

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-Mycolology. 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.



ESGCP

ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR
CLINICAL PARASITOLOGY

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

Staff members and speakers

- F. DEROUIN, MD, PhD, Pr. Lab. Parasitology, St-Louis, Hospital, Paris
- T. VAN GOOL, MD, PhD, Pr., Department of Clinical Parasitology, Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- B. EVENGARD, MD, PhD, Pr., Division Infectious Diseases, Umeå University, Umeå Sweden

Speakers :

- C. SARFATI, MD, Ass. Pr., Lab. Parasitology, St-Louis, Hospital, Paris, France
- J. MENOTTI, MD, PhD, Ass. Pr., Lab. Parasitology, St-Louis, Hospital, Paris, France
- JM MOLINA, MD, PhD, Pr., Dept. Infectious diseases, St-Louis, Hospital, Paris France
- G. NEVEZ, MD, PhD, Pr. Lab. Parasitology, Unioversity hospital, Brest, France
- H. PELLOUX, MD, PhD, Pr., Lab. Parasitology, University hospital, Grenoble, France
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