

## The International Consensus on Standardized Nomenclature of Antinuclear Antibody HEp-2 Cell Patterns (ICAP) - Overall Update

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Dept. Oral Biology  
Dept. Anatomy & Cell Biology

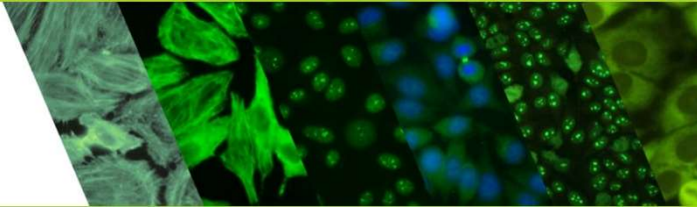


Chair, Autoantibody Standardization Committee:

[www.autoab.org](http://www.autoab.org)

Co-coordinator (with Luis Andrade), ICAP:

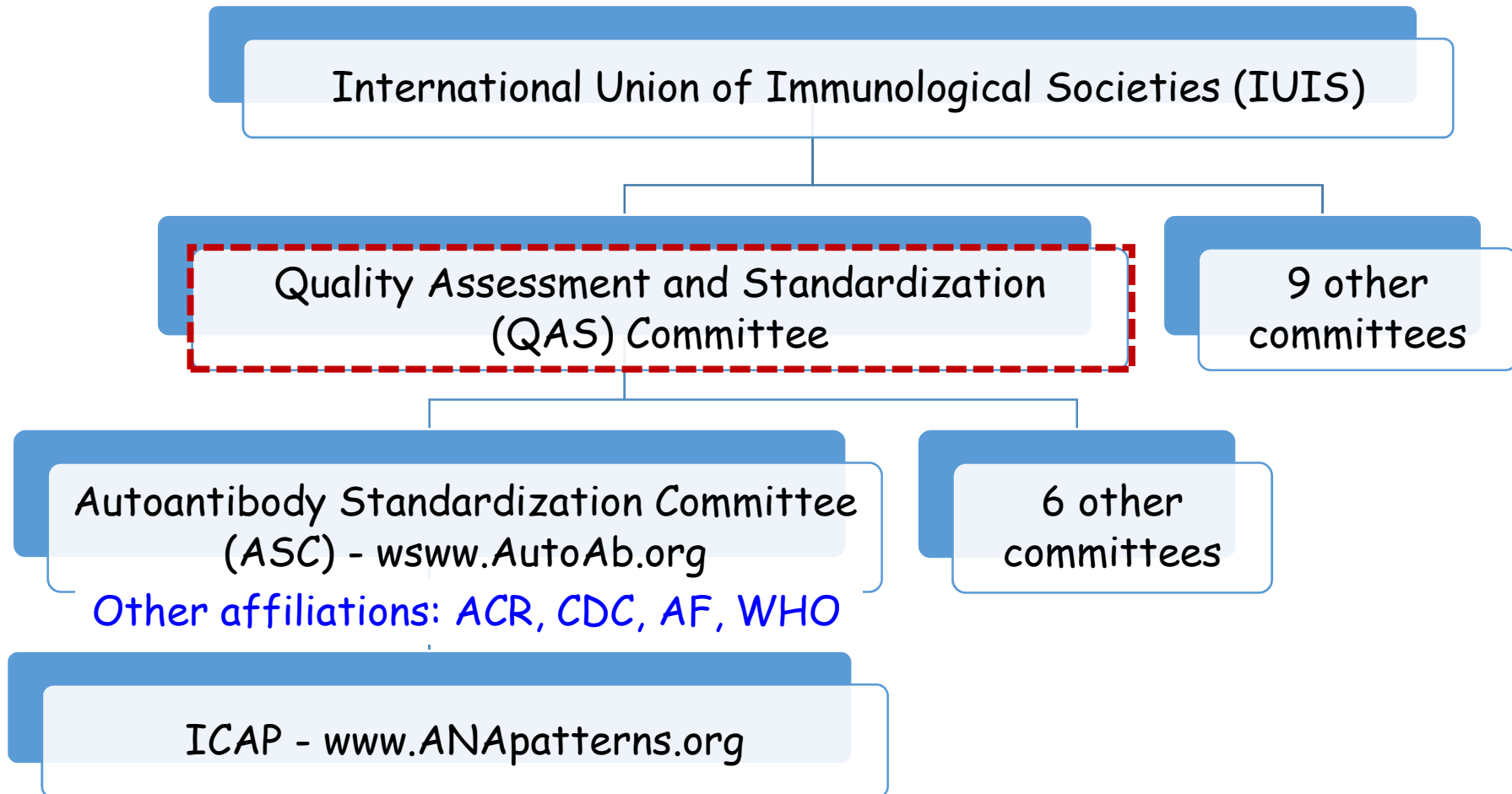
[www.ANAPatterns.org](http://www.ANAPatterns.org)



- The first ICAP workshop in 2014 was initiated to discuss and promote consensus morphological patterns observed in the indirect immunofluorescence assay on HEp-2 cells. It was model after the Brazilian ANA Consensus which had already a 10-year history.
- ICAP was implemented during the 12th International Workshop on Autoantibodies and Autoimmunity (IWAA) in Sao Paulo by several members of the [Autoantibody Standardization Committee \(ASC\)](#) together with other founding members.



## Committee Structure - the ICAP committee has been operating as an ASC subcommittee





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International Union of Immunological Societies

Home

About IUIS

Member Benefits

Committees

News

Activities

Events

Resources

Contact

Home » QAS - Quality Assessment and Standardization Committee

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Home

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CIC - Clinical Immunology  
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EDU - Education Committee

GEC - Gender Equality and  
Career Development Committee

ITH - Immunotherapy Committee

NOM - Nomenclature Committee

PID - Primary Immunodeficiency  
Expert Committee

PUB - Publication Committee

**QAS - Quality Assessment and  
Standardization Committee**

VAC - Vaccine Committee

VIC - Veterinary Immunology  
Committee

## Quality Assessment and Standardization Committee (QAS)

### What is the QAS?

The Quality Assessment and Standardization Committee (QAS) goals and objectives are the following:

1. **Keep the existing Sub-Committees supported**
2. **Make standardization activities public by organizing symposia during IUIS Meetings**
3. **Contribute overview articles for the IUIS journal *Frontiers in Immunology***
4. **Attract sponsorship to increase Committee activities**

The next IUIS meeting will take place April 25-30, 2019, in Beijing, China, as part of the 17th International Congress of Immunology.





