

EHS

Annual Report to ESCMID 2007-2009

1) Past Activities: September 2007 – September 2008

a. Publications – Guidelines

The traditional supplement of the journal *Helicobacter*, *The Year in Helicobacter 2008* was published with a summary of the main articles published in the field during the previous year. It was published for the 7th time in this journal. It was distributed free of charge to the participants of our Workshop in Riga, Latvia (*Helicobacter* 2008; 13 (Supplement 1): 1-57).

The abstracts of the Workshop were also published in the October issue of the journal *Helicobacter* (*Helicobacter* 2008; 13: 389-488).

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the EHS, a special issue of the journal *Helicobacter* was published with 15 articles featuring the "Past, Present and Future of Helicobacter" (*Helicobacter* 2008; 12 (Supplement 2): 1-89).

Guidelines on the management of *H. pylori* infection in children developed in collaboration with the European and North American Societies for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition are currently being finalized and will be published soon.

b. Presentations on behalf of the Study Group at scientific meetings

Several sessions on *H. pylori* have been organised for this year's United Gastroenterology Week (UEGW, October 18-22, 2008, in Vienna, Austria), including: New Therapeutic Options, What's new in virulence factors, Gastric cancer and premalignancy, Current controversies in gastric cancer, and a lunch session on Non-invasive diagnostic tests.

c. Organisation of an educational workshop at ECCMID

At the Congress in Barcelona, Spain, on April 19, 2008, the EHS organised an Educational Workshop on "*H. pylori* susceptibility testing and treatment failure" involving bacteriologists from the group.

d. Organisation of scientific meetings & workshops outside ECCMID

The 20th Workshop organised in Istanbul, Turkey, from September 20-22, 2007, was globally positive. The attendance was relatively limited, but stable in comparison to previous years and was comprised of specialists. The scientific programme was organised using the same framework as the previous years with symposia, workshops, state-of-the-art lectures and debates.

e. Research projects

A surveillance of *H. pylori* resistance to antibiotics was initiated in April 2008. It includes 33 centres in 25 countries in Europe. The same methodology (E test) is used by the different centres and data is entered on line.

f. Other activities

Our website is still well visited. It is used especially to announce our Workshop.

The European *H. pylori* Paediatric Task Force met before the yearly Workshop. In 2007, the gathering was in Istanbul, as was the main meeting. A multicentre study to determine the joint prevalence of peptic ulcer disease in children and their aetiology was carried out in 2008.

Following an initiative by Professor Paradowski, the Marshall and Warren Medal Award was created in Wroclaw in 2006. This Medal Award will be offered every year to a senior scientist who made a significant contribution to the field. The recipient in 2007 was Professor Michael Dixon, a pathologist from Leeds, UK, in 2008 Timo Kosunen from Helsinki, FI.

There were some changes in the board following the resignation of P. Sipponen (Finland) and P. Michetti (Switzerland). A. Ristimaki, a pathologist from Finland, was inducted. We also welcomed a new Honorary Member: J. Fox, a famous bacteriologist from MIT in Boston, MA, USA.

2) Planned Activities: September 2007 – September 2008

- XXIst International Workshop on Helicobacter and related bacteria in chronic digestive inflammation and gastric cancer, Riga, Latvia, September 18-20, 2008.

- XXIInd International Workshop on Helicobacter and related bacteria in chronic digestive inflammation and gastric cancer, Porto, Portugal, September 17-19, 2009.

- Symposium at ECCMID Helsinki, Finland (May 16-19, 2009) on "Current management of *Helicobacter pylori* infection".

- The Healthy Stomach Initiative supported by our group was launched in May 2008 in order to be an active player in the area of gastric cancer prevention by eradication of *H. pylori*.

3) Administration

This year's Board is comprised of: José Machado, Porto, Portugal (President), Francis Mégraud, Bordeaux, France (Secretary), and Alexander Hirschl, Vienna, Austria (Treasurer).

The General Assembly will be held at the end of the next EHSB Workshop on September 19, 2009. A business meeting will be held at ECCMID in Helsinki.