



ESCMID

EUROPEAN SOCIETY  
OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY  
AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES



YEARBOOK

14 / 15

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## Message from the President



*Murat Akova*  
ESCMID President  
murat.akova@escmid.org

A year has already passed in my presidency since the last ECCMID and I have much good news for ESCMID members from last year: From 16 to 17 October 2014 in Istanbul, ESCMID Executive Committee members attended a special two-day session discussing and preparing a strategic plan for 2014–2019. I would like to mention that our vision now includes that ‘*ESCMID will be the biggest and strongest Society, including its congress, in the field of CM and ID by 2019*’. Although it may seem like a bold and very ambitious statement, it is achievable with an enormous increase in our activities and efforts in many fields, including education, research, professional affairs and a variety of special services that we plan to offer.

In order to meet the expanding workload required for our activities, we have restructured our Executive Office in Basel: Ms Judith Zimmerman has been appointed Executive Director and Ms Chantal Britt as Manager for Communications. Both Judith’s experience, as a long-term ESCMID employee, and Chantal’s fresh perspective, as a newcomer, will reinforce our effectiveness and productivity in the Office.

In the previous ESCMID Yearbook, my editorial suggested three terms to define our priorities: *networking, encouragement and synergy*. I am very pleased that during the past year we observed many achievements under these headings: We recognize that our Society has its roots in Europe, but we also believe that our networking should extend outside this continent. ESCMID should become a point of attraction between international scientific communities. I am proud to announce that ESCMID operates on all continents, excluding Antarctica! The number of approved collaborative centres is approaching 90, including those in Australia, Africa, the US, South America, China and of course those in almost every country in Europe. More than 50 International societies are now affiliated with ESCMID and Professor Giuseppe Cornaglia, our newly appointed ‘International Affairs Director’, is working tirelessly and travelling around the globe to increase networking and cooperation between ESCMID and international organizations, institutions and societies. Several co-sponsored meetings and conferences have been organized in these locations in collaboration with local associations.

On the other hand, we are strengthening our already existing relationships between European institutions, such as WHO, ECDC and EMA, and societies operating in similar or allied fields. This year witnessed a major step in infection control activities in ESCMID as the Society established a new committee:

*European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC)*, with ambitious targets, including harmonization of infection control activities in European countries, developing educational tools and guidelines and organizing research. Details are on our website and on the following pages.

Since ESCMID embraces a large number of excellent scientists from Europe, we believe the Society should secure a leading role in advocating health policies on the continent. As an example, we plan to set up a multidisciplinary online platform networking experts in collaboration with the UEMS-ID section alongside many other organizations in order to respond immediately to any emerging infectious threats as exemplified by the recent Ebola epidemic.

ECCMID is now the world’s largest scientific event in the CM and ID fields, underpinned by its scientific excellence and extensive networking opportunities. I have no doubt that this year in Copenhagen the 25th ECCMID will be another record-breaking congress which will help us come one step closer to another ambitious target for 2019: an ECCMID with 20,000 attendees!

Space limitations will not allow me to touch upon every ESCMID activity, so I encourage you to go through all the pages of this Yearbook and discover what the Society can offer you. But, more importantly I appreciate your individual advice and feedback on how we can improve our work to serve you better in your scientific needs.

## ESCMID – about the Society



*Mario Poljak*  
ESCMID President-elect  
and Secretary General  
mario.poljak@escmid.org

We are pleased to report that ESCMID has grown again and now have more members than ever – 6,385 – approximately 800 more than in 2014 (Figure 1). As seen in Figures 2 and 3, about three quarters of our membership are in Europe, yet we attract a significant number of members from North America, Asia and Africa. We are very proud to have members from 109 countries worldwide, proving that we are attractive not only to European professionals.

The congress, ECCMID, is the Society’s biggest annual event. It is the largest congress of its kind in the fields of CM and ID. Members may use their login credentials to register for ECCMID. We believe this has made the ECCMID registration process more user-friendly and it’s easier for participants to save on ECCMID registration fees by becoming a member beforehand. However, the Society has much more to offer than the annual congress!

