

# Endocrine Abstracts

September 2020 Volume 70  
ISSN 1479-6848 (online)

22nd European Congress of  
Endocrinology

5-9 September 2020, European Society of Endocrinology

**eECE 2020**  
22nd European Congress of Endocrinology



published by  
**bioscientifica**

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> European Congress of Endocrinology 5-9 September 2020, European Society of Endocrinology

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H Butz Hungary	W Fraser UK	C Kanakis Greece	G Kanakis Greece	L Metherell UK	L Rejnmark Denmark	E van den Akker The Netherlands
S Cannavo Italy	J Frystyk Denmark	G Kanakis Greece	T Kararup Hansen Denmark	D Miljic Serbia	S Rice UK	erlands
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## CONTENTS

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### PRIZE LECTURES AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The Geoffrey Harris Prize Lecture .....	AP1
The <i>European Journal of Endocrinology</i> Prize Lecture .....	AP2
European Hormone Medal Lecture .....	AP3
Clinical Endocrinology Trust Lecture .....	AP4

### PLENARY LECTURES

Exercise as medicine – a translational perspective .....	PL1
Glucocorticoids in cancer: a new paradigm .....	PL2
Harnessing the microbiome in metabolic disease .....	PL3
Mechanisms for SARS-CoV-2 cell entry .....	PL4
Maternal thyroid hormone and child brain development .....	PL5
It takes thyroid hormone to make sense .....	PL6
Effects of EDCs on neuro-endocrine systems and behaviour .....	PL7

### SYMPOSIA

New horizons in pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma .....	S1.1–S1.3
Osteoporosis and fracture prediction .....	S2.1–S2.3
Controversial issues in bariatric surgery .....	S3.1–S3.3
Unveiling signatures in pituitary neuroendocrine tumours .....	S4.1–S4.3
Hyperthyroidism across the lifespan .....	S5.1–S5.3
Adrenocortical carcinoma .....	S6.1–S6.3
Endocrine disruptors, just a hype or not? .....	S7.1–S7.3
PCOS: from Genetics to Treatment .....	S8.1–S8.3

### COVID-19 SESSION

Endocrine targets related to COVID infection .....	CS1.1
Managing the Cytokine storm. ....	CS1.2
How strong is obesity as a risk factor for COVID-19 patients .....	CS1.3

### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Adrenal and Cardiovascular Endocrinology .....	OC1.1–OC1.7
Bone and Calcium .....	OC2.1–OC2.7
Diabetes, Obesity, Metabolism and Nutrition .....	OC3.1–OC3.7
Pituitary and Neuroendocrinology .....	OC4.1–OC4.7
Thyroid .....	OC5.1–OC5.7
Hot Topics (including COVID -19) .....	OC6.1–OC6.7
Endocrine-related Cancer .....	OC7.1–OC7.7
Environmental Endocrinology .....	OC8.1–OC8.6
Reproductive and Developmental Endocrinology .....	OC9.1–OC9.7
Young Investigators .....	YI1–YI12

**AUDIO EPOSTER PRESENTATIONS**

Adrenal and Cardiovascular Endocrinology .....	AEP1–AEP121
Bone and Calcium .....	AEP122–AEP242
Diabetes, Obesity, Metabolism and Nutrition .....	AEP243–AEP527
Endocrine-related Cancer .....	AEP528–AEP540, AEP655
Environmental Endocrinology .....	AEP541–AEP542
General Endocrinology .....	AEP543–AEP559
Pituitary and Neuroendocrinology .....	AEP560–AEP777
Reproductive and Developmental Endocrinology .....	AEP778–AEP856
Thyroid .....	AEP857–AEP1000
Hot topics (including COVID-19) .....	AEP1001–AEP1110

**EPOSTER PRESENTATIONS**

Adrenal and Cardiovascular Endocrinology .....	EP1–EP58
Bone and Calcium .....	EP59–EP123
Diabetes, Obesity, Metabolism and Nutrition .....	EP124–EP265
Endocrine-related Cancer .....	EP266–EP270
Environmental Endocrinology .....	EP271
General Endocrinology .....	EP272–EP279
Pituitary and Neuroendocrinology .....	EP280–EP373
Reproductive and Developmental Endocrinology .....	EP374–EP410
Thyroid .....	EP411–EP532
Hot topics (including COVID-19) .....	EP533–EP589

**AUTHOR INDEX**

# Audio ePoster Presentations

For statistical analysis, we used IBM SPSS v.21 and MaxStat v.3.6. We applied non-parametric tests and defined  $P < 0.5$  as significant.

