

ESCMID European Council

Meeting during the 20th ECCMID in Vienna, on 11 April 2010, 12:45 h – 14:15 h

Minutes

Javier Garau, ESCMID President, welcomed the 60 participants to the meeting of the European Council.

1 Approval of the Minutes of the European Council Meetings in 2009 (J. Garau)

The minutes from the European Council meeting were approved.

2 ESCMID 2009-2010 progress reports: matters of relevance for the European Council (G. Kahlmeter)

Gunnar Kahlmeter presented an update on the affiliation process. 63 specialist's societies have signed an affiliation agreement with ESCMID, representing approx. 33'000 members from 34 countries. There is an estimated potential of about 50 additional societies with some 25'000 members to affiliate with ESCMID.

Gunnar Kahlmeter summarized the activities of ESCMID in the fields of science, education and professional affairs. There is ongoing cooperation with Affiliated Societies concerning the organization of Educational Events. ESCMID currently participates 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.

3 Membership Scheme (G. Kahlmeter)

Gunnar Kahlmeter presented the ambitious goal to increase our current membership from 4023 to 10'000 – 15'000 before the end of 2011. To reach this goal the attraction of being an ESCMID member should be increased by the ESCMID programmes such as ESCMID Observerships, ESCMID Collaborative Centres, ESCMID Courses, early ECCMID registration fee etc. He introduced the idea of automatic affiliation of members of Affiliated Societies as well as automatic membership to all ECCMID visitors (a free trial year). During 2010 we will poll the Affiliated Societies for interest and feasibility and for ECCMID 2011 a proposal will be available for discussion.

4 Joint Symposia with national societies (J. Garau)

Javier Garau underlined that ESCMID offers the co-organization of joint symposia with Affiliated Societies, to be held during the annual National Meeting of the respective society. Such joint symposium will offer insights to a specific topic using ESCMID's international network to the benefit of the respective local/national society.

Javier Garau reported about the recent joint symposia with national societies (IACMAC/ESCMID conference on Antimicrobial Therapy, 24-26 May 2009, Moscow, Russia; MIFKM/ESCMID symposium, 1-3 October 2009 Szeged, Hungary) as well as about the forthcoming joint

symposium in 2010 (Second Croatian Symposium on Healthcare-associated Infection, 5-7 May 2010, Zagreb, Croatia; Kongress für Infektionskrankheiten und Tropenmedizin (KIT), 23-26 June 2010, Cologne, Germany; International Conference of the Hospital Infection Society, 10-13 October 2010, Liverpool, UK).

Furthermore Javier Garau presented the planning of the next Educational Programme 2011. A course proposal form as well as the operating guidelines is available on the ESCMID website. Deadline for proposals is 1 June 2010.

5 EUCAST, Affiliated Societies and the formation of National Antibiotic Committees (G. Kahlmeter)

Gunnar Kahlmeter informed about EUCAST and the latest developments. EUCAST is now an integrated part of the EMA regulatory procedure for the approval of new antimicrobial agents.. EUCAST is also an integrated part of the surveillance programme of ECDC providing breakpoints and scientific advice on susceptibility testing protocols and Quality Control and Assessment. He pointed out that EUCAST and CLSI breakpoints are significant different. Each country is being encouraged to form a national antimicrobial committee (NAC) and a national strategy for susceptibility testing with the aim to :

- form a national strategy for susceptibility testing,
- help implementat EUCAST breakpoints and methods,
- educate laboratory staff through national workshops,
- to be the liaison and consultation point for EUCAST. The chairman of the NAC is ideally the national EUCAST General Committee representative.

NACs are not meant to involve themselves in issues concerning antimicrobial policies, antimicrobial resistance surveillance and/or antimicrobial consumption. Several country visits have been made by Gunnar Kahlmeter as the chairman of EUCAST to support this process of forming NACs. Some countries already have NACs or the equivalent of a NAC (France, Germany, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands and the UK). Others have already taken the decision to form a NAC (Belgium, Austria, Spain, Estonia, Denmark, Italy). In some countries the decision is planned for 2010/11 and in some the discussion is still ongoing.

6 European Network Corner (G. Kahlmeter)

Gunnar Kahlmeter introduced the European Network Corner at the ECCMID 2010. This year we have invited also the Affiliated Societies to present their National Society to reach members in their own society and other ECCMID participants. A total of 74 groups, networks, societies and projects presented a poster at ECCMID 2010 in Vienna. Hereof 15 Affiliated Societies and 16 Collaborative Centres are represented with a poster.

7 Professional Affairs activities (Elisabeth Nagy, Evelina Tacconelli)

Elisabeth Nagy gave an update about the ESCMID Collaborative Centres (ECC). At the moment we have received 59 ECC applications and hereof 51 are approved for step 1 and 41 for step 2. The country distribution of the ECCs is well balanced but there are still a few countries where we do not have ECCs. These were especially invited to participate.

We have received a total of 30 applications for Observership visits and hereof 24 visits have been approved. There is a well-balanced geographic distribution of Observers who come from 15 countries. Some applications have been rejected for technical reasons because they applied for

more than one visit within 12 months. A web-based evaluation tool was implemented so that Observers can evaluate their ECC after the visit has taken place. The evaluation results have been excellent and we have also received very positive feedback from ECCs.

