

## ESCMID European Council

**Meeting during the 19th ECCMID in Helsinki, on 17 May 2009, 12:45 h – 14:15 h**

### Minutes

Javier Garau, ESCMID Secretary General, welcomed the 47 participants to the meeting of the European Council.

#### **1 Approval of the Minutes of the European Council Meetings in 2008 (G. Cornaglia)**

The minutes from the European Council meetings were approved.

#### **2 ESCMID 2007-2008 progress reports: matters of relevance for the European Council (J. Garau)**

Javier Garau presented an update on the affiliation process. 58 specialist's societies have signed an affiliation agreement with ESCMID, representing approx. 29'000 members from 32 countries. There is an estimated potential of about 55 additional societies with some 27'000 members to affiliate with ESCMID.

Javier Garau summarized the activities of ESCMID in the fields of science, education and professional affairs. He informed about the ESCMID Workshop on Professional Affairs in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases has taken place in Rome, Italy, on 9 - 10 October 2008, and was very successful. The proceedings of this event will be published soon.

He pointed out that ESCMID maintains cooperative partnerships with many professional societies and that ESCMID participates currently in 3 European projects:

- in EUCAST (European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing) as coordinator,
- in GRACE (Genomics to Combat Resistance against Antibiotics in Community-acquired LRTI in Europe) and
- in TROCAR (Translational Research on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance) as partner.

EUCAST as the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing is a very successful project and has now completed the harmonization process of antimicrobial breakpoints in Europe.

#### **3 Joint Symposia with national societies (J. Garau)**

Javier Garau outlined the concept of offering the co-organization of joint symposia with affiliated societies, to be held during the annual National Meeting of the respective society.

Such joint symposium would offer insights to a specific topic using ESCMID's international network to the benefit of the respective local/national society. For 2009, it is already planned to have joint symposia with SEIMC in Spain and with the Hungarian Society for ID and CM in Hungary, and with the national society of CM in Croatia. ESCMID's prospects are that in 2 to 3 years time, 30 Societies will co-organize joint symposia with ESCMID.

#### **4 European Young Chamber of young scientists in training (G. Kahlmeter, R. Read)**

Gunnar Kahlmeter informed about a new initiative from the Netherlands where Gijs Ruijs (Dutch Society for Medical Microbiology) and Nathalie van Burgel (Dutch Society of Young Clinical Microbiologists) has established a European Young Chamber of Clinical Microbiology. ESCMID was asked to support this new initiative. The idea is to open up to both specialities, CM and ID (European Young Chamber of young scientist in training). The forming of a Chamber of young scientists was discussed during a first meeting of ESCMID Executive Committee members, the initiators and several young attendees at the ECCMID on Saturday 16 May 2009. Gunnar Kahlmeter shortly presented the proposal of the Chamber which would target trainees below age of 40 and aim at improving international standards of quality control in training, organizing international training courses and international exchange visits, creating social networks throughout Europe and also encourage the founding of national Societies.

##### Comment from the floor:

Gijs Ruijs (Netherlands) informed that for CM all affiliated Societies have been invited to join a European Young Chamber. Many of them have responded positively. To establish a steering committee it is most important to target the right young people and he pointed out that the affiliated societies have to help identifying those people.

Dominique Salmon-Ceron (France) reported from her experience to establish such Young Chamber in France which was not very successful because the young scientists were not interested in the work of professional Societies. She rather would give awards and prizes to young scientist in an official surrounding, such as a plenary session. Gunnar Kahlmeter responded that the objective of the European Young Chamber is not to foster science but training.

Eleni Lada (Greece) asked if there is a limitation to participate dependent on the speciality. For instance in Greece Clinical Microbiology is not a full specialty but a recognized subspeciality of Pathology. Gunnar Kahlmeter responded that the initiative is open to all specialities and subspecialities in the field of infection.

#### **5 ESCMID website relaunch (G. Kahlmeter, R. Read)**

Gunnar Kahlmeter introduced the new ESCMID website which has functional improvements and better user flexibility. The website provides especially space for affiliated Societies to post their news. Giuseppe Cornaglia invited the affiliated Societies for their feedback and constructive criticism.

#### **6 Survey on Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Europe (G. Kahlmeter, R. Read)**

Gunnar Kahlmeter presented the status of the questionnaire, which provides valuable information on how CM and ID are set up in Europe. This was the 3rd ESCMID questionnaire on professional affairs and the first one which was done as an online survey. The web-based country presentations went online in December 2008. The information needs to be updated by the national editors on a yearly basis.

Comments from the floor:

Dominique Salmon-Ceron (France) asked what ESCMID did in those countries where there was more than one affiliated Society. Gunnar Kahlmeter informed that in those cases ESCMID had to force the Societies to agree on one survey responder but asking them to liaise with each other.

**7 Opportunities for ESCMID Collaborative Centres and Observerships (G. Kahlmeter, R. Read)**

Robert Read and Gunnar Kahlmeter gave an update about the new initiatives. At the moment there are 35 ESCMID Collaborative Centres (ECCs) throughout Europe in the programme. The ECCs are meant to attract ESCMID members from outside the country to visit and to learn about organizing services, about diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, establish new contacts and to foster international exchange. The Observerships are funded opportunities for any ESCMID member to visit an ECC up to one month. ESCMID members working at Collaborative Centres will be given priority when applying for an ESCMID Observership. The online application form for Observership application has been launched shortly before the ECCMID.