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[Activities](#)

[Events](#)

[Resources](#)

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## Committees

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## Quality Assessment and Standardization Committee (QAS)

### Sub-Committee for the Standardization of Autoantibodies in Rheumatic and Related Diseases

[www.AutoAb.org](http://www.AutoAb.org) (*aka. Autoantibody Standardization Committee*)

*Chair:* [Edward K.L. Chan \(USA\)](#)

[echan@ufl.edu](mailto:echan@ufl.edu)

*Vice-Chair & Secretary:* [Minoru Satoh \(Japan\)](#)

#### *Current Members:*

[Agmon-Levin, Nancy \(Israel\)](#)

[Andrade, Luis, E.C. \(Brazil\)](#) (*immediate past Chair*)

[Arntsen, Kathleen A. \(USA\)](#)

[Block, Donald B. \(USA\)](#)

[Cavazzana, Ilaria \(Italy\)](#)

[Fritzler, Marvin J. \(Canada\)](#) (*past Chair*)

[García-De La Torre, Ignacio \(Mexico\)](#) (*past Vice-Chair*)

[Hiepe, Falk \(Germany\)](#)

[Koike, Takao \(Japan\)](#)

[Konstantinov, Konstantin \(USA\)](#)

[Lahita, Robert \(USA\)](#)

[Lightfoote, Marilyn \(USA\)](#)

[Meroni, Pier Luigi \(Italy\)](#)

[Reeves, Westley H. \(USA\)](#)

[Rönnelid, Johan \(Sweden\)](#)

[Selmi, Carlo \(Italy\)](#)

[Sheldon, Joanna \(UK\)](#)

[Shoenfeld, Yehuda \(Israel\)](#)

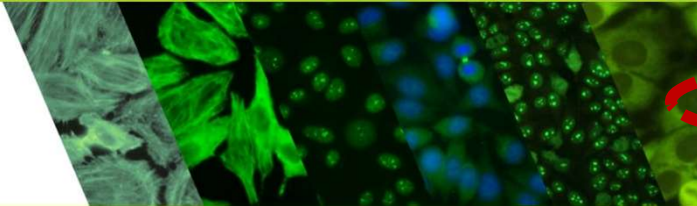
[Steiner, Günter \(Austria\)](#)

[Takasaki, Yoshinari \(Japan\)](#)

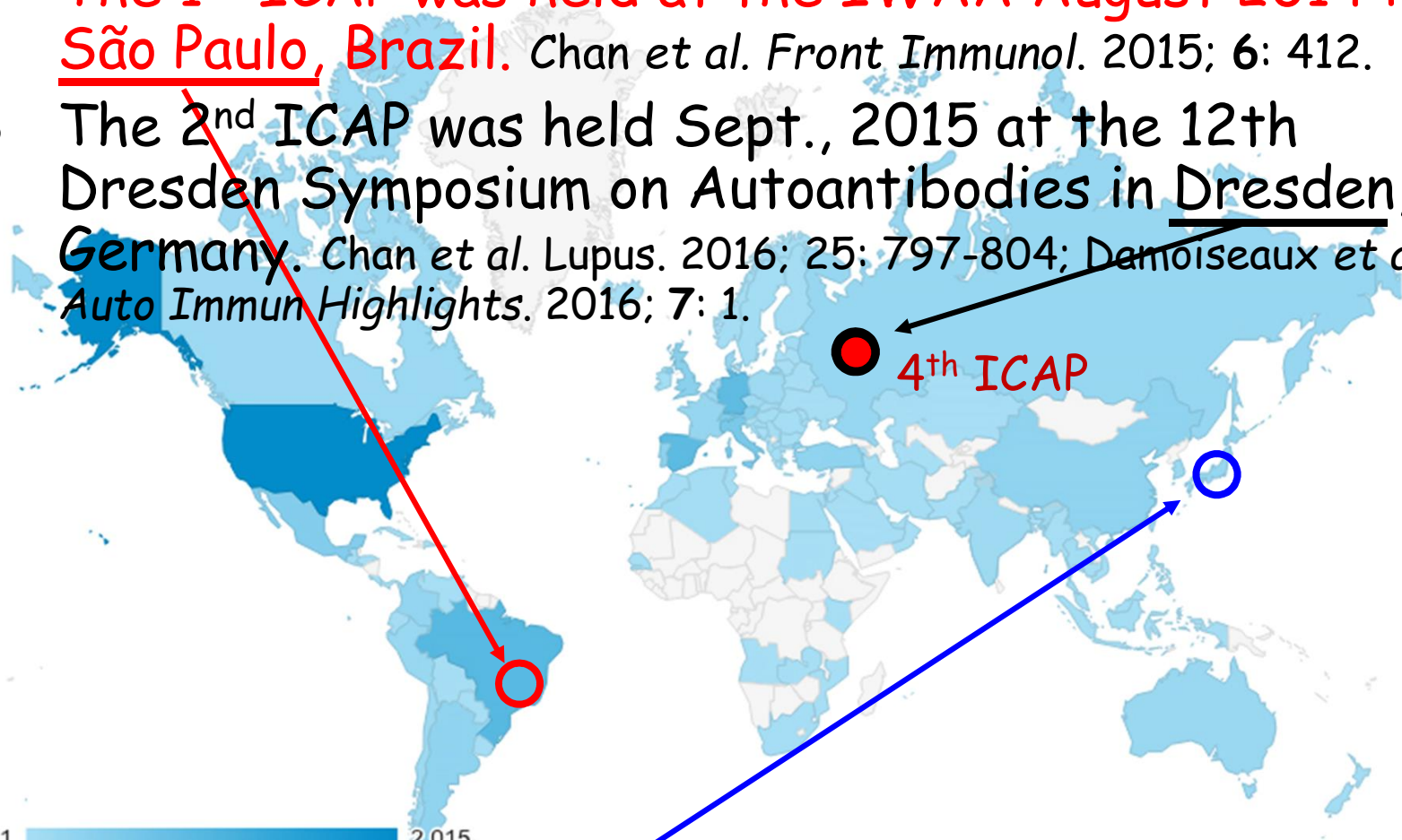
[Tincani, Angela \(Italy\)](#)

[Vogt, Robert F., Jr. \(USA\)](#)

[Wener, Mark H. \(USA\)](#)



- The 1<sup>st</sup> ICAP was held at the IWAA August 2014 in São Paulo, Brazil. Chan et al. *Front Immunol*. 2015; 6: 412.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> ICAP was held Sept., 2015 at the 12th Dresden Symposium on Autoantibodies in Dresden, Germany. Chan et al. *Lupus*. 2016; 25: 797-804; Damoiseaux et al. *Auto Immun Highlights*. 2016; 7: 1.



- The 3<sup>rd</sup> ICAP was held Oct., 2016 at the 13th IWAA meeting in Kyoto, Japan

## ICAP Membership - Why?

**Membership:** Members are expected to provide input and feedback for the ICAP initiative, help report error, and promote the implementation of the ICAP classification. Membership benefits include important updates in ICAP committee activities and downloads of posters and other relevant files from the ICAP website.

- **Full Members** - includes membership of the ICAP Executive Committee and other members appointed from time to time by the Executive Committee.
- **Associate Members** - individuals participating in various activities to help construct, maintain, and advance ICAP initiatives.
- **Affiliate Members** - users of the ICAP community who have registered at the ICAP website.





# Affiliate Members

**SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATE INFORMATION**

## Subscription

Complete the fields below to receive information about updates and to have access to the files to download.

