

European Academy of Andrology Annual Report 2019

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1 | A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear EAA Members,

In this report, we summarize our activities during the entire year 2019 and announce of our plans for the 2020. The new Executive Council (elected at the end of 2018) and I are proud of the achievements and looking forward to further growth of the Academy and improving service to the andrology community in Europe and beyond.

Our top priority is andrology education, and in 2019, we organized two recurrent and very popular EAA Schools: 3rd EAA School in Ultrasound in Florence and Rome, continuing to the 5th edition in 2020, and 2nd EAA Winter School in Testicular Histology in Zagreb. We also launched the first EAA School in Genetics of Male Infertility, which was successfully organized in Tartu. In March 2020, we will hold another new EAA Andrology School, in Budapest; this one tailored to prepare physicians to pass the examination for the EAA Clinical Andrologist certificate. This course will be held back-to-back with an open meeting on 'Androgen therapies', which will review state-of-the-art of this topic (see the 2020 Event Calendar at the end of the report).

In addition to our own Schools, we continued to promote and support courses and meetings within the broad field of andrology, either organized by EAA Training Centres or other academic institutions. The full list of the supported events is included in this report. On behalf of the Executive Council, I thank the directors and staff of the EAA Training Centres for their dedication and work on promoting andrology. During 2019, we have re-accredited several centres, listed in this report, and we are planning to accredit new training centres in 2020.

EAA actively promotes also basic andrology research and education, and we provided support for the annual meeting of the Network of Young Researchers in Andrology (NYRA), held in connection with the Molecular Andrology Workshop in September 2019 in Giessen. The EAA will also support the upcoming European Testis Workshop (ETW2020) in Spain.

In 2019, we have expanded contacts and collaboration with related learned societies. A new partner society is the European Society of Sexual Medicine (ESSM), and I have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on educational aspects with the ESSM President, Dr Cobi Reisman. Concerning our partnership with the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE), we organized the second pre-congress practical andrology course in connection with the European Congress of Endocrinology (ECE 2019) in Lyon. According to our earlier agreement, an EAA symposium in andrology will be in the programme of the ECE 2020 in Prague. We have strengthened our collaboration with the American Society of Andrology (ASA) and signed an agreement regarding exchange lectures and joint supervision of *Andrology*, the official journal of both societies. We were all happy that in 2019, *Andrology* regained the top position in the field, as detailed in this report. This journal has been the perfect medium to disseminate the EAA-endorsed clinical guidelines, which are prepared by foremost experts in the discussed areas of andrology. In 2019, we have published the guidelines on gynaecomastia and other texts are in the pipeline.

Another mission of EAA is to increase public awareness in andrology, and hence, the members of the Male Health Awareness Committee have advanced preparation of a new website addressed to lay public, expected to be launched in 2020. To improve our outreach to the members and collaborators, we have increased frequency of communications and are now present on Twitter and Facebook.

We are looking forward with optimism and planning many activities for 2020, which will culminate with the big event in December:

[Correction added on 29 July 2020, after initial online publication: A duplicate of this article was published under the <https://doi.org/10.1111/andr.12792>. That article has been identified as a duplicate and its DOI redirected to this version of the article].

the 11th European Congress of Andrology held together with the International Congress of Andrology and the annual congress of the German Andrology Society in Münster, Germany. The joint Congress will be preceded by a satellite symposium on the 'Genetic landscape of male reproductive health'. Please reserve the dates and look up for dedicated EAA travel grants. We hope to see all of you in Münster!

With best wishes of peace and success in 2020,

Csilla Krausz

2 | EAA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

The current members of the **EAA Executive Council** are as follows: Csilla Krausz (*President*), Ewa Rajpert-De Meyts (*Secretary*), Frank Tüttelmann (*Treasurer*), Andrea Isidori, Davor Ježek, Zsolt Kopa,



Nadja Rotte

Eduard Ruiz Castañe, Jorma Toppari (*Past President*) and Manuela Simoni (*Editor-in-Chief, Andrology*). The Officers, who work without remuneration, are assisted in administrative tasks by part-time employees; Martina Gargiani (*President's secretary*), Ursula Rüschoff, who has been recently replaced by Nadja Rotte (*Treasurer's secretary, pictured*), and Philip Steer (*Webmaster*).

