



Instituto  
de Salud  
Carlos III

**2<sup>nd</sup> ESCMID Conference on  
Invasive Fungal Infections**

**Antifungal resistance: from bench to bedside**

**Antifungal drug resistance  
mechanisms in**

**pathogenic fungi**

**Manuel Cuenca-Estrella**

**ROME, 2013**

ESCMID Online Lecture Library  
© by author



# Steps of Development of AST

- **Reliable reference procedures (CLSI, EUCAST)**
- **Development of breakpoints**
- **Commercial methods**
- **Spreading of AST**
- **Description of resistance mechanisms and prevalence**
- **Prevention and control**



# Reference methods of AST

- **Standardization process**
- **Reproducibility**
- **QC assurance**
- **Breakpoints setting process to interpret results**



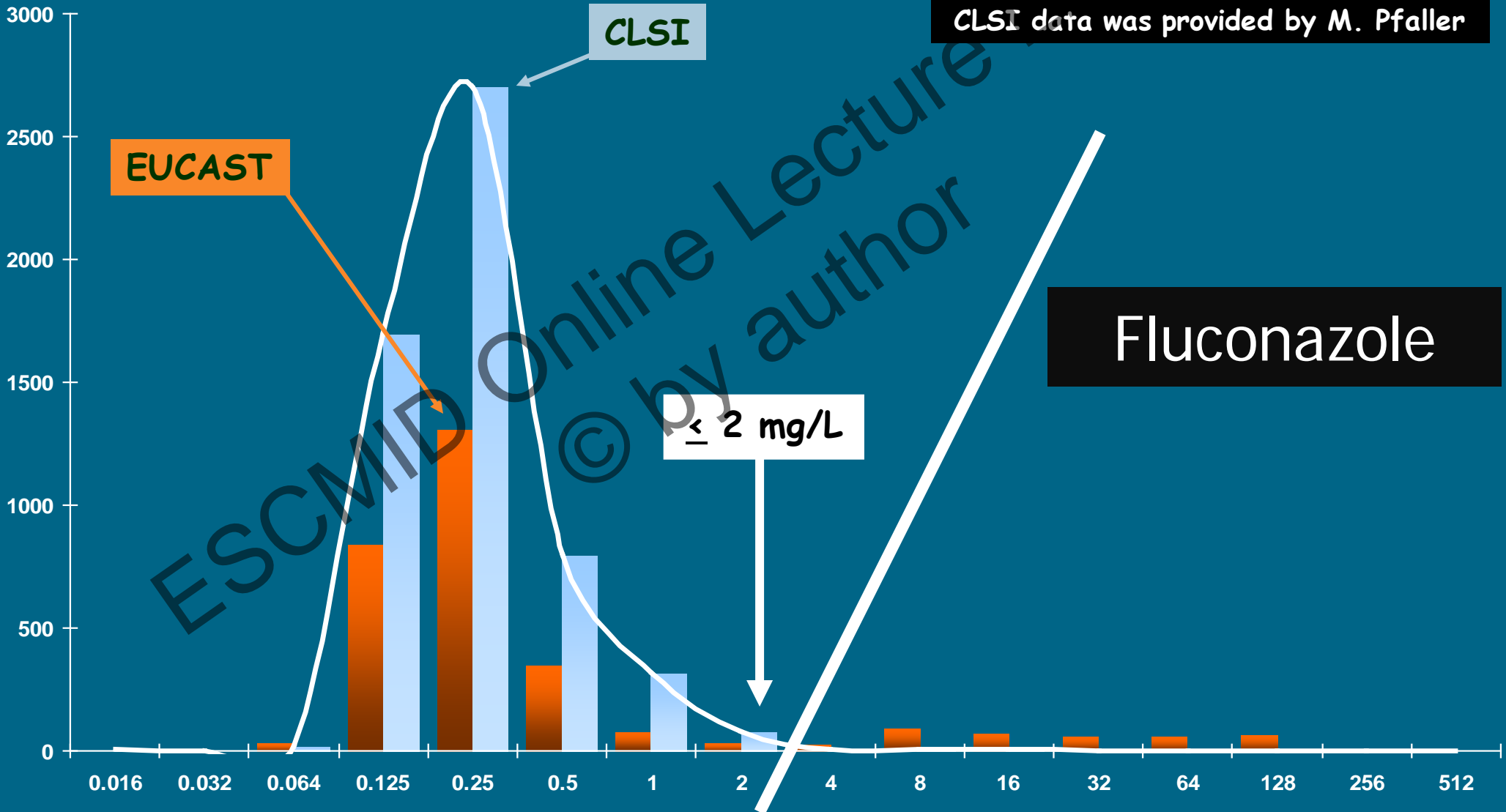
# Breakpoints setting procedure

STEPS	EUCAST	CLSI
1	Identifying most common dosage used in each European country	Examining available microbiological data
2	Defining the wild type population for each target microorganism at the species level and determining the epidemiological cut-offs	Knowing resistance mechanisms and their relation to MIC values and in vivo outcomes
3	Describing the pharmacokinetics of the drug	Examining pertinent pharmacokinetic parameters
4	Examining the pharmacodynamics including Monte Carlo simulations;	Examining pharmacodynamic parameters
5	Exploring the correlation of MIC values with clinical outcome of patients treated with the drug	Analyzing clinical outcome data



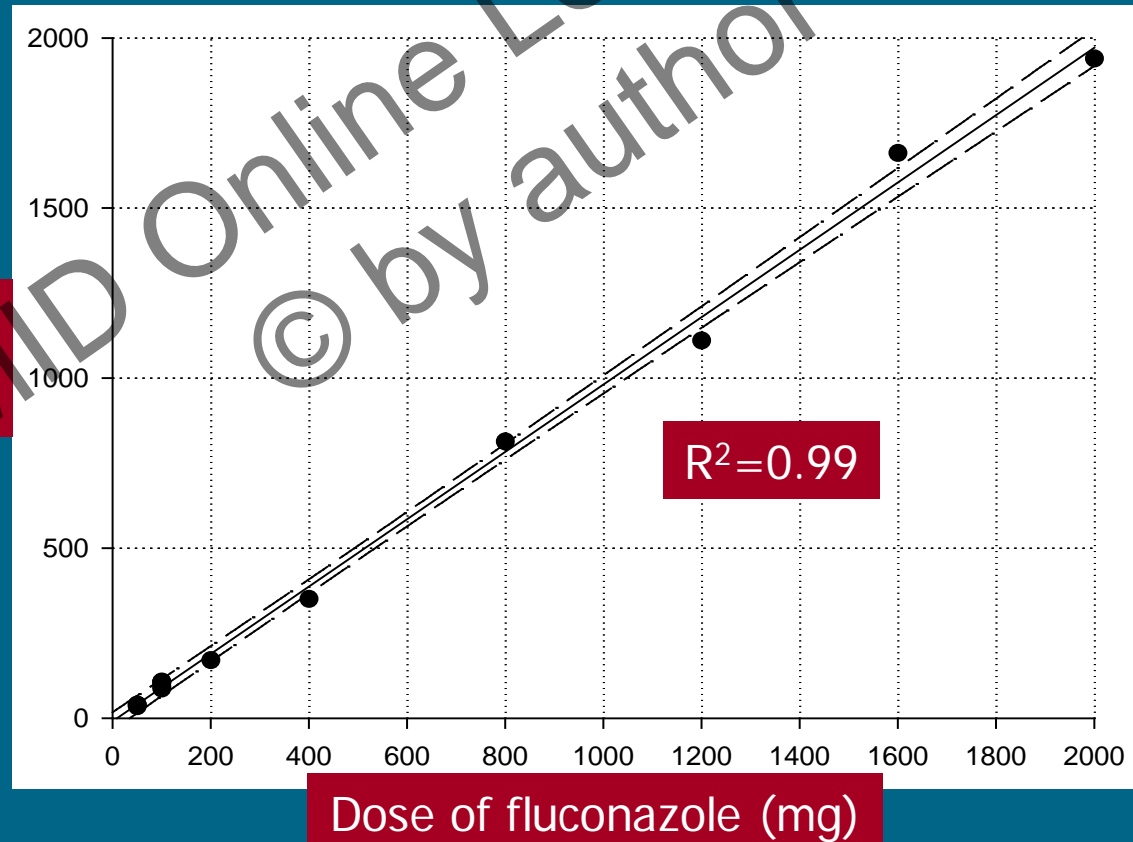
# Epidemiological BPs for *C. albicans*

CLSI data was provided by M. Pfaller



# PK/PD - AUC/MIC

$$\text{AUC} = \text{Dose}$$



# BPs set already

- *Candida*:
  - Amphotericin B, azoles and echinocandins
- *Aspergillus*:
  - Amphotericin B and azoles
- Other species: not yet



# Steps of Development of AST

- **Reliable reference procedures (CLSI, EUCAST)**
- **Development of breakpoints**
- **Commercial methods**
- **Spreading of AST**
- **Description of resistance mechanisms and prevalence**
- **Prevention and control**