To facilitate the professional life and careers of our young colleagues, we offer a variety of programmes that especially target members still at an early stage in their careers including:

- ESCMID Research Grants
- ESCMID Observerships, including special Observerships with ECDC and WHO
- ESCMID Summer School
- Travel grants for the annual congress – ECCMID
- Travel grants for more than 20 ESCMID courses, workshops and conferences
- ESCMID Online Lecture Library (OLL)
- Option to participate in the Trainees Association of ESCMID (TAE)
- Mentorship programme

Other core benefits of ESCMID membership include:

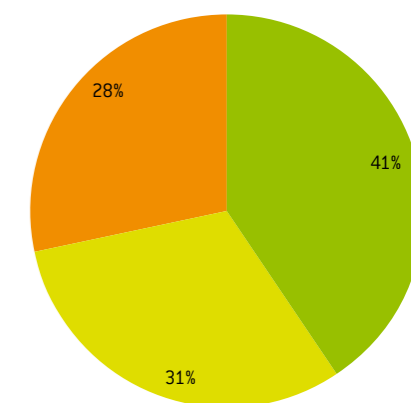
- ESCMID Collaborative Centre (ECC) programme
- Post-graduate courses and workshops providing continuing professional education
- ESCMID scientific conferences on special topics
- The Society’s two journals: *CMI* and *NMNI*
- ESCMID guidelines
- ESCMID Study Groups – expert research groups on specific topics

One of the Society’s main strengths is its facilitation of networking. ESCMID has 52 Affiliated Societies that provide input into

our activities and whose members we regularly contact. Collaboration with ECDC and WHO has strengthened in recent years – both actively participate in several ESCMID and ECCMID activities. To reach out beyond Europe, we have established several ESCMID Collaborative Centres outside Europe (in South America, Africa and Asia) and our delegations regularly attend the most important scientific conferences and meetings all over the world. We invite you to visit our website and explore our many resources.

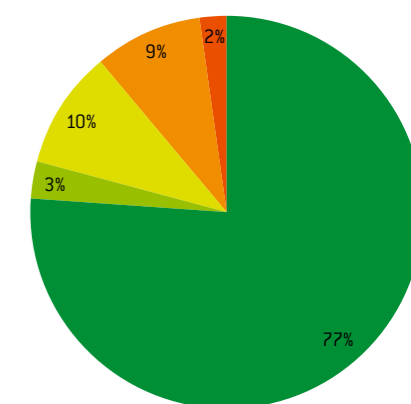
**Figure 1.** Total number of ESCMID members

- Basic membership
- Full membership
- Young Scientist membership

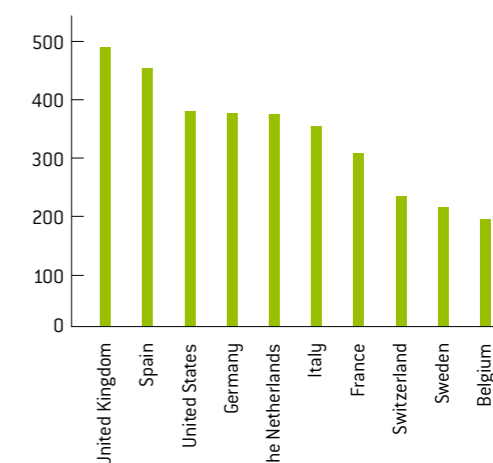


**Figure 2.** ESCMID members according to continent

- Europe
- Oceania
- Americas
- Asia
- Africa



**Figure 3.** Top membership countries



# Organisational Chart

## Executive Committee

### Standing Members



<b>Murat Akova</b> Ankara, TR	<b>Mario Poljak</b> Ljubljana, SI	<b>Cornelia Lass-Flörl</b> Innsbruck, AT	<b>Annelies Zinkernagel</b> Zurich, CH	<b>Jesús Rodríguez Baño</b> Seville, ES	<b>Evelina Tacconelli</b> Tübingen, DE	<b>Gunnar Kahlmeter</b> Växjö, SE
President	Secretary General & President-elect	Treasurer	Scientific Affairs Officer	Education Officer	Professional Affairs Officer CM/ID	Past President & Communications Officer