The members of the Executive Council work in several **EAA Committees**, and they are assisted by additional EAA members, who spent their free time working with dedication on various activities and tasks of the Academy. Since the beginning of 2019, the Committees consist of the following members:

EAA Centre Accreditation: Jorma Toppari (Chair), Emmanuele Jannini, Niels Jørgensen, Eduard Ruiz-Castañe, Hans-Christian Schuppe, Osvaldo Rajmil, Dirk Vanderschueren.

Education: Emmanuele Jannini (Chair), Zsolt Kopa (co-Chair), Hermann M. Behre, Osama Kamal Zaki Shaeer, Ewa Rajpert-De Meyts.

Examination (Clinical andrologist certification): Csilla Krausz (Chair), Thorsten Diemer, Gert Dohle, Sandro Francavilla, Dimitrios Goulis, Gerhard Haidl, Philip Kumanov, Gyorgy Papp, Osvaldo Rajmil, Jolanta Słowikowska-Hilczer, Herman Tournaye.

Guidelines: Giovanni Corona (co-Chair), Dimitrios Goulis (co-Chair), Hermann M. Behre, Gianni Forti, Csilla Krausz, Margus Punab, Jorma Toppari.

Publications: Ewa Rajpert-De Meyts (Chair), Davor Ježek, Andreas Meinhardt, Jorma Toppari, Manuela Simoni.

Male Health Awareness: Oleg Apolikhin (co-Chair), Eduard Ruiz-Castañe (co-Chair), Stepan Krasnyak, Maria-Fernanda Peraza Godoy, Andrea Sansone.

International Liason/Publicity: Eberhard Nieschlag (co-Chair), Eduard Ruiz-Castañe (co-Chair), Zsolt Kopa, Csilla Krausz, Manuela Simoni, Jan-Bernard Stukenborg.

Invitation to join EAA

All doctors, embryologists and basic scientists working or interested in the field of andrology are invited to join EAA as Affiliated Members. The annual membership fee is only 90 €. This modest sum will give you many benefits:

- free subscription to *Andrology*, the number one journal in the field
- discounts in participation fees for EAA-endorsed meetings and courses
- travel grants to EAA-endorsed events (up to 500€)
- possibility to apply for an EAA scholarship (worth 1500€) to train at an EAA-centre
- newsletters and professional information relevant for andrologists delivered to your mailbox and available on the website and through social media andrologyacademy.net/membership

3 | RE-ACCREDITATION OF THE EAA TRAINING CENTRES

It is our pleasure to announce that during 2019, several EAA Centres around Europe have been re-accredited, based either on the triennial activity report or a site-visit by the EAA inspectors who carefully examine each training centre every six years. The following EAA Centres have passed the scrutiny and have been re-accredited for at least three additional years:

- Andrology Centre Bonn, University of Bonn, Germany, directed by Gerhard Heidl (*report*)
- Division of Andrology & Endocrinology, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Catania, Italy, directed by Aldo Calogero (*site-visit*)
- Medical Andrology Unit, Hospital San Salvatore, University of L'Aquila, Italy, directed by Felice Francavilla and (since November 2019) Sandro Francavilla (*site-visit*)
- Andrology Unit, Leuven University Hospital Gasthuisberg, Leuven, Belgium, directed by Dirk Vanderschueren (*site-visit*)
- Andrological Unit, Clinic of Dermatology, University of Leipzig, Germany, directed by Uwe Paasch (*site-visit*)
- Department of Andrology & Reproductive Endocrinology, Medical University of Łódź, Poland, directed by Jolanta Słowikowska-Hilczer (*site-visit*)

4 | REPORTS FROM EAA SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

4.1 | Practical Course in Clinical Andrology for Endocrinologists, 21st European Congress of Endocrinology, 18 May 2019, Lyon, France

This was the second event of this type organized by the EAA. The Faculty included Csilla Krausz, who introduced EAA and reviewed the diagnosis and treatment of azoospermia, Ewa Rajpert-De Meyts, who discussed indications for testicular biopsy, and Andrea M. Isidori who reviewed the diagnosis and treatment of late-onset hypogonadism. The course was well attended by approximately 90 participants.

4.2 | 4th EAA Ultrasound Course: Male Genital Tract and Penile Ultrasound, Florence and Rome, Italy

The 4th consecutive edition of this highly successful educational event was organized as before by Francesco Lotti (Florence) and Andrea M. Isidori (Rome). The School consisted of a theoretical part, which was held in Florence in February 2019, followed by a practical part composed of ultrasound sessions spread over 4 weeks (2 weeks at the EAA Centre of Florence and 2 weeks at the EAA Centre of Rome), which were completed in December 2019 with the final examination in Rome.