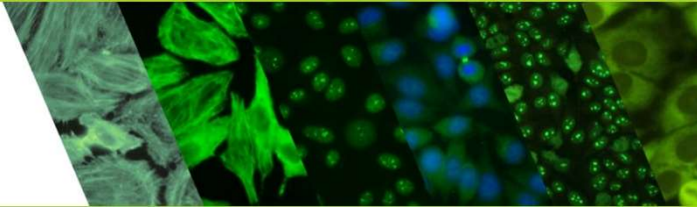
**Name**  **E-mail**   
**Country**  **Organization**  **Professional Information**

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- American Samoa
- Andorra
- Angola
- Anguilla**
- Antarctica
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Aruba
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Namibia

- Technician
- Technician**
- Physician
- Researcher
- Student
- Others
- Technician

	Professional	Affiliate	%
1	Physician	480	39.7
2	Technician	473	39.2
3	Researcher	193	16.0
4	Student	62	5.1
		<b>1208</b>	<b>100</b>

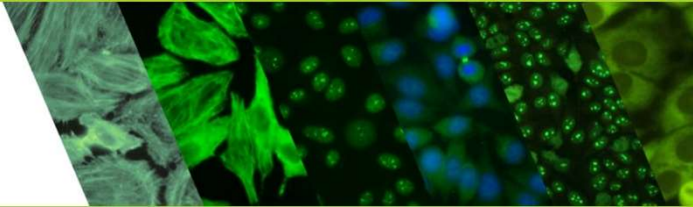




## ICAP Membership








**ICAP Executive Committee** - currently Founding Members constitute this committee. The Executive Committee will include appointees from the Associate Membership who take on leadership roles. Nomination to ICAP Executive Committee will be an open process, conducted annually, and finalized by a simple majority vote on by members of the Executive Committee.

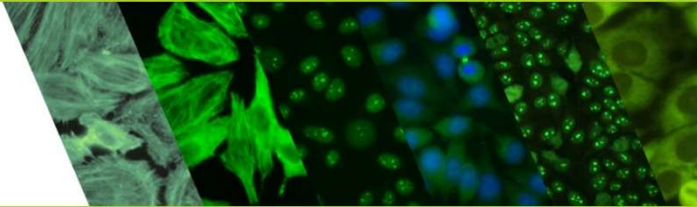
**Sponsors** - a sponsorship category has been established to facilitate donations of unrestricted educational grants to the Autoantibody Standardization Committee, of which ICAP Committee is operating as a sub-committee.



# Unrestricted Educational Grant Support for the Autoantibody Standardization Committee - ASC/ICAP

<https://www.anapatterns.org/sponsors.php>

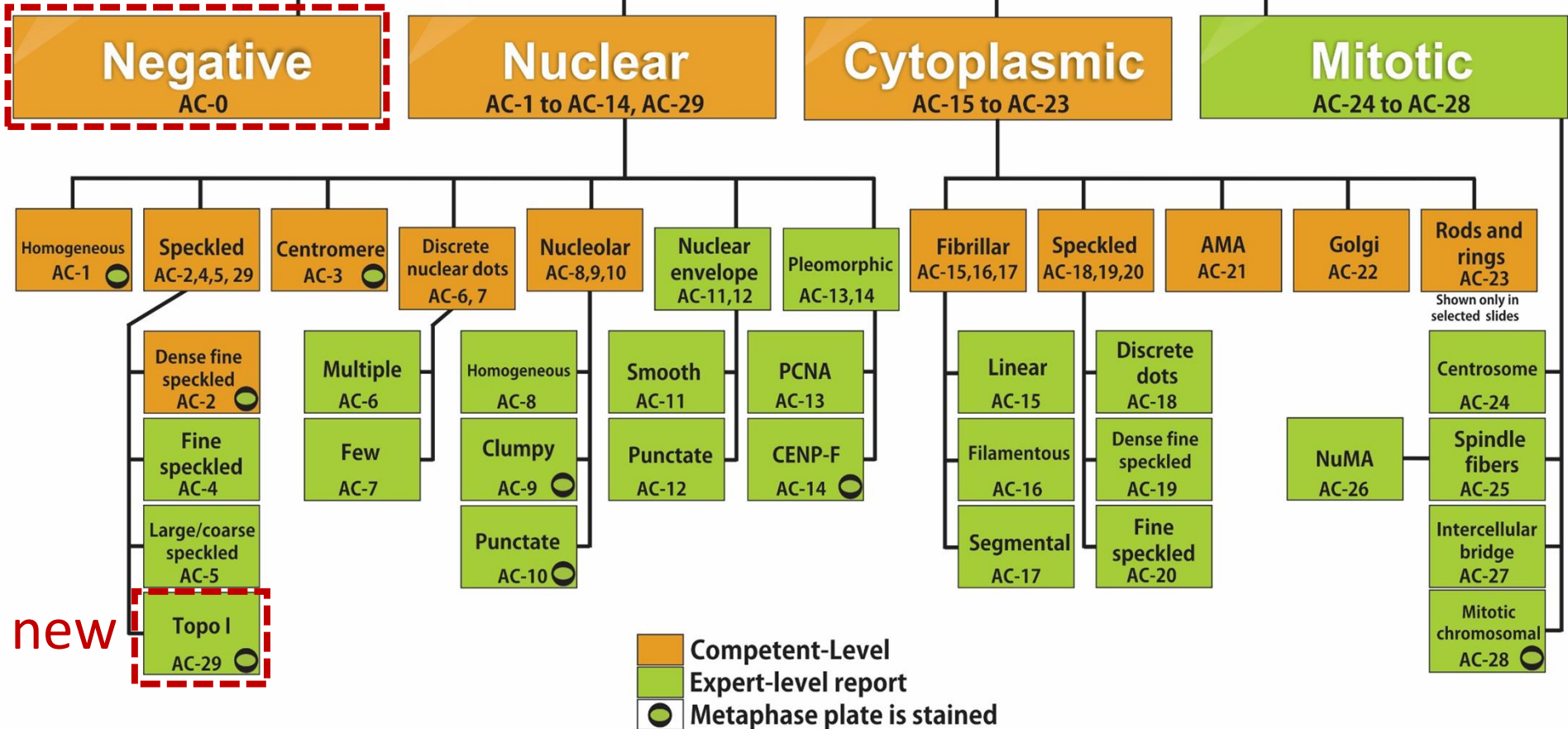


## ICAP (International Consensus on ANA Patterns)

- Why do we need ICAP?
  - ACR ANA Task Force - ANA as **Gold** standard
  - There are much agreement AND disagreement in how ANA patterns are described in the literature.
- The ultimate goal of ICAP is to promote harmonization of autoantibody nomenclature, and thereby optimizing ANA usage in patient care.

# HEp-2 cell patterns

new

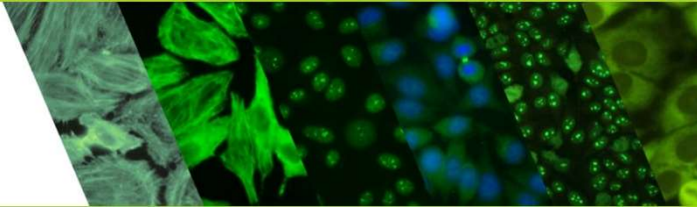


new

- AC-0 + 3 divisions
- 2 levels
- 30 AC patterns

[www.anapatterns.org](http://www.anapatterns.org)

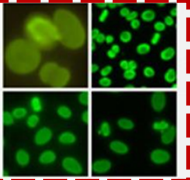
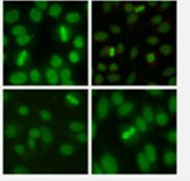
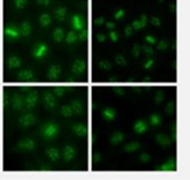
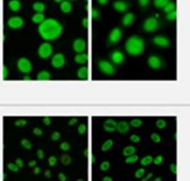
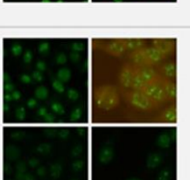