#### Results

Of 12 703 samples, 430 (3.4%) met the inclusion criteria. Of these, 398 had available serum for precipitation with PEG. Patients with initial TSH  $< 15$  mU/l were younger than those with TSH 15 mU/l or above ( $P = 0.03$ ). The group with recovered TSH percentage of up to 24% ( $n = 106$ ) had a lower initial TSH value when compared with 25% or higher ( $n = 292$ ) ( $P = 0.01$ ). Older age (50 and older,  $n = 200$ ) was associated with a higher level of monomeric TSH ( $P = 0.003$ ). The initial TSH values of 7.77 mU/l or above had tendency towards higher value of monomeric TSH ( $P = 0.066$ ).

#### Conclusions

Our results suggest there could be a potential role for monomeric TSH determination prior to treatment initiation for subclinical hypothyroidism, mainly in young patients. The main strong point of our study is its real-world setting. The limitations are that we did not take into account the patients' background and treatment; we also did not have a possibility to use gel filtration chromatography which is considered a gold standard for monomeric TSH determination. At the next stage, we are planning to compare these results with a group of patients who have normal TSH values.

DOI: 10.1530/endoabs.70.AEP918

### AEP919

#### The effects of naringenin on NRF2 and antioxidant enzymes expressions in the thyroids of the old-aged Wistar rats

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Citrus flavanone naringenin (NAR) is a potent antioxidant with ability to change pituitary-thyroid function. NAR increases concentration of thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) in serum by increasing Sirtuin1 expression in the pituitary thyrotrophs and improves thyroid hormonogenesis capacity in old-aged rats. Thyroid hormone production is followed by generation of large quantities of reactive oxygen species (ROS) which are essential for iodine organification. A master regulator of redox status, NRF2 protein, together with antioxidant enzymes (AOE), is responsible for maintenance of redox/antioxidant balance in the cell. Considering that NRF2 expression can be affected by NAR, besides TSH, the study aim is to analyze gene and protein expressions of NRF2 and AOE in the thyroids of 24-month-old male Wistar rats. NAR was suspended in sunflower oil (vehicle) and administered directly to the oral cavity, at a dose of 15 mg/kg b.m., during 4 weeks. Control group received vehicle only. We performed qPCR and immunoblot analyses for gene and protein expressions, respectively. Obtained results showed that NAR treatment lowered ( $P < 0.05$ ) mRNA levels of Nrf2, superoxide dismutase 1 and 2 (Sod1, Sod2) and catalase (Cat) for 42%, 32%, 45% and 35%, respectively, while it only increased ( $P < 0.05$ ) expression of glutathione peroxidase (Gpx) for 54%, all in comparison with the controls. Gene expression of glutathione reductase (Gr) remained unchanged. Also, NAR up-regulated ( $P < 0.05$ ) protein expression of NRF2 and SOD2 for 58% and 50%, respectively, and down-regulated ( $P < 0.05$ ) SOD1 expression for 48%, all when compared to the adequate control values. CAT, GR and GPx protein expressions didn't change after NAR treatment. It can be concluded that NAR changes gene and protein expression of NRF2 in old-aged rat model. Down-regulation in Nrf2 gene expression, and some AOE, is in line with previously observed TSH stimulation after NAR. Antioxidant protection in thyroid needs to be lowered in order to ensure sufficient ROS for adequate thyroid hormones production. However, due to NAR prooxidant properties, redox status in thyroid upon its application was changed, inducing accumulation of NRF2 protein in the thyrocytes. This led to increment of Gpx gene and SOD2 protein expression, helping in maintenance of fundamental antioxidant protection and disposal of excessive ROS in the thyroid gland of old-aged rats.

DOI: 10.1530/endoabs.70.AEP919

### AEP920

#### Retrospective analysis of low risk thyroid cancers. Total thyroidectomy or lobectomy is the optimal approach for follow up?

