

## ESCMID European Council

Meeting during the 18th ECCMID in Barcelona, on 20 April 2008, from 12:45 h – 14:15 h

### Minutes

Giuseppe Cornaglia, ESCMID President, welcomed the 49 participants to the meeting of the European Council.

### 1 Approval of the Minutes of the European Council Meetings in 2007

The minutes from the European Council meetings were approved with the following amendments:

1) Minutes European Council meeting April 2007 in Munich:

item 6: ...Bernard Maillet, UEMS Secretary General, pointed out that **one-third** of the UEMS member countries must recognize a specialty in their home territories to warrant the formation of a new UEMS Section.

2) Minutes Extraordinary European Council meeting December 2007 in Rome:

Item 4: ...Professional Affairs Workshop 2008 which will be organized on **9-10 October 2008** in Rome.

### 2 ESCMID 2007-2008 progress reports: matters of relevance for the European Council

Javier Garau presented an update on the affiliation process. Up to now 53 specialists societies have signed an affiliation agreement with ESCMID. There is still more to do since the estimated potential is about 80 societies with some 30'000 members. Javier Garau summarized the activities of ESCMID in the fields of science and education. He pointed out that ESCMID maintains cooperative partnerships with many professional societies and that ESCMID is currently preparing *Memorandums of Understanding* with ASM, CMA, IDSA and ISID. Furthermore, ESCMID has entered joint cooperative educational and scientific ventures with several other international societies, such as

- with ISC (17th ECCMID/ 25th ICC, 31 March – 3 April 2007 in Munich and 21st ECCMID/27th ICC, 7-10 May 2011 in Milan)
- with FEMS (annual jointly organized scientific *conference on New Frontiers in Microbiology and Infection*)
- with ERS (the educational platform of GRACE).

In future more emphasis shall be put on strengthening the cooperation with affiliated societies across Europe educational, scientific and professional affairs.

### 3 Advanced planning of the Professional Affairs Workshop, 9-10 October 2008, Rome

Robert Read outlined the programme of the ESCMID Workshop on Professional Affairs in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. He encouraged active participation of all affiliated societies with the hope that at least one representative of each affiliated society will participate in the workshop. The registration fees are very moderate and ESCMID supports the workshop by providing attendance grants for a large number of young attendees.

#### **4 Road Map to a *White Book* of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease in Europe**

Gunnar Kahlmeter presented the “road map” of a *White Book* of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. It is based on an online questionnaire to be filled in by national representatives. The Professional Affairs Officers have made every effort to make the questionnaire relevant by consulting specialists in many countries. The questionnaire will be sent to the affiliated societies after a final review by the Professional Affairs Subcommittee and UEMS representatives. The final dataset containing detailed information about the organizational basis of our specialties in Europe will eventually be published in ESCMID News and on the Internet.

#### **5 Other Professional Opportunities**

Robert Read gave an overview of the recent medical guideline developments:

- International guidelines for management of severe sepsis and septic shock (in cooperation with the Surviving Sepsis Campaign, published in *Crit. Care Med.* 2008; 36:296–327)
- Guidelines on the diagnosis and management of *Clostridium difficile*-associated disease (ESCMID guidelines, ongoing, led by Ed Kuijpers, Leiden, Netherlands)
- Lower respiratory tract infection (ongoing, in cooperation with ERS)
- Endocarditis (ongoing, in cooperation with ECS)
- Catheter-related urinary tract infection (ongoing, in cooperation with IDSA)
- Urinary tract infection (ongoing, in cooperation with IDSA)

Gunnar Kahlmeter and Robert Read then presented another project which will be implemented to facilitate international exchange of ESCMID members: Departments of Clinical Microbiology or Infectious Diseases can apply for the status of an *ESCMID Collaborative Centre* and publish their profile on the ESCMID website. This entitles them to participate in an *ESCMID Observership Programme* by hosting individuals for one day to one month for professional exchange. The aim is not only to attract trainees but also senior clinical microbiologists and infectious disease physicians.

