

Minutes of ESGCD Executive Committee Meeting
in Brussels
Tuesday, 24 February 2009, 13.00/13.30 - 16.00/16.30

AGENDA

1. Apologies: Paola, Petra and Emilio
2. Minutes of the last meeting in Barcelona, 21 April 2008
3. Matters arising from Minutes
4. Review of ECCMI D 2008 – study group activities (Ian, Ed)
5. ECCMI D 2009 (Helsinki, 16-19 May 2009)
6. Financial report and possible future sponsorship (Michel)
7. Annual report and web site (Ed, Ian)
8. Changes to the ESGCD executive committee
9. PG workshop in Turkey in 2010
10. Progress of the guidance documents (Ed)
11. Brief report on EU projects (Ed)
12. Request by Quintiles Medical Education (email 26 Jan 2009/Ian)
13. EUCAST invitation for susceptibility data of *C. difficile* (email October 2008/Ed)
14. Future research projects/new grants (All)
15. Any other business (All)
16. Date and venue of next meeting (Helsinki – during ECCMI D 2009)
17. Closure – by 16.00/16.30 if possible

1. **Present:** Anne Collignon, Jean O'Driscoll, Petra Gastmeier, Mark Wilcox, Ian Poxton, Frederic Barbut, Michel Delmée, Ed Kuijper.
2. **Minutes Barcelona.** Unfortunately, the new committee member from Finland has not been approached to attend this meeting. Ian will trace and contact her.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes.** Maja Rupnik is the PI of an approved ERA-NET grant for a research project in collaboration with Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain entitled "Combating Clostridial Infections by Targeting Pathogen-Specific Proteases". Ed mentions the ECDC-Brazier strain collection of 22 *C. difficile* strains which has been sent to all laboratories participating in the ECDC surveillance study. The collection will be supervised by Jon Brazier, Mark Wilcox and Ed Kuijper. The collection contains the strains 014/020 and 078/126 which are difficult to differentiate from each other except when applying the Stubbs PCR ribotyping primers.
4. **Review of ECCMI D 2008, Barcelona and other study group activities.** All sessions on *C. difficile* were very successful and well attended. ESGCD also participated in the 4th conference on new frontiers in Microbiology and infection (ESCMID and FEMS), entitled Clostridia: from Old Diseases to New Threats. This conference was held in Villars-sur-Ollon, 5-8 October 2008. In general, the meeting was too broad although *C. difficile* infections were discussed from points of pathogenesis, clinical presentations and epidemiology. The target attendants were mainly PhD students and postdocs and several research groups (Slovenia, Leiden) on *C. difficile* were indeed present.
5. **ECCMI D 2009, Helsinki.** One educational session is organized by ESGCD in which Petra and Jean participate on behalf of the committee. As in previous years, the communication of the study group with the programme committee was not very good. Mark noticed two sessions on *C. difficile* which have not been established in collaboration with the study group. Ed and Ian were approached by Tom Riley to adjust the study group activities with the session of Maja Rupnik and Tom Riley. Mark and Ed propose to contact the Programme Committee for a better communication.
6. **Financial report.** Michel provided an overview and concluded that the study group has a positive balance of Euro 9,237. This amount will be transferred to an account of ESCMI D as soon as possible.

7. **The annual report** will be prepared by Ed and submitted before 5 March 2009.
8. **Changes to the committee.** Michel and Ian will resign at the Helsinki meeting. Ian will read the ESGCD guidelines for the official procedure. Three new replacements will be appointed. Ed will mail all ESGCD members for candidates.
9. **Turkey workshop in 2010** A two day meeting will be organized in Turkey, financed by ESCMI D. The target audience are postgraduates. Deadline for application is June 2010.
10. **Progress of guidance documents.** Ed mentions that the treatment guideline is ready for publication, but that the editor of CMI and scientific committee of ESCMI D prefer to publish the treatment and diagnostic guidelines in the same issue of CMI. The diagnostic guidance document is in its final version and will also incorporate some of the conclusions of the study performed recently by Mark Wilcox. Mark has studied 9 different commercially available diagnostic tests in comparison with the cytotoxicity assay on 600 faeces samples of which 200 derived from CDI patients. The conclusions are clear: the sensitivity of all tests is unacceptably low. Michel and Frederic will also send their comments and suggestions to Ed. All members agree that the proposed algorithm should be replaced by different algorithms with a brief summary of the restrictions of each.
11. **The progress of EACCAD (FP6) and Hyperdiff (FP7)** is going very well with many presentations at ECCMI D Helsinki.
12. **Quintiles Medical Education (QME).** Ian presents the proposal of QME (commercial company, financed by Actelion Pharmaceuticals) to collaborate with ESGCD for CME programmes on *C. difficile*. Unfortunately, QME has no experience with other study groups although Ian mentions that another education programme is also under development. The QME is targeted to all kinds of HCW. The members agree that the questionnaire is very limited and contains incorrect questions and statements. The committee agrees that Ian will contact QME to report back on discussions at the ESGCD committee meeting and that Mark Wilcox will also be the contact person for QME for additional information
13. **EUCAST study.** Ian and Ed report on the request of Gunnar Kahlmeter (chair of EUCAST) to participate to obtain MIC data of *C. difficile*. Carl-Erik Nord, Paola, Ian and Frederic will contribute.

14. ESCMI D has launched the possibility to apply for **research grants** of approximately Euro 20,000. The projects may be based on laboratory investigations, clinical studies, animal studies or combinations. Ed suggests looking for proposals which contain typing studies.
15. **No other business news.**
16. **The business meeting at ECCMI D 2009** will be held on 17 May 2009, 18.15-19.15. The room has place for 15-20 persons. The ESCGD proposes to discuss the guidance documents, to present the annual report and to vote on the new executive committee members. Finally, the susceptibility study will be discussed in collaboration with ESGARAB.