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#### Background

Differentiated thyroid cancer (DTC)  $< 1$  cm without risk factors require only lobectomy, and there is no need for radioiodine remnant ablation (RRA). The approach for surgery and RRA after surgery is less clearly defined for tumours measuring 1–4 cm.

#### Objectives

We aimed to evaluate the surgical approaches of DTC in stages pT1–2 in a moderate iodine deficient area. We compared our data to the current European Thyroid Association (ETA, 2006) and American Thyroid Association (ATA, 2015) clinical practice guidelines.

#### Methods

Data of 111 DTC patients treated between 2013–2018 at Flor Ferenc Hospital, Kistarcsa were retrospectively analyzed. The therapeutical response could be evaluated in 96 DTC patients.

#### Results

81 patients were classified with DTC in stages pT1–2. 64 patients were found in stages pT1, 17 patients were detected in stages pT2. The histological distribution of DTC was 65/81 (80.2%) papillary thyroid cancer (PTC) and 16/81 (19.8%) follicular thyroid cancer (FTC). Lymph node metastases were present in 21.5% of PTC and 0% of FTC. No distant metastases were detected. 25% of pT1 DTC was multifocal (9% limited to one lobe, 16% involved both lobes/isthmus), and 11.7% of pT2 DTC was multifocal (5.8% limited to one lobe, 5.8% involved both lobes). Thus pT1–2 multifocal DTC located in both lobes/isthmus were found in 11 patients (13.5%), all PTC, whereby 4/37 (10.8%) were in stage pT1a, 5/27 (18.5%) were in stage pT1b, 2/17 (11.8%) were in stage pT2. All of them underwent total thyroidectomy, and in 10 of 11 were done postsurgical RRA. The tumour size in the contralateral lobe was  $< 5$  mm in 5 cases, was  $> 5$  mm in 3 cases (mean 9.6 mm) and there were no exact data in 3 cases.

#### Conclusions

In 13.5% of pT1–2 patients (11/81) the tumour involved both lobes, which changes the staging of the disease. The size of the tumour in the contralateral lobe is small in most cases (mean 1.4 mm), this fact makes almost impossible to detect and follow up them by ultrasound. Therefore we suggest total thyroidectomy in moderate or low iodine supplied areas in T1b–T2 cases to improve the risk stratification, to determine the necessity of RRA and the long-term follow up, which are almost impossible if only lobectomy is being done.

DOI: 10.1530/endoabs.70.AEP920

### AEP921

#### Early diagnosis of medullary thyroid cancer in case of low serum calcitonin: Role of calcitonin measurement in fine-needle aspiration washout fluid

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#### Background

Screening serum calcitonin (sCT) measurement in patients with thyroid nodules is still debated. Moreover, sCT cutoffs for medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) are not univocally defined. Also, sensitivity of cytology by fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNAb) has been demonstrated to detect approximately half of MTCs. Ct measurement in fine-needle aspiration washout fluid (Ct-FNAb) has high sensitivity and specificity and is helpful in case of non-diagnostic cytology<sup>1</sup>. Recently, a series of low sCT MTC has been collected<sup>2</sup>.

#### Aim

The objectives of this retrospective observational study were to define Ct-FNAb levels in subjects with low sCT (below cutoffs diagnostic for MTC) and to evaluate their clinical, ultrasonographic (US), cytological and histological characteristics.

## Methods

We selected subjects with sCt above local normal ranges but below one of the diagnostic cutoff proposed for MTC (26 pg/ml in females and 68 pg/ml in males), subjected to FNAB with Ct-FNAB measurement and then thyroidectomized.

## Results

Surprisingly, 50% (8/16) had MTC at histology, 19% cellular C hyperplasia (CCH) and only 31% neither MTC nor CCH. Ct-FNAB was significantly higher in MTC compared to both no MTC no CCH (2001 vs 25.32±55.72 pg/ml;  $P=0.013$ ) and to CCH (2001 vs 195.56±286.09 pg/ml;  $P=0.008$ ). Even if below the diagnostic cutoff, also sCt was higher in MTC compared to no CCH and no MTC group (19±7 vs 9±4 pg/ml;  $P=0.019$ ) but was not able to discriminate MTC from CCH. US failed to identify suspicious nodules, since MTC differed only for being solid and not haloed. At cytology nearly 90% of MTC lesions were non-diagnostic or, mainly, indeterminate. At histology, 7/8 were low risk micro MTCs.