# Description of resistance mechanisms and prevalence

- MIC value determination as phenotypic screening:
  1. **Is it reliable?**
- Determining of resistance mechanisms at molecular level:
  1. **Clinical relevance??**
  2. **Reliable molecular tools?**
  3. **Could be more reliable than MIC determination for prevention and control?**



# Current situation of antifungal resistance. Summary

- Amphotericin B:
  - Resistance is an uncommon phenomenon (*Trichosporon* spp., *A. terreus*)
- Azole agents:
  - Main concern in this field (*Candida glabrata*, some isolates of *Aspergillus*)
- Echinocandins:
  - Some *Candida* isolates
  - Non reliable method of AST for moulds yet



Instituto  
de Salud  
Carlos III

# Resistance to amphotericin B

ESCM

Library

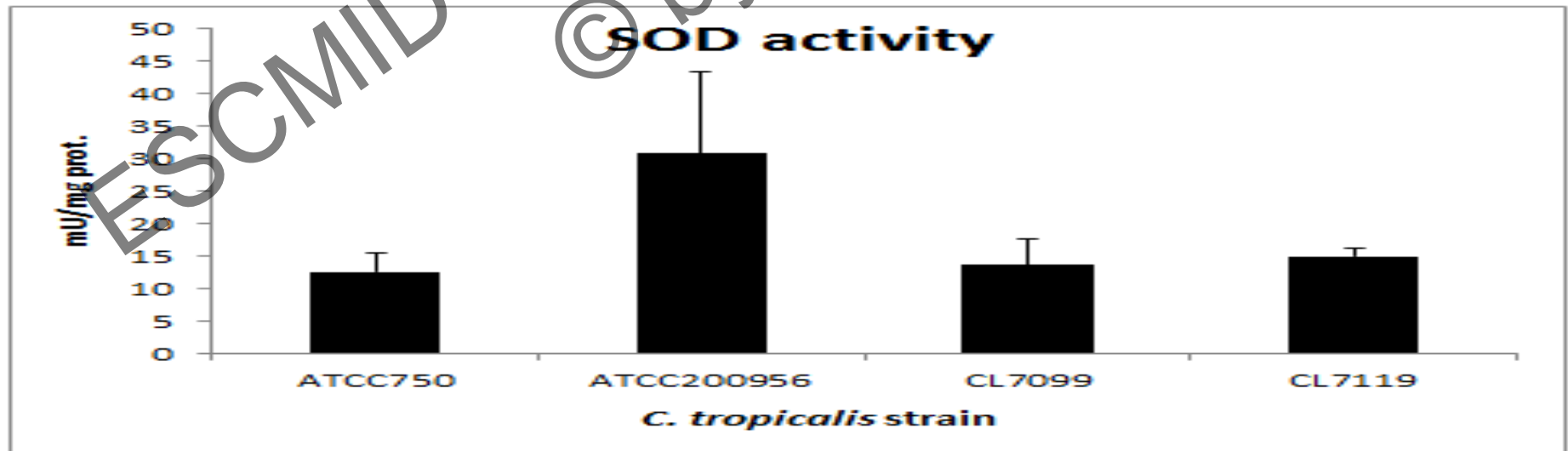
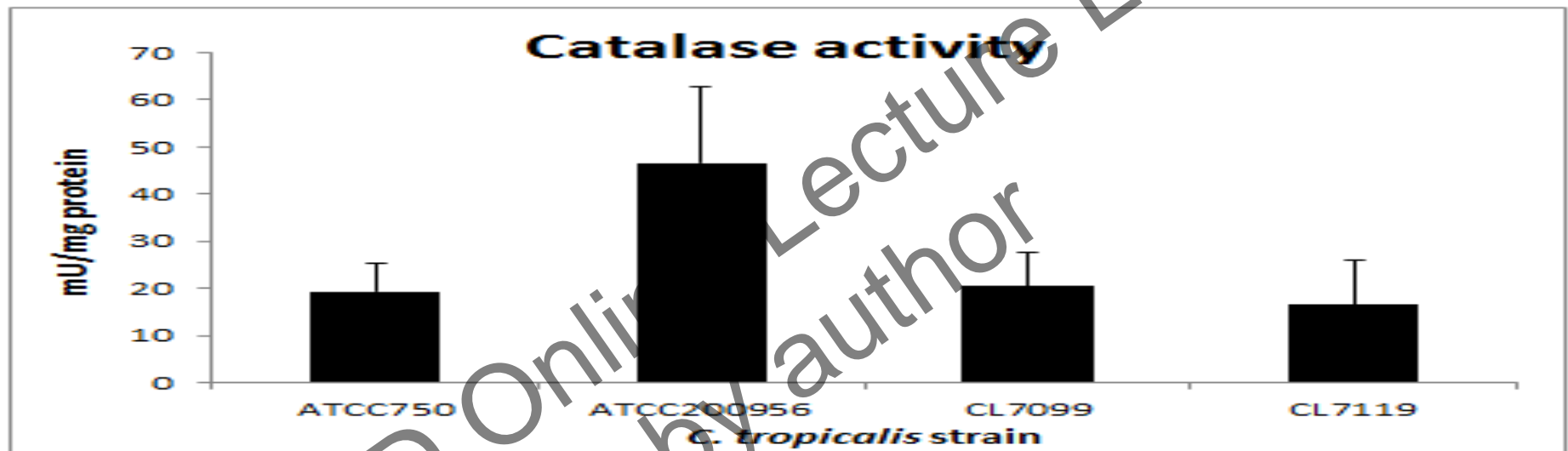


# Resistance to amphotericin B

- MIC determination is able to detect resistant strains (\*). BPs availability
- Resistance mechanisms:
  - Mutants with low ergosterol membrane
  - AmB induces oxidative stress in fungal cells and resistant isolates have higher levels of antioxydative enzymes and/or alterations in the production of free radicals

# *C. tropicalis*, MIC AmB=8 mg/L

Spanish Reference Lab, preliminary results





# Resistance to amphotericin B II

Determining molecular resistance mechanisms:

## 1. **Clinical relevance??**

Uncommon phenomenon

## 2. **Reliable molecular tools?**

No yet. Ergosterol quantification, catalase activity or free radical production are phenotypic and non standardized

## 3. **Could be more reliable than MIC determination for prevention and control?**

I don't think so. The fitness issue



Instituto  
de Salud  
Carlos III

# Resistance to azoles

ESCM

Library



# Resistance to azoles

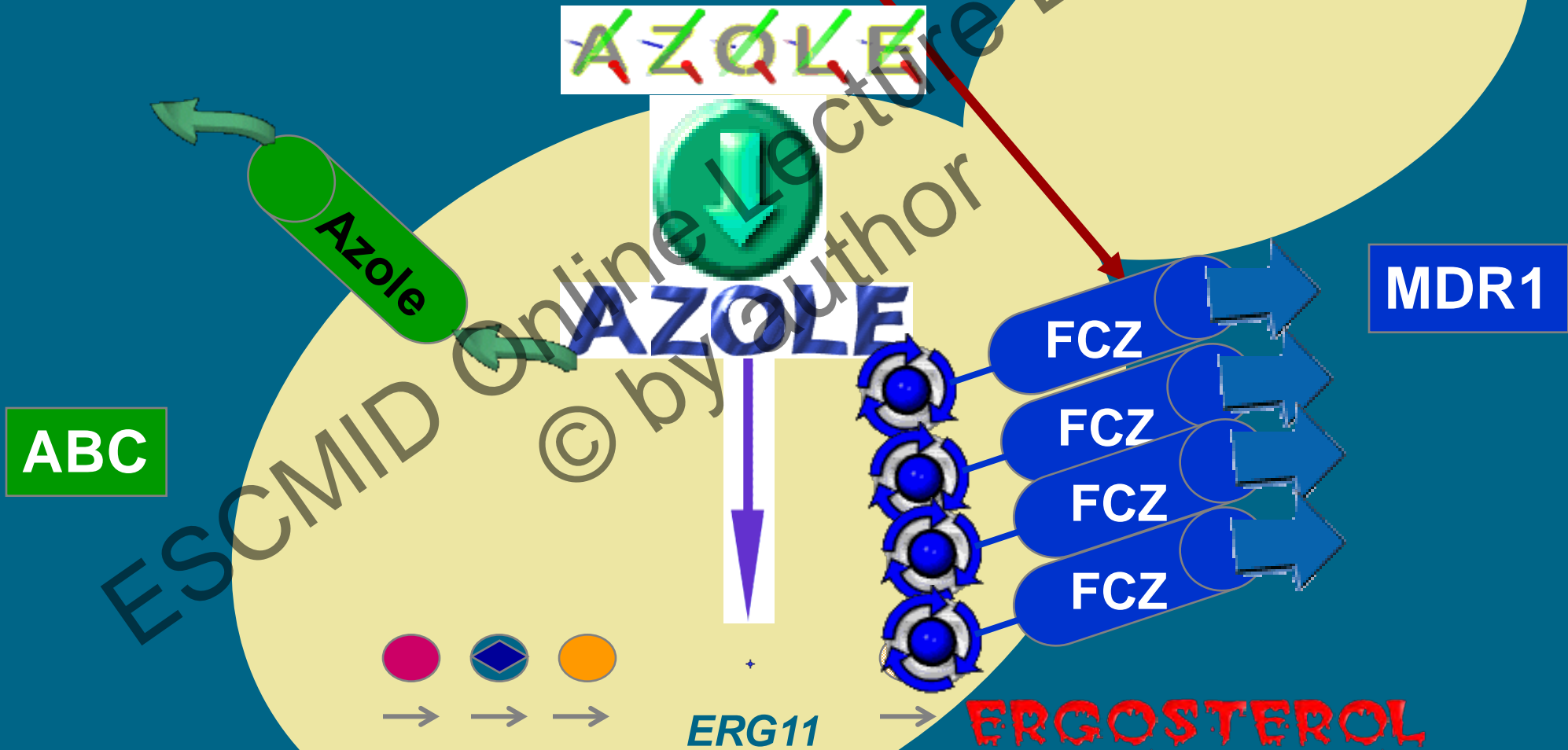
- MIC determination is able to detect resistant strains. BPs availability
- Resistance mechanisms:
  - Described in yeasts and moulds