#### **Comments from the floor:**

Mario Poljak (Slovenia): Does ESCMID plan any cooperation with ECDC in guideline development? Ragnar Norrby replied that ESCMID is represented in the ECDC Advisory Forum through Elisabeth Nagy and that there is strong link between ESCMID and ECDC. We will certainly avoid any duplication and seek cooperation with ECDC if this is justified, e.g. in the field of community- and hospital-acquired MRSA infection and the harmonization of breakpoints for resistant bacteria.

Helle Krogh Johansen (Denmark): Are the application forms for ESCMID Observerships already available on the website? Gunnar Kahlmeter responded that the Professional Affairs Subcommittee members will first review the application forms for suggestions and improvements before they will be put online. The project, which also includes the establishment of ESCMID Collaborative Centres, will presumably start by the end of this year.

G.J.H.M. Ruijs (The Netherlands): The concept of an observership is interesting for the individual. Is there also a spin-off for the Society? Gunnar Kahlmeter and Robert Read responded that the aim of the programme is to foster mobility and career options for trainees and established researchers. Serving its members is justification enough. But after

completing a visit, submission of a short report is required for publication on the ESCMID website.

## **6 UEMS: towards an autonomous Microbiology Section**

John Degener, Chair of the Microbiology Commission, informed the participants that UEMS voted at its last meeting in Brussels (19 April 2008) for an independent UEMS Section of Medical Microbiology. He shortly summarized the history of this long decision process that finally ended favourably. The first meeting of the new UEMS Section of Medical Microbiology will be held on the 21 April 2008 during the 18th ECCMID in Barcelona.

Giuseppe Cornaglia happily thanked John Degener, Elisabeth Nagy and all representatives in the UEMS Section for their efforts to bring this issue to a successful conclusion.

## **7 1st European Day for Fighting Infection**

On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, ESCMID celebrates the *1st European Day of Fighting Infection* with a one-day symposium on 23 April 2008. It will be devoted to the importance of infections in the past, present and future and their relevance in a socio-economical context on the daily life on our continent. Giuseppe Cornaglia invited the representatives of the affiliated societies to take part in this important event.

ESCMID intends to organize the *European Day for Fighting Infection* annually with the aim to strengthen the link between ESCMID and the national societies and organizations.

### Comment from the floor:

John Degener (The Netherlands) mentioned that ECDC has initiated the European Antibiotic Awareness Day that will be held for the first time in November this year. Ragnar Norrby confirmed that the European Antibiotic Awareness Day is an initiative of the ECDC in close collaboration with other Institutions of the European Union and the Members States. ECDC only provides promotional material but no further support. The cost for the campaign is covered by the Members States' governments. Giuseppe Cornaglia added that the European Day for Fighting Infection will focus on fighting infection only and will not specifically address antibiotic resistance to avoid an overlap with the ECDC initiative.

## **8 Election of two EUC members to the Nomination Subcommittee**

Ragnar Norrby as chair of the Nomination Subcommittee explained that in preparing for the election to the ESCMID Executive Committee in December 2008, ESCMID should to form the Nomination Subcommittee, which will be responsible to put up the ballot sheet with valuable candidates. According to the newly revised Bylaws, this Subcommittee consists of the Past President, two additional members from the ESCMID Executive Committee and two members elected by the European Council. The term of office is 2 years. Ragnar Norrby asked the present representatives of the affiliated societies for proposals of nominees.

The following members volunteered as candidates to serve on the Nomination Subcommittee:

- Helle Krogh Johansen, Copenhagen, Denmark (microbiologist)
- Mario Poljak, Ljubljana, Slovenia (microbiologist)
- Gijs Ruijs, Zwolle, the Netherlands (microbiologist)
- Jean-Paul Stahl, Grenoble, France (ID specialist)

Ragnar Norrby thanked the candidates and pointed out that the election of two members will be conducted by email/fax among all affiliated societies within the next few weeks.

### **9 Issues raised by the Affiliated Societies**

In December 2007, an extraordinary meeting of the European Council took place. This was in preparation of the ESCMID Workshop on Professional Affairs. Giuseppe Cornaglia emphasized that this was an exception and that the next official meeting of the European Council will be the regular meeting during the 19th ECCMID in 2009 in Helsinki.

Giuseppe Cornaglia thanked the participants for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 14.15 h.

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