



Dear members of the ESCMID study group for Clinical Parasitology.

This newsletter is to inform you about the activities of our study group and to stimulate you all to participate in our study group.

Content newsletter:

- Announcement and parasitological topics Vienna 2010
- Looking back at the ECCMID meeting in Helsinki
- Short report on parasitology courses and announcement courses 2010
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ECCMID meeting Vienna, Austria 10-13th April 2010

Deadline for abstract submission: **19 November 2009**

The study group will organize an educational workshop on Saturday morning:

EW03:

New insights in frequently observed intestinal parasites (2h workshop)
arranged with the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP)

- Dientamoeba, an underrecognized intestinal pathogen
- Blastocystis, new insights in a frequently observed intestinal parasite
- Cryptosporidium, Isospora and Cyclospora: clinical importance and outbreak management
- Treatment failure of intestinal protozoal infections

Official symposium

Climate change and parasitic infections in Europe

arranged with the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP)

- Malaria in Europe – is it possible?
- Expansion of Leishmania and other parasitic diseases in Europe

There will be other symposia addressing parasitological questions:

Treatment and prophylaxis of malaria

Why malaria prophylaxis sometimes fails?

Artemisinins for the treatment of severe falciparum malaria

Intermittent preventive treatment of infants and in pregnancy

Artemisinin resistance

Fever in the returning traveller

Fever in travellers from India and South East Asia

Fever in travellers from South America

Fever in travellers from Africa

Computer-assisted diagnosis of fever in travelers

And one of the keynote lectures is:

The challenge of imported parasitic diseases in Europe

Hopefully there will be many high quality abstracts that will result in another oral session on parasitology.

Looking back at the ECCMID meeting in Helsinki 2009

The Business meeting of our study group was held immediately after the educational workshop. Quite of the few of the people in the audience stayed so we had a well attended meeting. As usual the board was presented together with the new members who had been nominated. Dr Miriam-José Alvarez from Barcelona was elected and welcomed. The activities during the past year was presented; a workshop on Toxoplasmosis in Romania and two courses in clinical parasitology, one in Paris and one in Amsterdam as described in the newsletter.

The meeting was also attended by Henri Saenz from ESCMID who stressed that many people are interested in parasitology courses as they contact the office to discuss this. The policy is to support a course only once but if moving around in Europe it can get funding from ESCMID. Also prof Eduardo Pozio from EMOP (European multicolloquial of parasitology) attended the business meeting. He is the treasurer of EMOP and it was much welcomed by our study group that he came and informed us all of EMOPs vision and work. He will inform the board of EMOP of the activities and vision of ESGCP and see if we can collaborate on educational activities. Our aim is to focus on clinical parasitology as there are few opportunities for updated education in the field both on a post graduate and on a continuous medical educational level.

The chairperson informed that ESGCP has close to 300 members which makes it one of the study groups with the largest membership. This makes it interesting for ESCMID to work with as it shows the interest in Europe for the field. The chairperson especially thanked Henri Saenz for participating in the meeting, thus meeting the board and the members and explaining the intentions of ESCMID. Also, the presence of and talk by the representative from EMOP prof Pozio was much appreciated as people in parasitology in Europe should join forces in activities whenever it strengthens the field

Short report of the two courses in Clinical Parasitology, financially supported by ESCMID

ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop in Clinical Parasitology, Paris, 30 – 31 March 2009:

The ESCMID Study Group of Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP) organized its first course in Clinical Parasitology in Paris, on 30 – 31 March focusing on “Clinical, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Aspects of Opportunistic Protozoal Infections”. Within few weeks following the announcement of this course on the ESCMID web site (January), more than 30 applications were received. Due to limited teaching capacities, 25 “senior” medical or pharmacy doctors , either physicians or biologists in charge of medical parasitology, infectious diseases or microbial/parasitology laboratories were selected and 6 of them were supported by an ESCMID attendance grant covering the tuition fees. Seventeen nationalities were represented, indicating the widespread need for formation in parasitology over Europe. During the 2-day course, recent advances in epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment of toxoplasmosis,

cryptosporidiosis, microsporidiosis, pneumocystosis and other opportunistic protozoa were presented by experts in the field. Each day comprised a "Clinical case session" during which illustrative, and sometimes "puzzling" cases of opportunistic infections were presented, opening to discussion on diagnosis and treatment strategies. These sessions were markedly acknowledged by the participants, as well as the practical session on the second day of the course.

Between the sessions, the participants had the opportunity of short breaks in the garden of the hospital Saint-Louis (built in 1607) and could visit the unique dermatology museum of the hospital and the laboratory of Parasitology-Mycology. Hopefully, several participants had the opportunity to stay one or two days more in Paris for visits and shopping. From the point of view of the organizers, this first course was long and hard to prepare but gave full satisfaction as all the sessions opened to discussions between participants and speakers. In the final evaluation using the ESCMID questionnaire, the course rating was 3.71 out of 4.0 and the mean faculty scores ranged between 3.64 and 3.79. This course was also granted 12 CME credits (ECMEC) by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. On a financial point of view, the cost of the course remained reasonable for participants (200 Euros for ESCMID members) and for the organization.

Thanks to the logistic support of ESCMID for announcements and organization, and thanks to strong implication of several members of ESGCP and of the laboratory of Parasitology of St-Louis' hospital and faculty Paris Diderot, a new possibility of formation in clinical parasitology has been set up in Europe and will be maintained in the forthcoming years.



