

# **ESGCP business meeting**

## **Minutes**

### **16 May 2009, Helsinki, Finland**

Present: Board members: Birgitta Evengard, , Eskild Peterson, Herve Pelloux, Monica Junie, Titia Kortbeek; Not able to come but present at ECCMID : Francis Derouin, Francois Peyron; Unable to come to Helsinki: Tom van Gool , Peter Chiodini  
Also present: 6 members of the studygroup.

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Election of the board: The board has served one term of two years. Dr. Alexander Mattis has withdrawn from the board. All other members candidate for another period of two years. Also Mrs. Miriam-Jose Alvarez is a candidate for the board as member. All proposed candidates were elected by the meeting.

If other members for the board want to candidate they are kindly asked to send a CV to the chairperson.

3. Financial situation: The study group received financial support for participating in the workshop organised in Romania in November 2008.

We received 500 € to open an account and 5000 € to cover the travel expenses. The balance is now 1000, - € credit.

#### 4. Activities:

- Organising Educational workshop and scientific symposium at ECCMID Helsinki; participation in the Toxoplasma workshop organised in Romania in November 2008.
- Educational courses: Advanced Course in Clinical Parasitology (ACCP) in Paris: two of the participants, present at the meeting were very positive about the course. The number of participants was 25, from 16 different countries.

#### Plans for 2009

- Post graduate course in Clinical Parasitology (PCCP) in June in Amsterdam. This course is fully booked and there are people on the waiting list.
- There are plans to repeat these two courses (ACCP and PCCP) in 2010, albeit that the ACCP will be extended with half a day (it will then be a 2 ½ day course) with a different programme.

Henri Saenz from the ESCMID informed the meeting that there are many people interested in the parasitology courses. ESCMID has a policy of only supporting a workshop or course once, but if the content is different it could be possible to apply for another year.

Workshop: The chairperson invites all members to come forward with plans for workshops on clinical parasitology. There is a limited amount of money available from ESCMID to support workshops.

This is easier if the organising society is an affiliated society of the ESCMID: the list of the affiliated societies can be found in the yearbook 2008/2009 page 7.

5. Research projects: This topic was not discussed extensively. We want to address questions like comparative studies of methods (microscopy-antigen test-molecular diagnostics).

Another thing could be to publish best practice papers for topics where we reached consensus.

The lack of standards: the commercial tests cannot provide generally accepted standards. Only for Toxoplasma there is a standard serum available. For other serology there is no standardisation, and the same is true for molecular diagnostics. It will be very time consuming to work on this issue and a backup is needed (like the neqas or the French quality control lab).

Maybe it is possible to get some funding via the EU: 7<sup>th</sup> framework?

6. Collaboration with the EMOP: European multicolloquial of parasitology.

The chairperson welcomes Eduardo Pozio, who is a member of the executive board of EMOP as treasurer. He was elected in august 2009 and will inform the board of EMOP on our aims and the possibilities to work together on education on parasitology. The main focus of our study group is clinical parasitology.

7. Proposals for ESGCP symposium/workshop, 20<sup>th</sup> ECCMID (Vienna 10-13 April 2010)

The deadline for the proposals is the 26<sup>th</sup> of May.

The members are asked to come forward with ideas and send them to the chairperson or secretary. One of the proposed topics was vector born diseases.

8. The chairperson thanked all members and closed the meeting at 12.15 hours