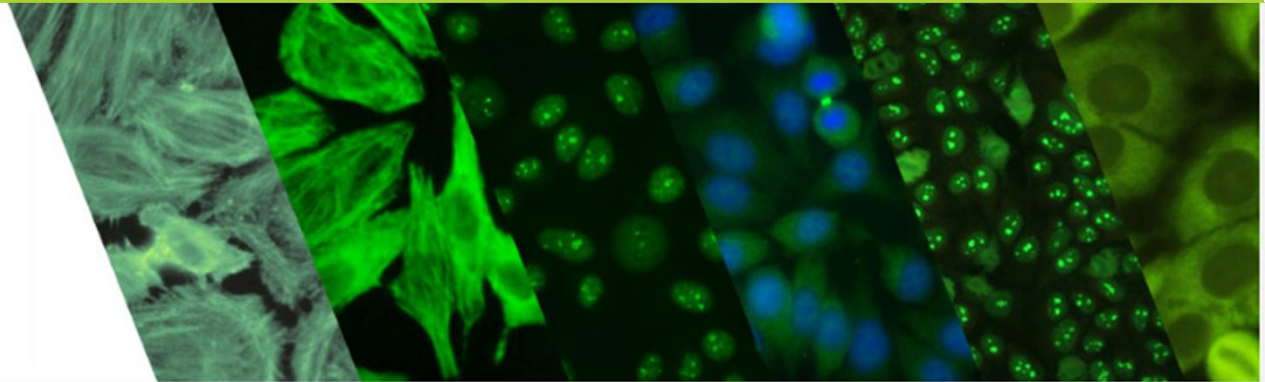


## Competent- vs. expert-level patterns

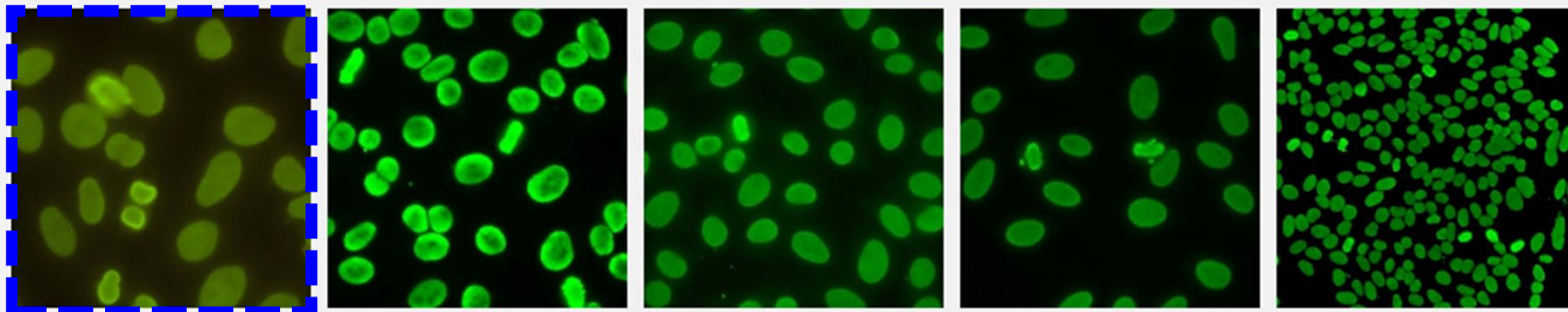
- The classification of patterns as competent level did not follow strict criteria, but took into consideration the clinical relevance and the morphological consistency of the patterns - not necessary a permanent separation
- For new/inexperience labs, they should focus on getting all the competent-level patterns identified accurately but should also move towards identifying the expert-level patterns
- For an established labs, they should make sure that all the competent-level patterns can be identified and reported as well as becoming comfortable to report expert-level patterns

## ANA Patterns - Nuclear Patterns

Code	Pattern	Synonym	Description	
AC-1	Nuclear homogeneous	Diffuse	Homogeneous and regular fluorescence across all nucleoplasm. The nucleoli maybe stained or not stained depending on cell substrate. Mitotic cells (metaphase, anaphase, and telophase) have the chromatin mass intensely stained in a homogeneous hyaline fashion.	
AC-2	Nuclear dense fine speckled	none	Speckled pattern distributed throughout the interphase nucleus with characteristic heterogeneity in the size, brightness and distribution of the speckles. Throughout the interphase nucleus, there are some denser and looser areas of speckles (very characteristic feature). The metaphase plate depicts strong speckled pattern with some coarse speckles standing out.	
AC-3	Centromere	kinetochore	Discrete coarse speckles (40-80/cell) scattered in interphase cells and aligned at the chromatin mass on mitotic cells. e.g. anti-CENP B	
AC-4	Nuclear fine speckled	fine granular	Fine tiny speckles across all nucleoplasm. The nucleoli may be stained or not stained. Mitotic cells (metaphase, anaphase, and telophase) have the chromatin mass not stained. e.g. anti-SS-A/Ro, anti-SS-B/La	
AC-5	Nuclear large/coarse speckled	spliceosome/nuclear matrix	Coarse speckles across all nucleoplasm. The nucleoli may be stained or not stained. Mitotic cells (metaphase, anaphase, and telophase) have the chromatin mass not stained. e.g. anti-Sm, anti-U1 RNP	
AC-6	Multiple nuclear dots	6-20 nuclear dots, NSpl, PML bodies	Countable discrete nuclear speckles (6 to 20 nuclear dots/cell). e.g. SP-100	



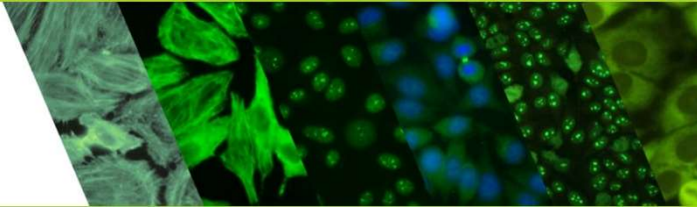
### AC-1 - Nuclear homogeneous



<b>Synonym</b>	Diffuse
<b>Antigen Association</b>	dsDNA, nucleosomes, histones
<b>Disease Association</b>	SLE, drug-induced lupus, juvenile idiopathic arthritis
<b>Description</b>	Homogeneous and regular fluorescence across all nucleoplasm. The nucleoli maybe stained or not stained depending on cell substrate. Mitotic cells (metaphase, anaphase, and telophase) have the chromatin mass intensely stained in a homogeneous hyaline fashion.