Due to the intensive hand-on training, the number of participants was restricted to five fellows from several countries, including Germany, Latvia, Bulgaria and Italy.



The Ultrasound Course participants pictured in Florence. From the left: Agostino Specchio, Melissa Cutini, Francesco Lotti (Coordinator), Tobias Weberschock, Juris Erenpreiss, Sava Petrov.

4.3 | 1st EAA School in Genetics of Male Infertility, 11-13 September 2019, Tartu, Estonia

The event was organized by Maris Laan (Institute of Biomedicine and Translational Medicine, University of Tartu) and Margus Punab (Director of the EAA-accredited Andrology Centre, Tartu University Hospital). The course reviewed basic concepts of medical genetics, provided the state-of-the-art overview of currently



A group of participants enjoying a walk in Tartu

applied genetic tools in the andrology clinic and introduced the recent advances in androgenetics. The Faculty included Csilla Krausz, Frank Tüttelmann, Joris Veltman, Pille Hallast, Maris Laan, Margus Punab and Lili Milani.

There were also practical seminars on basic medical genetics terminology, human genetic databases ('hands-on' computer class) and their utility in clinical practice, and discussions on relevant clinical cases. These seminars were presented by additional members of the home team. Twenty-one participants (including 7 EAA members) from several countries attended the meeting. The School received a high rating among the participants.

4.4 | 2nd EAA Winter School in Testis Histology and Pathology for Clinical Andrologists and Embryologists, 2-6 December 2019, Zagreb, Croatia

This highly specialized post-graduate course was hosted by EAA Training Centre and School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, with Davor Ježek as the main organizer, and Niels Jørgensen (director of the EAA Centre in Copenhagen) as the co-organizer. The course was set up as a combination of lectures, seminars and several 'hands-on' laboratory and clinical presentations/practice sessions in testicular biopsy (incl. open biopsy and TESE), tissue freezing, ICSI, immunohistochemistry, and several light microscopy sessions of real tissue preparations. The Faculty included S. Schlatt, N. Jørgensen, E. Rajpert-De Meyts, D. Ježek and his colleagues from University of Zagreb (Z. Kastelan, J. Sertic, D. Hauptman, B. Golubic Cepulic, Z. Zimak, H. Ljubic, P. Stanic, N. Gelo, A. Merkle, M. Himmelreich, A. Katusic Bojanac and A. Planinic).

Since the School had emphasis on the practical work, the number of places was limited to 16 participants from several countries, including as remote as United States and Indonesia. Five participants received travel grants from the EAA. The analysis of the anonymous questionnaire indicated great satisfaction of attendees related to the overall organization of the School. The next edition of the School will be held in Zagreb in 2021.



The attendees and EAA faculty members of the Winter School

5 | REPORTS FROM OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED BY EAA TRAINING CENTRES

5.1 | 3rd Andrology Symposium, 6 June 2019, Zagreb, Croatia

The symposium was hosted by the EAA Training Centre in Zagreb and School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, and was organized by Davor Ježek. A total of 67 attendees from Europe and Asia participated in the symposium. The symposium covered many topics, with emphasis on genetics/epigenetics of male infertility, surgical aspects of azoospermia and onco-andrology. Seven invited talks and three short oral communications were presented.

Poster session with a guided tour included 39 posters. The day after of the scientific event, the meeting of the EAA Executive Council took place.

5.2 | 28th CeRA Summer School 'Basics and Clinics of Human Reproduction - an Interdisciplinary Approach', 4-6 September 2019, Münster, Germany

This recurrent event was organized by Sabine Kliesch, Stefan Schlatt and Jann-Frederik Cremers (Center of Reproductive Medicine and Andrology, an EAA Training Centre, Münster). The broad range of topics covered biology and endocrinology of reproduction, genetics and epigenetics of male infertility, sexual

differentiation, male and female (in)fertility diagnostics, treatment options & therapy, sexual (dys)function, fertility preservation and transgender patients. Speakers included several experts from CeRa, guests from University of Münster (Erez Raz, Thomas Gutmann) and Erasmus MC, Rotterdam (Marij Dinkelman-Smit). In addition, clinical case discussions and bench workshops were held. The attendees with diverse levels of qualification (BSc, MSc, MD, PhD) and subject areas (human and veterinary medicine, biology, biochemistry, embryology) came from six European countries. Two EAA-supported travel grants have been awarded to young andrologists from Moldova and Italy. The evaluation of the summer school was highly encouraging for continuation of this educational event.

