The ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies – ESGAP
Guillaume Béraud, Onder Ergonul, Stephan Harbarth, Håkan Hanberger, Philip Howard, Diamantis Kofteridis, Dilip Nathwani, Leonardo Pagani, Jose Ramon Pano Pardo, Céline Pulcini, Jeroen Schouten, Agnes Wechslcr-Feerdoes, Bojana Beovic
beraudguillaume@gmail.com

Who Are We?

Background
The ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies - ESGAP - was set up in 1998, the inaugural meeting was held at the 9th ECCMID in Berlin with Professor Jos van den Meer as Chairman and Dr Ian Gould as Secretary.

Mission Statement:
To play a significant role in Europe in formulating and promulgating strategies to improve antimicrobial prescribing policies and practices and to improve patient care and prevent or reduce the development of antimicrobial resistance.

Aims:
• To increase communication between interested parties in member countries by establishing links between any existing networks and to provide a forum for all those involved in antimicrobial stewardship.
• To promote an awareness of antimicrobial misuse.
• To provide an opportunity for training in the appropriate use of antimicrobials through workshops and courses in collaboration with other ESCMID Study Groups or other organisations.
• To provide the evidence base that will provide a better understanding of the factors involved in antimicrobial misuse and to inform the strategies to meet our mission statement by:
  – facilitating the collection and establishing the comparability of antibiotic prescribing data within the EU
  – identifying problems of antimicrobial resistance related to antimicrobial use
  – to provide tools that will enable the implementation and monitoring of prescribing policies and practices.

Research and Development

Funded research projects (especially collaborative projects):
ESGAP Open Virtual Learning Community (OVLC)
ESGAP OVLC was launched in 2014 as an open access, web-based resource targeted to providing information and tools to promote AS among healthcare professionals. The ESGAP/ESCMID Antimicrobial Stewardship Learning Community (ESGAP-AS-LC) is intended to: a) provide a platform for showcasing, disseminating and highlighting good practice of antimicrobial use; b) promote opinion exchanges and debates regarding antimicrobial use, policy and stewardship; c) facilitate the access to common international platform where multilingual updated contents could be readily available for involved professionals. ESGAP-AS-LC has been structured in two main areas: the “static” web-pages and the webblog area. From June 2014, the OVLC has approx. 4 visits a day with peaks up to 40 correspondents to posts. The editors of the OVLC intend to increase the number of posts with active invitations to ESGAP members. In addition, the readers will receive posts and pages automatically in their e-mails. The OVLC at the moment still does not have forum capabilities which will be developed in the near future.

Completed Activities:

• SG article: U. Theuretzbacher: Product information for parenteral colistin varies substantially across Europe. J. Antimicrob. Chemother. 2014 Jul;69(7):1987-92 (this EPASG/ESGAP study was funded by a Study Group Research Grant of ESCMID)

Presentations on behalf of the Study Group at scientific meetings:

• ECCMID 2015 Copenhagen:
  – 1-hour Symposium: What is responsible use of antibiotics? Organiser(s): ESGAP

• ECCMID 2014 Barcelona European Network Corner poster

• ECCMID 2014 Barcelona:
  – Cross-sectional study: An International Survey on controversial antibiotic options in Infective Endocarditis. G. Béraud, C. Pulcini, J.R. Pardo-Pardo, B. Horn, B. Beovic, D. Nathwani, on behalf of ESGAP (oral presentation)
  – Cross-sectional European survey on principles of prudent antibiotic prescribing teaching in under-graduate students. C. Pulcini, N. Frimodt-Møller, W. Kern, D. Nathwani, J. Rodríguez Balu, G.S. Simonsen, V. Vlahović-Palcevski, I. Gyssens, on behalf of ESGAP (oral presentation)


5th Southeast European Conference on Chemotherapy and Infection (October 2014, Bled, Slovenia): Education of healthcare professionals on prudent antibiotic prescribing. Pulcini C on behalf of ESGAP (oral presentation)

Organisation of scientific sessions at ECCMID:

ECCMID 2014 Barcelona:

Other important activities:

• Céline Pulcini, official ESGAP representative in EUCIC Stakeholder Committee

Planned Activities

Outside ECCMID

• PGEC: Management and Control of Nosocomial and Health Care Associated Blood Stream Infections. Copenhagen, Denmark, 24 – 25 Apr 2015; Organiser(s): ESGAP, ESGBS, ESGNI

• PGEC: Moving antimicrobial stewardship forward in special population settings. Fernay Voltaire, France, 24 – 25 Sep 2015; Organiser(s): ESGIE, ESGAP, Amne-E Genesis Hospital Centre (CHANGE), Société de Pathologie Infecctieuse de Langue Francaise (SPLIF)

• French Infectious Diseases congress (Journées Nationales d’Infectiologie, SPLIT-ESGAP, Nancy, France, June 2015): 1.5 h symposium on antibiotic stewardship (invited speakers: B Beovic, I Gyssens, C Pulcini)