General Affairs	General Affairs	Finance	Science	Education	Professional Affairs, CM/ID	Communications, Publications
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### Committees/Subcommittees

#### European Council

#### Scientific Affairs Subcommittee

Annelies Zinkernagel (Zurich, CH), Chair

Hanan Balkhy (Riyadh, SA)  
Rosemary Barnes (Cardiff, UK)  
Germán Bou Arevalo (La Coruña, ES)  
Marek Gniadkowski (Warsaw, PL)  
Luigi Gradoni (Rome, IT)  
Gilbert Greub (Lausanne, CH)  
Andreas Groll (Münster, DE)  
Hervé Pelloux (Grenoble, FR)  
Adriana Vince (Zagreb, HR)

#### Study Groups

#### Education Subcommittee

Jesús Rodríguez Baño (Seville, ES), Chair

Emmi Andersson (Stockholm, SE)  
Sibel Asciglu (Ankara, TR)  
Kanita Dedic (Bihac, BA, ad hoc member)  
Maria Souli (Athens, GR)  
Alejandro Martin-Quiros (Madrid, ES, ad hoc member)  
Dorothea Orth (Innsbruck, AT)  
Eskild Petersen (Aarhus, DK)  
Laurent Poirer (Fribourg, CH)  
Céline Pulcini (Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy, FR)  
Bernd Salzberger (Regensburg, DE)  
Maurizio Sanguinetti (Rome, IT)

#### Professional Affairs Subcommittee

Evelina Tacconelli (Tübingen, DE), Chair

#### ID members

Nicholas J. Beeching (Liverpool, UK)  
Nur Benzonana (Istanbul, TR)  
Maria Adriana Cataldo (Rome, IT)  
Khetam Hussein (Haifa, IL)  
Mario U. Mondelli (Pavia, IT)  
Leonardo Pagani (Bolzano, IT)  
Pilar Retamar (Seville, ES)  
Andrej Trampuz (Berlin, DE)  
Andrew J. Ullmann (Würzburg, DE)

#### CM members

Guido Antonelli (Rome, IT)  
Petra Apfalter (Linz, AT)  
Bridget Atkins (Oxford, UK)  
Hilary Humphreys (Dublin, IE)  
Ulrik Stenz Justesen (Odense, DK)  
Piotr Kochan (Cracow, PL)  
Truls M. Leegaard (Lørenskog, NO)  
Hilpi Rautelin (Uppsala, SE)  
Katja Seme (Ljubljana, SI)

#### Parity Commission

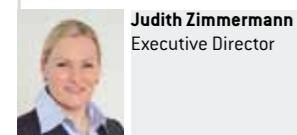
Evelina Tacconelli (Tübingen, DE), Chair

Angela Huttner (Geneva, CH)  
Dan Otelea (Bucharest, RO)  
Chrysanthi Skevaki (Athens, GR)

#### Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE)

Joana Cortez (Coimbra, PT)  
Polona Maver Vodcar (Ljubljana, SI)

### Executive Office



**Judith Zimmermann**  
Executive Director



**Milena Griffiths**  
Finance & Administration Manager



**Henri Saenz**  
Science Manager



**Thomas Greif**  
Education Manager



**Dianne White**  
Membership & Professional Affairs Manager

### Ad hoc Members



<b>Winfried V. Kern</b> Freiburg, DE	<b>Didier Raoult</b> Marseille, FR	<b>Michel Drancourt</b> Marseille, FR	<b>William W. Hope</b> Liverpool, UK	<b>Rafael Canton</b> Madrid, ES	<b>Giuseppe Cornaglia</b> Verona, IT
ECCMID Programme Director	Editor-in-Chief, CMI	Editor-in-Chief, NMNI	Medical Guidelines Director	EUCAST Chairperson	International Affairs Director