# Up regulation of Major facilitator genes

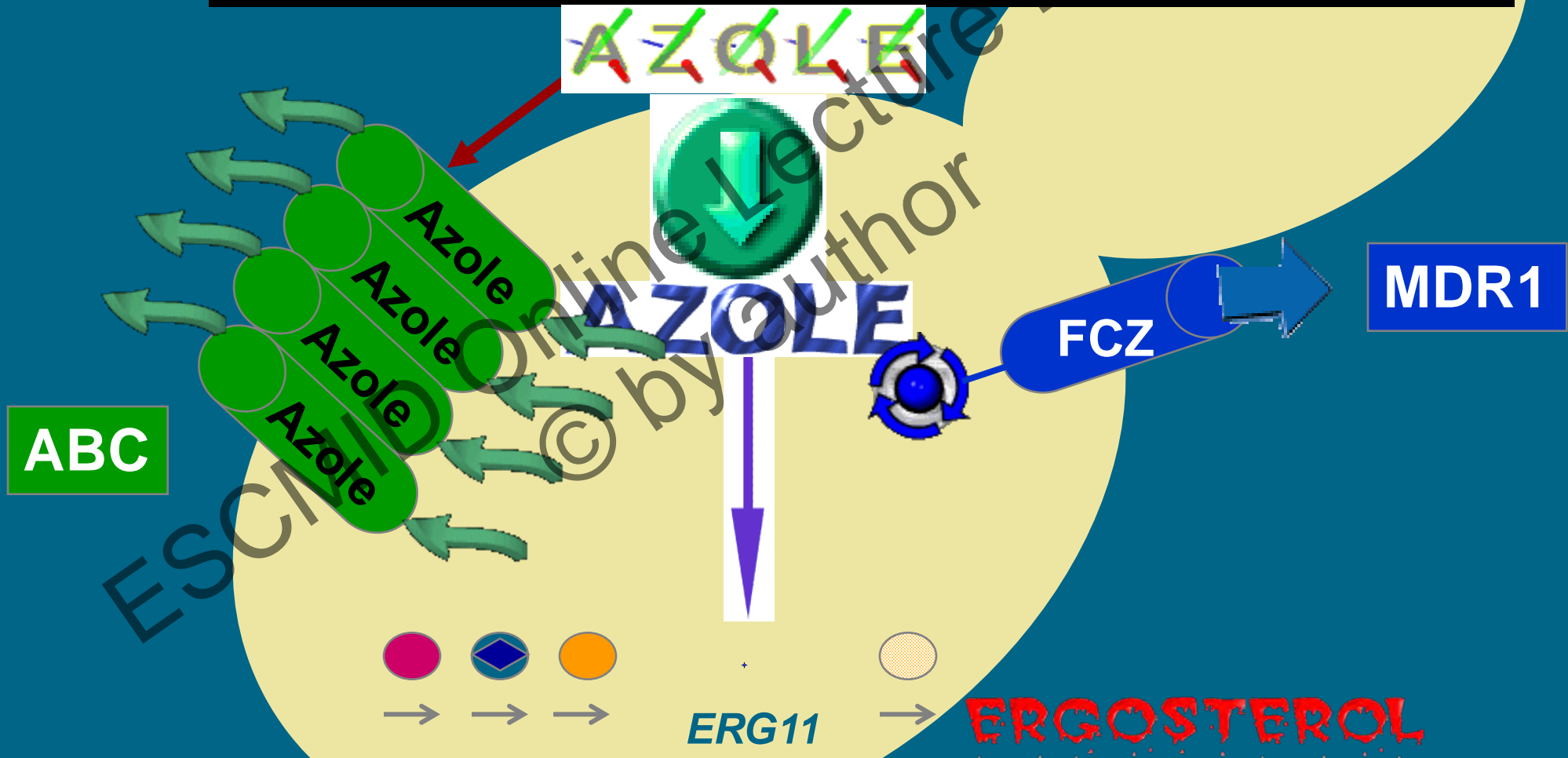
Resistance only to FZ





# Up regulation of ATP binding cassette transporters genes

Cross resistance to all azoles





Alterations in Erg11 protein



ERGOSTEROL

ABC

Azole

AZOLE



AZOLE

FCZ

MDR1

Up regulation of ERG11

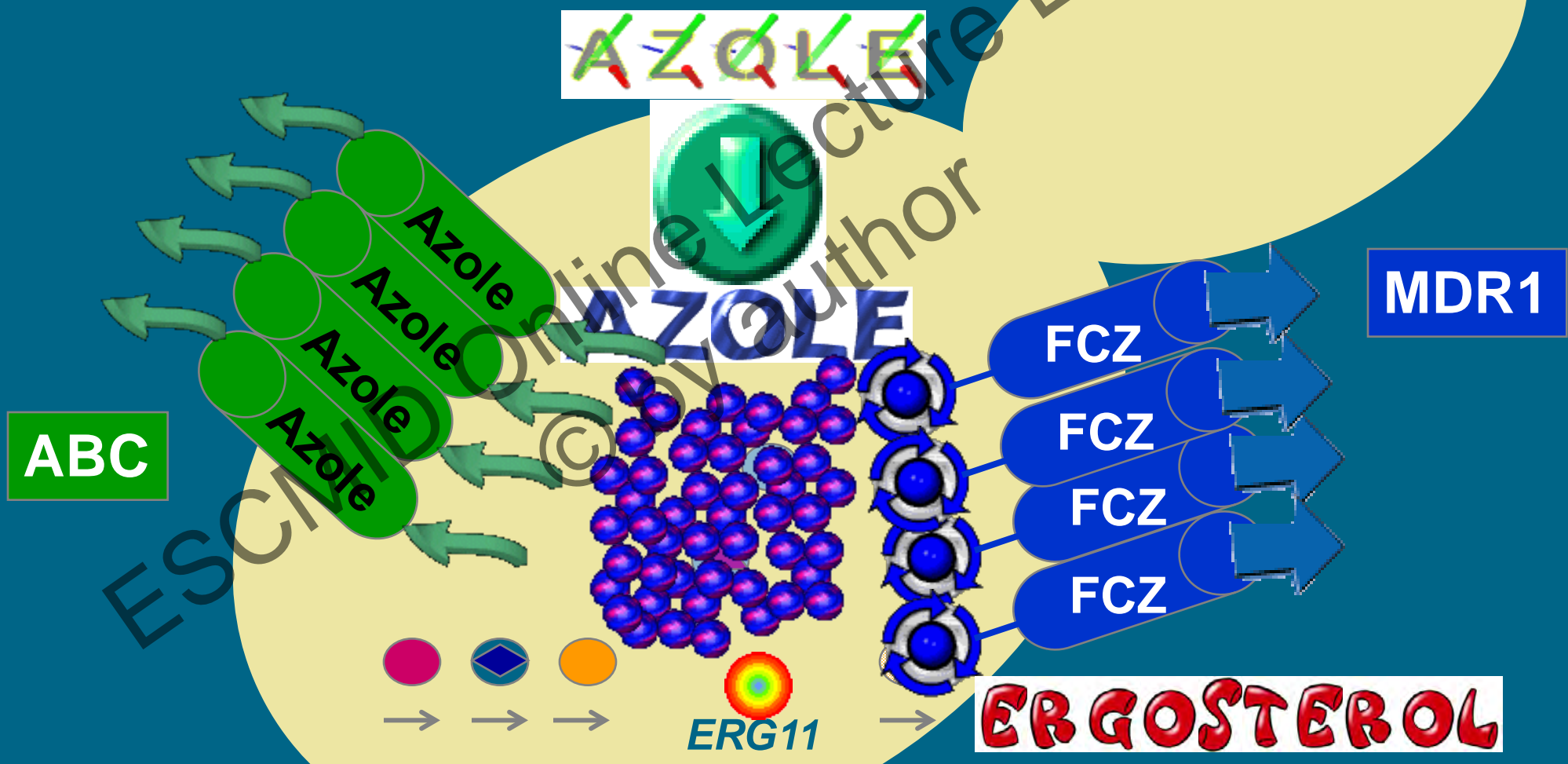


ERGOSTEROL

ESCMID Online Lecture Library  
© ESCMID Author



# All mechanisms can coexist





All mechanisms can coexist



Description of mutations in *ERG11*  
Alterations in promotor region  
Sanglard and others





