



ESGCP

**ESCMID STUDY GROUP
FOR CLINICAL PARASITOLOGY**

Newsletter

The ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP) has been founded as the ESCMID Study Group on Toxoplasmosis (ESGT) in 2003 and has been expanded to the field of Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP) in 2007.

The aims of the study group are to:

1. Provide information about the prevalence of parasitic infections in different parts of Europe;
2. Provide information on clinical policies and practices within Europe;
3. Provide comparisons of diagnostic performances of different assays including quality control;
4. Provide information on parasitic infections in immunocompromised patients.

The members of the board are:

Chairperson: Prof Birgitta Evengård University Hospital Umea Sweden
Vice-Chairperson: Dr Tom van Gool, Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam The Netherlands
Secretary: Drs LM Kortbeek, MD, Centre for Infectious Disease Control Netherlands Bilthoven The Netherlands
Scientific Secretary: Dr Eskild Petersen, Skejby Hospital Aarhus, Denmark
Treasurer: Prof Hervé Pelloux CHU de Grenoble Grenoble, France
Workshop Coordinator: Prof Francis Derouin Saint-Louis Hospital, Paris, France
Board members: Prof Peter L Chiodini London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine London,UK
Prof François Peyron Parasitologie Hopital de la Croix Rousse, Lyon, France
Dr. Alexander Mathis PD Institut für Parasitologie,Zürich, Switzerland
Prof Monica Junie, MD, PhD, "Iuliu Hatieganu" University of Medicine and Pharmacy,Cluj Napoca, Romania



Left to right: Tom van Gool, Francis Derouin, Herve Pelloux, Elisabeth Presterl (ex-boardmember), Monica Juni, Alexander Mathis, Birgitta Evengård, Titia Kortbeek, Peter Chiodini .Not on the photo: Eskild Peterson and François Peyron (Paris 2007).

This newsletter from the ESCMID Study Group of Clinical Parasitology is intended to provide information on clinical parasitology that is of value.

If you want to join the studygroup you can send an email to ESCMID (www.ESCMID.org: Birgit Menzemer) or to the secretary of the studygroup: lm.kortbeek@rivm.nl .

ECCMID meeting Helsinki 16-19th of May 2009

Deadline for abstract submission: 7 January 2009

Parasitological topics in the program:

Saturday morning EW10 9.00–11.00:

Emerging parasites

Arranged with the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP)
Convener: Eskild Petersen, Århus, DK

Chagas' disease
Trichinellosis
Fasciolosis and opistorchiasis
Multilocular echinococcosis

Autochthonous European parasites :

Two hour symposium

Fish from the north: *Diphyllobothrium latum*
"Tumours" from the centre: *Echinococcus multilocularis*
Stage-specific approach and percutaneous treatment in the management of cystic echinococcosis
From the heart: dirofilariosis

Malaria symposium: European aspects of malaria

Two hour symposium

State-of-the-art treatment of travel-related malaria in Europe
New rapid diagnostics
Clinical aspects of imported malaria
Vaccine and efficacy end-points for a novel malaria vaccine

Meet-the-Expert Sessions

Malaria prevention for travellers and expatriates

The date, time and place of the business meeting of the study group ESGCP will be available in February 2009.

Two courses in Clinical Parasitology

Advanced course (Paris): March 30-31, 2009
Postgraduate course (Amsterdam): June 8-13, 2009

Financially supported by ESCMID

The European Study Group of Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP) of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) organizes in 2009 two educational courses in Clinical Parasitology: a Postgraduate Course in Clinical Parasitology (PCCP) and an Advanced Course in Clinical Parasitology (ACCP).

In European countries, knowledge of clinical parasitology is increasingly recognized as of major importance for proper decision making in patients with infectious diseases. Increasing numbers of patients with opportunistic infections, both HIV or non -HIV-related, health problems of travelers visiting (sub) tropical countries, and emerging endemic parasitic infections, all contribute to its importance.

In line with growing attention for this discipline, there is an increasing need for knowledge about proper diagnostic tests, clinical and therapeutic aspects and epidemiological information of parasitic infections.

Educational courses in the field of clinical parasitology are however limited. The two new courses organized by ESGCP and ESCMID are intended to further build capacity of training in Clinical Parasitology in Europe. They will be organized and delivered in English by university hospital specialists in Parasitology and Infectious Diseases, selected for their recognized expertise in medical parasitology.

The two day '**Advanced Course in Clinical Parasitology (ACCP)**', planned to be hold once yearly in an European country, will deal with selected topics of interest. The first course, to be held in Paris, 30-31 March 2009, will focus on "*Clinical, Diagnostic and Therapeutic aspects of Opportunistic Protozoal Infections*". Recent advances in epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment of these infections will be dealt with by experts in the field. It includes lectures, case reports, updates on treatment or prophylactic strategies, practicals and attempts to design research perspectives in Europe. The course is mainly intended for medical specialists in Parasitology, Medical Microbiology, Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine.

The five day '**Post graduate Course Clinical Parasitology (PCCP)**', is planned to be hold once yearly, the first in Amsterdam, June 8-13, 2009.

The course focuses on parasitic infections of importance for routine clinical practice in European countries, also covering the most frequent imported parasitic infections in migrant and travellers. Experienced speakers will provide lectures with emphasis on clinical, diagnostic, therapeutic and epidemiological aspects. Practical's will cover 40 % of the stay; it will provide facilities for self-training in diagnosis of most important parasitic infections, including malaria, leishmania and intestinal parasites. The course is intended for medical doctors, biologists or senior technicians interested and /or working in clinical parasitology.