- Nuclear patterns - Jan Damoiseaux
- Cytoplasmic patterns - Carlos Alberto von Mühlen
- Mitotic patterns - Manfred Herold





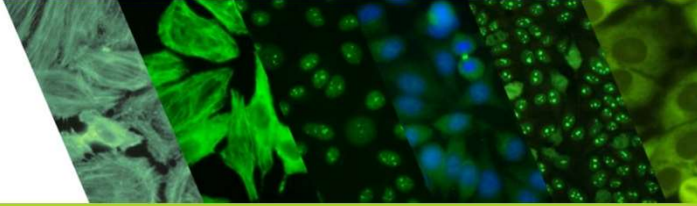
## Moving forward with internationalization - translation into other languages

- Prioritize, establish contacts, team efforts

Italiano  
日本語  
Deutsch shqip  
Kreyòl  
ayisyen  
한국어  
اردو  
Français  
Español  
русский  
Português  
lingua  
Latina  
ελληνικά  
हिन्दी  
普通話



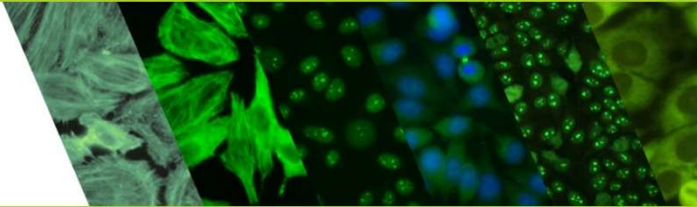




## Guidelines for ICAP translation

- For each language translation project, consider a responsible team rather than a single individual.
- Promote inclusion of more participants at different stages whenever possible. This may take a longer time but it helps to spread the message regarding the ICAP rationale.
- Further promotion is recommended. Plan for a manuscript in a regional/local journal to announce the translation work; target audience should be clinical immunology laboratory.





## Translations online

Home   Nomenclature and classification tree   ANA Patterns ▾   Choose AC-# ▾   or   word search   🔍

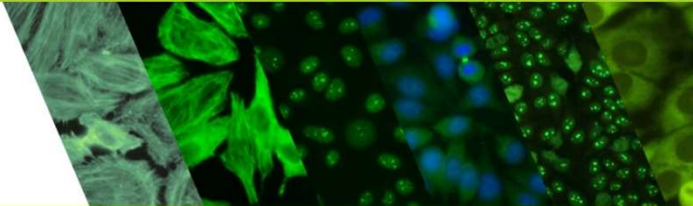


**www.ANApatterns.org**

English   Português   Español   Italiano   Deutsch   简体中文   繁體中文   Français

Welcome to ANApatterns.org, the official website for the International Consensus on Antinuclear Antibody (ANA) Patterns (ICAP). ICAP was initiated as a workshop aiming to thoroughly discuss and to promote consensus regarding the richness in nuances of morphological patterns observed in the indirect immunofluorescence assay on HEp-2 cells. The ICAP initiative was implemented at the 12th International Workshop on Autoantibodies and Autoimmunity (IWAA) by members of the Autoantibody Standardization Committee (ASC), a subcommittee of the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) [Quality Assessment and Standardization Committee](#) and affiliated with the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC). The ICAP committee is operating as an ASC sub-committee.





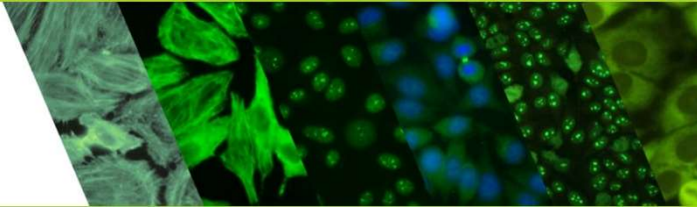
# Translations example

English Portuguese Español Italiano Deutsch 简体中文 繁體中文 Français

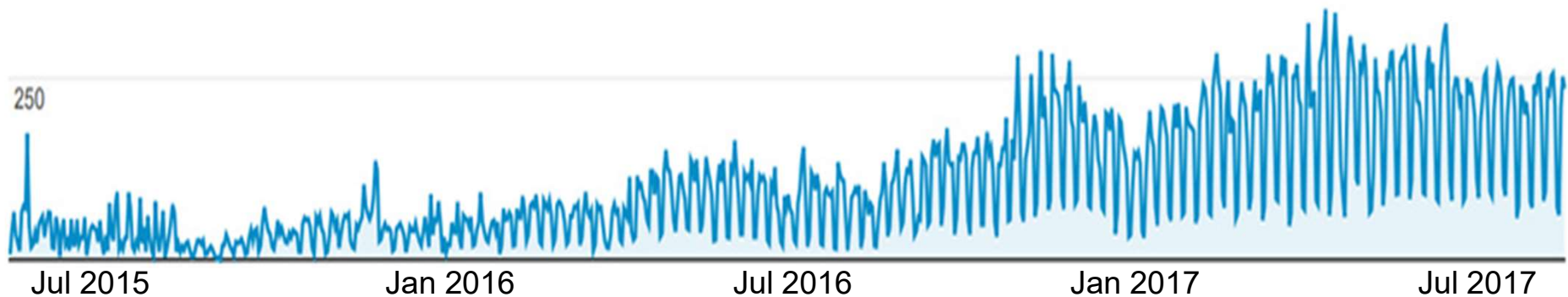
AC-1 - 細胞核均勻着色

	繁體中文	English
同義詞	彌散	Diffuse
抗原相關性	雙鏈DNA, 核小體, 組蛋白	dsDNA, nucleosomes, histones
疾病相關性	全身性紅斑狼瘡、藥物性狼瘡、少年型特發性關節炎	SLE, drug-induced lupus, juvenile idiopathic arthritis
描述	細胞核漿呈現均勻螢光染色。根據不同的細胞基質, 核仁染色可有可無。分裂期細胞(中期、後期和末期)的濃縮染色體呈現強烈及均勻玻璃質染色。	Homogeneous and regular fluorescence across all nucleoplasm. The nucleoli maybe stained or not stained depending on cell substrate. Mitotic cells (metaphase, anaphase, and telophase) have the chromatin mass intensely stained in a homogeneous hyaline fashion.





