WHAT IS COMBACTE AND LAB-NET?

The COMBACTE project is formed to combat bacterial resistance and to develop new antibiotics against multi-resistant pathogens. It is one of the seven projects part of the "New Drugs For Bad Bugs" (ND4BB) programme and is an EU-initiated consortium of industry and academic partners.

Project start: January 2013  Project duration: 7 years

LAB-Net is the laboratory network within COMBACTE-NET. Its overarching objective is to establish, train, and maintain a high-quality geographically representative European COMBACTE laboratory network to support antibacterial drug development via various clinical trials. LAB-Net consists of routine diagnostic laboratories, specialized research microbiology laboratories, and a central coordinating laboratory based at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. This network is fully complementary to COMBACTE CLIN-Net and closely linked with the clinical studies.

UPCOMING COMBACTE LAB-NET ACTIVITIES IN 2017

- Country visits, in collaboration with CLIN-Net
- Providing laboratory expertise to labs involved in studies
- Selecting laboratories for participation in observational and interventional clinical trials
- National coordinator meeting
- Conduct GCP in the lab training for local laboratories

LAB-Net MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- LAB-Net grew from 200 labs in 2013 to 556 routine diagnostic labs, 724 lab contacts in 40 European countries, participating in 17 clinical studies by the end of February 2017.
- 1,585 laboratory questionnaires were sent and over 50% of them were completed.
- 586 individuals in 309 sites have participated in the site initiation visits by LAB-Net during which local staff members were trained on matters such as sample collection, handling, storage and shipment of samples.
- Development and launch of a LAB-Net baseline questionnaire, assessing the quality of the laboratories, their capability to participate in a clinical trial, and the laboratories' needs for capacity building and training.
- LAB-Net established and launched an external quality assessment (EQA) panel programme to objectively assess the preparedness of 50 laboratories study to detect carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative bacteria.
- Training on antimicrobial resistance testing for laboratories in several Balkan countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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