



## Digital Pathology - moving on after implementation

Catarina Eloy, MD, PhD



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No conflict of interests to declare

# Pathology challenges today

- Maintaining high quality students interested in Pathology
  - Need to review the knowledge transmission models and visibility of Pathology
  - Need to re-think workload and turnaround time

**TABLE 2 ANNUAL GROWTH IN CELLULAR PATHOLOGY WORKLOAD ACROSS 10 LABORATORIES**

Workload Category	Average Annual Percentage Increase 2009-10 to 2014-15
Requests	3.3%
Blocks	4.2%
Slides	3.5%

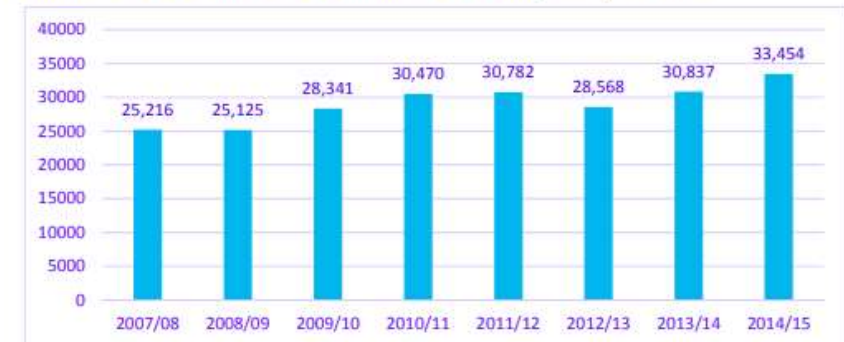
Source: Responses to 2020 Delivery quantitative request sent to laboratories interviewed as part of this project.

for information at MDT meetings and in order to meet the requirements for increasingly comprehensive, evidence-based Royal College of Pathologists datasets. This growth in complexity has been ongoing for many years – a paper from 1992 examined the content of histopathology reports over 50 years, from 1940 to 1990, finding a 337% increase in the number of words in reports and a 273% increase in the number of items of information included in them over this period.<sup>32</sup>

Cancer Research UK, "Testing times to come? An evaluation of pathology capacity across the UK" (2016).

histopathology requests are linked to cancer investigations but not all of them. These data show on average an increase in histopathology requests per laboratory of 4.5% per year.

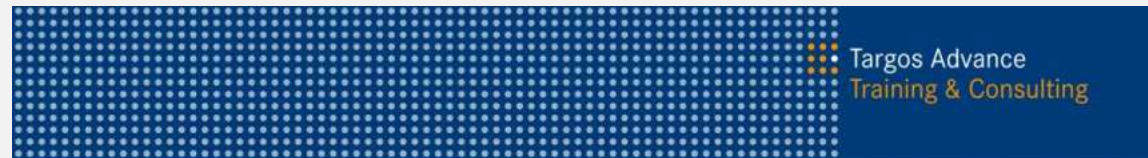
**FIGURE 5 HISTOPATHOLOGY AVERAGE TOTAL REQUESTS, UK WIDE**



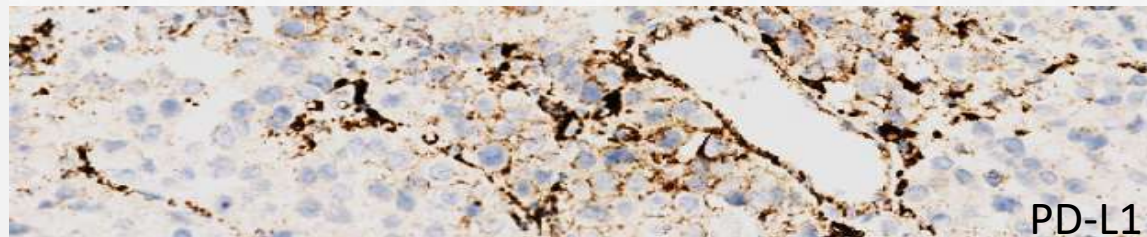
Source: Data from Keele Benchmarking Service, issued May 2016

# Pathology challenges today

- Progressive (and aggressive) increment in the number of oncological driven biomarkers, either based upon immunohistochemistry, either determined by molecular pathology techniques
  - Conducing to a decreased interest in benign diseases with consequences on prevention approaches - overdiagnosis
  - Bringing an inherent industry pressure on laboratories



**PD-L1 Testing (22C3) –  
Professional Expert Course Urothelial Cancer  
– Advanced training –**



# Pathology challenges today

- Announced end of the traditional Pathologist
  - Losing of the integrative clinical approach at the autopsy, together with the mechanistic rational of making a diagnosis and, in a radical position, the decreasing of the creativity/emotion that drives the identification of a new entity



Rembrandt, 1632



# Other barriers to digital pathology implementation

- Financial constrains
- Ergonomics and workstation/“reluctance to change”
- Workflow/structure
  - Time
  - Quality assurance
  - Integration of the IT team
  - ...