## Website visits - overview

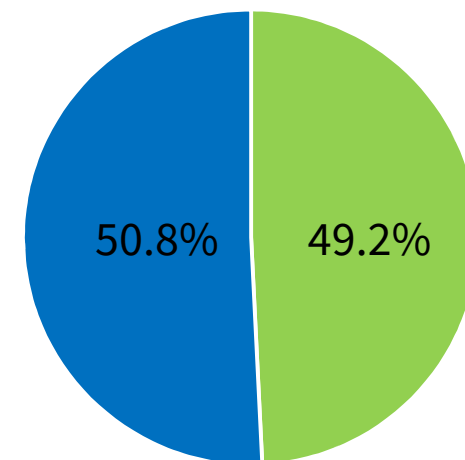


Total visits  
83,838

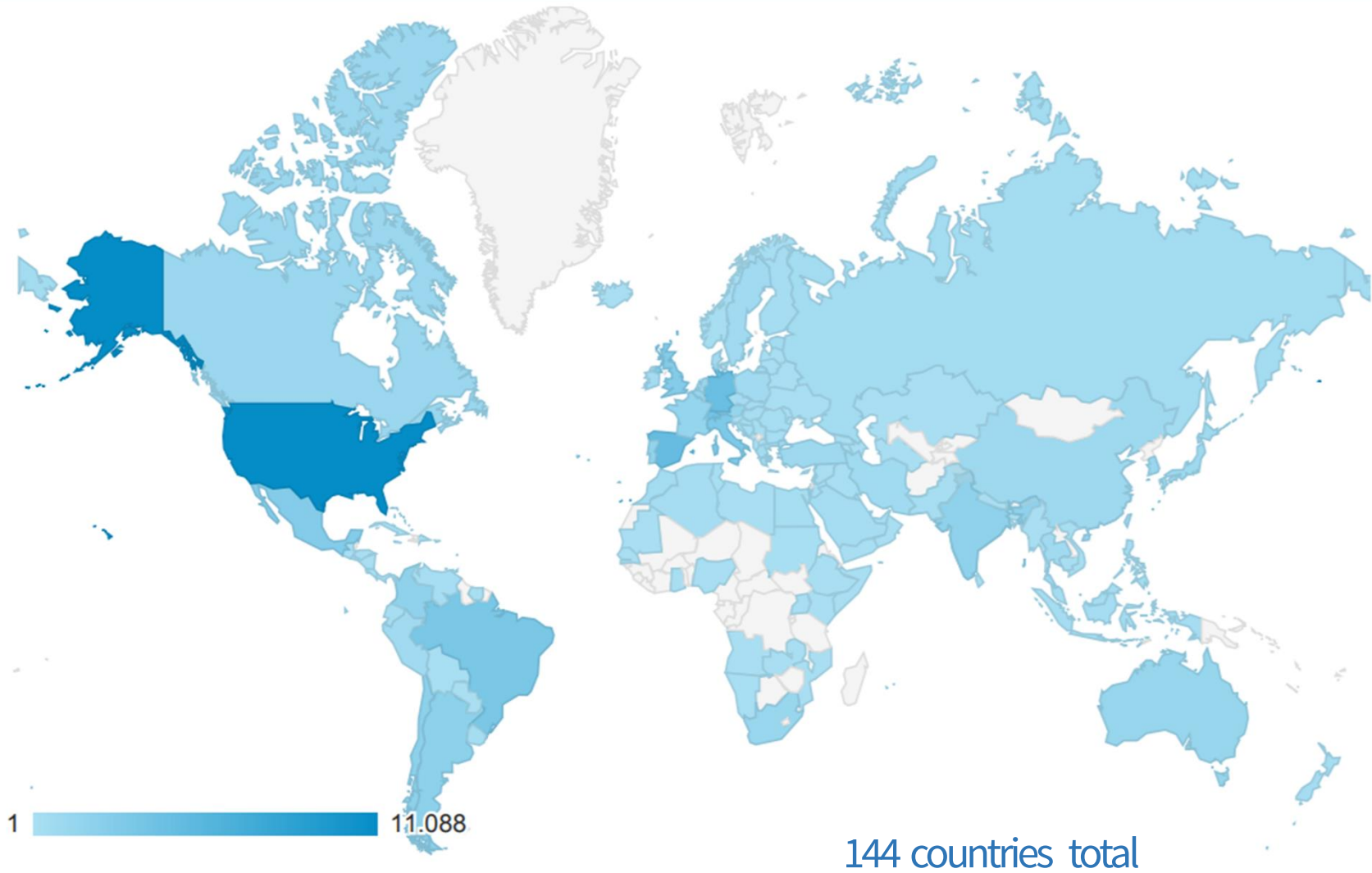
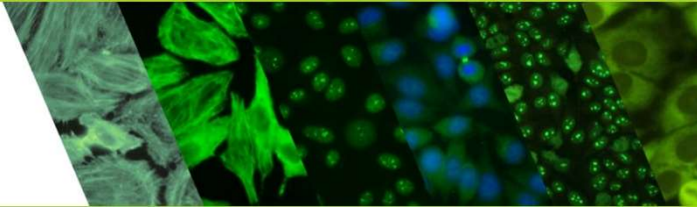
Total visitors  
41,176

Total views  
575,177

■ Returning Visitor ■ New Visitor



Source: Google Analytics - July 19, 2015 - August 19, 2017

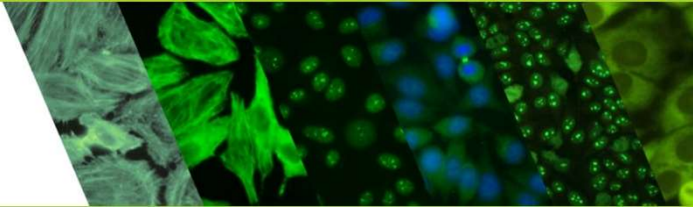


Source: Google Analytics - July 19, 2015 - August 19, 2017

	Countries	Views					
1	USA	13,211	Quest	13	Portugal	1,755	
2	Spain	5,431		14	France	1,562	
3	Germany	5,025		15	Belgium	1,549	
4	Switzerland	4,340		16	Australia	1,517	
5	Brazil	3,639		17	Austria	1,442	
6	Italy	3,290		18	South Africa	1,292	
7	Mexico	3,115		19	Canada	1,280	
8	United Kingdom	2,813		20	South Korea	1,235	
9	Chile	2,324		21	Hong Kong	1,171	Mini-ICAP
10	Colombia	2,230		22	Netherlands	1,162	
11	Argentina	2,229		23	Taiwan	1,109	
12	India	2,203		24	China	939	
				25	Japan	840	