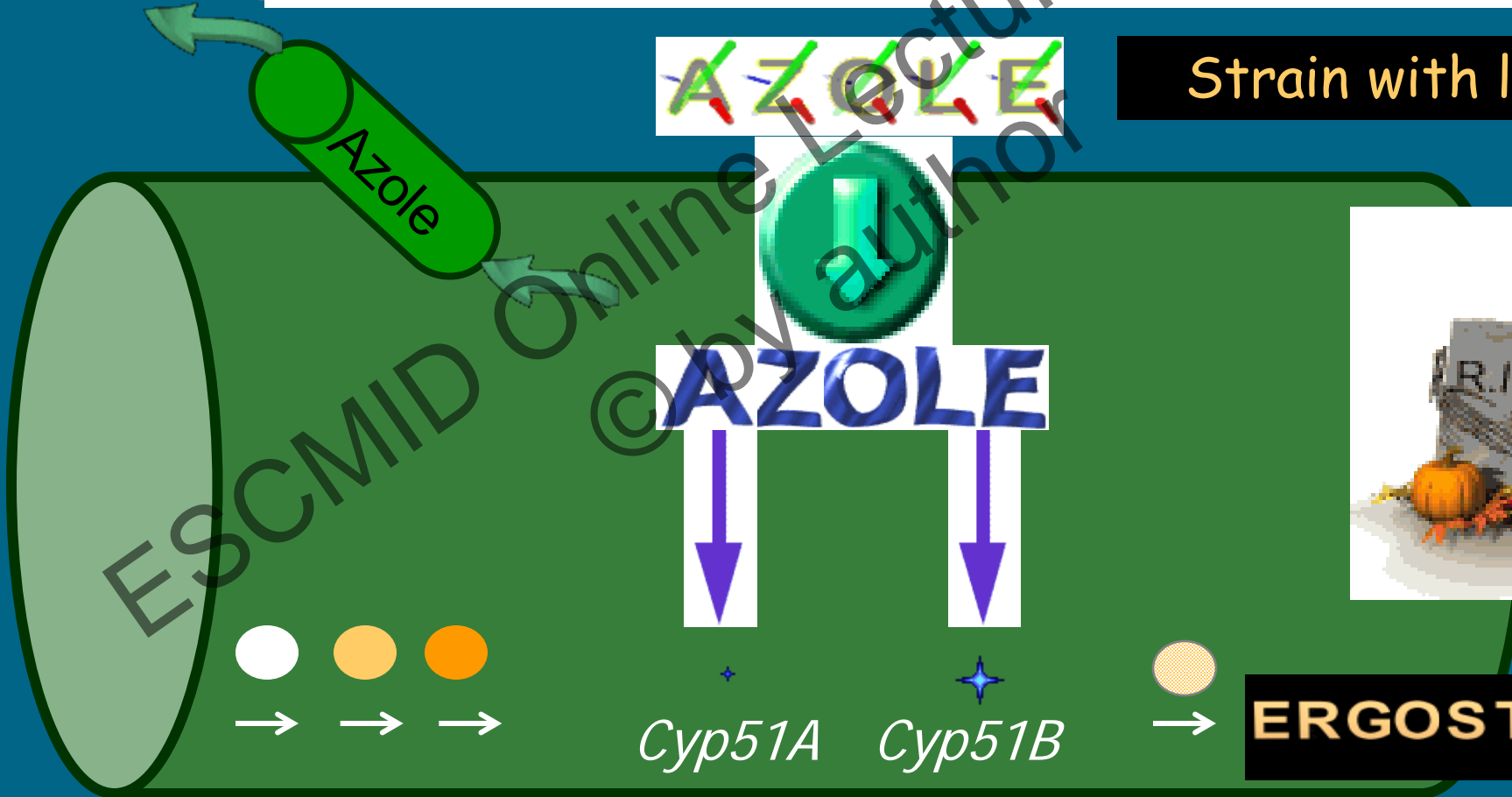
# Identification of Two Different 14- $\alpha$ Sterol Demethylase-Related Genes (*cyp51A* and *cyp51B*) in *Aspergillus fumigatus* and Other *Aspergillus* species

E. MELLADO,\* T. M. DIAZ-GUERRA, M. CUENCA-ESTRELLA, AND J. L. RODRIGUEZ-TUDELA

Servicio de Micología, Centro Nacional de Microbiología, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Majadahonda, Madrid, Spain

ABC

Strain with low MIC



*Cyp51A*

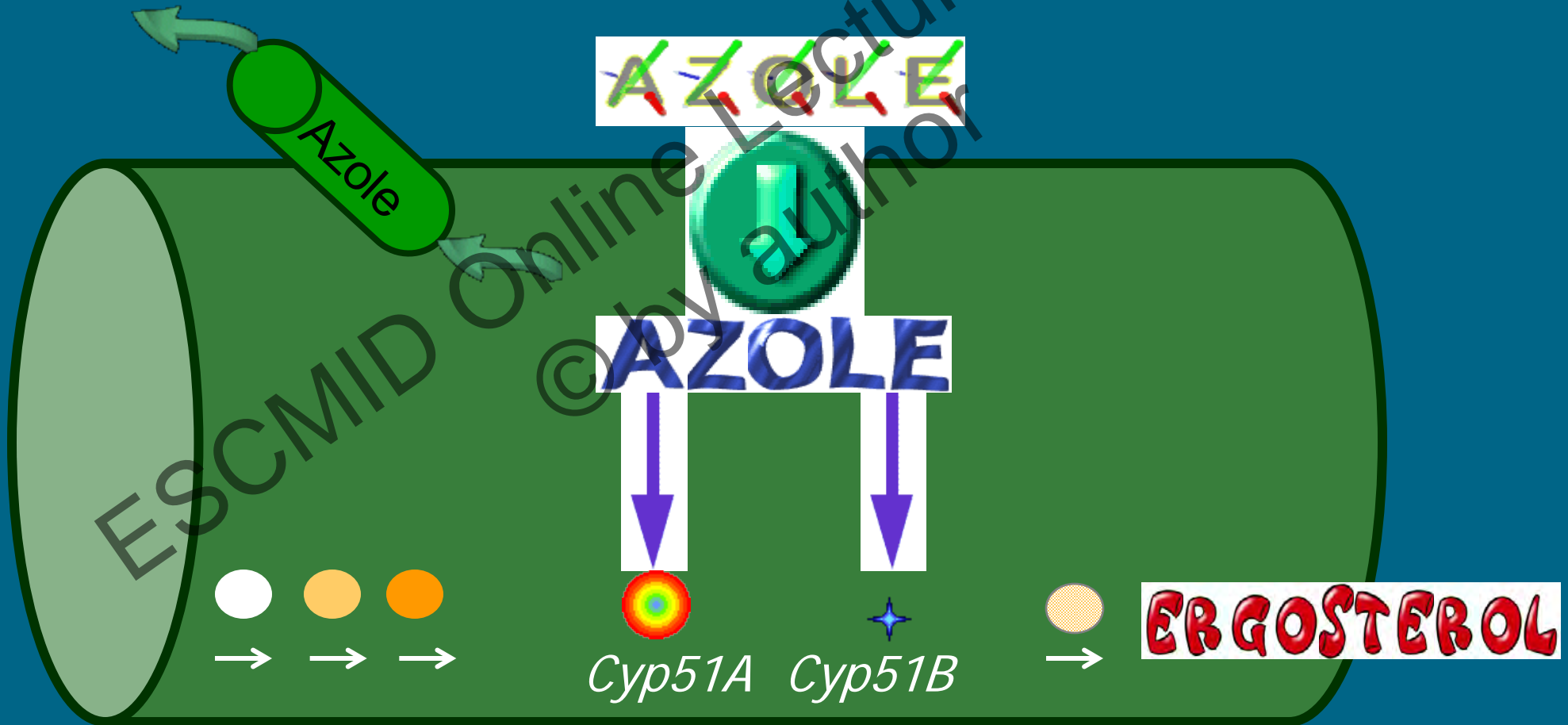
*Cyp51B*

**ERGOSTEROL**

# Mutations in *Cyp51A*

ABC

Strain with high MIC







## A Point Mutation in the 14 $\alpha$ -Sterol Demethylase Gene *cyp51A* Contributes to Itraconazole Resistance in *Aspergillus fumigatus*

