

ESCMID EUROPEAN COUNCIL 2006

Meeting during the 16th ECCMID, Nice, on 1 April 2006 at 15:00 h

MINUTES

1 ESCMID progress report

Ragnar Norrby, ESCMID President, welcomed the 17 participants to the first meeting of the European Council in its new composition. The purpose of the newly formed body, which consists of representatives from the societies affiliated with ESCMID, is to foster discussion and interaction between European specialist societies and to provide input to the ESCMID Executive.

Ragnar Norrby gave a brief account of the Society's main achievements during the past year.

ESCMID

Our society has currently some 3100 individual members. The Executive Office in Basel is hiring new staff to support and expand the Society's activities in the field of education, scientific activities, professional affairs and public relations. ESCMID's financial situation is healthy due to successful ECCMIDs and effective cost management.

Science

ESCMID is getting increasing attention from the European Commission and others due to its very active Study Groups. Another major success is EUCAST: Europe has now a working system for setting susceptibility breakpoints for old and new antibiotics. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, our journal, is developing well and each year achieves a higher impact factor. A positive sign was the acceptance of ESCMID by the European Commission as a full cost flat rate partner for research projects.

Education

In the past year the educational programme again comprised a very successful Summer School in Szeged, Hungary, several 2- to 3-day postgraduate courses as well as a number of short educational workshops arranged as pre-ECCMID events. In addition, ESCMID is responsible with ERS for the educational platform of GRACE, a DG Research network of excellence in the field of community-acquired lower respiratory tract infections.

Professional Affairs

ESCMID has been closely collaborating with UEMS for the development of training curricula and CME accreditation in our specialty fields. We also supported the proposal to establish Clinical Microbiology as an independent specialty separate from Medical Biopathology in UEMS. In addition, there is an increasing engagement in the development of practice guidelines, e.g. Guidelines for the Management of Adult lower Respiratory Tract Infections, developed with ERS.

EU Relations

ESCMID is represented in the ECDC Advisory Forum through Prof Elisabeth Nagy. In addition to GRACE and EUCAST (see above), ESCMID is also involved in IPSE (Improving Patient Safety in Europe), a public health action programme supported by DG SANCO.

There is an increasing use of the expertise in our study groups by ECDC, e.g. the ESCMID Study Group on *Clostridium difficile*. EUCAST maintains a fruitful cooperation with EMEA in the field of susceptibility breakpoints determination.

Cooperation

ESCMID is engaged in a number of collaborative projects with other societies:

- FEMS: annual jointly-organised scientific conferences
- ISC: joint 17th ECCMID and 25th ICC, 31 March – 3 April 2007, in Munich
- SIS (Surgical Infection Society): Conference on Surgical Infections, September 2006, in Stockholm
- ERS: educational platform of GRACE
- SHEA: annual courses in hospital epidemiology

2 Update on the affiliation process

Patrick Francioli, Secretary General, gave a brief overview of the affiliation process: up to now 37 specialist societies have signed an affiliation agreement with ESCMID. This is encouraging since most European countries are now represented in the European Council. Still, there is more to do since the estimated potential is about 60 societies with some 20'000 members. Recent experience showed that we will have to set up eligibility criteria for affiliation candidates based on their Statutes, democratic control, objectives and representation. Part of the affiliation concept is the dissemination of ESCMID *Online News* through the headquarters of the affiliated societies. Unfortunately, a relatively large number of our affiliates are still unable to forward this electronic newsletter to their members. Patrick Francioli invited the national societies to make more frequent use of ESCMID *News* for the discussion of issues or dissemination of information which are of general interest to the European professional community. Contributions of interest to our members are welcome!

3a European professional affairs, Clinical Microbiology

Elisabeth Nagy, Professional Affairs Officer for Clinical Microbiology, first referred to the second, still ongoing pan-European survey of the professional situation and clinical practice in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. The return and evaluation of the questionnaires is not yet complete; the results will be published in ESCMID *News*.

An important result of the survey, however, is the finding that Clinical Microbiology is a recognised specialty in almost 70% of the European countries. This implies a curriculum and an examination after training. The Microbiology Commission of UEMS has recently approved a core curriculum in Clinical Microbiology, devoid of clinical chemistry and haematology, but still lacking epidemiology and hospital hygiene. Elisabeth Nagy concurred with the proponents of promoting the establishment of an independent Section of Clinical Microbiology in UEMS since this would much better reflect the situation in Europe and broaden the representation of the specialty in UEMS. The current Commission of Microbiology, which is part of the UEMS Section of Medical Biopathology, is simply not representative of the specialty in Europe. Guis Ruijs, the Netherlands, suggested that ESCMID coordinates the activities towards the goal of creating an independent Section within UEMS. Elisabeth Nagy reminded the audience of the UEMS procedures for forming a new section: the formation must be proposed by a National Association, which is Member of UEMS and approved by two thirds of the voting members of the UEMS Council. ESCMID cannot take part in this formal process. But she agreed to arrange a meeting during ECCMID in Nice among those participants interested in taking action, to discuss the scenarios and develop a plan.

3b European professional affairs, Infectious Diseases

Robert Read first defined his role as Professional Affairs Officer for Infectious Diseases:

- i) As formal representative/observer of ESCMID in the UEMS Section of Infectious Diseases he has responsibility in the field of professional training (curriculum development), accreditation, qualification and registration.

- ii) As member of EBAID, which is jointly run by the UEMS Section of Infectious Diseases and ESCMID, he is also involved in the accreditation of CME
- iii) Plans are being made for an electronic platform for the facilitation of exchange visits between centres for trainees in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases
- iv) ESCMID wants to become more active in developing medical practice guidelines and standards of care.

Questions from the floor:

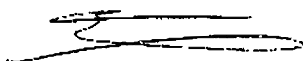
- 1 Peter Kern, Germany, asked about the costs of guidelines development: who will pay? Ragnar Norrby answered that the costs will be borne by ESCMID. If no salaries have to be paid costs will not be very high.
- 2 Giorgio Palu, Italy, was interested in who is entitled to propose the development of specific guidelines. Robert Read answered that anyone, an individual ESCMID member or an affiliated society, can come up with a proposal. Next question: Would ESCMID also review and approve existing national guidelines? According to Robert Read this might be very well possible.

4 Any other issues

Ragnar Norrby expressed his concern that in some countries Infectious Diseases is losing specialists to Paediatrics. We should liaise with ESPID to discuss the situation.

Ragnar Norrby thanked the participants for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 16:30 h.

Basel, 28 July 2006



Ragnar Norrby
ESCMID President



Patrick Francioli
Secretary General



Peter Schoch
Managing Director