For further information you can contact:

francis.derouin@sls.aphp.fr or t.vanGool@amc.uva.nl

Toxoplasma conference

as part of the 17th National Conference of Parasitology 6-8 November 2008 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania 6-8 November 2008 ;

Financially supported by ESCMID

Invited speakers: Pr Hervé Pelloux, Pr Francois Peyron, Pr Jean Dupouy-Camet.

The Toxoplasmosis Workshop took place within the Parasitology National Congress, located in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, during the 6th-8th of November 2008.

The workshop had been sustained by ESCMID throughout the finance of three Invited Speakers that are members of the ESGCP group. By this financial support the workshop became an activity of this group. Prof. Herve Pelloux , MD PhD, and Prof. Peyron François, Md PhD, both members of ESGCP group participated at this workshop with lectures:

- The biological diagnosis of Toxoplasmosis: what is new? Pr Hervé Pelloux, D. Maubon, H. Fricker-Hidalgo, M.P. Brenier-Pinchart
- Congenital Toxoplasmosis; perinatal work-up and long term follow up. Prof. François Peyron
- Toxoplasmosis in pregnant women: Interpretation of serological tests, monitoring of mother and foetus. Prof. François Peyron

The workshop had 30 foreign participants from different European countries and around 60 Romanian participants. The whole number of participants in the congress was 180 Romanian participants and 30 participants from abroad. (in attachment the Conferences program <http://zooparaz.net/conference2008>)

Conclusions

The conferences had a large audience, had been very well appreciated and led to important discussions /themes, such as:

- 1) the medical importance of the toxoplasmosis in pregnancy, with the medical, familial or socio-economical burden of the congenital toxoplasmosis
- 2) the necessity of collaboration with the veterinarians, for a better control of the infection source.
- 3) the necessity of standardization of diagnostic protocols of toxoplasmosis in pregnant women and the evaluation of it's transmission to the fetus.
- 4) the necessity to introduce surveillance and control programs of congenital toxoplasmosis in countries where they do not exist (Romania and other countries) after the models that were presented by the Invited Speakers.
- 5) the difficulty to diagnose, prevent and treat toxoplasmosis in immunocompromised patients, HIV infected or transplant patients.

With the occasion of the workshop, it had been announced the ESCMID's and the ESGCP's support in its achievement, so that the participants (human and veterinarian physicians from different medical specializations) begun to show their interest in joining the ESGCP of the ESCMID. How to join the ESCMID study group, i.e. through the ESCMID website, was precised.

Toxoplasma Centennial Congress Buzios

The Toxoplasma Centennial Congress: *From Discovery to Public Health Management* celebrated the centennial anniversary of the parasite discovery. It was held in September of 2008 at the city of Búzios, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil.

There will be a book published with all the presentations of the invited speakers.

Some of the highlights of the conference were:

- It became clear during the conference that there is a big difference in the clinical presentation and severity of toxoplasmosis in Brazil, compared to Europe. In Brazil the disease is more severe and causes ocular lesions earlier in life of congenital infected cases and more ocular lesions in adults. The data of studies performed in Europe can not be extrapolated to Brazil: special RCT's are needed in Brazil to address the item of efficacy of treatment. The available treatment can not radically cure the infection, and new drugs and vaccines able to prevent congenital infection and acquired eye disease are urgently needed.
- In French Guyana there is a special clinical presentation of acute toxoplasmosis after eating raw or undercooked meat from forest game. The patients present with severe respiratory disease and fever and sometimes need to be admitted on the ICU with ARDS.
- It is possible to be re-infected with a different strain of Toxoplasma. The frequency and consequence of such reinfection are not known .
- Congenital infected children that are now in the childbearing age seem to have no increased risk of passing the infection to their children. However, during pregnancy ocular Toxoplasma lesions may relapse.
- Presently, there is no clear evidence that prenatal treatment significantly reduces the risk transmission of toxoplasmosis during pregnancy or clinical manifestations in infected children. We urgently need Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT's) with new drugs for treatment.

Call for ideas for educational workshops and symposia for the 2010 ECCMID meeting in 10-13 april Vienna, Austria

Every member of the study group is invited to send his or her ideas about interesting topics for educational workshops and/or symposia to the secretary of the board of the ESGCP (lm.kortbeek@rivm.nl). Please describe the topic as well as possible title of presentations and speakers, with a short background of why the topic is of importance for ESCMID.

Papers on behalf of the studygroup:

Derouin F, Pelloux H. Prevention of toxoplasmosis in transplant;
on behalf of the of the ESCMID Study Group on Clinical Parasitology.
Clin Microbiol Infect. 2008 Nov 15. [Epub ahead of print]

Announcement of conferences in the future with clinical parasitological topics

IMED 2009 International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance Vienna, Austria
February 13–16, 2009

March 26-27 2009 1st Conference on Immunocompromised Traveller, Maastricht, the
Netherlands : <http://www.ict2009.eu/>

Toxoplasma meeting 2009 (19-23 june) Rol Duc The Netherlands; organized by Dick Schaap,
Jim Ajioka, Fiona Tomley en Craig Roberts (meeting every 2 years alternating Europe and USA)

3th Giardia and Cryptomeeting : October 2009, Italy , organized by Simone Caccio

6th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health ,September 6th to 10th,
2009, Verona, Italy

ECCMID 2010: 20th ECCMID, Vienna, Austria, 10 – 13 April 2010

ICOPA XII :The next International Congress of Parasitology will be held in Melbourne, Australia
15th-20th August 2010 <http://www.icopaxii.org/>.

21st ECCMID, Milan, Italy, 7-10 May 2011

EMOP 11: (organized by the European Federation of Parasitology
<http://monsie.orange.fr/europfedpar/>) will be held in **Bucarest, Romania, 2012**

More information on ESCMID or the study group can be found at www.escmid.org

If you want to respond to this newsletter: Please send an email to the secretary:
LM.Kortbeek@rivm.nl