

# ECHO – Newsletter December/2022

December 5, 2022

**It is Christmas time again...**

Dear ECHO members,

Dear friends,

The ECHO Board is back with some news and updates from the Histo Community.

## **1. Obituary: Ron Jaffe, M.D.**

It is with deep grief to inform you that the International Histo Community has lost Ron Jaffe, a former member of the pathology panel of the Histiocyte Society, a brilliant pediatric pathologist, a dedicated expert in the pathology of the histiocytic disorders, a compassionate mentor, and friend.

*Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June of 1943, Ron graduated from the University of Witwatersrand with an M.B. B.Ch. in 1969. He went on to complete residencies in Pathology at Sheba Medical Center (Tel Hashomer, Israel) and Children's Hospital (Boston, MA), 1971-75 and 1975-76, respectively, followed by a fellowship at the Mallory Institute of Pathology (Boston, MA) from 1976-77.*



*Ron held a deep and unwavering passion for pediatric pathology, particularly for histiocytic disorders, throughout five decades of his life. He served as a referent pathologist for all International LCH Clinical Trials of the Histiocyte Society, as well as for the International Registry on Rare Histiocytic Disorders. Beyond his immense contributions to the field, he will be remembered as a generous mentor, a world-renowned scientist, and a quiet yet wickedly funny colleague. He will be greatly missed by all of us who had the privilege of knowing him.*

## **2. Toward a prospective trial for the most severe LCH disease form**

I am happy to share that we have held a fruitful meeting for the LCH-IV PIs of the European countries in Vienna, dedicated to the preparation of a prospective trial for HR-MS-LCH. We have agreed on the study design and treatment backbone combining inhibitors and chemotherapy, aiming for a definitive cure for the affected kids. We have come to agreements regarding the primary and secondary endpoints of the study and response evaluation. An action plan for protocol finalization and clarification of organizational and regulatory issues has been worked out. We will keep you posted.

## **3. Plans for meetings in person in 2023**

For 2023 we are planning at least two meetings in person:

### **○ ECHO sessions at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of SIOP Europe 2023**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE) will be held in person in Valencia, Spain, 8-12 May 2023. The ECHO sessions are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- Monday, May 8, 10:30-12:30 ECHO open Session
- Monday, May 8, 14:00-15:30 ECHO closed Session (Part 1)
- Monday, May 8, 16:00-17:30 ECHO closed Session (Part 2)
- Joint Sessions (with Young SIOPE and ITCC envisioned)
- Educational sessions (still to be defined)

### **○ Meeting immediately after the Histiocyte Society's Annual Meeting in Athens (October 22-24)**

The Histiocyte Society Annual Meeting 2023 will be held in Athens on October 22-24. ECHO members will have the opportunity to meet on Oct 25. We will make sure to follow up with details on the meeting venue and agenda.

***Merry Christmas to you and your dearest!***



Milen Minkov  
on behalf of the ECHO Executive Board