Scientific highlights at UEG Week 2015 in Barcelona

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The UEG Week has evolved as one of the major world meetings in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology, and attracts people from all over the world. To achieve this and to develop this event even further, a world-class faculty will be gathered to discuss all fields in our discipline including both basic scientific aspects as well as highest clinical standards.

Post Graduate Teaching Programme (PGT). To improve this part of the meeting we started a 3-year rotating schedule in 2014 to cover most aspects of the field. This will allow clinicians participating regularly at UEG Week to receive a continuous state-of-the-art update in clinical gastroenterology/hepatology from leading clinicians. Increasing numbers of participants in recent years are in support of this concept, and we are especially eager to attract young clinicians to participate in this course. A special focus of the PGT will be “Clinical Case-Based sessions” which are built on real clinical cases, allowing attendants to receive the most practical and clinical relevant information. Presentations will include a mix of teaching methods such as video case sessions and audience voting, allowing a highly interactive format and giving opportunities for discussion and debate.

Symposia. Interdisciplinary symposia will bring together physicians from different fields including gastroenterology, surgery and radiology, discussing the innovative management of gastrointestinal and hepatic disorders. One of the major intentions of our meeting is to cover the oncology field in particular, and this will be highlighted by several sessions such as one presenting a tailored approach to rectal cancer. Food, immunity and microbiota are considered “hot topics”, and this will also be reflected in this year’s programme, allowing learning on the impact of food on intestinal diseases. Another important format is covered by “Therapy updates”, which will concentrate on how guidelines might be used in daily clinical practice. Therapy updates will cover important topics such as Crohn’s disease, hepatic encephalopathy, eosinophilic esophagitis, diverticular disease and IBS management. It has been a major intention of UEG Week to improve patient management across Europe and beyond, and this is reflected by the National Societies symposia which will deal with topics such as therapeutic endoscopy across Europe, chronic pancreatitis and management of *Clostridium difficile* infection.

Translational/Basic Science Pathways. A major goal in recent years has been to bring together clinicians and basic scientists to translate the most exciting findings from basic science into clinical practice. To improve and enforce this dialogue, an initiative entitled “Translational/Basic Science Pathway” has been started to include topics that will potentially affect clinical medicine in the future. Preclinical cancer research is a special focus, discussing the relationship between obesity and cancer or elaborating on new frontiers in the molecular diagnosis and monitoring of gastrointestinal cancer. Knowledge in basic aspects of inflammatory bowel disorders (IBD) is still growing rapidly, and it is increasingly recognized that besides “genes” mainly environmental aspects might contribute to disease development. One of the symposia will therefore cover IBD aspects beyond genes. In addition, sessions will focus on basic aspects of irritable bowel syndrome and on brain/gut interactions in health and disease. Other lecture series, entitled “The immune evaders in GI diseases” or “How does the gut respond to injury?”, will discuss fundamental and highly relevant pathomechanisms in gastrointestinal disorders which might ultimately lead to better understanding of disease mechanisms and new therapies.

Today’s Science – Tomorrow’s Medicine (TSTM). The TSTM series is another initiative introduced a few years ago to bring together basic scientists and clinicians. This programme part has been especially successful in the past, and indeed saw an increase in last year’s abstract submissions, especially from the gastrointestinal preclinical field, and was able to attract more basic scientists to UEG Week. This year’s topic in Barcelona is focussing on the “Omics revolution in medicine”. For this reason, top-class scientists will present recent findings and discuss their translational potential. This field is evolving rapidly and is of special interest to gastroenterologists, as Omics technologies usually depend on analysis of human samples from various tissues, something which can easily be obtained from the gastrointestinal tract. Therefore, gastrointestinal disorders are not only currently being heavily investigated by these technologies, but might also reflect disorders which might especially benefit from advances made in this field. The TSTM series will start with lectures introducing the field of Omics technologies and deliver a guide for

clinicians. Another series will focus on the use of various Omics techniques in the subclassification of gastrointestinal cancer, as individualized/personalized medicine in the future will be primarily based on advances in this field. Omics technologies could in the future help to explain missed heritability, a topic which will also be addressed. Finally, a session will discuss host or bug genetics and try to answer who could win the race. We believe that the TSTM series will continue to facilitate the so-important dialogue between basic scientists and clinicians to pave the way for new technologies and therapies to enter clinical medicine.

Last but not least, the last day of UEG Week will again include one of the most attractive sessions from recent years, entitled “What’s new in?”. This year’s topic includes “What’s new in celiac disease, hepatology or esophageal disease?”, which will allow delegates to leave the meeting with fresh impressions about how the field is evolving. We are convinced that attending

this year’s UEG Week will not only stimulate academic exchange between basic scientists and clinicians, but hopefully satisfy the large number of clinical gastroenterologists attending from all over the world.

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Highlight these dates for UEG Week Barcelona 2015 in your calendar:

- **August 25, Late-breaking abstract submission**
- **September 10, 2015:** Deadline for late registration fee

To find out more visit: www.ueg.eu/week