Antimicrobial stewardship has now become standard terminology (in English) worldwide to describe a set of actionable programmes aiming at ensuring responsible antibiotic use. ESGAP has changed its name accordingly from ESectMD Study Group for Antibiotic Policies to ESectMD Study Group for Antimicrobial Stewardship. The ESectMD Study Group for Antibiotic Policies was set up in 1998, the inaugural meeting was held at the 9th ECCMID in Berlin with Professor Jos vander Meer as Chairman and Professor 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 ESectMD 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 188 members.

Research and Development

Fourteen ongoing research projects:

Completed Activities

Publications, guidelines and consensus documents:
- SG publications:


- Contribution to publication:

Presentations on behalf of the Study Group at scientific meetings:

Organisation of scientific sessions at ESMC2017 Vienna:
- 1-hour Symposium: Resistance dynamics between the human and the veterinary sector (EUCIC, ESGVM, ESGAP).
- 2-hour Educational Workshop: Improving antimicrobial use in different clinical syndromes – barriers, needs and indicators of success (ESGAP).
- Meet-the-Expert Session: Strategies for de-escalation and optimized antibiotic therapy (ESGAP).

Organisation of activities outside ESectMD:
- Scientific event: EORTC/ESCMID brainstorming meeting, Brussels, Belgium, 14 Feb 2017 (with official representatives by EFISG, ESPAG, ESGAP, ESGARS, ESGIS, ESGBIS, ESCMG).

Other important activities:
- Céline Pulcini, official ESGAP representative in EUCIC Stakeholder Committee.
- ESGAP submitted in February 2017 to WHO a plea to ensure 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 signed a letter of intent supporting CANResists application to become a Canadian Network of Centres of Excellence for Antimicrobial Resistance.
- ESGAP participated in drafting a program for the European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) 2017 and to the development of content for promotional material.
- ESGAP published one newsletter (No 6) in March 2017 and 2 press releases.
- European Curriculum in Infectious Diseases. draft version prepared by UEMS ID Sections: contribution of ESGAP to the section on antimicrobial stewardship.
- ESGAP contributed to research grant and ESMCID abstract reviews for 2018.

Planned Activities

- ESMC2018 Madrid (3 Symposia): Career development for the next generation of CMID professionals (TAE, ESGAP, ESGAP-AMS Section of Infectious Diseases, UEMS Section of Medical Microbiology). No more debate: shortening therapy for bloodstream infection and deescalation (ESGBS, ESGAP). Advances in antimicrobial stewardship (ESGAP).
- Two PGEC: Antimicrobial Stewardship: Implementing the change, 19 - 20 April 2018, San Lorenzo Spanish El Escorial, Spain (ESGAP and Challenges in Veterinary Hospital Infection Control and Antimicrobial Stewardship. Birmingham, United Kingdom, 4 - 20 April 2018 (ESGAP & ESGVM).

OVLC

ESGAP Open Virtual Learning Community (OVLC) was launched in 2019 as an open-access, web-based resource targeted to providing information and tools to promote antimicrobial stewardship among healthcare professionals. The ESGAP/OVLC Antimicrobial Stewardship Learning Community (ESGAP-OVLC) is a learning platform and discussion site for showcasing, disseminating and highlighting good practice of antimicrobial use; b) promote opinion exchanges and debate regarding antimicrobial use, policy and stewardship; c) facilitate the access to common international platforms where multilingual updated contents could be readily available for involved professionals. ES-GAP-OVLC is structured in two main ways: the “static” web-pages and the e-learning area. During 2017, ESGAP-OVLC has published 13 posts dealing with several hot topics ranging from comments on relevant topics in the field of antimicrobial stewardship to the announcement of educational activities. The editors of the OVLC intend to increase the number of posts with active invitations to ESGAP members. The site (http://esgap-ovlc.org/) has received 2486 visits, corresponding to a mean number of 7 daily visits, with a peak of 137 on Nov 18, 2017. Up to 71% of visits are from European countries, mainly Spain (17,5 %) and UK (16,7 %). Currently OVLC has 103 e-mail subscribers. ESGAP-OVLC is an ESGAP official twitter account, which has 1860 followers.

The ESMCID Study Group for Antibiotic stewardship – ESGAP

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