announced the idea of preparing a World Stomach Day together with Prof. Hunt and the possible collaboration with the WGO.

**HSI @ Asian Pacific Digestive Disease Week 2017, Hong Kong**
The first HSI meeting as part of the official program at the Asian Pacific DDW took place in Hong Kong. Among the presentations, we learned about the exciting activities in the Asian Pacific region: Prof. Wu outlined the efforts currently being put into studies on gastric cancer prevention in China. We all hope for the final proof from a randomised prospective trial that *H. pylori* eradication can prevent gastric cancer. Prof. Yamaoka introduced us to current concepts on gastric inflammation. Prof. Jung summarised the outstanding success story of 20 years *H. pylori* study group in Korea.

We furthermore received updates on *H. pylori* infection and gastric pathology in India by Dr. Ghoshal, in Thailand by Dr. Vilachone and heard from Dr. K.L. Goh the impact of environmental and host factors including ethnicity in Malay-
sia. We were updated by Prof. Chan on the open-label, single-blind, randomized trial on Aspirin for prevention of metachronous gastric cancer after ESD and can’t wait to hear first results on this exciting project. A follow-up by Prof. Wu to promote and establish of a Word Stomach Day (see below) was rounded off with a summary on the global burden of _H. pylori_.

**HSI @ United European Gastroenterology Week 2017, Barcelona**

Prof. Ng opened the meeting with a summary of the main messages from the APDDW focussing on the stomach, followed by highlights form the 2017 meeting of the _European Helicobacter and Microbiota Study Group_ by Prof. Megraud and recently published key papers on gastric pathology by Prof. El-Omar. Prof. Graham gave a lecture on the pitfalls of _H. pylori_ treatment; before Prof. Leja gave an update on progress of the IARC supported GISTAR study on population-based prevention and early detection of gastric cancer in East Europe (Latvia). Upcoming events were advertised (see below) as well as progress on the initiative for a World Stomach Day. We furthermore, received an update on activities of the Asian Helicobacter and Microbiota Study Group and highlights on data presented at the recent annual meeting.

All HSI sponsors were invited to provide short presentations, updates & suggestions for the continued collaborations.

**HSI 2018 – endorsed events and meetings**

**16th International Conference on Ulcer Research 2018, Seoul, Korea, March 22nd to 24th**

In March, the Korean Society of GI Cancer was hosting the 16th ICUR Meeting. We are looking forward to a summary of the highlights of this conference at the next HIS meeting.

**“Upper GI Disorders: Guidelines & Clinical Practice in East and Central Europe,” Siófok, Lake Balaton, Hungary, June 1st, 2018**

Major aims of this EAGEN guideline meeting are the harmonisation and standardisation of management of upper GI disorders in Central-Eastern Europe. A focus will be on _H. pylori_-related pathologies (especially precancerous lesions), Barrett’s oesophagus, Eosinophilic oesophagitis, and functional gastrointestinal disorders. Functional and endoscopic diagnostic assessment will be discussed also with regards to standards of histopathology reporting.

**Gastro – Urgenze 2018: GI Emergencies – the Role of Gut Microbiota, Rome, July 12th, 2018, Gemelli Hospital, Catholic University of Rome**

The event will start with a public awareness event and a live show located on the main entrance of the Hospital with a parallel round table; those events are open not only to attending doctors but also to patients and relatives and will highlights the importance of a healthy stomach and a healthy gut, the future of endoscopy in the emergency setting and many other hot topics.

**31st International Workshop on Helicobacter & Microbiota in Inflammation & Cancer, Kaunas, Lithuania, September 14th to 15th, 2018**

The 31st international workshop of the _European Helicobacter and Micobiota Study Group_ in association with the UEG and the HSI will be hosted by Prof. Laimas Kupcinskas in Kaunas, Lithuania. The meeting is preceded by a highly informative post-graduate course on the interaction with the gut microbiota. Deadline for abstract submission is May 13th, early-bird registration ends July 12th.

**HSI – World Stomach Day**

**Initiative for a World Stomach Day**

Prof. Wu from Taiwan brought to our attention the clear need for a _World Stomach Day_ as a defined landmark for public awareness for a healthy stomach. The depressing global figures on gastric cancer incidence and mortality underline this request as well as rising concerns about _H. pylori_ resistance rates and adequate strategies for global eradication and gastric cancer prevention. Global and national health organization need to be involved as well as government bodies, industrial sponsors and the media. A plea was made for October 2nd, the day on which Barry Marshall first reported _H. pylori_ in 1982, a date that would not collide with the major GI conference. Next step strategies and tasks should be discussed at the next HSI Meeting.
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