

EUCAST Statutes

The objectives of EUCAST are:

- to form in EUCAST, under the auspices of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases", a professional network of (i) the national breakpoint committees and experts on antimicrobial susceptibility testing and (ii) industry involved in the production and marketing of antimicrobial agents or of in-vitro diagnostic medical devices used in antimicrobial susceptibility testing;
- to set common European breakpoints for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance;
- to identify national differences in clinical breakpoints and to harmonise breakpoints for existing and new antimicrobial drugs;
- to produce, disseminate and update a series of documents on the technology of in-vitro antimicrobial susceptibility testing, promoting standardization of methods used in different parts of Europe and comparability of results obtained by different technologies;
- to encourage internal and external national and international quality assessment schemes;
- to collaborate with European and international groups concerned with antimicrobial susceptibility testing and/or the epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance;
- to advise European Community Institutions on the technology and interpretation of antimicrobial susceptibility testing;
- to work with other bodies to achieve international consensus in susceptibility testing;
- to devise and participate in educational and training programmes for antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

The membership consists of:

- A Steering Committee: ESCMID appoints the Chairman, Scientific Secretary and Clinical Data Co-ordinator of EUCAST and decides which national breakpoint committees shall be allocated a position on the Steering Committee. Active European national breakpoint committees may apply to ESCMID for a position on the EUCAST Steering Committee. Breakpoint committee positions on the steering committee will be re-appraised every three years (at annual general meetings in 2008, 2011, 2014 etc). ESCMID appoints two additional members from the EUCAST General Committee (re-appointment every 2 years – at annual general meetings in 2008, 2010, 2012 etc).
- One member from each European country, representing and approved by national groups, preferably national societies of clinical microbiology and/or infectious diseases and/or medicine or national groups concerned with antimicrobial susceptibility testing or antimicrobial resistance surveillance (re-appointment every 2 years – at annual general meetings 2008, 2010, 2012 etc).
- The immediate past EUCAST chairman (2 years);
- A network (list of email addresses) of one or more representatives of pharmaceutical companies that have an interest in being consulted on and informed of EUCAST activities;
- A network (list of email addresses) of one or more representatives of susceptibility testing device manufacturers that have an interest in being consulted on and informed of EUCAST activities.

EUCAST Decisions

Decisions by EUCAST are professional recommendations. The Steering Committee will make all decisions. Proposals will be distributed to EUCAST members for consultation and then ratified by the Steering Committee.

EUCAST breakpoints for new antimicrobial agents

Through an agreement between the EMEA, pharmaceutical industry and EUCAST, EUCAST is part of the official EMEA process for approval of new antimicrobial agents (see document EMEA SOP/H/3043 14 February 2005).

EUCAST Meetings

Business meetings will be held at least annually in association with the ECCMID. The annual meeting will be open to all attending the ECCMID meeting.

The Steering Committee will meet as often as necessary.

EUCAST Publications

Discussion documents will be posted on the EUCAST website for comments and after a period of consultation they will be submitted for publication in CMI. Following publication they will also be available on the EUCAST website (www.eucast.org).

Technical notes describing the rationale behind EUCAST breakpoint decisions will be published in CMI.

Following publication they will also be available on the EUCAST website (www.eucast.org).

Rationale documents describing in detail the rationale behind EUCAST breakpoint decisions will be available on the EUCAST website (www.eucast.org).

Tables of clinical breakpoints and updates are published on the EUCAST website (www.eucast.org).

Epidemiological cut off values and distributions of wild type MIC values are available on the EUCAST website (www.eucast.org).

Declaration of commercial interests by EUCAST Steering Committee members

Each Steering Committee member will make a declaration of commercial interests in companies involved in drug marketing and/or development or in the manufacture of susceptibility testing products.

EUCAST Finances

ECCMID is financially responsible for EUCAST. The EUCAST and its Subcommittees may not accept financial support from industry.

Munich, April 2007