

ESGCD ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Meeting Room G561

Tuesday 13th April 2010

12.45-13.45 hrs

Minutes

No of participants : 25

1. Report on activities of the Study Group in 2009 (Ed Kuijper)

Ed welcomed all the participants to the annual business meeting. He informed the Group that the new executive committee (since February 2010) is composed of: Ed Kuijper (chairman), Jean O'Driscoll (secretary) and Frédéric Barbut (Treasurer). The other members are: Franz Allerberger, Emilio Bouza, Anne Collignon, Fidelma Fitzpatrick, Reno Frei, Petra Gastmeier, Paola Mastrantonio, and Mark Wilcox.

Ed summarized the activities of the study group in 2009:

- **2 guidance documents** on treatment and diagnosis of *C. difficile* infections were published in CMI; (Bauer MP *et al.* Treatment guidance document for *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI). *Clin Microbiol Infect.* 2009;15:1067-79 and Crobach MJ *et al.*, Data review and recommendations for diagnosing *Clostridium difficile*-infection (CDI). *Clin Microbiol Infect.* 2009;15:1053-66). Guidelines for treatment are quite similar to those from the Society of Healthcare of America. Mark pointed out that the American guidelines resulted from a long process of consultation and have not been endorsed by the American Society of Gastroenterology.
- **The ESCMID sponsored the 6th Clostrpath International Conference (The Impact of Genomics on Disease Control)** (Rome, 19-23 Oct 2009). More than 300 hundred people participated in the conference, which covered most aspects of *C. difficile* infections.
- **Members of the ESGCD were involved in research projects, in particular;**
 - EU-Framework 6 grant** on “European approach to combat outbreaks of *C. difficile* infections by the development of rapid diagnostic tests (EACCAD)” which progressed in its third year.
 - EU- Framework 7 grant** on “The Physiological Basis of Hypervirulence in *C. difficile*: a Prerequisite for Effective Infection Control”, which progressed in its first year.
- **Pan-European surveillance study of CDI.** This study involved 106 laboratories from 34 European member states. It ended in April 2009. Final

results were presented at the oral session on *C. difficile* during ECCMID 2010. A report has been sent to each country coordinator.

- **ECCMID 2010, Vienna.** An educational workshop entitled: "Practical approaches to *Clostridium difficile* infections" was chaired by Frédéric Barbut. More than 250 participants attended this EW. The last speaker (Sheldon Stone) made a quite unusual presentation, which was not really appreciated by most of the attendees. Mark will feedback to Sheldon. Frédéric pointed out that, despite many requests from Henri Saenz and himself, Sheldon didn't forward his slides before the meeting so that his presentation was completely unpredictable.

A successful 2-hour Symposium entitled "New aspects of emerging *C.difficile* infections" was held as well.

Maja Rupnik specified that the 3rd international meeting on *C. difficile* will be held in Bled in September 2010. ESCMID grants are available for young investigators. These grants only cover registration fees. This meeting will tackle many aspects of *C. difficile* infections including gut immunity, microbiota etc...

2. Financial Update (Frédéric Barbut).

The bank account of the ESCG is now managed by the ESCMID. As of July 2009, the balance is 12000 euros. From this amount, 2000 must be transferred to Michel Delmée for his participation to the first European study. Approximately 200 euros will be also required to definitely close the former bank account in Belgium.

3. EUCAST Study of *C difficile* MIC breakpoints (Paola Mastrantonio)

EUCAST has now reached the stage where they start to tackle breakpoints for organisms causing infections other than standard systemic infections. The EUCAST has solicited Paola Mastrantonio to answer the following questions regarding *C.difficile* and breakpoints:

- **Looking at EUCAST MIC-distributions for *C. difficile* (several of which have been contributed by ESGCD members) - are there enough MIC distributions to define wild type distributions for relevant drugs?**

Paola has submitted the MIC values of 400 *C. difficile* strains to EUCAST. All strains derive from the European surveillance study organized by Frederic in 2005. Frédéric and Mark can also provide their national data on MIC of different antibiotics to increase the database.

- **Is the methodology for determining MICs for *C.difficile* robust or is it in need of further development?**

The most frequently method used to determine the MICs is the E test, although the reference method remains the agar dilution method. Susceptibility to metronidazole however, is a special issue since special methods are necessary to determine appropriate MIC values (J Antimicrob Chemother. 2008 Nov;62(5):1046-52). In addition, reports from Spain indicated that hetero-resistance resistance of *C.difficile* to metronidazole can be easily lost during subculturing.