the diagnostic pathology journal DIAGNOSTIC PATHOLOGY

E. Alcaraz-Mateos, et al., diagnostic pathology 2016, 2:232

ISSN 2364-4893

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17629/www.diagnosticpathology.eu-2016-2-232>

## Research

### Research on Devices for Handling Whole Slide Images on Pathology Workstations. An Ergonomic Outlook

E. Alcaraz-Mateos<sup>1</sup>, F. Caballero-Alemán<sup>2</sup>, M. Albarracín-Ferrer<sup>3</sup>, F. Cárceles-Moreno<sup>3</sup>, R. Hernández-Gómez<sup>3</sup>, S. Hernández-Kakauridze<sup>3</sup>, L. Hernández-Sabater<sup>3</sup>, I. Jiménez-Zafra<sup>3</sup>, A. López-Alacid<sup>3</sup>, C. Moreno-Salmerón<sup>3</sup>, M. Pérez-Ramos<sup>1</sup>, A. Nieto-Olivares<sup>1</sup>, N. Sánchez-Campoy<sup>4</sup>, I. Martínez González-Moro<sup>5</sup>, E. Pobllet<sup>6</sup>.

# Some good news

FDA News Release

## FDA allows marketing of first whole slide imaging system for digital pathology

For Immediate Release

April 12, 2017



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

### Best practice recommendations for implementing digital pathology January 2018

**Authors:** Simon Cross, Peter Furness, Laszlo Igalii, David Snead, Darren Treanor

*Pathobiology*, 2016;83(2-3):57-60. doi: 10.1159/000443904. Epub 2016 Apr 21.

### Trying to Understand Digital Pathology before We Move to Computational Pathology.

García-Rojo M, Ordi J.

PMID: 27100520 DOI: 10.1159/000443904

[Indexed for MEDLINE] [Free full text](#)



*J Pathol Inform*. 2018; 9: 6.

Published online 2018 Mar 5. doi: [10.4103/jpi.jpi\\_1\\_18](https://doi.org/10.4103/jpi.jpi_1_18)

PMCID: PMC5869966

PMID: [29619278](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29619278/)

## Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine Whole Slide Imaging Connectathon at Digital Pathology Association Pathology Visions 2017

[David Clunie](#),<sup>1</sup> [Dan Hosseinzadeh](#),<sup>2</sup> [Mikael Wintell](#),<sup>3</sup> [David De Mena](#),<sup>4</sup> [Nieves Lajara](#),<sup>5</sup> [Marcial Garcia-Rojo](#),<sup>4</sup> [Gloria Bueno](#),<sup>5</sup> [Kiran Saligrama](#),<sup>6</sup> [Aaron Stearrett](#),<sup>6</sup> [David Toomey](#),<sup>6</sup> [Esther Abels](#),<sup>7</sup> [Frank Van Apeldoorn](#),<sup>7</sup> [Stephane Langevin](#),<sup>2</sup> [Sean Nichols](#),<sup>2</sup> [Joachim Schmid](#),<sup>8</sup> [Uwe Horchner](#),<sup>8</sup> [Bruce Beckwith](#),<sup>9</sup> [Anil Parwani](#),<sup>10</sup> and [Liron Pantanowitz](#)<sup>11</sup>

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This article has been [cited by](#) other articles in PMC.

### Abstract

Go to:

As digital pathology systems for clinical diagnostic work applications become mainstream, interoperability between these systems from different vendors becomes critical. For the first time, multiple digital pathology vendors have publicly revealed the use of the digital imaging and communications in medicine (DICOM) standard file format and network protocol to communicate between separate whole slide acquisition, storage, and viewing components. Note the use of DICOM for clinical diagnostic applications is still to be validated in the United States. The successful demonstration shows that the DICOM standard is fundamentally sound, though many lessons were learned. These lessons will be incorporated as incremental improvements in the standard, provide more detailed profiles to constrain variation for specific use cases, and offer educational material for implementers. Future Connectathon events will expand the scope to include more devices and vendors, as well as more ambitious use cases including laboratory information system integration and annotation for image analysis, as well as more geographic diversity. Users should request DICOM features in all purchases and contracts. It is anticipated that the growth of DICOM-compliant manufacturers will likely also ease DICOM for pathology becoming a recognized standard and as such the regulatory pathway for digital pathology products.

**Keywords:** Connectivity, digital imaging and communications in medicine, digital imaging and communications in medicine web, digital imaging and communications in medicine supplement 145, digital pathology, interoperability, picture archiving and communication system, virtual microscopy, whole slide imaging

Increment of Pathology visibility and, hopefully, attraction of young people

# After implementation- resources

- Time sparing process in routine?