T. M. Diaz-Guerra, E. Mellado,\* M. Cuenca-Estrella, and J. L. Rodriguez-Tudela

*Unidad de Micología, Centro Nacional de Microbiología, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Majadahonda, Madrid, Spain*

## Substitutions at Methionine 220 in the 14 $\alpha$ -Sterol Demethylase (Cyp51A) of *Aspergillus fumigatus* Are Responsible for Resistance In Vitro to Azole Antifungal Drugs

E. Mellado,\* G. Garcia-Effron, L. Alcazar-Fuoli, M. Cuenca-Estrella, and J. L. Rodriguez-Tudela

*Servicio de Micología, Centro Nacional de Microbiología, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Majadahonda, Madrid, Spain*

## Targeted Gene Disruption of the 14- $\alpha$ Sterol Demethylase (*cyp51A*) in *Aspergillus fumigatus* and Its Role in Azole Drug Susceptibility

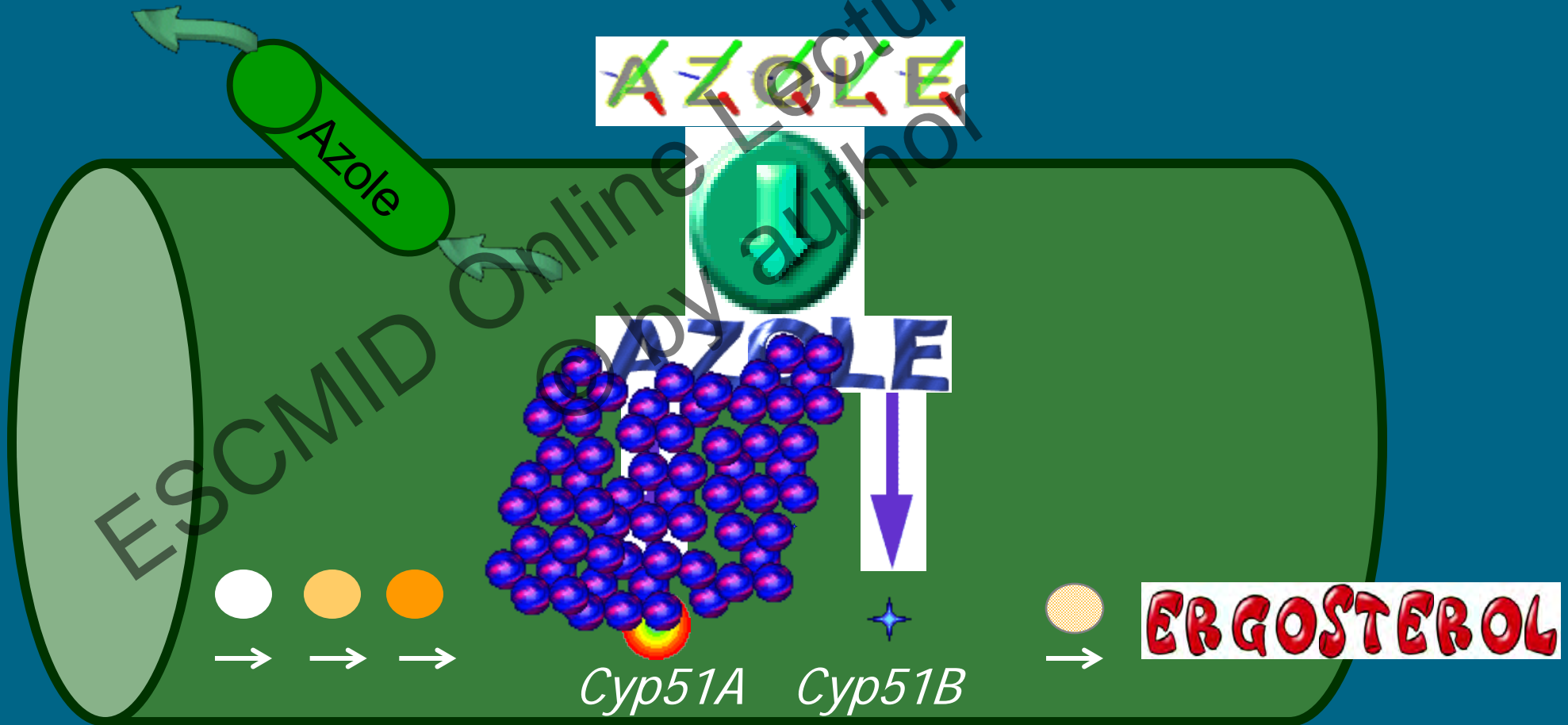
E. Mellado,\* G. Garcia-Effron, M. J. Buitrago, L. Alcazar-Fuoli, M. Cuenca-Estrella, and J. L. Rodriguez-Tudela

*Servicio de Micología, Centro Nacional de Microbiología, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Majadahonda, Madrid, Spain*

# UP regulation of *Cyp51A*

ABC

Strain with high MIC





# Gen Cyp51A in a resistant strain

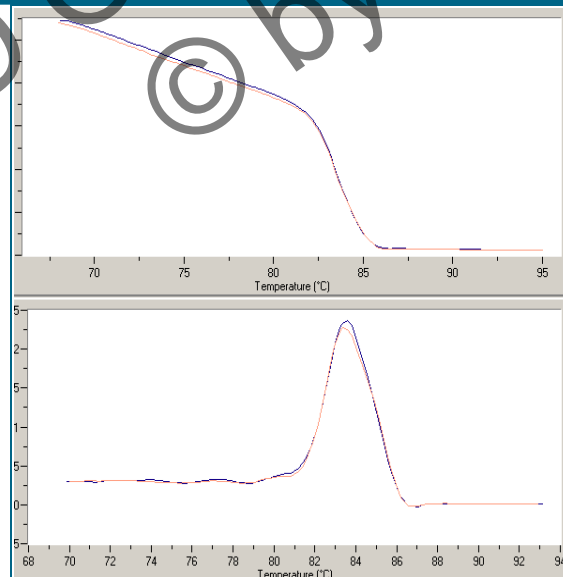
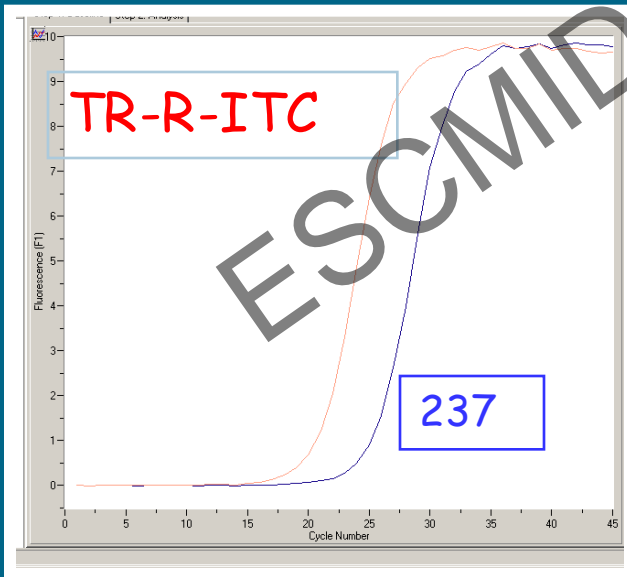
Duplication of 34-bp sequence in the promoter

