



ESGFOR

ESCMID STUDY GROUP
FOR FORENSIC AND
POSTMORTEM MICROBIOLOGY

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

European Study Group for Forensic and Post-mortem Microbiology (ESGFOR)

Chair (interim)

Prof Amparo
Fernández-Rodríguez,
Madrid, Spain

Secretary & Co-chair (interim)

Prof Veroniek Saegeman, Leuven,
Belgium
Treasurer (interim)
Prof Katja Seme, Ljubljana, Slovenia

New Study Group

(SG approval October 2014):

26 individuals from 11 countries (Belgium, France, Israel, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom)

Achievements 2015/2016

• Educational activities at ECCMID

• Educational workshops at ECCMID:

@ ECCMID 2015 Copenhagen:

2-hour Educational Workshop: Forensic microbiology - current and future challenges

Organiser(s): ESGFOR, TAE

@ ECCMID 2016 Amsterdam:

➤ 1-hour Symposium: Infectious causes of sudden and unexpected deaths

11 Apr 2016: 11:30 - 12:30 h

Organiser: ESGFOR

➤ 1-hour Symposium: Ancient pathogens: paleosciences

12 Apr 2016: 11:30 - 12:30 h

Organisers: ESGFOR, ESGCP



• Other Educational activities outside ECCMID

• PGTW: Capacity-building Workshop: Application of Molecular Diagnostics in Forensic Microbiology. Leuven, Belgium, 02-03.06.2016; Organisers: ESGFOR, ESGMD

Target Audience: 30–35 microbiologists (medical, clinical, forensics including trainees), pathologists and other professionals working in forensic science or forensic medicine, and public health practitioners.

Primordial objectives

- Establish European guidance for standardised sampling in forensic microbiology
- Set up study group project: interpretation of microbiological samples from forensic cases
- Facilitate cooperation between European Societies of microbiology and pathology

ESGFOR membership:

- Open to all ESCMID members with an interest in forensic and post-mortem microbiology, including medico-legal issues regarding infectious diseases.
- For further details please visit our website at:
https://www.escmid.org/research_projects/study_groups/forensicpostmortem_microbio/
or email our contacts:
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ESGFOR Practice survey 2015:

As a first step to establish guidelines for microbiology post-mortem sampling, a practice survey aimed to pathologists and ESGFOR members was launched

The survey inquired into the practices in clinical and forensic autopsies to appraise use of post-mortem microbiology (PMM), and to establish technical and training needs. Multiple choice questions (N=51) based on Cumitech35 PMM guideline were made available for roughly 2 months in 2015 on www.SurveyMonkey.com. A descriptive analysis was performed.

274 answers (147 useful for the study) were received from 20 countries, mainly from Spain, Italy, Turkey, UK and Switzerland. 94% of the participants consider PMM as a useful resource when investigating the cause of death. Although there are some common practices, these results highlight a need for guidelines and training protocols that standardize sampling procedures in PMM.

Intersociety Link:

Official request on behalf of prof M. Akova, the ESCMID president, seeking formal approval for the launch of an intersociety task force in post-mortem microbiology with the European Society of Pathology (dd 3/12/2015)