Histopathology

Original Article

**Evaluating the benefits of digital pathology implementation: time savings in laboratory logistics**

Alexi Baidoshvili ✉, Anca Bucur, Jasper van Leeuwen, Jeroen van der Laak, Philip Kluin, Paul J van Diest

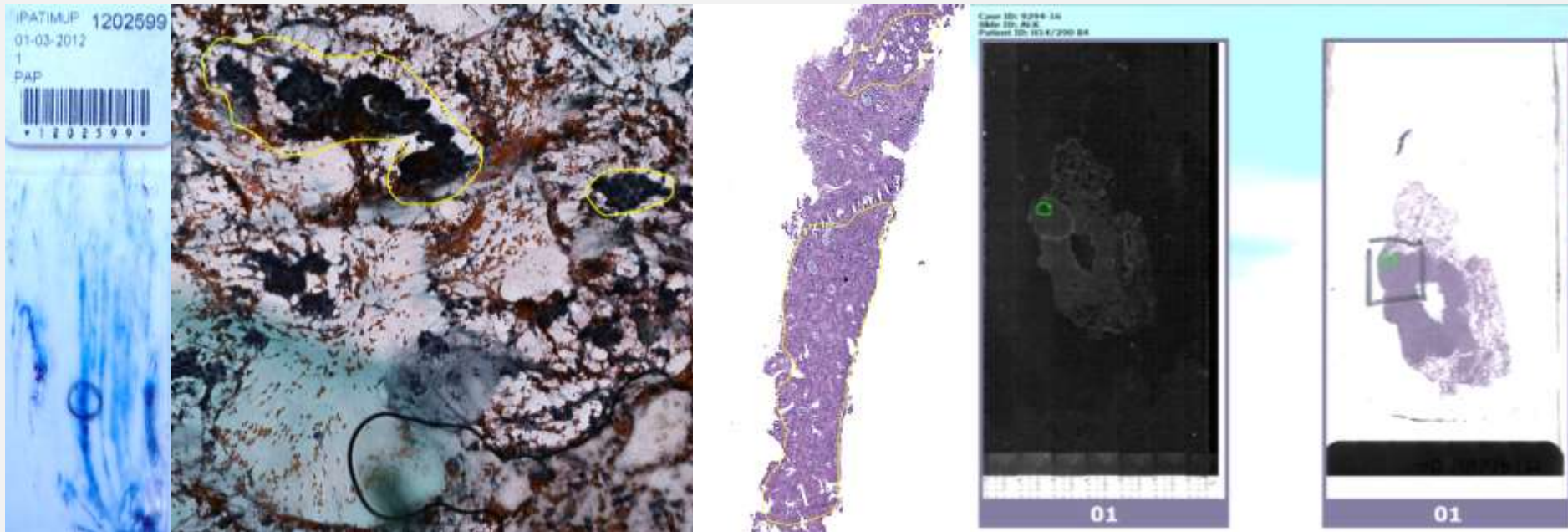
First published: 20 June 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/his.13691>

PDF TOOLS SHARE



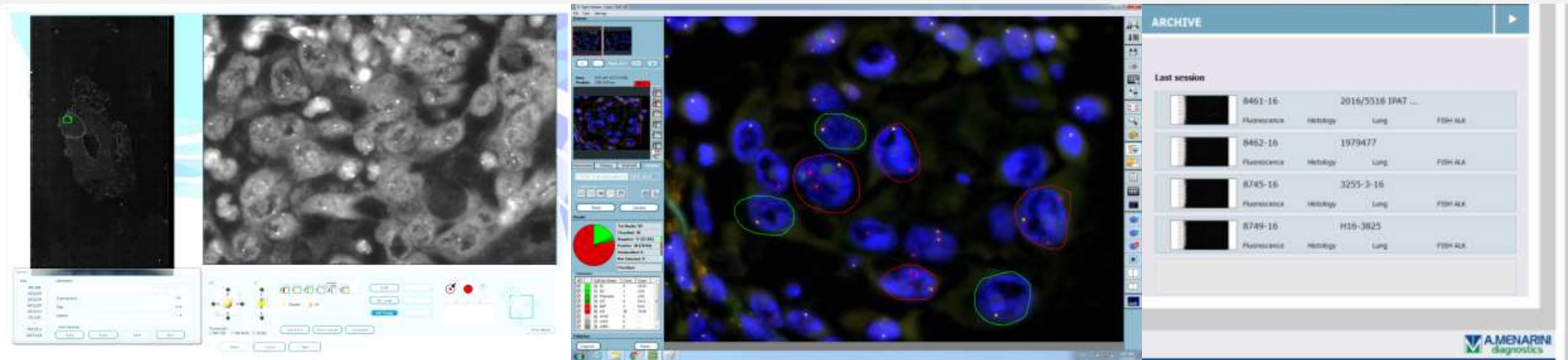
# After implementation- resources

- **Time sparing process:** our experience with dark field examination of biomarkers
  - FISH semiautomatic image analyses for determination of ALK and ROS1 rearrangement *status* in lung cancer specimens