5.3 | 12th Meeting of the Network for Young Researchers in Andrology (NYRA), 22-23 September 2019, Giessen, Germany

The annual meeting of NYRA was organized by Constanze Maresch (Gießen EAA Centre), in connection with the 6th Molecular Andrology Workshop (see below). The meeting was attended by 40 participants representing 15 countries. The Faculty included Humphrey Yao (USA) and Adrian Pilatz (Germany). Julie Cocquet (INSERM, France) received the 2019 NYRA award for her outstanding and inspiring career and presented a lecture on 'Sex chromosomes and epigenetic regulation during sperm differentiation'.

5.4 | 6th International Workshop in Molecular Andrology, 24-26 September 2019, Giessen, Germany

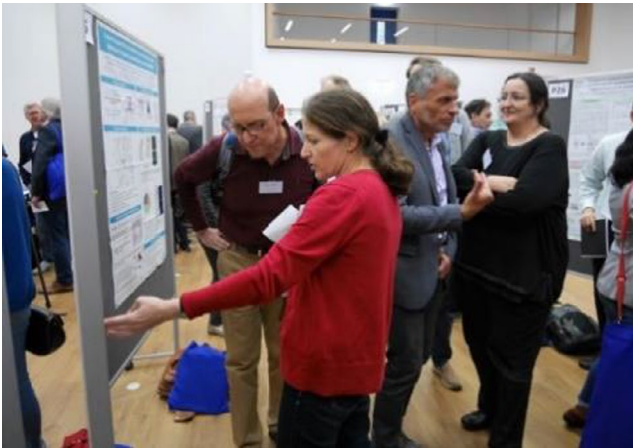
This recurrent meeting with focus on basic aspects of andrology was a part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Department of Urology in Gießen and was organized by A. Meinhardt, H.-C. Schuppe and J. Klug from the Hessian Centre of Reproductive Medicine at Justus Liebig University (and an EAA-accredited Training Centre). The scientific programme covered testis development, testicular organoids, sperm function and deficiencies, single cell transcriptomics, and genetic and

Speakers and members of the EAA Executive Committee at the Zagreb Symposium. From the left: Dinko Hauptman, Zsolt Kopa, Florijana Bulić Jakuš, Don Conrad, Kenneth Aston, Csilla Krausz, Davor Ježek, Dimitrios Goulis, Aleksandra Fucić, Shevah Friedler, Andreas Meinhardt, Ewa Rajpert-De Meyts, Frank Tüttelmann.



immunological aspects of testicular and epididymal (dys)function. The outstanding international Faculty included João Alves-Lopes (UK), Christophe Arnoult (France), Blanche Capel (USA), Nathalie Dejuq-Rainsford (France), Anne Jørgensen (Denmark), Saadi Khochbin (France), Polina Lishko (USA), Serge Nef (Switzerland), Rafael Oliva (Spain), Miles Wilkinson (USA) and Humphrey Yao (USA).

In addition, there were 20 oral presentations selected from submitted abstracts and a poster session with 64 contributions. The meeting was attended by over 140 participants from 24 countries. EAA travel grants were given to seven young participants from China, Croatia, Austria and Germany.



Discussions at the busy poster session at the Giessen Molecular Andrology Workshop

5.5 | 17th Andrology Course: Reproductive Health, Sexual Health, Men's Health. 23-25 October 2019, Barcelona, Spain

This large international meeting was organized by Eduard Ruiz Castañe and the Fundació Puigvert in Barcelona (and the EAA Training Centre), under the auspices of the AEU (Asociación Española de Urología), ASES (Asociación Española de Andrología, Medicina Sexual y Reproductiva) and EAA (European Academy of Andrology), and in collaboration with the Turkish Society of Andrology and the Portuguese Society of Andrology. The meeting lasted three days, each day focused on three main topics: reproductive medicine, sexual medicine, and genital reconstruction and prosthetic surgery masterclass. There were 15 workshops, including surgical and endocrine topics. The EAA President, Csilla Krausz and other local EAA Academicians and members were among the Faculty.