## Conclusion

HighCt-FNAB despite sCt only slightly elevated suggests: i) early detection of MTC before the onset of high secretion of Ct, ii) a peculiar variant of MTC, able to produce Ct but not to secrete it in bloodstream because of intracellular secretory pathway alteration, iii) possible methodological interferences in the dosage of sCt. In conclusion, this study demonstrates the importance of Ct-FNAB to discover early stages of MTC with sCt below diagnostic cutoffs.

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DOI: 10.1530/endoabs.70.AEP921

## AEP922

### Impact of hypothyroidism on early preneoplastic changes at the transcriptomic level in mammalian cells

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## Introduction

Studies suggest that disturbed thyroid hormones (TH) homeostasis may lead to increased cancer risk. However, the exact role of TH in cancerogenesis is unknown. We have previously identified 15 genes linked with TH signaling in 7 cancer types and 10,967 cancer patients. Here, we investigated the influence of hypothyroidism on the expression of these 15 genes in rat tissues/organs from which the previously identified, TH-related cancer types originate.

## Material and methods

Female Wistar-Kyoto rats were divided into 3 groups: i) treated with methimazole (MMI) (17 mg/kg daily for 8 weeks); ii) thyroidectomized; iii) control rats.  $n=3$  rats per group. Gene expression was analyzed (qPCR) in: mammary glands, renal cortex, lungs, thyroid gland, endometrium, liver, ovary, and colon epithelium. Statistical analysis: Student's unpaired t-test,  $P$ -values <0.05 were considered significantly different. PanCancer analysis of co-expression of genes encoding mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) markers and genes linked to TH signaling was performed using publicly available TCGA data from 10,967 cancer patients. The study was approved by the local ethics committee (Second Warsaw Local Ethics Committee for Animal Experimentation) no. WAW2/022/2018.

## Results

The induction of hypothyroidism in rats was confirmed by serum evaluation of T4 (avg. 0.60 µg/dl) and TSH (avg. 20.23 ng/ml). In mammary and thyroid glands of MMI treated rats, strong induction of analyzed genes expression was observed, including *ARNT*, *THRA*, *THRB*, *SLC16A2*, *SLC2A1*, *CTNNB1*, *NCOA1*, *HDAC1*, *CMYC*, *HIF1A* upregulated in both tissues, and *VIM*, *CDH1* and *TPO* upregulated only in thyroid glands. In the residual MMI-treated tissue types the only significant expression changes were: *HDAC1* downregulation in renal cortex and lungs, *DIO2* downregulation in endometrium, and *THRA* upregulation in colon epithelium. Expression profile in mammary glands of thyroidectomized rats did not confirm induction of gene expression observed in MMI treated rats. Results of PanCancer TCGA data analysis revealed associations between expressions of genes linked with TH signaling and MSC functioning, including *THY1/RCAN2*

and *ENG/RCAN2* which occurred in 11 cancer types.

## Discussion

The study suggests that observed expression changes in mammary and thyroid glands are caused not only by hypothyroidism but also by MMI influence on these tissues. Elucidation of the observed expression changes requires further research. Since MMI, apart from TPO, can interact with other peroxidases like MPO, EPO and LPO, this interaction may lead to decreased selectivity of MMI inhibition and cause broader impact on gene expression.

Supported by grants: 501-1-25-01-19 and 2018/29/B/NZ5/01 211 (National Science Center, Poland).

DOI: 10.1530/endoabs.70.AEP922

## AEP923

### Adverse effects of tyrosine kinase inhibitors in advanced thyroid carcinoma – a summary of 10-year experience

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## Introduction

To date, only four tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) have demonstrated beneficial effect on progression free survival in advanced medullary thyroid cancer (MTC; vandetanib and cabozantinib) and radioiodine-refractory differentiated thyroid cancer (RR-DTC; sorafenib and lenvatinib). However, there is still lack of unequivocal proofs of their significant impact on overall survival. Therefore, treatment-related side effects and their potential impact on quality of life has been recently widely discussed.

