



# ESGAI

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

ESCMID STUDY GROUP  
FOR ANAEROBIC INFECTIONS

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## **The ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Resistance of Anaerobic Bacteria (ESGARAB) has changed its name to ESCMID Study Group for Anaerobic Infections (ESGAI)**

The ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Resistance of Anaerobic Bacteria (ESGARAB) was one of ESCMID's first Study Groups, which started its activities more than twenty years ago.

During the past years ESGARAB organised several Europe-wide studies on the antibiotic susceptibilities of human pathogenic anaerobic bacteria with clinical relevance including *Bacteroides*, *Porphyromonas*, *Prevotella* and other Gram-negative anaerobic bacteria, *Propionibacterium acnes* and *Peptostreptococci*. These studies made it possible to follow the resistance development during the past twenty years in *Bacteroides fragilis* and related species. Results showed that even against some of the most important anti-anaerobic drugs, such as clindamycin and beta-lactam/beta-lactamase inhibitor combinations, resistance development could be confirmed in this group of bacteria. In addition, the number of non-susceptible isolates among *Bacteroides* strains has increased for imipenem and metronidazole during the past twenty years.

ESGARAB also carried out detailed investigations on the genetic background of resistance (increased MICs) against carbapenems and metronidazole and also on the insertion (IS) elements needed for the expression of these genes.

Recently, the group initiated studies to evaluate the applicability of the matrix-assisted laser adsorption/ionisation time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS) for better and more rapid species identification within the *Bacteroides* genus (*sensu stricto*) and other human pathogenic anaerobic bacteria.

ESGARAB organised several educational activities (during ECCMID as well as in the form of Postgraduate Education Courses) which extended beyond the very strictly defined field of antibiotic resistance in anaerobic bacteria.

During the last meeting of the Study Group in Vienna, the members decided to rename the Study Group to ESCMID Study Group for Anaerobic Infections (ESGAI) to correspond with the broader topics of its activities. The renewed Study Group is open to all individuals who are interested in human pathogenic anaerobic bacteria including diagnostic problems, pathogenesis, antibiotic resistance, typing and involvement in rare or more common infections. Microbiologists working in the field of diagnostics of oral infections are also welcome to join us and participate in the scientific activities of ESGAI.

The new Executive Committee of ESGAI was elected by the members for the next four-year term of office. It consists of Elisabeth Nagy, Szeged, HU, Chairperson (formerly ESGARAB Secretary), John Degener, Groningen, NL, Secretary (new), and Arne Rodloff, Leipzig, DE, Treasurer (former ESGARAB Treasurer). Please contact the members of the ESGAI Executive Committee if you would like to join the Study Group dealing with anaerobic infections.