The ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies – ESGAP
Guillaume Béraud, Oliver-James Dyar, Önder Ergönül, Benedikt Hutten, Philip Howard, Diamantis Kosteridis, Tomislav Kostyanov, Leonardo Pagani, José Ramón Paño-Pardo, Céline Pulcini, Jeroen Schouten, Vera Vlahović-Palčevski, Agnes Wechsler-Fördös, Bojana Beović
beraudguillaume@gmail.com

ESGAP
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

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 Good 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.

ESGAP has currently 137 members, and is publishing a book on Antimicrobial stewardship, available in April 2017.

Research and Development

Eleven ongoing research projects:
- ESGAP AntiBioLegalMap survey 2016; ESGAPSPILF AR-Duration survey 2016; ESGAP/ESGIBS Bloodstream infection survey; ESCMID Study Groups’ competencies in antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship (ESGAP); ESCMID generic competencies in antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship; YPAR survey (collaboration with TAE) (Young Doctors’ Perspectives on Antibiotic use and Resistance in Europe in 2015); Student-PREPARE; Vet-PREPARE; Legal Framework of Antimicrobial Stewardship in Hospitals survey (LEAISH); AB-Shortages survey; AMS survey.

Completed Activities:

Publications, guidelines and consensus documents:
- WG publications:


- Contributions to publication:

Presentations on behalf of the Study Group at scientific meetings:
- ESMCID 2016 Amsterdam: ESGAP, ESICM, ESMIC, HPA. 2 posters (PV0609, EV0719). 3 posters (P192, P304, P305) and one oral presentation: Final results of the Student-PREPARE survey among European medical students: Knowledge and skills for improved antimicrobial prescribing.
- ASM Microbe, Boston: 2016 Oral presentations (Slovenian Undergraduate Training and Self-Assessments in the Infection Field – Student Prepares 2015 and Do European Medical Students Feel Prepared to Prescribe Antibiotics Responsibly?).
- French Infections Diseases congress, Lille, 2016: One poster BU-10.
- 7th SEEIC, Sibiu (Romania) 2016: ESGAP invited session on Antimicrobial Stewardship.
- Antimicrobial Stewardship sessions, in collaboration with KLMIK (Turkish Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases), October 6-8, 2016, Istanbul, Turkey.

Organisation of scientific sessions at ESMCID:
- ESMCID 2016 Amsterdam (5 Symposium) (Antibiotic de-escalation (Pro-Con debate)) ESGAP, Prevention and management of bloodstream infections: frontiers to where? (ESGAP, ESGIBS, ESICM, ESISG), How to treat patients with Gram-negative infections in high-level resistance settings (ESGAP, ESICM), Undergraduate and postgraduate training and assessments in the infection field – a European discussion (EUMS, TAE, ESGAP, ESICM, ESISG), Affordable healthcare (TAE, Parish Commission, ESGIV, EISGAP).

Organisation of activities outside ESMCID:
- Scientific event: Antiobiotic therapy in practive. Madrid, Spain, 10 - 12 Nov 2016 (ESGAP).
- Educational activities (3 PGECC) Antimicrobial Stewardship Course: A practical and integrated approach. [Amstelveen, the Netherlands, 07-08.04.2016 (ESGAP); Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterinary Medicine, Gothenburg, Sweden, 10-11.09.2016 (ESGVM, ESGAP, University of Copenhagen, University of Lisbon and University of Gothenburg, ISCAID, ECVM-CA), Individualized medicine in infectious diseases: a practical approach. Tübingen, Germany, 24-25.06.2016 (EPASG, ESGAP, ESMIC), Antimicrobial Parity Commission).

Other important activities:
- Céline Pulcini, official ESGAP representative in EUCIC Stakeholder Committee.
- Two ESGAP newsletters in 2016, participation to research grant and ESMCID abstract reviews.
- Tomislav Kostyanov, Bojana Beović and Oliver Dyar represented ESGAP/ESGAP on stakeholder workshops and meetings.
- ESGAP started a collaboration with MURIA (Medicines Utilisation Research in Africa).
- ESGAP submitted in February 2017 to WHO a plea to access to old antibiotics part of the Essential Medicines List worldwide, including paediatric formulations, meaning that these antibiotics should be marketed and that prolonged shortages should be avoided.
- ESGAP participated actively in the development of the EU/ECDC guidelines on prudent use of antibiotics in human medicine.
- ESGAP started a collaboration with IMSSA (European Medical Student’s Association).

Planned Activities

ESMID 2017 (4 Symposium): Resistance dynamics between the human and the veterinary sector (EUICM, ESICM, ESGAP), Improving antimicrobial use in different clinical syndromes – barriers, needs and indicators of success (ESGAP), Which mathematical models for antimicrobial resistance (ESGAP, ECDC), Strategies for de-escalation and optimised antibiotic therapy (ESGAP).
- EORTC/ESMID brainstorming meeting, 14 February 2017, Brussels, Belgium (with official representatives by EBSG, EPASG, ESGAP, ESIGB, ESICM, ESCIC, ESICMD).

OVLC
ESGAP Open Virtual Learning Community (OVLC) was launched in 2014 as an open-access, web-based platform targeted to providing information and tools to promote antimicrobial stewardship among healthcare professionals. The ESGAP/ESGICMD 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-ABS is ESGAP official twitter account, which has 941 followers.