## Aim

We conducted a retrospective analysis to evaluate TKIs toxicity in advanced thyroid cancer. The comparison of particular drugs was not aimed.

## Material and methods

The study group involved 72 patients at mean age at treatment start of 51 ± 14 years. RR-DTC was diagnosed in 32 patients, whereas MTC in 40 subjects. All side effects were evaluated according to CTCAE (*Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events*), V 4.03. The median treatment time was 20.6 months (range: 0.5 months–142.8 months).

## Results

In total, 74 treatment courses were assessed: 27 with lenvatinib, 9 with sorafenib, 22 with vandetanib, 9 with cabozantinib, 4 with motesanib, and 3 with axitinib. Treatment-related side effects were present in 97.3% courses. The most common were skin reactions – 68.9% courses, diarrhea – 67.6% courses, hypertension – 59.5% courses, weight loss – 56.8% courses, mucositis – 48.6% courses, abdominal pain – 29.7% courses, fatigue – 29.7% courses, and nausea in 18.9% courses. Skin changes were more frequent in MTC than in RR-DTC patients ( $P=0.0128$ ). Similarly, fatigue was reported more commonly by MTC patients than by RR-DTC patients ( $P=0.0387$ ). Fatigue also occurred more frequently in patients ≥55 years old at treatment onset comparing to younger ones <55 years. This difference was statistically significant ( $P=0.0108$ ). No other significant differences in the frequency of the most common TKI-related side effects were noticed regarding tumor histopathology, age of treatment start, sex, and comorbidities. Due to poor tolerability drug interruption was necessary in 70.3% treatment courses, dose reduction in 62.2% courses, whereas permanent drug withdrawal was required in 25.7% courses.

## Conclusions

TKI-related side effects were present in nearly all patients treated due to advanced thyroid cancer. Early diagnosis of adverse effects as well as a supportive management and dose modifications, if necessary, allowed avoiding serious complications and making possible to keep the patient on treatment as long as it was beneficial.

The study was supported by MILESTONE – STRATEGMED 2/26 7398/4/NCBR/2015.

DOI: 10.1530/endoabs.70.AEP923

## AEP924

### Octreotide and pasireotide effects on medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) cells growth, migration and invasion

