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Gestational Trophoblastic Disease

Presentations from the XIXth World Congress on Gestational Trophoblastic Diseases

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Guest Editors

Introduction to the Symposium

The XIXth World Congress of the International Society for the Study of Trophoblastic Diseases (ISSTD) took place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from September 21–24, 2017. This was the first combined meeting of the ISSTD with the European Organization for Treatment of Trophoblastic Diseases. The Congress was organized by the Dutch Working Party on Trophoblastic Diseases under the superb leadership of Drs. Christianne Lok, Leon Massuger, Nienke van Trommel, and Anneke Westermann. Scientists and clinicians from across Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, and South

America presented the latest advances in the understanding of the molecular biology, natural history, clinical management, and psychosocial issues related to the full spectrum of gestational trophoblastic disease (GTD). The Congress also emphasized the establishment of new national centers, the setting up of outreach educational programs on GTD, as well as the development of novel therapies such as pembrolizumab, an anti-PD-1 directed antibody, in drug-resistant gestational trophoblastic neoplasia.

The Congress included many presentations that involved strong collaborations across countries

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and continents in both basic biology and clinical research. The Congress also served to strengthen and facilitate both current and future collaborations.

This Symposium includes investigations from Europe, Asia, North America, and South America and well reflects important advances in the understanding of GTD. These articles also show the strong international collaboration amongst trophoblastic disease centers in both basic and clinical research.

While much has been learned related to GTD, there is still much to be learned which may not only improve understanding and management of GTD

but also have important implications both for reproductive biology and oncology. We look forward with anticipation and hope that the next World Congress in Toronto, Canada, will provide further important advances.

Keywords: gestational trophoblastic disease, gestational trophoblastic neoplasms, international collaboration, International Society for the Study of Trophoblastic Disease, placental-site trophoblastic tumor, trophoblastic tumor. (*J Reprod Med* 2018;63: 191–192)