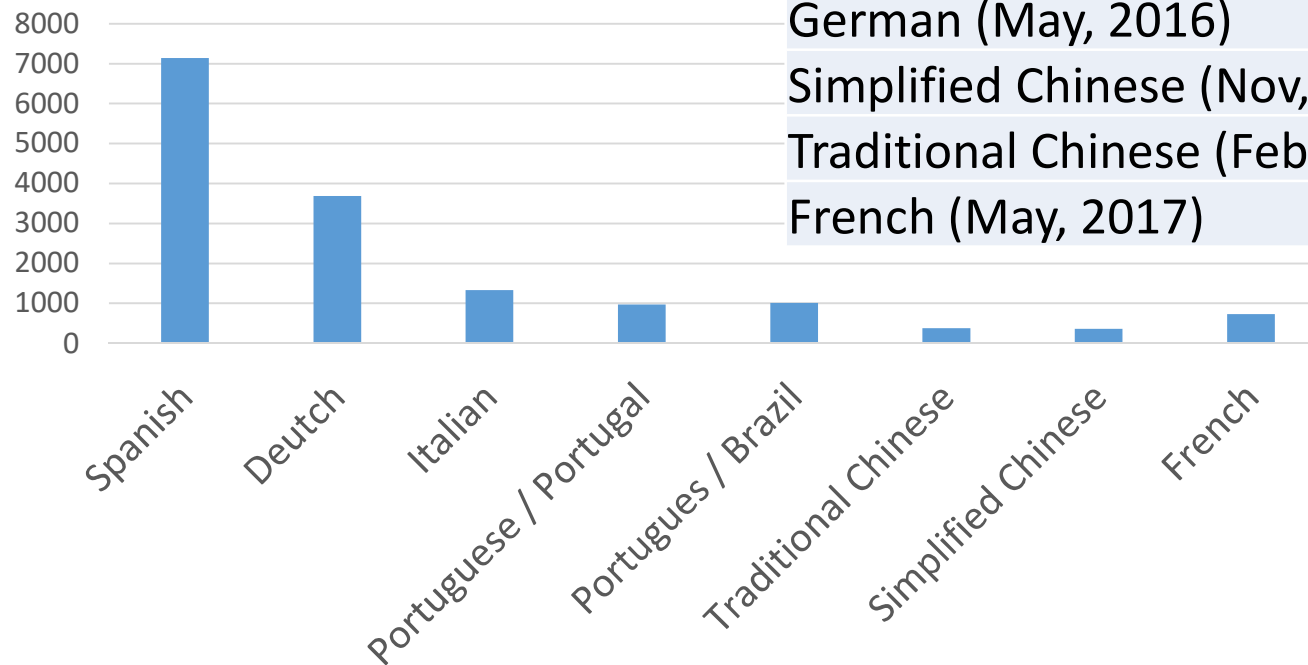
144 countries total



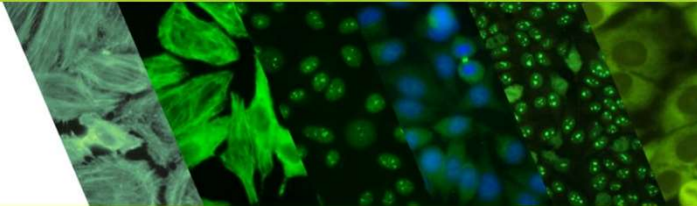


*Considering a total of 15,609 visits (excluding english access)*

## Access by Language

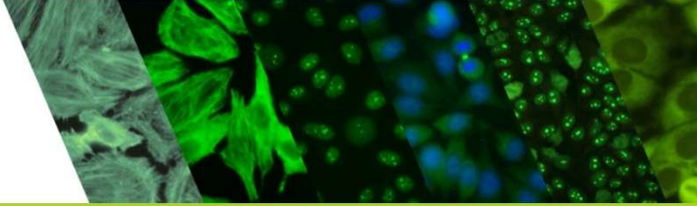


Language	Visits	%
Portugues/Brazil (Dec, 2015)	1,009	6.5
Spanish (Feb, 2016)	7,114	45.7
Portuguese/Portugal (Feb, 2016)	973	6.2
Italian (Mar, 2016)	1,335	8.6
German (May, 2016)	3,687	23.6
Simplified Chinese (Nov, 2016)	360	2.3
Traditional Chinese (Feb, 2017)	378	2.4
French (May, 2017)	727	4.7



## ICAP image submission - why?

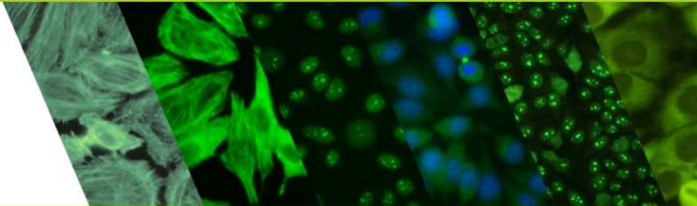
- All images are welcome for the ICAP collection. Including from:
  - ICAP committee members
  - Industry (HEp-2 slide manufacturers)
  - Any individual
- Main purpose is to have representations from many.
- Note that images submitted to ICAP represents transfer of all image copyright to ICAP.
- All images will be evaluated by members of the ICAP committee.
- Feedback will be provided if certain images are not accepted.



## Checklist before submission:

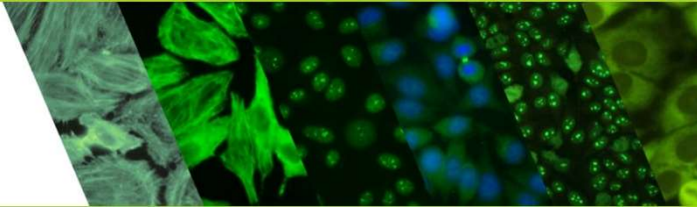
- Image in *perfect focus*?
- Image should have *good distribution* of at least 15 interphase cells and at least one mitotic cell.
- Images can be either in green/monochrome color.
- Specify magnification - most images should be 400x
- Image resolution and size acceptable?
- Absence of artifacts?
- Avoid any features that do not represent a given pattern (except to illustrate mixed patterns).





## Checklist before submission (cont'):

- Specify manufacturer of HEp-2 cells.
- Specify the person responsible for the submitted image - to be listed for credit.
- Commonly used counterstains such as DAPI are acceptable but it should not interfere with nuclear patterns.
- Prefer file formats: jpg, TIFF.
- Submit images to: [echan@ufl.edu](mailto:echan@ufl.edu)
- Before submitting a large number of images, send a typical image for us to check first.



**Image voting  
process:**  
*images voted by  
ICAP committee  
members*

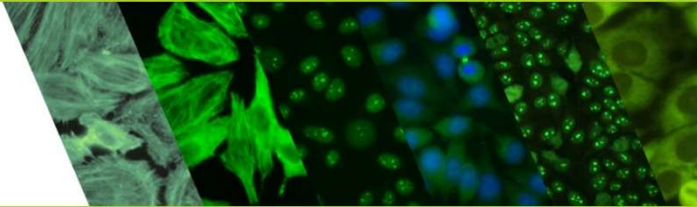
ACCEPT  
Give a score for image (5=best)  
⊖ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

REJECT  
Image is not acceptable because:

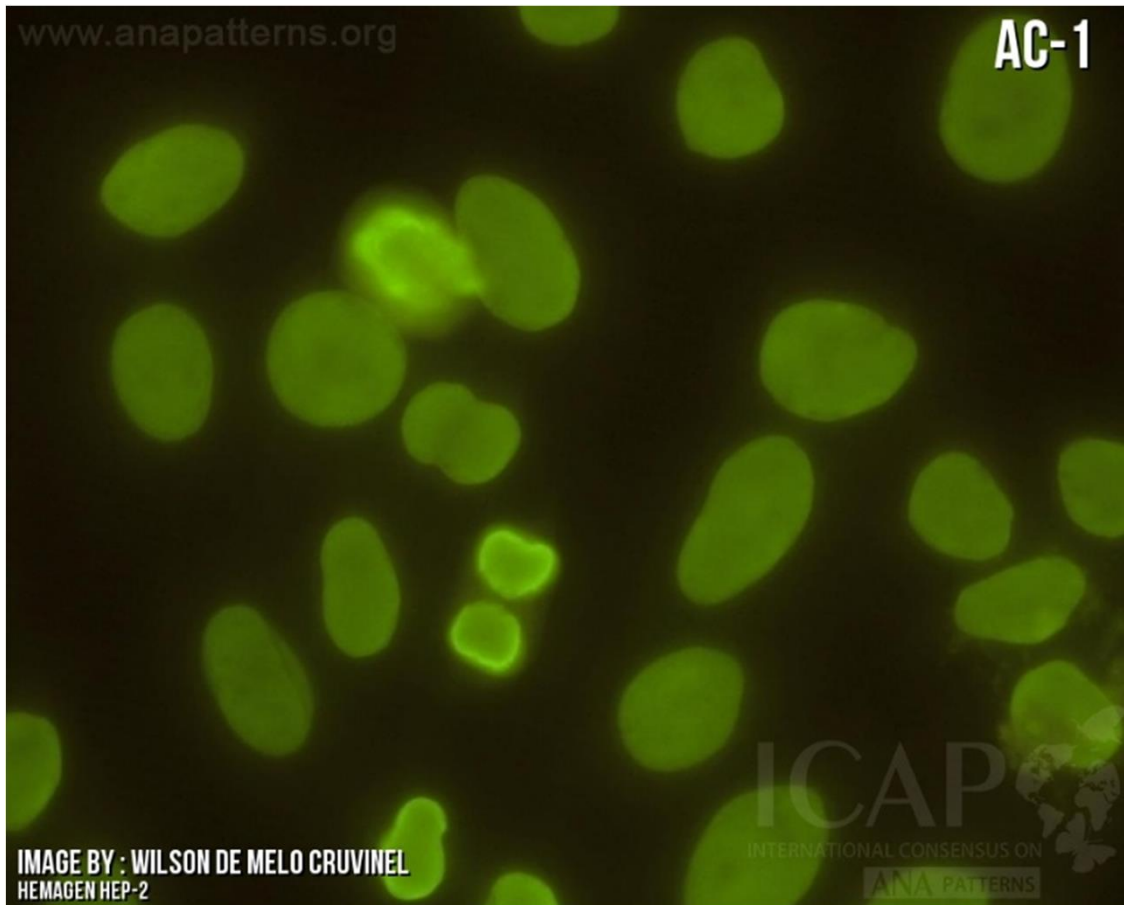
- Bad resolution
- Bad distribution of cells
- Presence of artifact
- Not representative of this AC pattern
- No mitotic cell
- Wrong pattern, this is
- Multiple autoantibodies or mixed patterns
- Other reason/comments