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## Author Index

- CRIO group AEP378  
 A. Mirsaidova, U **AEP1078**  
 Aardal, E AEP604  
 Abadlia, S AEP442  
 Abarca, J AEP653  
 Abazovic, D AEP915  
 Abballe, L AEP995  
 Abbara, A **AEP585** & OC9.2  
 Abbas, A **AEP130**  
 Abd el shafy, S AEP456  
 Abdelghani, T AEP895 & EP497  
 Abdellaoui, W EP368  
 Abdel-Wahab, YHA AEP364  
 Abdesselem, H EP248, EP203, EP262, EP209 & EP195  
 Abdi, H AEP888  
 Abdulatipov, S AEP545  
 Abdulhabirova, F AEP893 & AEP901  
 Abdullaeva, A AEP412  
 Abdullah, I AEP146  
 Abdullahi Sidi, F AEP671  
 Abela, AG AEP755  
 Abelsen, K EP300  
 Aberer, F AEP458  
 Abesadze, N **EP584**  
 Abidi, S AEP767 & EP34  
 Abir, M **AEP510, EP178 & EP531**  
 Abir, T EP342  
 Aboud, N AEP1004  
 Abou-Hussein, S AEP246  
 Abouloula, M AEP101  
 Abraitene, A EP297  
 Abramova, N **AEP267, AEP421**, AEP420, AEP300, AEP838, AEP959, AEP418, EP75 & EP117  
 Abrosimov, A EP31  
 Abzianidze, E AEP1105  
 Ach, K EP536, EP177, AEP506, EP323, EP344, EP50, EP443, EP386 & EP366  
 Acha Perez, J AEP481  
 Achwak, M **EP557**  
 Acierno, J AEP788  
 Acikgoz, A AEP829  
 Ackermans, MT AEP14  
 Acosta Calero, C AEP90  
 Acosta-Calero, C EP552, AEP1054 & AEP108  
 Acsinte, D EP358  
 Acuña-García, M EP372 & AEP625  
 Adalbert, S EP68  
 Adam, S AEP657  
 Adamidou, L EP562 & EP559  
 Adams, A EP542  
 Adamsbaum, C OC2.1  
 Adamska, A AEP797, AEP831 & EP376  
 Adamski, M **AEP797**  
 Adaş, M AEP598  
 Adcock, H OC5.4  
 Adebayo, A AEP444  
 Adel, G AEP895 & EP497  
 Adel, M AEP704, EP282 & AEP407  
 Adilkhodjaeva, E **EP246**  
 Adlan, M EP30  
 Adolf, C AEP1001 & AEP1002  
 Afanasyev, D EP80  
 Aflorei, ED **AEP549**  
 Afonso, A AEP174  
 Afonso, M AEP911  
 Afrasinei Tenu, I **EP213**  
 Afshan, K AEP850, AEP822, AEP854 & AEP270  
 Agapito, A AEP12, AEP174, AEP912 & EP354  
 Agarwal, A EP252  
 Agbaje, O OC3.6  
 Agea, L EP107 & EP351  
 Agersø, H AEP1083  
 Aggeli, C OC6.3 & AEP98  
 Aghajanova, E **AEP391**  
 Aghajanova, Y **AEP406**  
 Aghayan, M **EP165**  
 Agoncillo, KE EP115  
 Agosti, E **OC4.2**, AEP373 & OC3.5  
 Agrawal, P **EP566**  
 Agrawal, V AEP383  
 Ágreda García, J AEP654  
 Agretti, P AEP790  
 Agudo, A AEP890 & AEP520  
 Agudo Tabuenca, A AEP1048  
 Aguilar Diosdado, M AEP351 & EP378  
 Aguilar-Diosdado, M AEP325, AEP353 & EP296  
 Aguilera Hurtado, E AEP328  
 Aguillo Gutierrez, E AEP890  
 Aguirre Moreno, N AEP488  
 Aharaz, A AEP1073  
 Aher, A AEP1052  
 Ahlqvist, E OC3.3  
 Ahmad, M AEP1106  
 Ahmad, S **OC8.3**  
 Ahmadova, K AEP321 & EP100  
 Ahmed, F AEP552  
 Ahmed, F AEP1076  
 Ahmed, I OC6.5  
 Ahmeti, I EP518  
 Aicha, H AEP411 & EP240  
 Aimaretti, G OC3.5 & OC5.3  
 Ainsworth, G AEP130  
 Aivalioti, E AEP296  
 Ajdžanović, V AEP919  
 Ajnetdinova, A AEP213 & AEP165  
 Akalin, A EP289  
 Akalin, A AEP348, EP119 & EP210  
 Akbaba, G AEP173  
 Akbas, EM AEP173  
 Akcay, S AEP173  
 Akdoğan, L AEP235 & EP350  
 Åkerman, A-K AEP1  
 Akhanli, P AEP770, EP478, AEP188 & AEP33  
 Akhobadze, T AEP517 & EP127  
 Akira, S OC4.5  
 Akkari, I AEP340, AEP380 & EP256  
 Akker, S AEP641, EP542 & AEP600  
 Akkoç, RF EP560 & AEP262  
 Akkus, G **AEP762, EP201 & AEP968**  
 Akkus, O AEP968  
 Akram, M AEP850, AEP822, AEP854 & AEP270  
 Akrim, M EP515  
 Aksoy, S AEP768  
 Akulevich, N AEP793  
 Akyol, B AEP384  
 Akyon, Y AEP829  
 Al Mukaddam, M AEP1025 & **AEP1019**  
 Al Saeed, ZA EP310  
 Al Tawil, D AEP906  
 Alabdrabalnabi, FM **EP310**  
 Alagüney, ES EP119  
 Alaya, W AEP234  
 Albani, A **AEP1068 & Y14**  
 Albu, A EP87  
 Alcántara-Laguna, MD **AEP317**  
 Alcázar, V AEP863  
 Alchujyan, N AEP391  
 Alderwick, L OC5.4  
 Aldomiro, F EP458  
 Alduk, AM AEP42  
 Alduk, A-M AEP85  
 Alegre-Abarrategui, J AEP709  
 Alejo-Ramos, M AEP625  
 Aleksandrov, Y EP467  
 Aleksandrov, Y **AEP932 & AEP963**  
 Alekseenko, T **AEP1047**  
 Alekseeva, L AEP497  
 Aleric, I AEP731  
 Alevizaki, M AEP956  
 Alexander, F AEP866  
 Alexander, P AEP452, EP219, EP153 & EP218  
 Alexander, V OC3.7 & AEP269  
 Alexandraki, K **AEP63 & EP126**  
 Alexandre, MT EP10  
 Alexandrou, A AEP1012, AEP1003, AEP296 & AEP1090  
 Alexandru, E **EP87**, EP356 & AEP237  
 Alfayate-Guerra, R AEP397  
 Alfred, P AEP511  
 Alhambra Expósito, MR AEP969 & EP432  
 Alhamid, MH EP138  
 Ali, S EP63  
 Ali, T AEP903  
 Ali, UA **AEP1038**  
 Alibeyoğlu, A AEP455