The meeting was very well attended by about 300 participants from many countries, including delegates from South and Central



Opening ceremony of the meeting in Barcelona: from the left: C. Krausz (EAA President), R. Massaguer i Meléndez (General Director of the Fundació Puigvert), and E. Ruiz Castañe (Director of the Andrology Department of Fundacion Puigvert).

America (who enjoyed parallel Spanish language sessions), as well as from the Middle East and Europe.

6 | NEW MEMBERS OF THE EAA

The Academy membership has grown in 2019. We extend a warm welcome to our new members, who have joined the EAA throughout 2019 as Affiliated Members or have been promoted to Academicians:

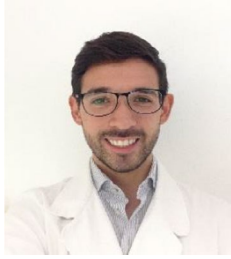
Academicians: Lars Björndahl (Sweden), Ibrahim Fahmy (Egypt), Suks Minhas (UK)

Affiliated Members: Mohamed Ahmed Abd El Salam (Egypt), Lise Aksglæde (Denmark), Iurii Arian (Moldova), Antonio Aversa (Italy), Michaela Bayerle-Eder (Austria), Rossella Cannarella (Italy), Francesco Carlomagno (Italy), Chiara Castellini (Italy), Fabrizio Castiglioni (Italy), Gianmartin Cito (Italy), Rosita Angela Condorelli (Italy), Settimio D'Andrea (Italy), Maurizio De Rocco Ponce (Italy), Ion Dumbraveanu (Moldova), Islam Fathy (Egypt), Jens Fedder (Denmark), Shevach Friedler (Israel), Apostolos Georgiannakis (UK), Daniele Gianfrilli (Italy), Radu Gutuleac (Moldova), Akylas Georgios Kouthouris (Greece), Boaz Meijer (The Netherlands), Marianna Minnetti (Italy), Laura Mongioi (Italy), Ahmad Motawi (Egypt), Edoardo Pescatori (Italy), Carlotta Pozza (Italy), Panagiotis Tsiartas (Sweden), Seso Sulijaya Suyono (Indonesia), Hakki Uzun (Turkey), Yuran Vanwonterghem (Belgium).

7 | EAA GRANTS

7.1 | EAA Scholarships

Two scholarships (1500€ each) were awarded in 2019 to help young EAA members to undergo specialized training in an EAA Centre outside of their country.



Dr Maurizio De Rocco Ponce (Italy) received a scholarship to attend clinical training at the Fundacio Puigvert in Barcelona, Spain, under direction of Prof. Eduard Ruiz Castañe. The scholarship recipient underwent training in diagnosis and management of male sexual dysfunction and infertility, including participation in clinical case analysis. He performed a

thorough review of literature on hormonal treatment of male infertility, and a retrospective data collection of more than 400 cases of varicocele and testis histology for investigation of clinical prognostic factors for sperm retrieval.



Dr Iurii Arian (Moldova) received an EAA scholarship to attend clinical training in the EAA Centre in Münster, Germany, under direction of the Clinical Director of the Centre, Prof. Sabine Kliesch. He plans to learn the principles of diagnosis and treatment of andrological patients, including sperm retrieval techniques in male

infertility (micro-TESE) and other techniques for assisted reproduction as well as practical aspects of male fertility preservation. In a longer term, he would like to participate in research and to work towards obtaining a doctorate/PhD title.

7.2 | Travel Grants

In 2019, the following EAA members received travel grants (350-500 €): Sava Petrov (Bulgaria), Daniel Moreno Mendoza (Spain), Violeta Rilcheva (Bulgaria) and Thaer Farhan (Iraq). In addition, several EAA-supported travel grants were awarded to participants of meetings in Münster, Gießen and Zagreb.

8 | 2019 HIGHLIGHTS FROM ANDROLOGY

Andrology is the official journal of EAA and ASA. We thank the two Editors-in-Chief; Manuela Simoni (EAA) and Douglas Carrell (ASA), for dedicating huge amount of work to the journal. Dr Carrell has completed his second term at the end of 2019, and in 2020 will be replaced by Dr Marie-Claude Hofmann, Professor at the MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, USA, who will begin her term as a Deputy Editor.

