

BIOS FOR SPOKESPEOPLE

Professor Pentti Huovinen, President 19th ECCMID

**Research Professor and Head of Department of Bacterial and Inflammatory Diseases,
National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland**

Pentti Huovinen is Research Professor and Head of the Department of Bacterial and Inflammatory Diseases at the National Public Health Institute in Finland. He has a PhD from the University of Turku, specializing in Clinical Microbiology.

Professor Huovinen is a Member of the European Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and the European Study Group and Country Representative of the European Surveillance on Antibiotic Consumption (ESAC). He is also the microbiological focal point for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

He was the founder and former Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Finnish Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance and is Chairman of the University of Turku's Infectious Diseases programmes. Professor Huovinen served as Secretary and Chairman of Finnish Microbiologists for the Finnish Medical Association, and is an advisor to the Finnish National Agency for Medicines on antimicrobial agenda and infectious diseases. Professor Huovinen was the recipient of the 2008 ESCMID Excellence Award.

Professor Giuseppe Cornaglia, ESCMID President

Professor of Microbiology, Department of Pathology, Verona University

Professor Cornaglia is the current President of ESCMID, a post he has held since April 2007. He graduated in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Sassari, Italy, and since 2005 has been Associate Professor of Microbiology in the Department of Pathology, Verona University where he also sits on the Board of Directors.

Professor Cornaglia has co-ordinated the activities of the Italian Surveillance Group for Antimicrobial Resistance (ISGAR), including the creation of a national database of antimicrobial susceptibility data. Since 1999 he is also the leader of the Italian chapter of the Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA).

He was awarded a Ph.D in Public Health at the Catholic University of Trnava in Slovakia where he is also a Visiting Associate Professor. Professor Cornaglia was a key organiser of a meeting on the Role of Research in Combating Antibiotic Resistance in conjunction with the European Commission and Italian Ministries of Research and Health. In 1997 with Professor Jacques Acar he founded the European Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (ESGARS) as part of ESCMID and is currently Chairman of the Study Group.

Professor Didier Raoult, ESCMID Executive Committee Member

**Professor at Marseille School of Medicine and Director of the Clinical Microbiology
Laboratory for the University Hospitals**

Since 1994 Professor Raoult has been Head of the Department of Clinical Microbiology at Marseille School of Medicine and is Director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory for the University Hospitals.

Professor Raoult is Editor-in-Chief of *CMI* which is ESCMID's official peer-reviewed scientific journal. He sits on the editorial boards of a number of scientific and medical publications, including *The Lancet*, and has received awards from the French Foundation for Research, ESCMID and the French Tropical Medicine Foundation. He was founder and Director of the French National Reference Centre for Rickettsial Diseases in Marseille and of the WHO Collaborative Centre for Rickettsial Diseases. Professor Raoult is a member of the ESCMID Executive Committee, ESCMID Excellence Awardee 2002 and Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

Professor Robert Read, ESCMID Professional Affairs Officer
Professor of Infectious Diseases, University of Sheffield

Robert Read has been Professor of Infectious Diseases at the University of Sheffield since 1995 and is Honorary Consultant Physician to the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals.

He is Co-Chairman of ESCMID Professional Affairs Committee, a member of the UK Department of Health's Expert Advisory Groups on Biologicals/Vaccines and Anti-Infectives/HIV, MHRA, is a Fellow of the Infectious Disease Society of America and a member of the UK Government's Pandemic Influenza Scientific Group.

Professor Read is Editor in Chief of the Journal of Infection and his current areas of research interest include Meningococcal, Pneumococcal and Salmonella disease.

Professor Didier Pittet, ESCMID Excellence Awardee 2009
Hospital Epidemiologist and Director of the Infection Control Programme at the University of Geneva Hospitals and Faculty of Medicine, Geneva

Professor Pittet is the Hospital Epidemiologist and Director of the Infection Control Programme at the University of Geneva Hospitals and Faculty of Medicine in Geneva; Professor of Medicine and Hospital Epidemiology at the University of Geneva and Attending Physician in Adult and Paediatric Infectious Diseases, University of Geneva Hospitals.

He also holds Honorary Professorships at The Hammersmith Hospitals and Imperial College London and is an external consultant to the UK National Patient Safety Advisory Committee. Professor Pittet is also a member of the ICAAC Programme Committee and of the Advisory Board of the WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety and Lead of the Global Patient Safety Challenge 2005-2006 "Clean care is safe care".

He was awarded the Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for services to the prevention of healthcare-associated infection in the UK. Professor Pittet is the recipient of the 2009 ESCMID Excellence Award.

Professor Albert Osterhaus, Member of the ECCMID 2010 Programme Committee
Professor of Virology, Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam

Professor Osterhaus is one of the world's leading virologists and his group was the first to identify human infection with the avian influenza strain H5N1. After qualifying as a veterinarian, he moved into research and graduated from Utrecht University with a PhD in virology. In 1997, his group discovered that a Hong Kong flu strain that had killed a three-year-old boy belonged to an avian influenza strain called H5N1. He was also the first scientist to show that H5N1 can be transferred into humans.

In 2003 at the height of the panic over SARS (Severe Acquired Respiratory Syndrome) Professor Osterhaus proved that the disease was caused by a newly discovered coronavirus that resides in civet cats, other carnivorous animals or bats. Currently he heads a 100-strong lab at Erasmus MC, Rotterdam and is the co-founder of two biotech companies. His group is heavily involved with working on a vaccine against avian flu.

Dr. Osterhaus is also Director of the National Influenza Center in Rotterdam, Director of WHO Collaborating Centre for Arboviruses and Haemorrhagic Fever Reference and Research and Chairman of the European Scientific Working Group on Influenza (ESWI).