ECCMID	CMI	NMNI	Medical Guidelines	EUCAST	International Affairs
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#### Programme Committee ECCMID 2015

Winfried V. Kern (Freiburg, DE), Programme Director

Murat Akova (Ankara, TR)  
Maiken Cavling Arendrup (Copenhagen, DK)  
Joop E. Arends (Utrecht, NL)  
Thomas Benfield (Hvidovre, DK)  
Giuseppe Cornaglia (Verona, IT)  
Susanna Esposito (Milan, IT)  
Niels Frimodt-Møller (Hvidovre, DK)  
Eduardo Gotuzzo (Lima, PE)  
Gilbert Greub (Lausanne, CH)  
Martin P. Grobusch (Amsterdam, NL)  
Hans H. Hirsch (Basel, CH)  
Veronika Hola (Brno, CZ)  
Gunnar Kahlmeter (Växjö, SE)  
Jan A.J.W. Kluytmans (Breda, NL)  
Cornelia Lass-Flörl (Innsbruck, AT)  
Amel Letaief (Sousse, TN)

Jens D. Lundgren (Copenhagen, DK)  
Surbhi Malhotra-Kumar (Antwerpen, BE)  
Masoud Mardani (Teheran, IR)  
Mihai G. Netea (Nijmegen, NL)  
Antonio Oliver (Palma de Mallorca, ES)  
Eli Perencevich (Iowa City, IA, US)  
Mario Poljak (Ljubljana, SI)  
Radha K. Ratho (Chandigarh, IN)  
Jesús Rodríguez Baño (Seville, ES)  
Emmanuel Roilides (Thessaloniki, GR)  
Jean Paul Stahl (Grenoble, FR)  
Evelina Tacconelli (Tübingen, DE)  
Ursula Theuretzbacher (Vienna, AT)  
Johan Van Eldere (Leuven, BE)  
Adriana Vince (Zagreb, HR)  
Annelies Zinkernagel (Zurich, CH)

#### International Affairs Subcommittee

Adalat Abdullajev (Baku, AZ)  
Roman Kozlov (Smolensk, RU)  
Marc Mendelson (Cape Town, ZA)  
David Paterson (Brisbane, AU)  
Qiu Haibo (Nanjing, CN)  
Camilla Rodrigues (Mumbai, IN)  
Atef Shibl (Riyadh, SA)  
Kazuhiro Tateda (Tokyo, JP)  
Maria Virginia Villegas (Cali, CO)



**Chantal Britt**  
Communications & Publication Manager



**Nora Nedkov**  
Project Manager Events

Join us today –  
our commitment  
is infectious!

– Become an  
ESCMID member

– Then sign up for  
Study Groups

VISIT US!  
IN THE ESCMID WORLD  
AT ECCMID COPENHAGEN

**Good reasons for membership:**

- Society's journals: *CMI, NMNI*
- Registration discounts for events
- Participation in Study Groups
- ESCMID Newsletter and Yearbook
- Discounts to other journals
- Access to the Online Lecture Library and Membership Directory
- Eligibility for ESCMID Awards, Research Grants, Observerships and Mentorships
- Right to vote and participate in ESCMID

**Apply for Membership**

Visit our website and join us now!

[www.escmid.org/membership](http://www.escmid.org/membership)