# After implementation- resources

- Gain of more than half of the time in comparison with the use of a regular fluorescent microscope
- Increase in the number of positive cases (less false negatives) – 7% of ALK rearrangements (compatible QA results)
- Easy to maintaining archived documentation of the diagnosis



# After implementation- resources

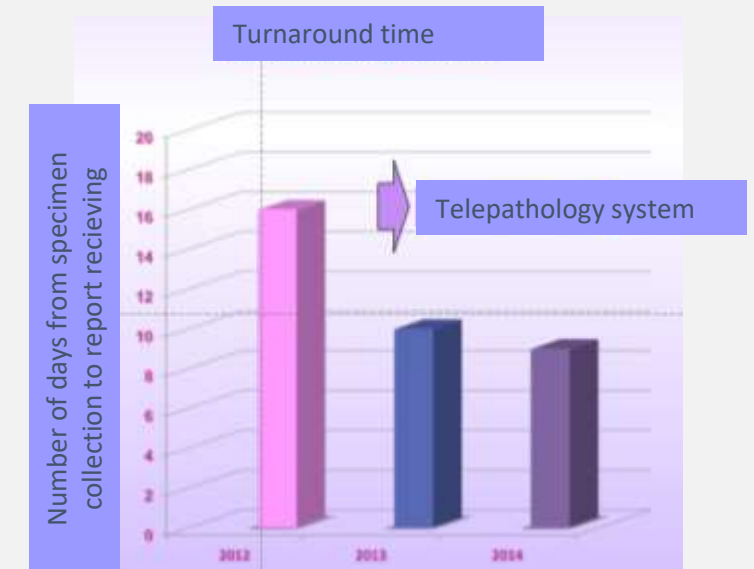
- People sparing process: our experience with telepathology system (2013-2018)



Hospital Cova da Beira at Covilhã, at 250 Km from Porto, serves about 100 000 habitants and has no pathologists. Is equipped with an up to date pathology laboratory and has specialized technical staff.

Overall benefits of telepathology in this model

- Samples are always received in very **good conditions**
- Turnaround **time** is reduced
- Strict quality control
- Up to date formation of **staff**
- Continuous improvement of the model
- Support in the setting of unavailable **specialized techniques**
- Lower **costs** at long term experience



# After implementation- resources

- Macroscopy and microscopy with adequate validation and quality control



**Macroscopy** (classic vs telepathology model)

Less than 0,1% of the received specimens are evaluated at Ipatimup every year

**Microscopy** (classic vs telepathology model)

98.5% of the morphological analyses (H&E slides) had a concordant diagnosis


86.4% of the non enzymatic histochemical slides had concordant appreciation

96.6% of the immunohistochemical slides had concordant appreciation



# After/during implementation- communication and opportunities

- New and old participants in the process
  - IT team – the pathologist *deep* language
  - Industry
  - Multidisciplinary teams for patient’s management
  - Researchers (basics or clinical trials)
  - Residents/students – can we learn **with** the *machine*?