GAATCAGCGG

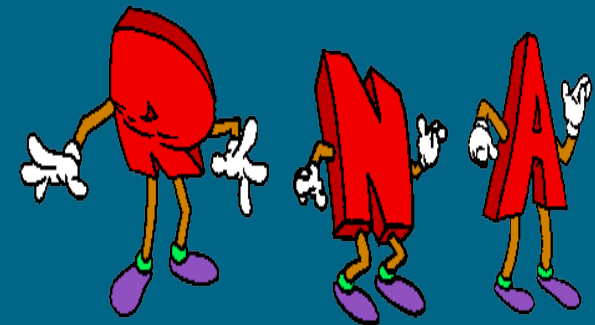
GAATCAGCGG

Cyp51A

L98H



x 8



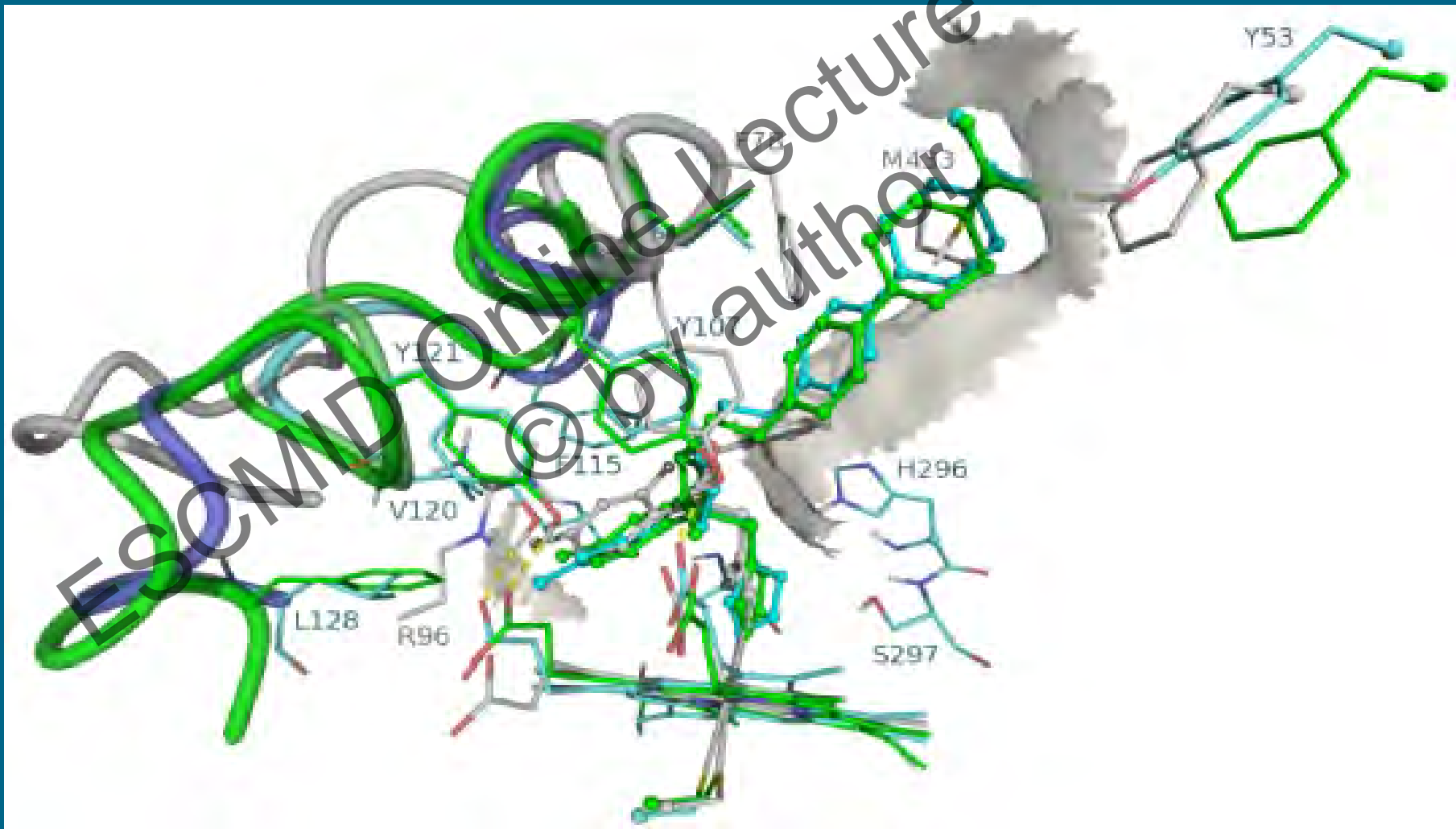


## New mechanisms of resistance in *Aspergillus*

- The azole target cyp51A is a hotspot for mutations that confer phenotypic resistance, but in an increasing number of resistant isolates the underlying mechanism remains unknown.
- Increase of expression and mutations related to efflux pumps
- Mutation in the CCAAT-binding transcription factor complex subunit HapE. A P88L substitution in HapE. *Camps et al Plos One 2012*

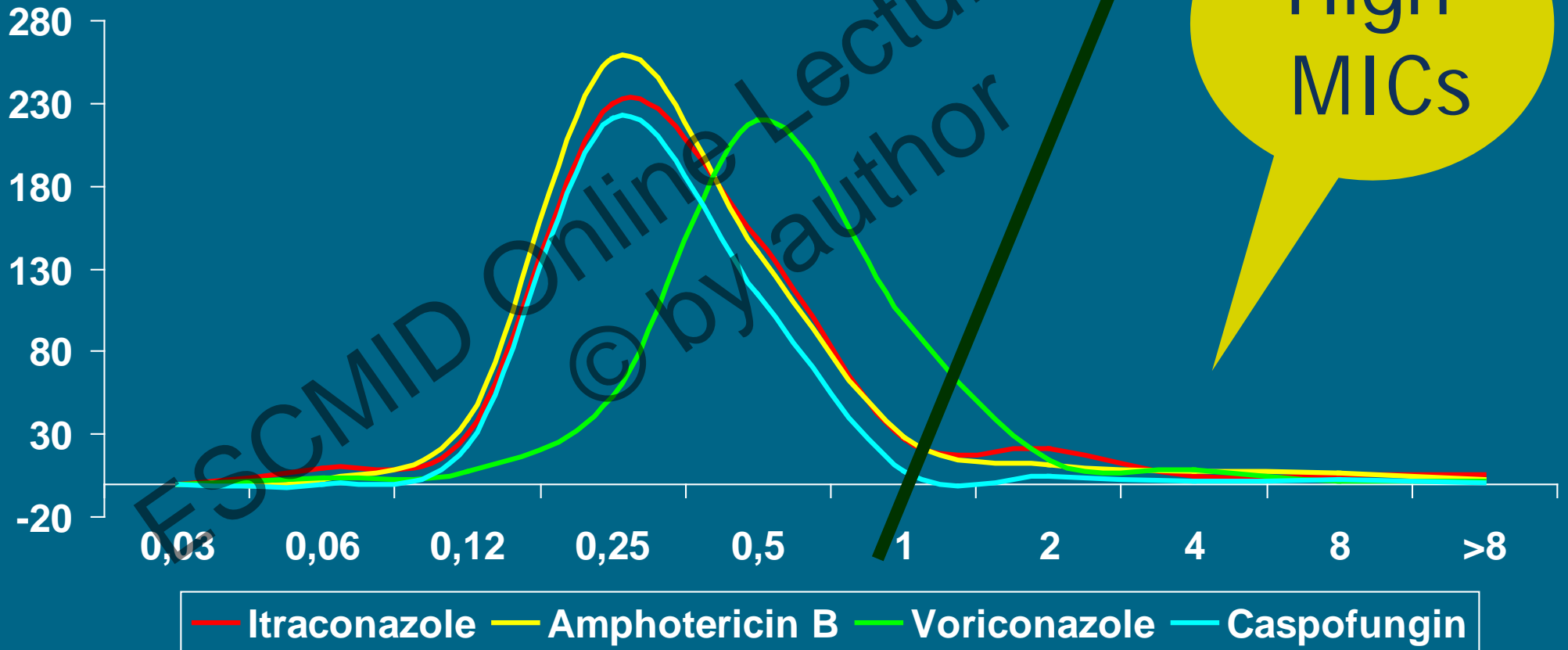


3D Representation of three aligned structures of CYP51 with the ligands in their active site, constructed by using the Yasara software. *Snelders Plos One 2012*





# EUCAST *A. fumigatus* MICs distribution



Data obtained from Mycology Reference Laboratory, Spain

BP values are still under discussion

Antifungal Agent	Breakpoint (> is resistant)	Species (complexes)
Amphotericin B	>2 mg/L	<i>fumigatus</i> and <i>niger</i>
Itraconazole	>2 mg/L	<i>fumigatus</i> , <i>flavus</i> , <i>terreus</i> and <i>nidulans</i>
Voriconazole	>2 mg/L	<i>fumigatus</i>
Posaconazole	> 0.25 mg/L	<i>fumigatus</i>

# Emergence of Azole Resistance in *Aspergillus fumigatus* and Spread of a Single Resistance Mechanism

Eveline Snelders<sup>1,2</sup>, Henrich A. L. van der Lee<sup>1,2</sup>, Judith Kuijpers<sup>1,2</sup>, Anthonius J. M. M. Rijs<sup>1,2</sup>, János Varga<sup>3,4</sup>, Robert A. Samson<sup>3</sup>, Emilia Mellado<sup>5</sup>, A. Rogier T. Donders<sup>6</sup>, Willem J. G. Melchers<sup>1,2</sup>, Paul E. Verweij<sup>1,2\*</sup>

No patients with a +ve culture



% patients with azole R isolates

Figure 1. Epidemiology of ITZ Resistance in the *A. fumigatus* Isolates



# Emergence of Azole Resistance in *Aspergillus fumigatus* and Spread of a Single Resistance Mechanism

Eveline Snelders<sup>1,2</sup>, Henrich A. L. van der Lee<sup>1,2</sup>, Judith Kuijpers<sup>1,2</sup>, Anthonius J. M. M. Rijs<sup>1,2</sup>, János Varga<sup>3,4</sup>, Robert A. Samson<sup>3</sup>, Emilia Mellado<sup>5</sup>, A. Rogier T. Donders<sup>6</sup>, Willem J. G. Melchers<sup>1,2</sup>, Paul E. Verweij<sup>1,2\*</sup>