- Richardson, S EP425  
Rico, MC AEP658  
Ricotti, R OC3.5 & AEP373  
Riera\_Escamilla, A OC9.5  
Riesco-Montes, B AEP883  
Riester, A AEP565  
Riesz, P AEP46  
Rigla, M EP215 & AEP68  
Rigo, M EP6  
Rigou, A OC8.6 & AEP542  
Rihab, A **EP183, AEP234 & EP15**  
Riis, KR AEP875  
Rim, Y EP557  
Rindi, G AEP662  
Risovic, I EP120 & AEP387  
Riss, P AEP616  
Risso Pariz, J AEP825 & EP379  
Rivas, A EP347  
Rivas Montenegro, AM AEP654  
Rizos, D AEP1003 & AEP1012  
Rizos, D AEP296, AEP344, AEP433 & AEP375  
Rizvi, B EP40  
Rizvi, SSR AEP822, **AEP854**, AEP850 & AEP270  
Rizzo, C AEP971  
Roberto de Souza, M EP380  
Roberts, E AEP56  
Robeva, R AEP821  
Robin, G AEP846  
Robles, JP AEP543  
Robles Lázaro, C AEP103  
Roca, D AEP1037 & AEP1050  
Roca-Rodríguez, MM **EP296**  
Rocha, B AEP739  
Rocha, G EP176  
Rocha, LC AEP477  
Rochira, V AEP921, AEP827, AEP880 & AEP610  
Rodal-Bravo, L AEP780  
Rodari, G AEP1005, **AEP765**, AEP572 & AEP571  
Rodari, M AEP230  
Rodia, C **AEP324**  
Rodic, G AEP534  
Rodicio Miravalles, JL AEP431  
Rodrigues, C **AEP664 & AEP644**  
Rodrigues, D EP60 & AEP93  
Rodrigues, F EP67  
Rodrigues, R AEP251  
Rodrigues, TC AEP449  
Rodríguez, N AEP672  
Rodríguez, P AEP933  
Rodríguez, R OC7.7  
Rodríguez, A AEP361  
Rodríguez Cabezas, MA AEP722  
Rodríguez Escobedo, R AEP466 & **EP217**  
Rodríguez Escobedo, R EP144  
Rodríguez Garcia, JA EP372  
Rodríguez Rodero, S AEP431  
Rodríguez Vera, P AEP993  
Rodríguez-Perálvarez, M Y16  
Rodríguez-Villanueva, J AEP953  
Roell, W OC3.3  
Rogowicz-Frontczak, A EP376  
Rogoza, O AEP248  
Rogozik, N AEP818  
Rogoziński, D AEP629, AEP745, AEP735 & AEP690  
Rojbi, I EP95, EP19, EP39, EP98, EP414, AEP934 & AEP407  
Rojo, J EP351 & EP107  
Rojo-Martinez, G OC8.2 & AEP889  
Roldan, F AEP687  
Rolighed, L AEP153  
Rolla, M AEP692, AEP978 & AEP689  
Romagnoli, P OC1.3  
Roman, G EP213  
Roman, N EP290  
Roman Gimeno, S **AEP890**, AEP520 & **EP205**  
Román Gimeno, S AEP1048 & AEP430  
Romani, F AEP298  
Romanova, N **EP31**  
Romantsova, T AEP311  
Romero, M AEP342  
Romero-Gomez, M AEP350  
Romero-Gómez, M AEP658  
Ronaldson, A OC7.2  
Ronchi, C OC1.6 & Y13  
Ronchi, C AEP5  
Rontogianni, D AEP876  
Ropero-Luis, G **AEP177**  