Gunnar Kahlmeter encouraged the members of the European Council to submit their own centre/institution as an ESCMID Collaborative Centre and to disseminate the information to the members of the affiliated Societies.

**8 Proposals for Educational Programme 2010 (M. Akova)**

Murat Akova presented the planning of the next Educational Programme 2010. The proposals will be evaluated according to the steps summarized in Appendix 1. A course proposal form as well as the operating guidelines is available on the ESCMID website.

**9 2nd International Day of Fighting Infection 2009: programme and prospects for the future (G. Cornaglia)**

Giuseppe Cornaglia reported from the *2nd International Day of Fighting Infection* which was held on 23 April 2009 in Malta and which was well attended. He pointed out that ESCMID intends to organize the *International Day for Fighting Infection* annually with the aim to strengthen the link between ESCMID and the national societies and organizations. Giuseppe Cornaglia invited the representatives of the affiliated societies to organize a national conference on the same day which will be linked to the ESCMID initiative of an *International Day for Fighting Infection*.

**10 Medical Guidelines (R. Read)**

Robert Read gave an update on the ongoing medical guidelines projects.

ESCMID medical guidelines:

- Guidelines on the diagnosis and management of *Clostridium difficile*-associated disease (ESCMID guidelines, ready to be published soon, led by Ed Kuijpers, Leiden, Netherlands)
- ESCMID guideline working group on the management of sore throat. Pentti Huovinen (chairperson), Paul Little, Theo Verheij and Susanna Esposito are currently working on this project, which is estimated to be finalized this year
- A new ESCMID guideline working group on the treatment of Candidiasis has been initiated by the ESCMID Fungal Infection Study Group (Andrew Ullmann is chairperson).

Cooperative medical guidelines:

- 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)
- 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)

Robert Read emphasised that ESCMID continues to consult its membership and the Professional Affairs Subcommittee (PAS) for ideas and priorities of new medical guidelines topics.

Comments from the floor:

Gijs Ruijs (Netherlands): Who can propose topics for medical guidelines? Robert Read responded that any member can make proposals for topics but all recommendations made by the membership or PAS have to be submitted to the Executive Committee for a final decision on which topics ESCMID should become active.

Dominique Salmon-Ceron (France): How is the process of establishing new working groups/ expert panels? Robert Read explained that ESCMID has developed operational procedure for new medical guidelines. The ESCMID Executive Committee nominates the chair of a new working group who has to find appropriate members to accomplish the writing of the guidelines. The Executive Committee has foreseen a budget of a maximum amount of EUR 50'000 to cover the expenses of literature search and writing committee.

Dominique Salmon-Ceron (France): Is there a procedure for reviewing medical guidelines? Robert Read responded that so far the Executive Committee nominates reviewers of guidelines but that there is no procedure to present new guidelines to the public. Pentti Huovinen added that the Sore Throat guideline working group is planning to organize an open symposium to present and to discuss the draft guidelines at the forthcoming ECCMID.

Daniela Marchetti (Italy) pointed out that there should be specialists from different fields in a guideline working group and secondly, she asked if guidelines will be also revised. Robert Read confirmed that multidisciplinary of guidelines groups is encouraged and that ESCMID should also implement a procedure to revise guidelines.

Mario Poljak (Slovenia) suggested that draft guidelines should be external reviewed, e.g. by a group of 16 experts. After including the comments from the external reviewers, the guidelines should be published on the ESCMID website for comments by the membership. Robert Read agreed and announced that the guidelines on the diagnosis and management of *Clostridium difficile*-associated disease will be published on the ESCMID website for membership consultation.

**11 Issues raised by the Affiliated Societies**

No request to speak.

Javier Garau thanked the participants for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 14.15 h.

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Prof Giuseppe Cornaglia  
ESCMID President  
[giuseppe.cornaglia@univr.it](mailto:giuseppe.cornaglia@univr.it)



Prof Javier Garau  
ESCMID Secretary General  
[igarau@garmar.e.telefonica.net](mailto:igarau@garmar.e.telefonica.net)



Dr Karin Werner  
ESCMID PA Manager  
[karin.werner@escmid.org](mailto:karin.werner@escmid.org)

## Appendix 1

### Proposals for Educational Programme-2010

- Deadline for proposals **17 June 2009**
- A course proposal form is available on the [ESCMID website](#)
  - The completed form should be sent to the Education Officer and cc'ed to the Education & Science Manager
- Selection by the Educational Subcommittee and approval by the Executive Committee
  - Scientific programme
  - International faculty
  - Previous evaluation of similar courses (when available)
  - Programmatic and geographic redundancies
  - Yearly repetition of the same topics is normally avoided
- Financial support up to € 10'000
  - At least 50% should be spent for attendance grants
  - External sponsors are in principle accepted
- Educational programme for 2010 will be finalized and printed in late August 2009
- All course presentations should be made available in the ESCMID Online Lecture Library
- Mandatory evaluation of the course by participants

[www.escmid.org/education](http://www.escmid.org/education)