

## European Society Welcomes New President

**18 MAY 2009, HELSINKI**

At the ESCMID Assembly of Members today in Helsinki, Professor Javier Garau (Spain) was inaugurated as the new President of the Society. "I am greatly looking forward to working together with our members and affiliates in Europe and beyond, as we tackle the challenges we face today in emerging infectious diseases".

Starting his two year term as ESCMID President, Professor Garau said, "As the Society's programme of activities expands, along with our membership, I am excited by the work ahead and future collaboration with other international societies," said Professor Garau.

Having served as President for the past two years, Professor Giuseppe Corngalia (Italy) said, "I am proud that there have been major efforts to break down barriers and establish solid relationships with other societies and organizations active in the field of infectious diseases at a national, regional and international level."

Speaking at the 19<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) in Helsinki, Professor Corngalia said, "We have witnessed ESCMID taking an increasing leading role in the field of infectious diseases and I believe we continue to deliver on our mission year by year for our members. "

Other changes in the ESCMID Executive Committee are;

- Gunnar Kahlmeter (Sweden) is welcomed as President-Elect and Secretary General
- Newly elected member Winfried V Kern (Germany) becomes Treasurer
- Andreas Voss (Netherlands), ECCMID Programme Director for the past five years, hands over to Jordi Vila Estape (Spain)
- Robert Read (UK) takes on the role of Scientific Affairs Officer
- Elisabeth Nagy (Hungary) becomes Professional Affairs Officer (Clinical Microbiology)
- Co-opted member of the Executive Committee, Evelina Tacconelli (Italy), becomes Professional Affairs Officer (Infectious Diseases)

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Further information: [www.escmid.org](http://www.escmid.org)

The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infection-related diseases. This is achieved by promoting and supporting research, education, training, and good medical practice.