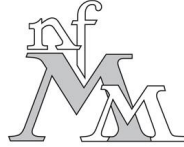


## Affiliated society portrait

### Norwegian Society for Medical Microbiology



### Norsk forening for medisinsk mikrobiologi

DEN NORSKE LEGEFORENING

The Norwegian Society for Medical Microbiology (Norsk forening for medisinsk mikrobiologi - NFMM) was founded in 1978 and is one of 60 speciality branches of the Norwegian Medical Association (NMA). The society has to date 150 members, which accounts for almost all of the clinical microbiologists in Norway. Specialists in Medical Microbiology, specialists in training and other doctors interested in the field are welcomed as members. In addition, the NFMM is open for support from "non-MD's". Membership became compulsory for members of the NMA in 2007 and like most learned societies the NFMM depends on the active involvement of its members in the Society's affairs.

In Norway there are approximately 20 laboratories of medical microbiology, located in middle to larger sized hospitals, giving work to about 70 staff doctors (specialists) and also 40 registrars (specialists in training). In 2006, approximately 5.2 million tests were carried out in these microbiological laboratories.

The aim of the society is to promote the interests of those who work with medical microbiology, elevating the field both practically and scientifically.

### The board members

Chairman:	Truls Leegaard
Vice chairman:	Helvi Holm Samdal
Secretary:	Sølvi Noraas
Treasurer:	Andreas Christensen
Board members:	Susanne Gjeruldsen Dudman Dag Harald Skutlaberg



### Graduate medical training

The speciality committee is appointed directly by the NMA and cooperates fully with the NFMM. This committee sets the standard for the education and sits to evaluate applications for the approval of medical microbiologists.

To become a medical microbiologist in Norway, it requires a minimum of four years of residency in the main subject. One of these years can be replaced with a subsidiary subject or a relevant research activity. In addition to this, one year of clinical training is required and a minimum of 150 hours of coursework will also be needed.

## Subcommittees

### Quality assurance committee

This committee works with definitions of quality indicators and aims to increase the knowledge of quality assurance. In addition, the committee assists the board when the government refers proposed legislation for consideration and arranges meetings regarding quality assurance issues.

### Meetings committee

The Meetings committee arranges meetings on behalf of the NFMM. The annual "Spring meeting" is organized in collaboration with the Norwegian Society for Infectious Diseases, while the "Autumn meeting" is in cooperation with the Norwegian Society for Microbiology. In addition, the committee will arrange meetings on selected topics upon request from the NFMM.

### Norwegian Working Group on Antibiotics, NWGA

The NWGA has been active since 1978, and is responsible for giving advice on antimicrobial susceptibility testing and issuing breakpoints for Norway, adhering to their mandate, this should be according to Norwegian therapeutic traditions. The group consists of 4 medical microbiologists and 2 infectious disease specialists. In recent years the group has been active in promoting better quality in the susceptibility testing in Norway.

The NWGA participates internationally for closer cooperation, thereby helping to provide a standard for susceptibility testing (EUCAST, CLSI and WHO). The NWGA is represented in the EUCAST Steering Committee.

### Working Group for Hospital Infection Control (Medisinsk arbeidsgruppe for sykehushygiene, MASH)

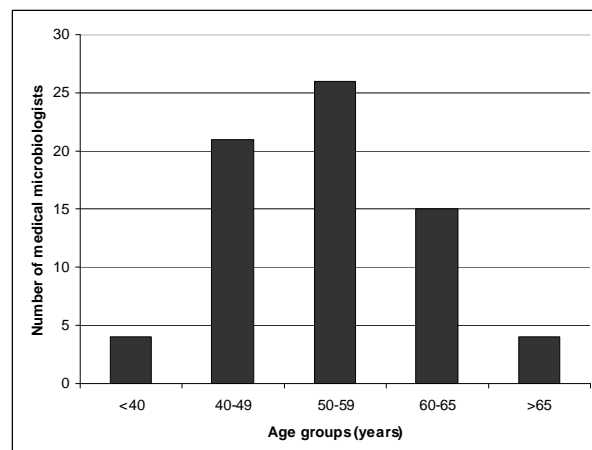
MASH is an important society for doctors working in the field of infection control in Norway. MASH has written a handbook for infection control doctors. The group cooperates with infection control nurses through Norwegian Forum for Hospital Infection Control.

### Important issues for NFMM

- Recruitment into the field of medical microbiology

There is concern about the recruitment to the speciality in Norway due to the limited number of positions available. As many of the existing microbiologists are approaching retirement age, this concern is increasing (see illustration showing the age distribution of clinical microbiologists' in January 2008).

- NFMM promotes to increase the number of educational positions
- NFMM is concerned about the low funding of microbiological research in Norway
- NFMM wishes to preserve a situation where large and medium-sized hospitals have their own medical microbiological laboratory



- As the NMA's speciality branch in microbiology, the NFMM is a major contributor when governing bodies and others ask the NMA about its opinion on infectious disease and microbiology matters
- NFMM is an affiliated society to ESCMID and FESCI