We are very pleased to see that the hard work of the Chief Editors, who were supported by the Board of Associate Editors, has resulted in the increased number of submissions and improved impact factor (3.106). Importantly, *Andrology* has regained the number 1 rank among the journals in the field.

In 2019, *Andrology* has published EAA-endorsed clinical guidelines on gynaecomastia, written by Kanakis GA, Nordkap L, Bang

AK, Calogero AE, Bártfai G, Corona G, Forti G, Toppari J, Goulis DG and Jørgensen N.¹

Two special thematic issues were published in *Andrology* in 2019:

- 'Testicular Germ Cell Cancer' (Guest Editor: Ewa Rajpert-De Meyts)²
- 'Epididymis' (Guest Editor: Bernard Robaire)³

The journal is currently preparing a special issue devoted to basic andrology, with papers presented at the 2019 American Testis Workshop (Chicago), guest edited by Vassilios Papadopoulos. Furthermore, papers are currently solicited for a special thematic issue on the late-onset-hypogonadism (LOH), with Giovanni Corona as the guest editor.

More information regarding submissions and the latest publications can be found on the *Andrology* website: onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/20472927

9 | 2020 Event Calendar

The EAA Budapest School: Basic Clinical Andrology—Androgens Therapy, 3-7 March 2020 Budapest, Hungary

Organizers: Zsolt Kopa (Budapest) and Csilla Krausz (Florence).

This course is a must for young andrologists attempting to pass the EAA examination for the certificate of Clinical Andrologist, and for everyone interesting in the androgen therapies.

More information available on the School's website: eaaschool.eu

EAA Clinical Andrologist Examination 2020 will be held in Budapest (Hungary) on the 5-7th March in conjunction with the EAA School.

45th Annual Conference of the American Society of Andrology, 25-28 April 2020, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Organized by: American Society of Andrology

Program Chairs: Polina Lishko, James F. Smith

More information on the website: andrologysociety.org/annual-meeting/

5th EAA Ultrasound Course: Male Genital Tract and Penile Ultrasound, Florence and Rome, Italy

Organizers: Francesco Lotti (Florence) and Andrea M. Isidori (Rome).

The 5th EAA Ultrasound Course will start in February 2020, with the theoretical part held in Florence. The registration is now closed, but in May 2020 registration will be open for the next, 6th EAA Ultrasound Course (2021).

More information on the website: andrologyacademy.net/education.aspx?id=4.

21st European Testis Workshop (ETW2020), 10-14 May 2020, Sant Feliu de Guíxols, Catalonia, Spain

Organizers: Rafael Oliva, Judit Castillo, Josep Lluís Ballescà.

The scientific programme, featuring unique for ETW oral miniposter sessions, will cover all testis research topics. As in previous editions, this ETW will promote the interaction of young and experienced researchers in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere.

More information on the website: etw2020.org/

22nd European Congress of Endocrinology, 23-26 May 2020, Prague, Czech Republic

Organized by the European Society of Endocrinology

More information on the website: ece2020.org

45th Symposium on Hormone and Cell Regulation: 'Sex and Signalling: Molecular Basis of Sex and Gender Medicine', 14-17 October, Mont Sainte-Odile, France

Organizers: Ilpo Huhtaniemi and Adriana Maggi.

The general focus of this edition of the popular basic endocrinology meeting series is the latest knowledge of the fundamental sex differences of hormonal effects in health and disease.

More information on the website: hormones-cell-regulation.eu/

Satellite symposium on 'The Genetic Landscape of Male Reproductive Health', 7-9 December 2020, Münster, Germany

Organizers: Jörg Gromoll & Frank Tüttelmann.

Symposium topics will cover sex chromosomes & reproductive health, sex determination and development, genomic architecture of germ cells, genetics of male infertility, genomic variation and health, animal models and epigenetics of the reproductive lifespan

More information on the website: malegenetics2020.de

11th European Congress of Andrology (ECA 2020), 12th International Congress of Andrology (ICA), and the Annual Meeting of the German Society of Andrology (DFG), 9-12 December 2020, Münster, Germany

Organizers: Centre of Reproductive Medicine & Andrology, Münster, ISA, EAA, DFG

More information on the website: andrology2020.de



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The EAA Executive Council thanks the institutions that organized the EAA schools and courses for their support and financial help, especially Fundació Puigvert, School of Medicine of the Zagreb University, University of Tartu, University of Florence and the Sapienza University of Rome.

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