Postgraduate Course in Clinical Parasitology, Amsterdam, 8-12 June 2009

Report by Aldert Bart/Tom van Gool.

The ESCMID Study Group of Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP) organized its second course in Clinical Parasitology in Amsterdam, 8-12 June 2009, presenting a broad overview of both theory and practice of clinical parasitology.

As soon as the announcement of this course was published on the ESCMID web site (January), applications poured in, resulting in more than 50 applications from 28 countries.

Due to limited teaching capacities, 25 mainly “senior” medical doctors, veterinarians and technicians in charge of medical parasitology, infectious diseases or microbial/parasitology laboratories were selected and 6 of them were supported by an ESCMID attendance grant covering the tuition fees. Twenty-three nationalities were represented, indicating the widespread need for courses in parasitology.

During the 5-day course, recent advances in epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment of malaria, other blood and tissue parasites, and intestinal protozoal and helminth infections were presented. Each day comprised both a theoretical and practical part. Included in the practical part were three exams in the form of spot tests, where participants had to judge approximately 30 microscopical slides and fill in their results.

From the point of view of the organizers, this first course was long and hard to prepare but gave full satisfaction as all the sessions were very much appreciated by the participants. In the final evaluation using the ESCMID questionnaire, the course rating was 3.82 out of 4.0 and the mean faculty scores ranged between 3.52 and 3.98. This course was also granted 30 CME credits (ECMEC) by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. On a financial point of view, the cost of the course remained reasonable for participants (490 Euros for ESCMID members) and for the organization.

Thanks to the logistic support of ESCMID for announcements and organization, and thanks to strong implication of several members of ESGCP and of the laboratory of Parasitology of the Academic Medical Center, a new possibility of education in clinical parasitology has been set up in Europe and will be maintained in the forthcoming years.



The next courses are planned in Amsterdam and London:

ESCMID Postgraduate Course in Clinical Parasitology, Amsterdam, 7 - 11 June 2010, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Postgraduate Technical Workshop in Clinical Parasitology, London : date to be announced in 2010.

This workshop is organized by ESGCP and will be endorsed by ESCMID

Forming a network: announcement short questionnaire

Our study group has 298 people listed, of whom 190 are Medical Doctors, 171 working in Clinical microbiology and 64 are infectious disease specialists.

Our members come from 66 different countries.

Our goal is to try to organize this study group as a network that allows each member to potentially contact other members in order to share experience, questions or data on parasitic diseases, or, to propose research topics to the board of the group. The strength of this network will be to associate numerous physicians/medical biologists/researchers involved in medical parasitology, making possible to develop large clinical and biological studies in the field. For this purpose, a database including the position and the main topics of interest of the group members is necessary.

The ESCMID secretary provides the secretary of the study group with the member list of the study group, but this information is strictly confidential and cannot be sent to others.

Thus, we will send you within a few weeks a short questionnaire to fill if you accept to participate.

If you do not want to participate you will stay a member of the study group and will be informed by our newsletter about our activities.

E-learning activities

For GP handling parasitic diseases it could be embarrassing as it is not a common situation encountered in their routine and they hardly remember the lectures they had when they were in medical school.

Yet, even in a European practice parasitology is a concern for GP, as some parasites are worldwide distributed and due to the number of travellers, migrants or adoptees, exotic parasites are not so rare. We therefore launch the project of an e-learning site accredited for continuous medical education which will make GP more familiar with parasitic diseases. The goal is not to create an academic site but rather a practical one which will answer to clinical questions.

Comprehensive text and illustrations will offer the basic knowledge for monitoring a patient, links will allow to go further, and a post test will check the level of knowledge.

The list below has been made after a questionnaire applied to GPs in order to figure out what are their major concerns. It is just the first version as we hope that in the future we will develop and improve this e-learning site all together.

1. Fever in a returning traveller
2. Diarrhoea of parasitic origin
3. Dermatological lesion of parasitic origin
4. Hypereosinophilia
5. Malaria prophylaxis
6. How to interpret stool examination results ; which parasites deserve treatment
7. Amoebiasis
8. Toxoplasmosis
9. Echinococcosis
10. Emerging parasites
11. How to treat parasitic diseases in children and pregnant women
12. "Bugs"; bed bugs, harvest mite....

Any suggestions are welcome and can be addressed to François Peyron
(francois.peyron@chu-lyon.fr)

Agenda:

UKNEQAS Parasitology study day
Thursday 10th December, 2009. Institute of Child Health London

ESCMID Postgraduate Course in Clinical Parasitology, Amsterdam, 7 - 11 June 2010,
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

ICOPA XII:
The next ICOPA meeting (International Congress of Parasitology) will be held in Melbourne,
15-20 august 2010 Australia. See: <http://www.icopaxii.org/>
Some study group members will be present and will try to organize a clinical parasitology
workshop.

ECCMID:
The next ECCMID will be in Milan, Italy, 7-10 May 2011.

ECTMIH
The 7th European congress of tropical medicine and international health will be in Barcelona,
October 2011.

EMOP: European Multicolloquium of Parasitology
The XI EMOP will be organized in Bucarest,Romania in 2012

The members of the ESGCP 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
Prof Monica Junie, MD, PhD, "Iuliu Hatieganu" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj Napoca, Romania
Dr. Miriam-jose Alvarez-Martinez, MSc, Microbiology & Parasitology Department. Hospital Clinic,
Barcelona, Spain.

Website: <http://www.escmid.org/esgcp/>