Roque, C **EP239, EP506, EP465, AEP631 & EP458**  
Roselló, E AEP863  
Rosenberg, A AEP400  
Rosenberg, D AEP132  
Rosenzweig, B AEP363  
Rosinha, P AEP1034  
Roslyakova, A **AEP41**  
Ross, IL **AEP73**  
Ross, R AEP833 & OC1.2  
Ross, RJ AEP37  
Rossato, D AEP50  
Rosset, A AEP741  
Rosu, A EP312, EP11 & EP441  
Rotarescu, A AEP538  
Rotermund, R Y14 & AEP1068  
Rothenbuhler, A OC2.1  
Rotman-Pikielny, P **EP71**  
Rottoli, M **CS1.3**  
Roudaut, N OC5.5  
Rouf, S EP397, AEP958, EP368, EP342 & EP361  
Roumeliotis, A AEP1041 & AEP1032  
Rovere Querini, P AEP1075  
Rovere-Querini, P OC6.7  
Roxana, D EP363  
Rozhinskaya, L AEP761, AEP569 & AEP210  
Rozhinskaya, L AEP1085  
Rozhinskaya, L AEP181  
Rrupulli, A **EP174**  
Rubin, B AEP43  
Rubin, M OC6.5  
Rubino, F AEP374  
Rubio, MA AEP285 & EP103  
Rubio García, R EP92  
Rubion, LE AEP977  
Ruchala, M AEP867, AEP891, EP457, AEP123 & AEP747  
Ruchała, M AEP812, EP13 & AEP573  
Rudkova, E **AEP1016**  
Rudman, Y **AEP696**  
Ruggeri, R **AEP870 & AEP940**  
Ruiz, E AEP361  
Ruiz, J EP281  
Ruiz, T AEP722  
Ruiz de Adana Navas, MS AEP392  
Ruiz de la Parte, A AEP186  
Ruiz de Velasco, E AEP142  
Ruiz Ochoa, D AEP279  
Ruiz Pino, F OC9.1  
Ruiz Sanchez, J EP197  
Ruiz Sánchez, JG **AEP51**  
Ruiz-Cantero, A AEP177  
Ruiz-Castané, E OC9.5  
Rumiantsev, P AEP893  
Rumyantsev, P EP463  
Runkle, I AEP51  
Runkle, I EP281, AEP66 & AEP722  
Runkle, I AEP908  
Rusalenko, M AEP516  
Rusalenko, M EP261, EP258, **AEP878, EP238, AEP263, EP131, EP48 & EP237**  
Rusch, S AEP871  
Russo, L AEP1066  
Rusus, C EP375  
Rutigliano, G **AEP857 & AEP858**  
Rutz, C AEP849  
Rybakova, A **AEP901**  
Rybka, O AEP1030  
Ryhänen, E **OC2.7**  
Rylands, A AEP122  
Rymar, O EP155 & AEP454  
Ryom Riis, K **EP516**  
Ryzhkova, D EP109  
S. Abou-Youssef, H AEP971  
S. Van Santen, S **AEP201**  
Sá, J AEP282 & **AEP484**  
Sá Couto, A AEP258  
Saad, G EP177, AEP506, EP323, EP344, EP536, EP50, EP366, EP386 & EP443  
Saad, M EP434  
Saafi, W **EP97, EP37, EP36 & EP416**  
Saarela, T AEP345  
Saatov, T AEP463, AEP335, AEP448, EP227 & EP148  
Saba, A EP418  
Sabino, T AEP174  
Sabiroy, M **EP359**  
Saboo, B EP161 & AEP1027  
Saboo, B **EP574, AEP307 & AEP299**  
Sabrine, Z EP557  
Sachan, A AEP991 & EP45