

## Minutes of ESCGD Executive Committee Meeting, Brussels, May 3, 2005

**Present:** Ian Poxton (chairman), Michel Delmee (treasurer), Ed Kuijper (secretary), Jon Brazier, Paola Mastrantonio, Anne Colignon, Frederic Barbut

### 1. Introduction of the new committee (2005-2007).

**Chairman:** Ian Poxton PhD, D.Sc: Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Edinburgh. Main research topic: "Pathogenicity of *Clostridium difficile*". Member since 1999, appointed from 2005 to 2007.

**Secretary:** Ed Kuijper, MD, PhD. Department of Medical Microbiology, Center of Infectious Diseases, Leiden University. Main research topic: "Diagnosing and epidemiology of *Clostridium difficile*-associated diarrhoea. Member since 2003, appointed from 2005-2007.

**Treasurer:** Michel Delmee. MD, PhD. Clinical Microbiological Unit, University of Louvain, Brussels. Specialized in "Serogrouping system of *Clostridium difficile*". Member since 1999, appointed from 1999 to 2007.

#### **Members:**

\* Frédéric Barbut, Pharm.D , PhD. Infection Control Practitioner in Hopital Saint-Antoine, Paris. Main research topic is the "Epidemiology of *Clostridium difficile*-associated diarrhoea."Member since 2005.

\* Anne Collignon: PhD, Faculte de Pharmacie, Departement de Microbiologie, University of Paris-Sud. Main research interests in "intestinal flora" and "antimicrobial resistance". Member since 2005.

\* Paola Mastrantonio: PhD,D.Sc. Department of Infectious Diseases,Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome. Main research topics: *C. difficile* S-layer; *C. difficile* antibiotic resistance determinants. Member since 1999, appointed from 2003 to 2007.

\* Jon Brazier, PhD. Anaerobe Reference Laboratory, NPHS Microbiology Cardiff, University Hospital of Wales, UK. Member since 1999.

### 2. Minutes of last meeting (Brussels, September 3, 2004).

\* ECCMID 2005 congress in Copenhagen. The scientific symposium with presentations of Denise Drudy (Outbreaks of A-B+ strains) and Jaap van Dissel (Clinical approach to relapses of CDAD) were very successful and appreciated, with more than 125 attendants. The educational session however, was less well organized and did not fulfil the expectations. This was due to miscommunication with the ECCMID committee and problems with the installation of the interactive PowerPoint presentations at the very last minute. The interactive form needed a lot of improvisation.

\* Special issue of J Med Microbiol Febr 2005 on *Clostridium difficile*. Unfortunately, all of the manuscripts can not be presented on the ESCGD website. The nomenclature paper is posted, and Ian Poxton agreed to make his editorial comment available as a pdf, with a link to the website of the journal.

\* Proposal for EU funding. The proposal "European approach to combat *Clostridium difficile* associated disease" has been forwarded with the aim to include CDAD in a call of the FP7.

\* According to the treasurer, €7000 is hold on the account for the organisation of the next FICDS. About 1200 € is still on a Slovenian account opened for the meeting. In addition, the granted money from ECMID for the workgroup also did not reached its destination in Brussels.

### **3. Website of the ESCGD.**

The website contains a few mistakes and needs some revisions. It is decided to present also the European study protocol at the website. New links will also be added.

### **4. Study project “European prospective study of *Clostridium difficile* strains: phenotypic and genotypic characterization of the isolates from different clinical status”.**

The study was designed as a prospective study for a period of 2 months in 2005. So far, 10 countries have agreed to participate and strains have already been collected in 8 countries (France, Italy, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Turkey, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, The Netherlands). The highest number of strains has been isolated in Spain. In the UK, problems were encountered because of difficulties with ethical approval for the collection of clinical data. However, efforts of Jon and Ian will very likely result in the participation of 3 clinical labs by the summer of this year. It is anticipated that at least 500 strains become available by the end of the study period. Each local coordinator will be requested by Frederic to submit the strains to France by the most appropriate transport. Costs of the transport will be financed from the central budget at the lowest costs. The suggestion to further support local coordinators financially for their efforts, did not meet consensus in the meeting. All strains will be stored central in Paris with the requirement that a final identification should be performed by the central laboratory. The committee decided to discuss the topic of strain characterization during the meeting of September, when the results of the questionnaires have been evaluated by Frederic Barbut. Plans for distribution of the budget to participating centres will also be discussed.

### **5. Nice meeting 2006.**

The committee agreed on two topics for the special *C. difficile* meeting: one for a clinical/epidemiological area and another one for an immunological topic. Accordingly, two international researchers will be invited. The first speaker will be requested to present the latest information on the epidemic clone of ribotype 27/toxinotype 3 in Canada and USA. The second speaker is to be determined and will be selected from candidates of France (vaccination), UK (mucosal and cellular immunity) and USA (vaccination).

### **6. Future projects.**

Ian has a research interest in the asymptomatic occurrence of toxinogenic strains in the intestinal tract of children. In November 2005, a new PhD student of Ian will start on on a project on cellular responses. Ed had a quick view in 4<sup>th</sup> call of FP6 that appeared on 12 April. There was one interesting call for a possible application of *C. difficile*: LSH-2005-2.12-5 is: “Development of novel principles for antimicrobial treatment”. It is a “STREP dedicated to SME’s project” with participation of a small or medium large enterprise for 40-50%. It was discussed that the firm of “Mucomilk” production would be an interesting candidate to further explore. Ed will discuss this in Leiden. Anne Collignon and Paola Mastrantonio will look for practical aspects of this application and the support for a possible grant application. It is decided that this possibility should be investigated within a few weeks, since the deadline is in November. Genzyme and Bio-X will also be investigated as possible candidates.

### **7. Next meeting.**

The date of the next meeting is fixed on 6 September at Brussels. One point to discuss is the Second Clostridium congress in 2007.

### **8. Action points to be undertaken:**

*Ian*: contact ECCMID on the financial opportunities to invite speakers for ECCMID 2007

Michael: contact M. Warney for candidate speakers. Contact SME as possible candidates for grant applications. Contact Slovenia for money transfer.

*Paolo, Anne and Ed*: preparations of grant application.

*Frederic*: allocating a budget for transport of *C. difficile* strains by local coordinators.

*Frederic*: preparation of preliminary findings of the clinical results of the European study to present in September

*Ed*: contact ECCMID with a short letter to comment on the education session at Copenhagen

*Ed*: update the website

*All*: nomination of candidate speakers for ECCMID meeting in Nice.

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005