

How do we improve the poor visibility of CM

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Is the visibility of microbiology poor?

Is the visibility of clinical microbiology (as a service) poor?

Vote

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Microbiological services in European countries 2010

(laboratories/million inhabitants)

• Sweden	3.9
• The Netherlands	4.4
• The UK	4.6
• Norway	4.6
• Finland	4.7
• Lithuania	4.9
• Italy	5.1
• Austria	5.9
• Croatia	8.9
• Czech Republic	9.0
• Ireland	9.9
• Estonia	13.1
• Hungary	13.5
• Belgium	17.2
• France	69.2

Source: ESCMID Professional Affairs Questionnaire

The problem – clinical microbiology

- varies between countries (clinical vs. laboratory)
- lacks profile during medical education - integrated in other subjects.
- integration with other laboratory services will increase its anonymity.
- competition from other specialties

Competition

- Infection Control
 - ID, Senior medical officer communicable diseases (SMOCD)
- Multiresistant bacteria
 - Most everyone wants a slice of this gold mine (ID, IC, MOCD, Epidemiologists, National authorities, Pharmacists, Molecular microbiologists)
- Clostridium difficile
 - IC, MOCD, ID
- Hepatitis
 - Internal medicine

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- lack of acknowledgement !?

Many need “our data”...

- Compilations and statistics on
 - Antimicrobial resistance
 - Mycobacterium tuberculosis
 - Chlamydia trachomatis
 - Neisseria gonorrhoeae
 - Influenza
 - RS-virus
 - Mycoplasma
 - Measles, rubella,
 - Listeria
 - EHEC
 - Salmonella
 - ...
- Requested and used by
 - MOCD,
 - National institutes,
 - ECDC
 - **etc but we are mostly taken for granted and poorly acknowledged – we need to change that – not by refusing to share but by insisting on acknowledgement.**

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- lack of acknowledgement !?
- failing leadership?

Do we underestimate the
importance of leading?

I think so!

He/She who leads....

Goal

Direction and route

Means and resources

Prioritisation

What to do?

- **Defend the subject “Medical microbiology”** as part of education and training of all medical staff.
- Increase the number of **CM specialists** in each country
- **Attract young MDs** deciding on a specialty
- Regain **leadership** in Microbiology
- Explain that CM is **analysing samples, analysing results** and **consultation**.
- Make sure our **data/efforts/skills are acknowledged** when used by ECDC, national institutes, MOCD.
- **Advertise the importance of Microbiology** – we need professional help to do this.
- **Make use of the ideas of our young colleagues.**
- **Learn to ride the bandwagons**

Learn to ride the bandwagon -

Antimicrobial Resistance and Health Care Related infections!

Multiresistant bacteria

- the need to avoid empirical therapy
 - the need for rapid diagnostics
 - the need for high quality, rapid AST
- the need for shorter TAT for blood cultures
- the need to stop dissemination in institutions
- the need for molecular typing and epidemiological workups