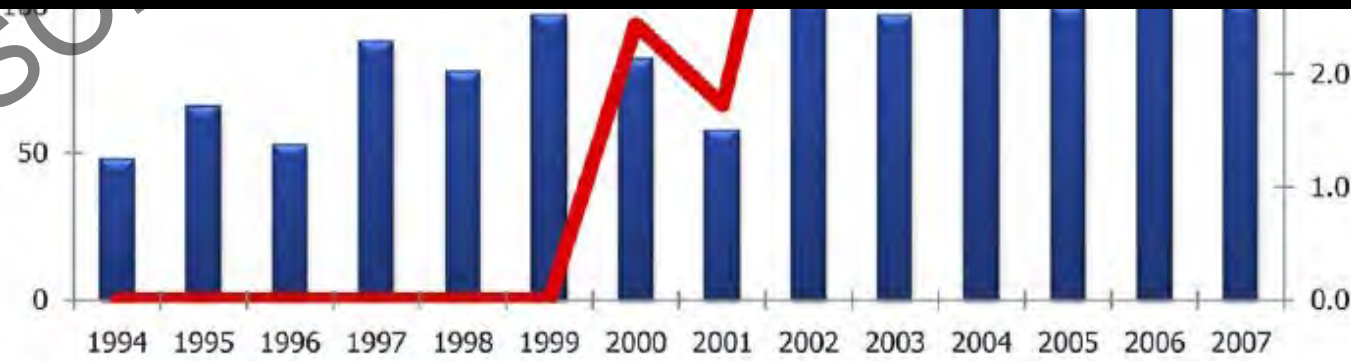
No patients with a +ve culture



ates

Triazole Fungicides Can Induce Cross-Resistance to Medical Triazoles in *Aspergillus fumigatus*. *Plos One* 2012

Also in yeasts. *C. tropicalis*. Yang et al. *Plos One* 2012



% patients w

Figure 1. Epidemiology of ITZ Resistance in the *A. fumigatus* Isolates



# Frequency and Evolution of Azole Resistance in *Aspergillus fumigatus* Associated with Treatment Failure<sup>1</sup>

Susan J. Howard, Dasa Cerar, Michael J. Anderson, Ahmed Albarrag, Matthew C. Fisher, Alessandro C. Pasqualotto, Michel Laverdiere, Maiken C. Arendrup, David S. Perlin, and David W. Denning

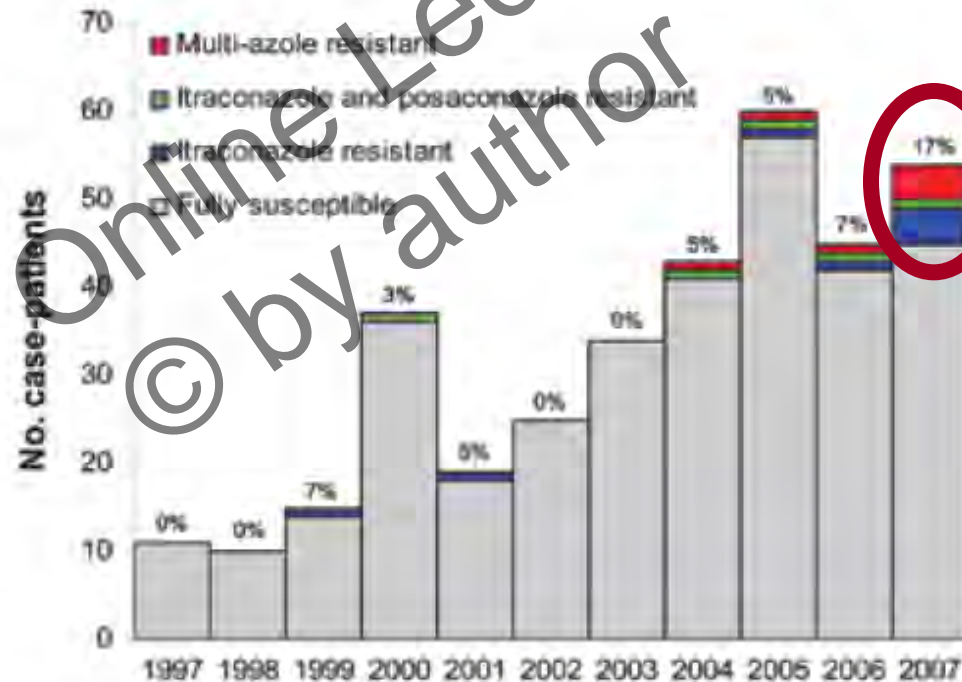


Figure 1. Azole resistance in clinical *Aspergillus fumigatus* isolates received in the Regional Mycology Laboratory Manchester, UK, 1997–2007. Overall azole resistance for each year is shown above each column as a percentage. Data do not include sequential isolates from the same patient.



# Resistance to azoles

Determining molecular resistance mechanisms:

**1. Clinical relevance??**

Yes

**2. Reliable molecular tools?**

Yes, lack of standardization. Some resistance mechanism still unknown

**3. Could be more reliable than MIC determination for prevention and control?**

Not yet



Instituto  
de Salud  
Carlos III

# Resistance to echinocandins

ESCM

Library



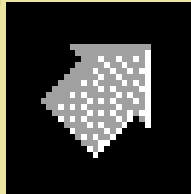
# Resistance to echinocandins

- MIC determination is able to detect resistant yeast strains. BPs availability (\*)
- **Resistance mechanisms** Beyda et al. Annals of Pharmacotherapy 2012:
  - Adaptive stress responses, which result in elevated cell wall chitin content and paradoxical growth in vitro
  - Acquired FKS mutations, which confer reduced glucan synthase sensitivity, elevated MICs, and are associated with clinical failure
  - Intrinsic FKS mutations, which are naturally occurring mutations in *C. parapsilosis* and *C. guilliermondii*, elevated MIC but a lower level of reduced glucan synthase sensitivity compared with acquired FKS mutations.

**ECHINOCANDIN**

**ABC**

**Azole**



**FCZ**

**MDR1**

**Alterations in FSK1 protein**



**1,3-BETA-GLUCAN**

ESCMID Online Lecture Library © by author

# Resistance to echinocandins

Perlin et al, Arendrup et al

FKS1



Hotspot1

Hotspot2

Organism	Hot Spot1	Hot Spot 2
<i>C. albicans</i>	FLTL <b>S</b> LRDP	DWIRRYTL
<i>C. krusei</i>	FLIL <b>S</b> IRDP	DWIRRYTL
<i>C. glabrata</i>	FLIL <b>S</b> IRDP	DWIRRYTL
<i>C. guilliermondii</i>	FMAL <b>S</b> IRDP	DWIRRYTL
<i>C. tropicalis</i>	FLTL <b>S</b> LRDP	DWIRRYTL
<i>C. lypolytica</i>	FLIL <b>S</b> IRDP	DWIRRCVL
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	FLTL <b>S</b> IRDA	DWIRRYTL
<i>C. dubliniensis</i>	FLTL <b>S</b> IRDP	DWIRRYTL

█ Resistant phenotype    
 █ No phenotype    
 █ Weak Resistance



# Sequencing and analysis

<i>C. albicans</i>	639	YFFSTLSLRDP	IRNLSTMTMRCVGEVWY--
<i>C. glabrata</i>	653	YFFLILSLRDP	IRILSTTTMRCTGEYWW---
<i>C. krusei</i>	31	YFFLILSLRDP	IRDLSLSTMTMRCHGEKWW---
<i>C. lipolytica</i>	690	YFFLILSLRDP	IRDLSQMKMRCFGQKWFVGE
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	637	YFFLVLSLRDP	IRILSTTAMRCTGEYWW---
<i>S. pombe</i>	702	YFFLTLSLRDP	ITVLSTMRPYLCSIYWAG-
<i>A. nidulans</i>	668	YFFLTLSIKDP	IRYLSPYHVHQAGVKYIG-
<i>A. fumigatus</i>	672	YFFLTLSFKDP	IRILSPMQIHQAGVKYIG--
<i>C. neoformans</i>	531	YFFLTLSFRDP	PMKVMNGMKVQNCHKYFG---
<i>C. posadasii</i>	677	YFFLTLSIKDP	IRILSIMTIHRCAGDAIL---
<i>P. brasiliensis</i>	668	YFFLTLSFRDP	IRILSQRISKAGDALFGAS
<b>consensus</b>		Yf <b>F1tLSlrDP</b>	irils m mr cg wy





# Clinical failures

Table 3. Summary of 17 reported echinocandin recipients with fungal isolates demonstrating reduced susceptibility or resistance to echinocandins

