INHAND: International Harmonization of Nomenclature and Diagnostic Criteria
An Update - 2017

Global Executive Steering Committee: Charlotte M. Keenan, John L. Vahle, Dawn G. Goodman, Emily Meseck, Ronald Herbert, Julia F. Baker, Alys E. Bradley, Wolfgang Kaufmann, Rupert Kellner, Thomas Nothe, Susanne Rittinghausen, Shim-mo Hayashi, Takanori Harada, and Katsuhiro Yoshizawa

Background:
Harmonization of nomenclature and diagnostic criteria in toxicologic pathology has been a goal of pathologists working in the profession for many years. Early initiatives were undertaken by the STP in the United States and by the RITA data base group (Registry of Industrial Toxicology Animal-data) in Europe. Their efforts resulted in a number of internationally recognized publications: SSNDC: Guides for Toxicologic Pathology and the WHO/IARC International Classification of Rodent Tumors. In 2005, the STP and European Society of Toxicologic Pathology (ESTP), in conjunction with RITA, developed a collaborative process to review, update, and harmonize existing nomenclature documents and databases. In 2006, the British Society of Toxicologic Pathology (BSTP) and the Japanese Society of Toxicologic Pathology (JSTP) joined the initiative, so that the project has become truly global.

Objectives:
- Produce publications for each rodent organ system and select non-rodent species that provide a standardized nomenclature and differential diagnosis for classifying microscopic lesions observed in toxicity and carcinogenicity studies.

New Mission:
- Serve in advisory role for the FDA Standard for the Exchange of Nonclinical Data (SEND) initiative. FDA has indicated a preference to utilize microscopic pathology terminology developed by INHAND as these terms will be published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Structure:
- Global Executive Steering Committee (GESC) with representation from major societies of toxicologic pathology.
- 15 rodent organ system working groups (OWG) defined by GESC.
- 5 non-rodent species groups.

Each group is composed of expert toxicologic pathologists from each of the participating societies responsible for developing preferred nomenclature and diagnostic criteria.
- Terminology based on SSNDC for non-proliferative; RITA/WHO/IARC; and "International Harmonization of Rat Nomenclature".

Completed Organ Systems:
- Respiratory System
- Hepatobiliary System
- Urinary System
- CNS/PNS System
- Mammary, Zymbal’s, Preputial and Clitoral Glands
- Male Reproductive
- Soft Tissue
- Integument
- Female Reproductive
- Digestive System
- Apoptosis/Necrosis Working Group
- Cardiovascular System
- Skeletal System

In progress:
- Endocrine System
- Special Senses
- Lymphoid and Hematopoietic System
- Non-rodent working groups: Monkey, Minipig, Dog, Rabbit, Fish

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