ORIGINAL ARTICLE 

### PD-L1 Immunohistochemistry Comparability Study in Real-Life Clinical Samples: Results of Blueprint Phase 2 Project

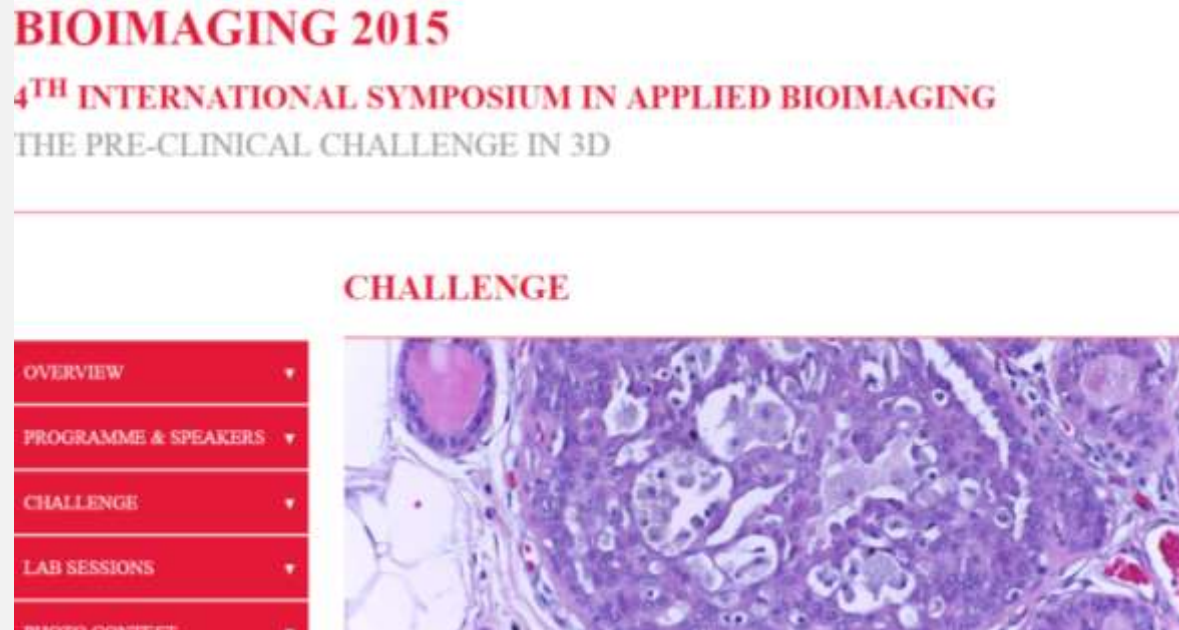
Ming Sound Tsao, MD,<sup>1</sup> Keith M. Kerr, MD,<sup>2</sup> Mark Kockx, MD, PhD,<sup>3</sup> Mary-Beth Beasley, MD,<sup>4</sup> Alain C. Borczuk, MD,<sup>5</sup> Johan Botling, MD,<sup>6</sup> Lukas Bubendorf, MD,<sup>7</sup> Lucian Chirieac, MD,<sup>8</sup> Gang Chen, MD,<sup>9</sup> Teh-Ying Chou, MD, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Jin-Haeng Chung, MD, PhD,<sup>10</sup> Sanja Dacic, MD, PhD,<sup>11</sup> Sylvie Lantuejoul, MD,<sup>12</sup> Mari Mino-Kensudon, MD,<sup>13</sup> Andre L. Moreira, MD,<sup>14</sup> Andrew G. Nicholson, DM,<sup>15</sup> Masayuki Noguchi, MD, PhD,<sup>16</sup> Giuseppe Pelosi, MD,<sup>17</sup> Claudia Poleri, MD, PhD,<sup>18</sup> Prudence A. Russell, MD,<sup>19</sup> Jennifer Sauter, MD,<sup>20</sup> Erik Thunnissen, MD, PhD,<sup>21</sup> Ignacio Wistuba, MD, PhD,<sup>22</sup> Hui Yu, MD, PhD,<sup>23</sup> Murry W. Wynes, PhD,<sup>24</sup> Melania Pintilie, MSc,<sup>25</sup> Yasushi Yatabe, MD, PhD,<sup>26</sup> Fred R. Hirsch, MD, PhD<sup>27,28</sup>

**Table 1. Reliability (Intraclass Correlation Coefficient) of Scoring PD-L1 Expression on Tumor Cells among All Pathologists (Excluding the Trainer) for All Cases and NSCLC Biopsy Samples/Resected Cases**

Assay	Glass Slide Scoring		Digital Scoring	
	All Cases	NSCLC Tissue Only	All Cases	NSCLC Tissue Only
22C3	0.89	0.88	0.91	0.91
28-8	0.92	0.94	0.86	0.88
SP-142	0.88	0.86	0.80	0.84
SP-263	0.89	0.92	0.90	0.93
73-10	0.93	0.95	0.91	0.93
All assays	0.86	0.89	0.91	0.93

PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1. *Journal of Thoracic Oncology*

# After implementation- new tools



- Automatic classification of tumor malignancy on breast histological pictures of hematoxylin & eosin stained slides
  - Aim: CAD in breast specimens
  - 4x30 training + 36 (20+16) test= 156 pictures
  - Distinction between 4 diagnostic categories: normal, benign, *in situ* lesion and invasive carcinoma
  - 13 registered international teams

# After implementation- new tools

22  
correct  
answers  
out of  
36 tests

Computers in Biology and Medicine 96 (2018) 41–51

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

**Computers in Biology and Medicine**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/combiomed](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/combiomed)

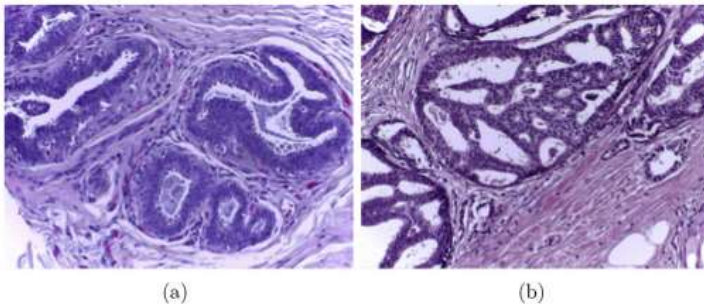
**Automatic classification of tissue malignancy for breast carcinoma diagnosis<sup>☆</sup>**

Irene Fondón<sup>a</sup>, Auxiliadora Sarmiento<sup>a,\*,</sup>, Ana Isabel García<sup>a</sup>, María Silvestre<sup>a</sup>, Catarina Eloy<sup>b,c</sup>, António Polónia<sup>b</sup>, Paulo Aguiar<sup>d,e</sup>

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<sup>c</sup> Medical Faculty, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal  
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<sup>e</sup> Institute for Research and Innovation in Health Sciences (I3S), Porto, Portugal

- ML based on features descriptors – Support Vector Machine classifier
- Color normalization
- Accuracy for differential diagnosis of 75% - 61%

I. Fondón et al.



Computers in Biology and Medicine 96 (2018) 41–51

Fig. 6. Benign images (a) appear similar to in situ ones (b), and therefore, the algorithm tends to misclassify them.