Reference	Hosts	Indications <sup>a</sup>	Recur <sup>b</sup>	Multiple courses <sup>c</sup>	Total (days) <sup>d</sup>	Isolate	MIC <sup>e</sup>	MIC I (days) <sup>f</sup>	MIC II (days) <sup>g</sup>	MIC III (days) <sup>h</sup>	Amino acid substitution <sup>i</sup>	Failure <sup>j</sup>
[55]	AIDS (6 cells/ $\mu\text{L}^k$ )	Oesophagitis	Yes	Yes	25	<i>C. albicans</i>	E	0.25 (0)	2 (23)	2 (23)	F641S	Yes
[58]	AIDS (32 cells/ $\mu\text{L}^k$ )	Oesophagitis	Yes	Yes	88	<i>C. albicans</i>	C	0.25 (0)	>64 (88)	>64 (88)	N/A	Yes
[60]	AIDS (5 cells/ $\mu\text{L}^k$ )	Oesophagitis	Yes	No	>300	<i>C. albicans</i>	C	0.06 (0)	2 (42)	2 (42)	S645F, R1361H	Yes
[61]	AIDS (19 cells/ $\mu\text{L}^k$ )	Oesophagitis	Yes	No	450	<i>C. albicans</i>	C	8 (450)	N/A	N/A	S645P	Yes
[63]	Neutropenia	Febrile neutropenia	No	No	14	<i>C. albicans</i>	C	0.5 (0)	>8 (14)	>8 (14)	S645F, S645P	Yes
[63]	Neutropenia	Febrile neutropenia	No	No	39	<i>C. albicans</i>	C	0.5 (4)	4 (27)	4 (27)	S645F	Yes
[63]	Neutropenia	Febrile neutropenia	No	No	27	<i>C. krusei</i>	C	32 (17)	N/A	N/A	R1361G	Yes
[6]	Abdominal OP	Candidaemia	Yes	No	35	<i>C. albicans</i>	E, Et	0.25 (0)	0.5 (13)	32 (28)	S645P	Yes
[59]	Abdominal OP	Candidaemia	Yes	No	136	<i>C. glabrata</i>	C	0.5 (N/A)	8 (N/A)	>8 (126)	N/A	N/A
[64]	Abdominal OP	Candidaemia	No	No	16	<i>C. krusei</i>	C	2 (0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
[57] and [68]	AML	Candidaemia	No	No	17	<i>C. krusei</i>	C	0.25 (0)	1 (17)	1 (17)	F655C	Yes
						<i>C. fermentati</i>	C	>16 (17)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
[18]	AML	Fever and otitis	No	No	17	<i>C. tropicalis</i>	C	4 (17)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
[62]	AVR/aortic repair	Candidaemia	Yes	Yes	52	<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	C	2 (0)	>16 (42)	>16 (42)	N/A	Yes
[66]	HSCT recipient	Candidaemia	Yes	No	N/A	<i>C. glabrata</i>	C	0.12 (0)	>8 (N/A)	>8 (N/A)	N/A	Yes
[67]	OLTx recipient	Candidaemia	Yes	No	61	<i>C. glabrata</i>	C	0.25 (0)	2 (40)	2 (40)	F659V	Yes
[65]	Crohn's disease	Candidaemia	Yes	Yes	67	<i>C. glabrata</i>	C	0.5 (0)	8 (21)	>16 (39)	N/A	Yes
[56]	Diabetes mellitus	Candidaemia	Yes	Yes	>25	<i>C. glabrata</i>	C	0.06 (0)	>2 (14)	>2 (14)	D632E	N/A

International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents 35 (2010) 211–218

Characterisation of breakthrough invasive mycoses in echinocandin recipients: an evidence-based review

Hsin-Yun Sun<sup>a,b</sup>, Nina Singh<sup>a,c,\*</sup>

# Minimal Effective Concentration and Echinocandins. BPs?

5684

IMHOF ET AL.

J. CLIN. MICROBIOL.

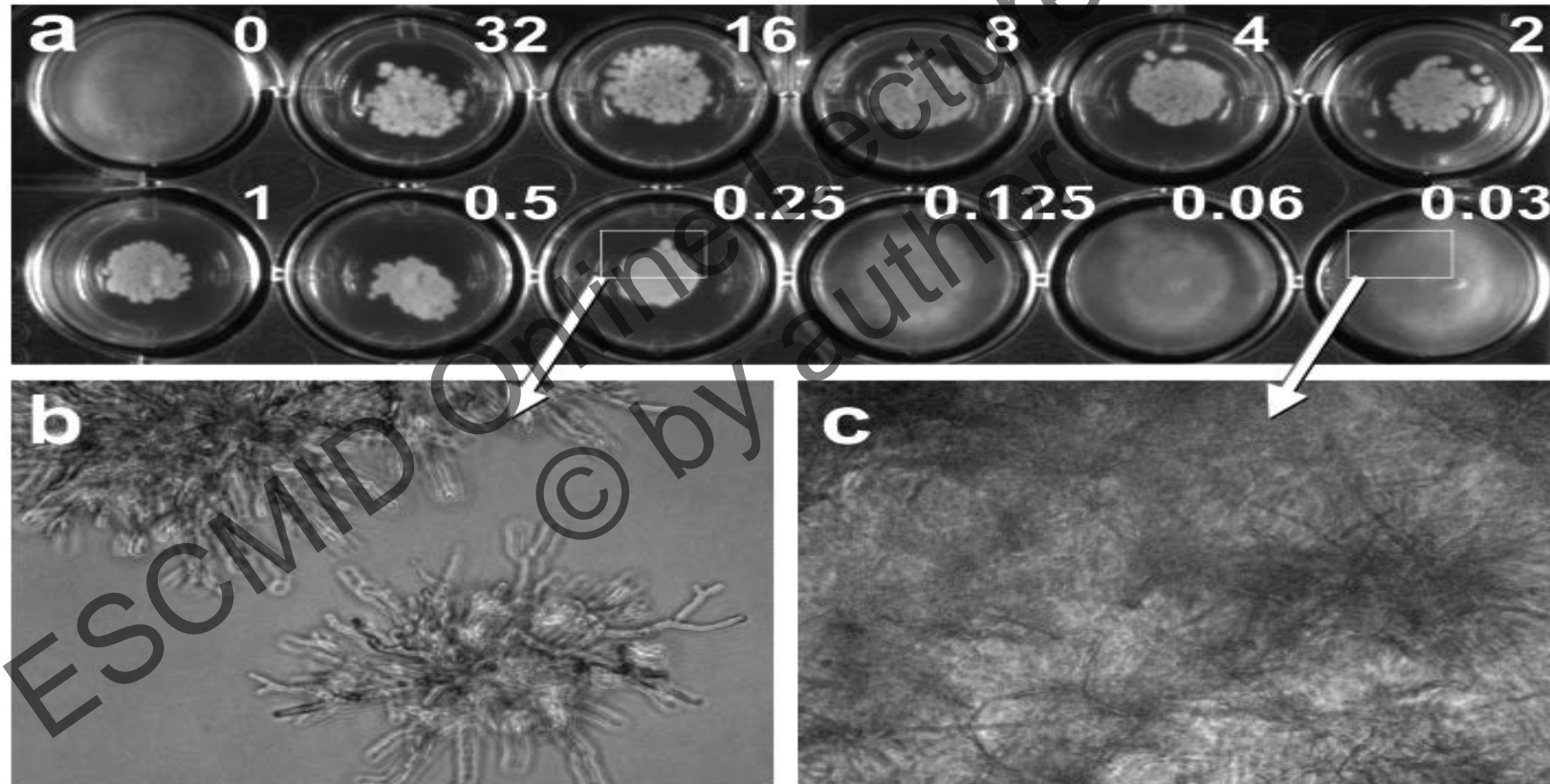


FIG. 1. Agar dilution method. (a) Well 1 is a positive control (without CAS), and wells 2 to 12 contain drug concentrations ranging from 32 to 0.03  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  (as shown). The MIC is 0.25  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ , interpreted as the lowest drug concentration showing compact granular microcolonies compared to the radial filamentous colonies of the growth control and wells containing lower drug concentrations (0.125 to 0.03  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ). The corresponding microscopic appearance of colonies at effective concentrations and subinhibitory concentrations of drug are shown in panels b and c, respectively.



# Resistance to echinocandins

Determining molecular resistance mechanisms:

## 1. **Clinical relevance??**

Uncommon phenomenon, but...

## 2. **Reliable molecular tools?**

Yes, lack of standardization. Some resistance mechanism still unknown

## 3. **Could be more reliable than MIC determination for prevention and control?**

Not yet. The mould issue



# Conclusions

Antifungal resistance has clinical relevance. Resistance to azoles in *Candida* and, in some countries, *Aspergillus*

We have reliable phenotypic methods for ID of resistant isolates. Efforts for culture isolates and periodical surveillance studies

Description of resistance mechanisms

New sequencing techniques could change AST soon