- Should *C.difficile* have clinical breakpoints, i.e. is there evidence to suggest that there is a breakpoint MIC for one or more drugs where there is clinical data to show that therapeutic failures occur above a defined MIC?

There are no clinical data showing that therapeutic failures occur above the MIC defined as threshold of resistance.

-If there is not enough evidence to determine clinical breakpoints, EUCAST will suggest epidemiological cutoffs (ECOFF) (to measure resistance development) for relevant drugs.

ECOFF separates microorganisms without (wild type) and with acquired resistance mechanisms (non-wild type) to the agent in question. This approach can be useful for: vancomycin, metronidazole, rifaximin and fidaxomicin. Carl Erik Nord emphasises the importance of participating in the determinations of breakpoints and to use MIC values in combination with Pk/Pd data.

4. **Strain Collections/Typing Studies (Mark Wilcox, Ed Kuijper)**

A so called "ECDC-Brazier collection" encompassing 25 frequently found PCR ribotypes in Europe has been established and is available for reference labs and for research purposes (cost 50 euros/strains). The collection has been developed and controlled by Jon Brazier (Cardiff, Wales), Mark Wilcox (Leeds, UK), Maja Rupnik (Maribor, Slovenia), Alexander Indra (Vienna, Austria) and Ed Kuijper (Leiden, The Netherlands). A larger additional collection of 50 strains is currently under development.

5. **ECDC Update (Ed Kuijper)**

The pan European study of CDI has allowed the setting up of a lab network for *C. difficile*. This network should be maintained through new studies on *C. difficile*. However the ECDC did not give a clear answer regarding the way it will support new activities or new projects. A call for tender is expected, but the time schedule is unknown

6. **Young Investigator Grants (Ed Kuijper)**

Ed Kuijper pointed out that application for grants can be obtained from the ESCMID. The process is quite easy and can be viewed at the ESCMID website. Funding can cover research activities (20 000 euros), scientific events (10 000 euros), or special course (20 000 euros). Mark and Ed proposed asking ESGCD for a research grant for metronidazole resistance among European *C. difficile* isolates

7. **Planned activities for 2010/11**

Alexander Indra suggested organizing a course on the international standardization of PCR ribotyping. This course could be held in 2011.

8. **Symposium 21st ECCMID/27th ICC 2010; May 7-10, 2011, Milan, Italy**

Next ECCMID will be held in Milan (May 7-10). The ESCMID proposes organizing a symposium (2-hours symposium or 1-hour symposium) and an educational workshop (4-hours EW with 8 speakers or 2-hours EW with 4 speakers). Several subjects of interest emerged from members of the ESGCD: community acquired *C. difficile* infection, immunity and CDI, veterinary aspects of CDI, and *C. difficile* in children. Mark proposed gathering these different topics under a unique title, which could be "Controversies in *C. difficile* infections".

The proposal has to be sent to the ECCMID organising committee in two weeks. Ed will submit a proposal to the executive committee.

9. Reorganisation of study groups (Ed Kuijper, Carl Eric Nord)

Carl Eric Nord presented the new organization of the study groups (SG). A SG is initially set up for five years. After this time period, the Scientific Affairs Subcommittee evaluates its scientific output measured by publications, contributions to scientific meetings, consensus documents, medical guidelines, scientific workshops, educational courses and/or collaborative research projects. The minimum activity should be at least four of the five following items:

- At least one proposal to the ECCMID Programme Committee for a symposium or educational workshop every two years
- At least one free-standing (i.e. not linked to ECCMID) educational activity every three years
- At least one collaborative research project underway during any one-year cycle
- At least one publication in a peer-reviewed journal in which the name of the SG is included in the authorship every three years
- At least one consensus document, technical or clinical practice guideline to be published (via website or print publication) every five years.

CE Nord emphasised that the ESGCD is very active and fulfilled all the requirements. He encouraged the ESGCD to continue and to use the expertise of other groups (e.i ESGARAB ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance in Anaerobic Bacteria, or the newly study EPASG which starts its activities in the field of PK/PD of anti-infectives).

10. AOB

Ed Kuijper thanked all the participants for their active contribution to the study group.

On behalf of ESGCD:

Frédéric Barbut, Jean O'Driscoll and Ed Kuijper.