Diagnostic category	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)
Normal	77.8	92.6
Benign	44.4	85.2
<i>In situ</i> lesion	44.4	81.5
Invasive carcinoma	77.8	<b>92.6</b>

# After implementation- new tools

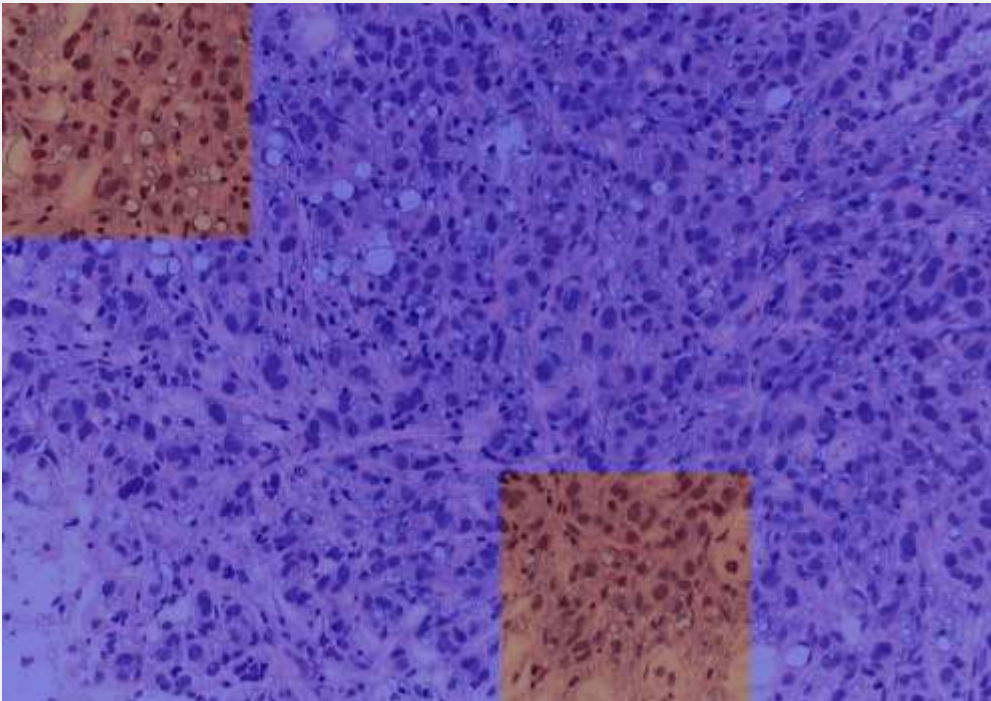
20  
correct  
answers  
out of  
36 tests

RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Classification of breast cancer histology images using Convolutional Neural Networks

Teresa Araújo<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Guilherme Aresta<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Eduardo Castro<sup>1\*</sup>, José Rouco<sup>3</sup>, Paulo Aguiar<sup>3,4</sup>, Catarina Eloy<sup>5,6</sup>, António Polónia<sup>5,6</sup>, Aurélio Campilho<sup>1,2</sup>

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- Convolutional Neuronal Networks model *plus* SVM classifier
- Color normalization
- Accuracy for differential diagnosis of 70% - 56%
- Accuracy for differential diagnosis of 78% - 83% after extended dataset (249 images)

Diagnostic category	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)
Normal	55.6	<b>96.3</b>
Benign	55.6	70.4
<i>In situ</i> lesion	55.6	92.6
Invasive carcinoma	55.6	81.5



# After implementation- resources



**ICIAR — International Conference  
on Image Analysis and Recognition**



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ICIAR 2018

ICIAR 2017

ICIAR 2016

ICIAR 2015

ICIAR 2014

ICIAR 2013

ICIAR 2012

ICIAR 2011

**About ICIAR**

ICIAR – International Conference on Image Analysis and Recognition aims to bring together researchers in the fields of