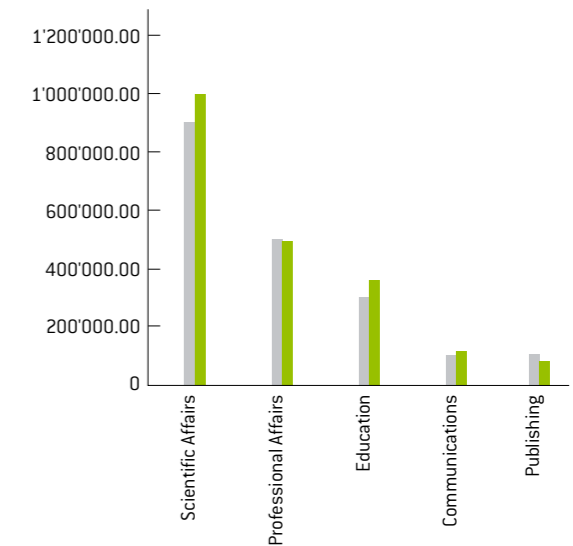
**Finances**



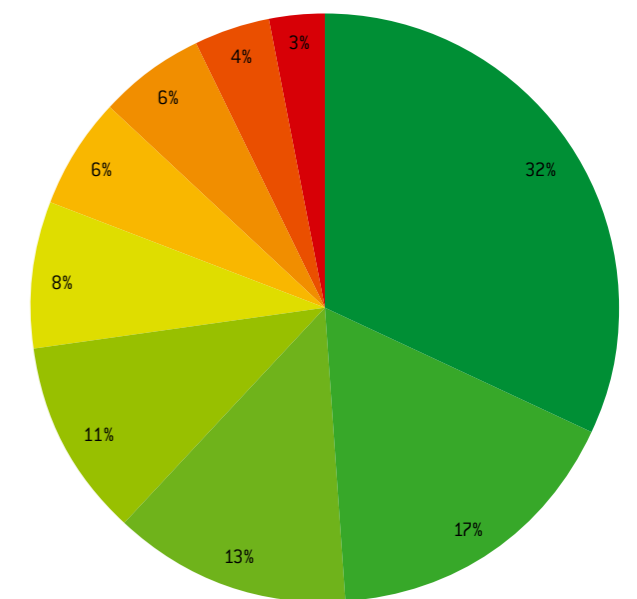
*Cornelia Lass-Flörl*  
Treasurer  
[cornelia.lass-florl@escmid.org](mailto:cornelia.lass-florl@escmid.org)

ESCMID had a very successful year 2014, after having gone through a period of profound transformation between 2011 and 2013, both organisationally and financially. In 2014, expenses for key activities increased EUR 0.2 million, or 10%. Expenses related to Scientific Affairs and Education, the areas that encompass our core competencies and that are important for the future of the Society, rose 10% and 25% respectively. Communications costs increased 34%, reflecting our continued efforts to raise the visibility of ESCMID and ECCMID.

The 2015 budget foresees expenditures of approximately EUR 3.5 million, mostly in the areas of Science, Professional Affairs and Education (Figure 2). ESCMID is proud to keep supporting previously successful projects and is committed to funding new scientific and educational activities, including Study Groups, conferences and workshops, medical guidelines, awards and grants.