Elisabeth Nagy continued to present the current status of the survey on Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases which is the 3rd edition of the Questionnaire and which is a very good source of professional information on CM and ID. Elisabeth Nagy reminded all national editors to update their data on the questionnaire. At the moment ESCMID plan to revise this version of the questionnaire every 2 and 3 years.

Evelina Tacconelli presented the new initiative Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) which was initiated by Nathalie van Burgel to increase and support the professional contribution of young clinical microbiologists and infectious disease specialists in Europe. The TAE is a group of trainees and specialists from different countries in Europe that finished their training less than three years ago after finishing the specialization. There is no age limit since the training duration varies quite a lot in Europe. They now have 14 members from both, Clinical Microbiology (CM) and Infectious Diseases (ID), forming the Steering Committee. Nathalie van Burgel is the current TAE President and Giulia De Angelis the Vice-President. Evelina Tacconelli summarized the objectives of the TAE which are foremost the collaboration of CM and ID trainees across Europe and the formation of a European network of CM and ID trainees. Furthermore, the improvement of the content and quality of training across is an important objective of the TAE. The organizational structure of the TAE was introduced and four members of the PAS are forming an Advisory Board (Emmanuelle Cambau, Mario Poljak, Nicola Petrosillo, and Mario Mondelli). The collaborating with the two sections of the UEMS MM and ID has been established to work on harmonizing the content and quality of CM and ID training across Europe.

Evelina Tacconelli continued to present the new EU Partner Search platform which is an internet platform for researcher and clinicians to find research partners to set up new European projects (www.escmid.org/eupartner).

Evelina Tacconelli shortly presented the current status of the Training & Career (T&C) platform which is still not well used although ESCMID improved its user friendliness. She mentioned to involve the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) in order to spread the knowledge about this platform. During the congress ESCMID provided 3 kiosks at their booth so that participants could access the job platform.

Evelina Tacconelli was happy to announce that the Professional Affairs Officers just decided to start a new project to try to reduce the discrimination in CM and ID in Europe related to gender, geographic location and minorities' reasons. This will be the first topic in the next year.

Comments from the floor:

Barry Cookson (UK) commented that it should be possible to allow more than one Observership visit per year provided that they justify why they want to do two visits per year. Elisabeth Nagy responded that this can be discussed during the Executive Committee.

8 3rd International Day of Fighting Infection 2009: programme and prospects for the future (G. Cornaglia)

Since Giuseppe Cornaglia was not able to attend the meeting, he sent his apologies, Gunnar Kahlmeter presented the programme of the 3rd International Day of Fighting Infection 2010 which was in Florence, Italy (23 April 2010).

9 Medical Guidelines (R. Read)

Robert Read informed the Committee about the introduction of the new position '**Task Force Leader for Medical Guidelines**'. There was a public call for nomination for this new position and the EC nominated Professor Erdal Akalin as the new Task Force Leader for Medical Guidelines. Robert Read shortly summarized the role of the Task Force Leader for Medical Guidelines and he gave also an update on the ongoing medical guidelines projects.

ESCMID medical guidelines:

- 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:

- Lower respiratory tract infection (ongoing, in cooperation with ERS)
- Urinary tract infection (ongoing, in cooperation with IDSA)

Published ESCMID guidelines or joint guidelines in 2009 and 2010

- Treatment guidance document for Clostridium difficile infection. Bauer MP, Kuijper EJ, van Dissel JT, Clin Microbiol Infect 2009; 15: 1067 – 1079
- Data review and recommendations for diagnosing Clostridium difficile-infection (CDI). Crobach MJT, Dekkers OM, Wilcox MH and Kuijper EJ, Clin Microbiol Infect 2009; 15: 1053 – 1066
- Guidelines on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infective endocarditis. Habib G (Chairperson), Hoen B, Tornos P, Thuny F, Prendergast B, Vilacosta I, Moreillon P, Antunes MJ, Thilen U, Lekakis J, Lengyel M, Muller L, Naber CK, Nihoyannopoulos P, Moritz A, Zamorano JL. EHJ 2009; 30: 2369 – 2413
- Diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of catheter-associated urinary tract Infection in adults: 2009 international clinical practice guidelines from the Infectious Diseases Society of America in cooperation with ESCMID. Hooton TM, Bradley SF, Cardenas DD, Colgan R, Geerlings SE, Rice JC, Saint S, Schaeffer A, Tambayh PA, Tenke P, Nicolle LE. Clin Infect Dis 2010; 50: 625 – 663

10 Issues raised by the Affiliated Societies

Barry Cookson proposed as the chairman of ESGNI to have a slot for Study Group meetings during ECCMID Programme in order to get all members of the Study Group together. He was also wondering if it would make sense when ESCMID is entering a relation to a Society, e.g. with

Hospital Infection Society, to involve also the Management board of ESGNI in order to encourage a collaborative approach.

Karl G. Kristinsson made a comment regarding the joint symposia with national societies. He proposed to have a standardized symposium focused only on EUCAST in order to distribute the knowledge about the EUCAST disk diffusion susceptibility tests in Europe. Javier Garau confirmed that this is already on the way and some of the convened joint symposia with national societies are through EUCAST.

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

Vienna, 11 April 2010



Prof Javier Garau
ESCMID President



Prof Gunnar Kahlmeter
ESCMID Secretary General



Dr Karin Werner
ESCMID PA Manager