- Image Processing
- Image Analysis
- Pattern Recognition

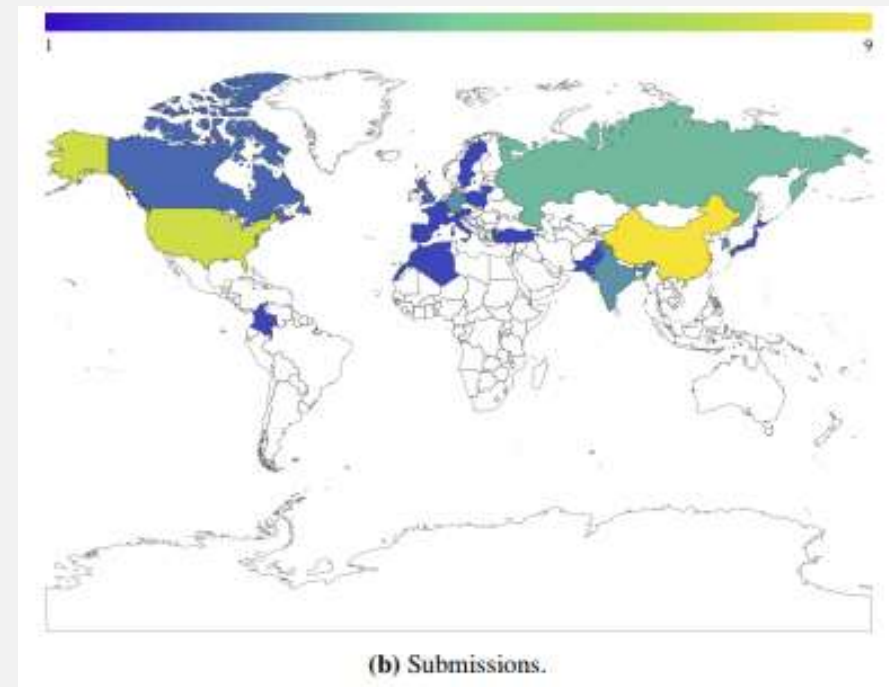
The conference provides a forum for the researchers to present and discuss recent advances in theory, methodologies and applications in the above fields. The scientific program includes invited talks by well expert speakers, panel discussion on current topics and fully refereed contributions. Special sessions are also organized for addressing promising applications in various fields.

## BACH: Grand Challenge on Breast Cancer Histology Images

Guilherme Aresta<sup>a,h,\*</sup>, Teresa Araújo<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Scotty Kwok<sup>c</sup>, Sai Saketh Chennamsetty<sup>d</sup>, Mohammed Safwan<sup>e</sup>, Varghese Alex<sup>f</sup>, Bahram Marami<sup>g</sup>, Marcel Prastawa<sup>g</sup>, Monica Chan<sup>g</sup>, Michael Donovan<sup>g</sup>, Gerardo Fernandez<sup>g</sup>, Jack Zeineh<sup>g</sup>, Matthias Kohl<sup>h</sup>, Christoph Walz<sup>i</sup>, Florian Ludwig<sup>h</sup>, Stefan Braunewell<sup>h</sup>, Maximilian Baust<sup>h</sup>, Quoc Dang Vu<sup>j</sup>, Minh Nguyen Nhat To<sup>j</sup>, Eal Kim<sup>j</sup>, Jin Tae Kwak<sup>j</sup>, Sameh Galal<sup>k</sup>, Veronica Sanchez-Freire<sup>k</sup>, Nadia Brancati<sup>l</sup>, Maria Frucci<sup>l</sup>, Daniel Riccio<sup>l,m</sup>, Yaqi Wang<sup>n</sup>, Lingling Sun<sup>n,o</sup>, Kaiqiang Ma<sup>n</sup>, Jiannan Fang<sup>n</sup>, Ismael Kone<sup>p</sup>, Lahsen Boulmane<sup>p</sup>, Aurélio Campilho<sup>a,b</sup>, Catarina Eloy<sup>q,r,s</sup>, António Polónia<sup>q,r,s</sup>, Paulo Aguiar<sup>a,t</sup>

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<sup>s</sup>Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde (i3S), Universidade do Porto, Rua Alfredo Allen, 208, 4200-135 Porto, Portugal  
<sup>t</sup>Instituto de Engenharia Biomédica (INEB), Universidade do Porto, Rua Alfredo Allen, 208, 4200-135 Porto, Portugal

- ICIAR 2018 – BACH (grand challenge on BreAst Cancer Histology images)
- 64 submissions



# After implementation- resources

- ICIAR 2018 – BACH (grand challenge on Breast Cancer Histology images)

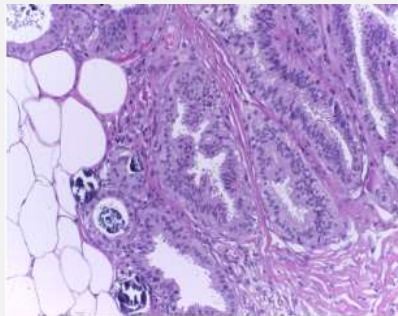
- Dataset – H&E pictures (400+100) and WSIs (30+10)
- Training set with 10 annotated WSIs and 20 non-annotated WSIs; test with 10 annotated WSIs
- Best performance for CNNs models without color normalization
- Accuracy for differential diagnosis of 87%

**Table 4:** Class-wise sensitivity and specificity of Part A approaches for the classes in study. Benchmarking results via fine-tuning are also shown. Acc - accuracy Se - sensitivity; Sp - specificity.

