

Minutes of ESCGD Executive Committee Meeting, Leiden, 2nd December, 2005

Present: Ian Poxton, Michel Delmée, Ed Kuijper, Anne Collignon,

Guest/minutes: Renate van den Berg

Absent with confirmation: Paola Mastrantonio, Jon Brazier, Frederic Barbut.

Agenda:

1. Minutes of the last meeting in Brussels (attached)
2. Progress of the surveillance study and sponsoring (Frederic, Michel).
3. SME-STREP project (Ed)
4. Update of 027 in Belgium, UK and the Netherlands (Jon, Michel, Ed)
5. European Centre of Infectious Diseases (Ian)
6. Other business
7. Closure of the meeting

1. Minutes of the last meeting in Brussels

Marie Curie Grant has been awarded to Nigel Minton and Maja Rupnik.
Marie Curie project will start in 2006?
Other points being discussed in today's business.

2. Progress of the surveillance study and sponsoring (Frederic, Michel)

Of about 480 *C. difficile* strains collected in 12 European countries during a surveillance study in period May-July 2005, 25% are suspected to be non-toxinogenic. The priorities for typing the strains are: PCR-ribotyping, toxinotyping, binary toxin, toxin A and B and tcdC. Fred is in charge of binary toxin, and toxinotyping. Michel will perform conventional EIA for TcdA and cytotoxicity assay for TcdB. Oxoid has provided EIA kits for toxin A at low cost. Genzyme has been contacted by Michel to obtain additional funding, but has not received a reply yet. It is estimated that another €20.000 is necessary, depending whether the strains or DNA will be sent to the reference laboratories .

- Action:**
- * Ed mails to Frederic for current status of analysis
 - * Frederic: how many toxinotype III? These strains should be ribotyped very soon to report to European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).
 - * (Ed, Frederic) Depending on the presence of DNA or strains: budget for PCR-ribotyping
 - * Ed, Ian mail to Peet Tull (ECDC) for financing the surveillance study.

3. SME-STREP project (Ed)

There are probably about 20 applicants for 2-3 projects to be honoured. More news in February 2006. Despite advice of the local EU coordinators, sub-contractors (members of the ESGCD) have been included in the project

4. Update of 027 in Belgium and the Netherlands (Michel, Ed)

Ed gave an overview of the situation in the Netherlands. Michel investigated 3 outbreaks in Belgium in 2003 by PFGE, TcdA and TcdB analysis and suspects that the strains are very likely 027/toxinotype III.

Action: * Ribotyping of the Belgian outbreak strains (Ed, Renate)

5. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) (Ian).

Already covered above

6. Other business

a) ECCMID Nice 2006

There is a possibility that the symposium (talks by Ed Kuijper and Cliff MacDonald) may be given more prominence by ECCMID. Andreas Voss was contacted by Ian but without response. This must be clarified

Action: *Ian to contact Andreas Voss

Study group meeting: i) Frederic to report on current study (20 min + 10 min discussion); ii) Immune response to *C. difficile*: Ian to review current status - regarding immunopathology and vaccinology (10 min), and Anne to report on some current research with recombinant antigens and animal models (10 min); iii) Final question and answer session between committee and attendees.

Action: *Frederic to liaise with Michel, Ed, Maja and other active participants to prepare up-to-date summary

* Anne and Ian to liaise to produce their presentation

b) Future committee meetings

Frequency of these meetings: twice a year, of which one during the ECCMID meeting and another in September. We need to identify most appropriate venue for ease of attendance by committee members to consider cheap airfares and nearness to airport or railway station.

Action: *Ian to see if it is possible to arrange a suitable room after the session in Nice. Invite Maja Rupnik to attend (and Nigel Minton if he is in Nice)

* Ed to prepare draft Annual Report for the committee to see before submission to ESCMID

7. Closure of the meeting at 16.25.