COMMENT

← SUBMIT VOTE →



## How images are displayed

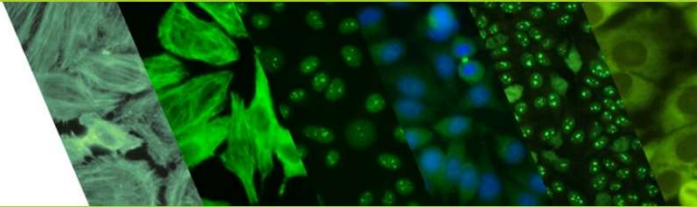


**Upper left corner:** semi-hidden website address  
[www.ANApatterns.org](http://www.ANApatterns.org)

**Upper right corner:** AC-#  
designation

**Lower left corner:**  
contributor and source of  
HEp-2 substrate

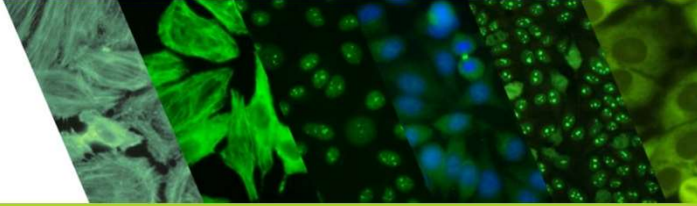
**Lower right corner:** semi-hidden ICAP logo



## Current initiatives

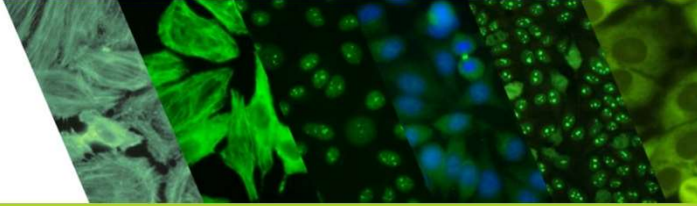
- Collected more images per pattern
- Include more ANA HEp-2 substrates
- More translations (Turkish, Japanese, Dutch)
- Develop online training courses (Andrade, de Melo Cruvinel)
- Develop consensus on ANA reporting; communicate with disease criteria committees





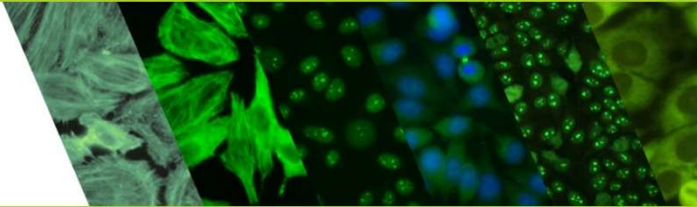
## ICAP future

- More discussion/presentations
- Training needs to be addressed
- Using standard sera, for example the ASC/CDC ANA standards ([www.AutoAb.org](http://www.AutoAb.org))
- Use the [www.ANAPatterns.org](http://www.ANAPatterns.org) ICAP images
- Use of additional subcellular markers (i.e. monoclonal antibodies) for co-localization validations

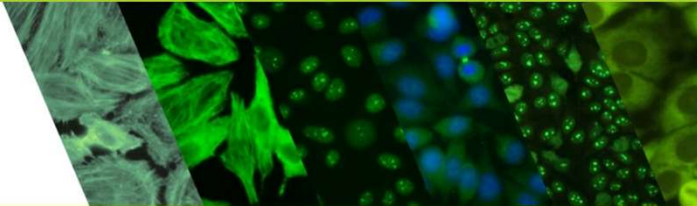


## Online Educational Program Planning

- Training modules are being planned for the next two years.
- They will include videos - PowerPoint-based and mostly text based. The latter will allow us to translate readily to other languages.
- The following is an outline for 4 modules each about 1 hour in length.

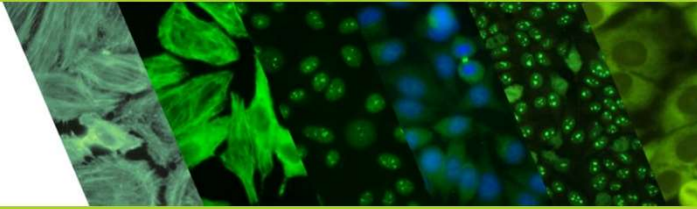


- **Module #1. Introduction**
  - Introduction to ICAP; How to navigate ICAP website; Basics in ANA training.
- **Module #2. Basic ANA patterns**
  - How to distinguish between positives and negatives
  - Overview of the Competent-Level ICAP patterns
  - Guideline on ANA reporting
  - Trainee will be challenged with images to be classified
  - Trainee will be challenged with question on clinical and immunologic meaning of AC patterns
- **Module #3. Advance ANA patterns**
  - Overview of Expert-level ICAP patterns
  - Trainee will be challenged with images to be classified and question on clinical and immunologic meaning of AC patterns
- **Module #4. Mixed patterns and troubleshooting**
  - Overview of mixed patterns
  - Introduction of FAQs (frequently asked questions) database to be developed as a resource for the community



<p><b>9:30 – 11:00</b></p>	<p>Clinical relevance of AC (Anti-Cell) patterns (Jan Damoiseaux and Carlos Alberto von Mühlen)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction, established guideline (Jan)</li> <li>• AC-1 to AC-14 nuclear patterns (Jan)</li> <li>• AC-15 to AC-23 cytoplasmic patterns (Carlos)</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:30 – 11:50</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC-24 to AC-28 mitotic patterns (Manfred Herold)</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:50 – 12:20</b></p>	<p>Establishment of 2 new AC patterns: AC-0 and AC-29 (Manfred Herold and Werner Klotz)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rationale for having these examples/patterns</li> <li>• Limitations</li> <li>• AC-0 negative examples (Manfred)</li> <li>• AC-29 Topo I-like description (Werner)</li> <li>• AC-29 – clinical relevance (Manfred)</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:20 – 12:50</b></p>	<p>Limits in defining AC patterns in the daily laboratory practice (Luis)</p>
<p><b>12:50 – 13:00</b></p>	<p>Does double staining co-localization help with assigning AC patterns? (Ed)</p>
<p><b>13:00 – 13:30</b></p>	<p>A re-visit/discussion in ANA reporting (moderate by Jan Damoiseaux)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cytoplasmic positive is reported as ANA+ (Carlos)</li> <li>• Cytoplasmic positive is not reported as ANA+ (Michael Grünwald)</li> <li>• Anti-cellular antibodies = ANA? (Luis)</li> </ul>





[www.anapatterns.org](http://www.anapatterns.org)

4th ICAP Dresden, Sept 26 2017

End