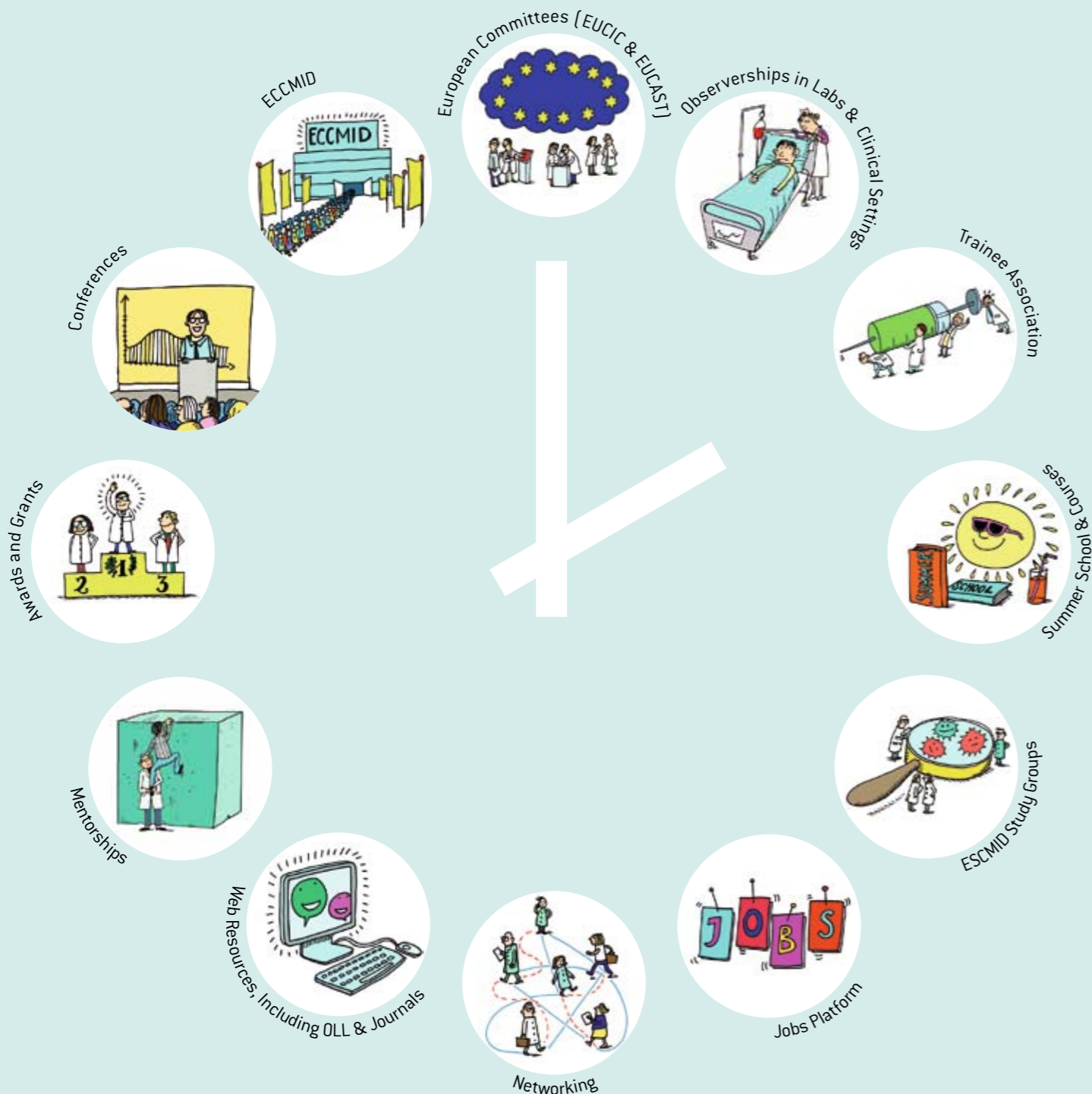


**Figure 1.** Expenses 2014/2013 comparison (EUR) for key activities  
■ 2013  
■ 2014



**Figure 2.** Budgeted expenses 2015  
■ Scientific Affairs  
■ Professional Affairs  
■ Education  
■ Executive Committee  
■ Communication  
■ Office Management  
■ Membership Services  
■ Publishing  
■ Finances & Administration

# What ESCMID can do for you around the clock



## Awards and Grants 2015

ESCMID Award for Excellence in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2015

ESCMID Young Investigator Awards for Research in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2015

ESCMID Research Grants 2015

ESCMID TAE Awards for Training Achievements 2015

ESCMID Cubist Award on Antimicrobial resistance in Gram-Positive Bacteria 2015

Annelies Zinkernagel  
ESCMID Scientific Affairs Officer  
[annelies.zinkernagel@escmid.org](mailto:annelies.zinkernagel@escmid.org)

We are pleased to announce the recipients of awards and grants for the year 2015. ESCMID continues its strong commitment to the grant programmes, as evidenced by our support of 14 individuals for an ESCMID Research Grant as well as our generous allocation of funds for ECCMID travel grants. In 2014 attendance grant funding for courses, conferences and other scientific events as well as ECCMID travel grants totalling over EUR 210,000 demonstrates our commitment to continuous learning and exchange.

