



EURL-Fish training course: Introduction to histopathology in fish diseases, 16th - 19th October 2017

Description of the course “Introduction to Histopathology in fish diseases”, held at the European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) for fish diseases, Lyngby 16th - 19th October 2017. The course will be held on the premises of KU SUND, Frederiksberg

Course content

The 4 day course is primarily based on a combination of practical work (hands on) and theoretical presentations. This course will focus on the use of histopathology in fish diseases, combining a general histopathological approach with pathogen specific techniques such as Immunohistochemistry (IHC).

The first day participants will be shown how to take optimal samples for histopathological evaluation, considering different tissues and fish sizes. In the afternoon, lectures in pathology and histopathology will begin. During the next days, the participants will continue the training track with a combination of lectures and practical work and will be introduced to special staining methods or pathogen detecting techniques like IHC. The course gives an introduction to general pathology and the specific histopathological lesions and lesion pattern that occur as a consequence of disease. Focus is put on the understanding of general pathological processes and on training in histopathological diagnostic skills. The course is dialogue based and sufficient time will be given for discussion under way. A social dinner will be organized the second evening. Further details are provided in the invitation letter.



General course objectives

The course aims to introduce the participants to the use of histopathology in fish diseases, combining technical knowledge on how to process samples including collection, fixation and the detection and description of lesions that can be observed during different disease stages of systemic infections.

The course will be structured on two main pillars; an overarching part on how to approach histopathology and combine theoretical knowledge on specific lesions to disease patterns and a more specific part on immunohistochemistry describing pitfalls and application of these techniques to specific pathogens.

Lectures will include descriptions of the techniques with major focus on their application, pitfalls and trouble shooting. Practical sessions and show-and-tell sessions will allow participants to spend time on the microscope individually observing prepared slides, open discussion as well as one-to-one supervision with the tutors.

Participants are welcome to bring their own slides to discuss the case with the other participants and tutors. If slides for the last day with open discussion have not been sent beforehand they should be handed in on the first day.

Learning objectives

This course aims to introduce the students to pathology and histopathology of fish with the main focus on the systemic infections in farmed fish. The participants that will have completed the entire course and fulfilled the course's objectives:

Will be able to:

- sample organs and tissue for histopathological examination and submit them in a correct way

Will have gained knowledge:

- on how to discriminate between normal histology and artefacts that occurred during fixation and processing
- on how to detect and describe pathological changes and patterns in a systematic and uniform way
- on the technology for preparing IHC and how to assess pitfalls and errors in staining process.



Overall the course will allow participants to understand the underlying principles of the histopathology and specific techniques such as IHC, thus increasing the ability to evaluate histological slides and critically review results based on histopathological examination. Furthermore, the course will allow the participants to obtain a better understanding of specific staining methods thus increasing the ability to critically review these methods in order to assess pitfalls and to correctly interpret them.

The major focus will be on systemic infections including listed fish diseases. The course will provide a forum where pre-knowledge, experience and examples can be discussed between participants and teachers, and hereby raise the awareness of pitfalls when using the various techniques.

Intended learning outcomes

To increase the practical and theoretical knowledge of histopathology of systemic fish diseases including listed diseases. The course also aims at providing a forum where (good and bad) experiences can be discussed among participants and teachers.

The core elements

Histopathology of fish diseases

IHC applied to fish tissue

Assessment

During each day participants are encouraged to take part in the discussions on the subjects presented. A specific session at the end of the course is allocated for discussion and evaluation of the course and at the end of the course a questionnaire for course evaluation will be delivered to all participants.

The course material

A course binder with practical information will be provided. The course binder will also be used for collection of hand-outs from the various lectures.

The course participants

Since course attendants can come from very different experiences, during the general introduction (day 1), researchers and technicians will be asked to introduce themselves, their pre-experience in the laboratory and their expectations to the course in order to target the course content optimally, especially during the theoretical- and discussion workshops. Their starting point will therefore be mixed as some may have limited theoretical or practical experience, while others may be highly experienced in some or all disciplines.



Course supervisors

Ole Bendik Dale (DVM, PhD), NVI, Norway, will be tutor responsible for histopathology.

Tine Moesgaard Iburg (DVM, PhD), DTU Vet, Denmark, course coordinator and will be tutor responsible for immunohistochemistry.

Torsten S. Boutrup (DVM, PhD) Aquapri A/S, Denmark, will be tutor primarily responsible for immunohistochemistry.



Day 1 8:00-16.00	Day 2 8:00-16.00	Day 3 8:00-16.00	Day 4 8:00-16.00
Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
<p>Course introduction</p> <p>Participants will present themselves</p> <p><u>Coffee break</u></p> <p>Sampling for histopathological examination. Theory and practice</p>	<p>Lecture on pathology and histopathology</p> <p><u>Coffee break</u></p> <p>Microscopy room I slide observation</p>	<p>Lecture on IHC</p> <p><u>Coffee break</u></p> <p>Microscopy room III, slide observation</p>	<p>Microscopy Room IV</p> <p>Show and tell of cases by Ole Bendik Dale with discussion and participation of course participants</p>
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<p>Lecture on pathology and histopathology</p>	<p>Lecture on pathology and histopathology</p> <p><u>Coffee Break</u></p> <p>Microscopy room II, slide observation</p>	<p>Lecture on ISH or more IHC</p> <p><u>Coffee Break</u></p> <p>Theoretical exercise on IHC</p>	<p>Microscopy room V.</p> <p>General discussion on selected cases brought by participants</p> <p>Course evaluation</p> <p><u>Coffee, cakes and goodbye</u></p>

Draft programme (subject to changes)