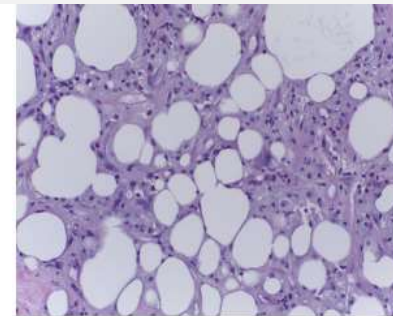
Team	Acc	Normal		Benign		<i>In situ</i>		Invasive	
		Se.	Sp.	Se.	Sp.	Se.	Sp.	Se.	Sp.
216 [20]	0.87	0.96	0.88	0.8	0.96	0.84	1.0	0.88	0.99
248 [21]	0.87	0.96	0.93	0.72	0.96	0.88	0.97	0.92	0.96

**Table 7:** Class-wise sensitivity and specificity of Part B approaches for the classes in study. Se - sensitivity; Sp - specificity; Score: Eq. 1.

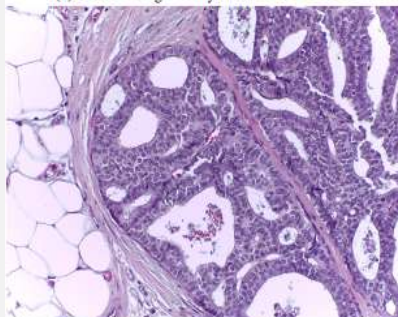
Team	Score	Benign		<i>In situ</i>		Invasive	
		Se.	Sp.	Se.	Sp.	Se.	Sp.
248 [21]	0.69	0.36	0.7	0.03	0.59	0.4	0.96
16 [23]	0.55	0.09	0.99	0.05	0.95	0.45	0.92



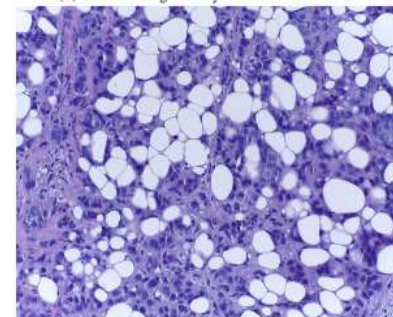
(c) Case of Benign mostly misclassified as *In situ*



(d) Case of Benign mostly misclassified as Invasive

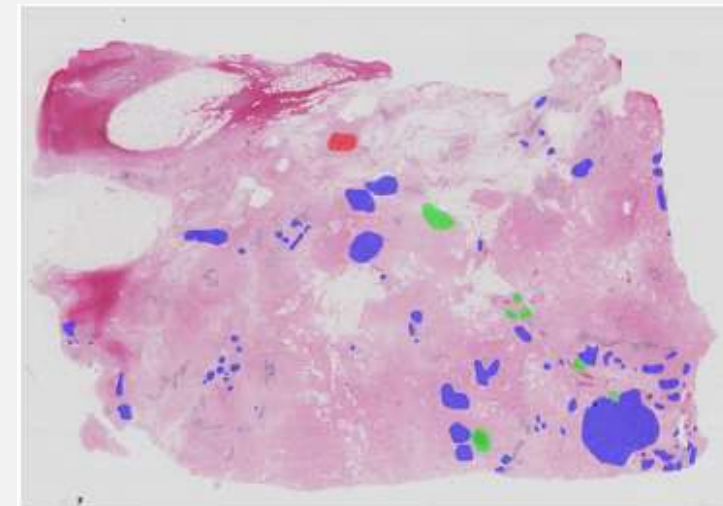


(e) Example of an *In situ* case from the training set



(f) Example of an Invasive case from the training set

**Figure 5:** Examples of images misclassified by the top-10 methods of Part A and similar examples in the training set.



**Figure 3:** Example of a pixel-wise annotated whole-slide image from the training set. ■ benign; ■ *in situ*; ■ invasive.



It is **not** the time for futurology!  
It is time for clinical validation!

# V Curso de Patología Digital

Ipatimup

Oporto, Portugal

26 a 28 de octubre de 2016

**SEAP-IAP**

[Sociedad Española de Anatomía Patológica]  
[International Academy of Pathology]

Club de Patología Digital de la SEAP

<http://www.conganat.org/>



## 16<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Digital Pathology

*The Augmented Pathologist: empowering for a better patient care*



*Porto, Portugal  
June, 2020*



## Digital Pathology - moving on after implementation

Catarina Eloy, MD, PhD