Marc Bonten (Utrecht, Netherlands) is the ESCMID Excellence awardee for 2015. His understanding of fundamental processes and outstanding skills, combined with his ability to bring many investigators together to integrate their collaborative effort, make him a very special, unique investigator and a most prominent leader in the field of hospital epidemiology and ICU infections. He has shown formidable productivity and published 398 articles in top refereed journals. He has coordinated, and still coordinates, several very large projects within the Framework Programmes of the European Commission, and is currently leading one of the largest public-private partnership programmes in the world to support the development of new drugs against resistant bacteria (the New Drugs for Bad Bugs, ND4BB, Programme). His energy seems to be endless.

Due to the large number of excellent Young Investigator applications this year, we found it especially difficult to select a winner and have chosen three recipients for 2015: Carolina Garcia-Vidal (Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain), Jason Roberts (Brisbane, Australia) and Roy Sleator (Cork, Ireland). Carolina Garcia-Vidal's work is invaluable to the field of respiratory tract infection and in immunocompromised host infection research. Jason Roberts has developed large networks of researchers throughout the world to deliver seminal studies of antimicrobial therapy in ICU patients. And Roy Sleator's work on the characterization and treatment of new and emerging gastrointestinal pathogens has had significant impact in the field.

Both recipients of the 2015 Trainee Association of ESCMID Awards for Training Achievements are completing their specialty training in Infectious Diseases: Nelia Neves Silva, (Porto, Portugal) and Nicole Pagani (Turin, Italy).

New this year is the ESCMID Cubist Award which has been awarded to both Marie Kempf and Markus Hilty.

Fourteen young colleagues received an ESCMID Research Grant 2015 to work on their proposed basic or applied research projects. The choice was again exceptionally difficult this year as we received a record number of 169 Research Grant applications of high quality compared to 145 the year before. With the ever increasing number of applicants for Research Grants, we set out last year to make the application and reviewing process more transparent and clearer for both the applicant and the reviewer with the ultimate goal to increase submission and review quality. A task force led by Barry Cookson (ESGNI) with Ed Kuijper (ESGCD), Rosemary Barnes (SAS) and François Vandenesch (ESGS) – whom I hereby gratefully acknowledge – helped to bring the submission information and the reviewing system to a completely new level. I would also like to thank the experts/reviewers (listed on 60–61), who have done a tremendous job to get three independent expert reviews for each proposal. The optimization of the system is still ongoing with a special focus on all the helpful comments entered by the reviewers. Thanks also for that! As every year one of the Research Grant recipients is also awarded the ESCMID/FEMS Fellowship and this year it goes to Lidija Senerovic, Belgrade, Serbia.

In addition, ESCMID supports young colleagues with merit-based travel grants and free registration to enable them to attend ECCMID. We are giving 100 young scientists travel grants and free registration for ECCMID Copenhagen 2015, where they will present the results of their work. ESCMID also supports its members early in their careers with attendance grants for ESCMID conferences, the Summer School, post-graduate educational courses and other educational and/or scientific events.

You can find details of all recipients of awards and research grants for 2015 on the following pages.

## ESCMID Award for Excellence in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2015



**Marc J.M. Bonten**

Marc studied and works in the Netherlands. He earned his MD (1991) and PhD ('The role of colonization of the upper intestinal tract in the pathogenesis of ventilator-associated pneumonia', 1994) at Maastricht University Medical School and completed his medical training at the UMC Utrecht, where he became Professor of Molecular Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases in 2002. Since 2008 he has run the Medical Microbiology department there and leads the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Research Group at the Julius Center of Health Sciences and Primary Care.

With experience of the full range of epidemiological study designs, his major contributions to the field include being the first to apply the cluster-randomized cross-over design in evaluating ecological interventions in ICU populations. He has been (co-)applicant of a large number of national and international research grants. His many roles include VICI laureate (2006) from the Dutch Science Association, Principal Investigator of the CAPiTA study, coordinator of the EU-funded project R-GNOSIS and scientific coordinator of the IMI-funded consortia COMBACTE and COMBACTE-MAGNET.

His main interests include clinical epidemiology: antibiotic resistant bacteria including MRSA and ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae. His work has contributed to much of the current evidence of the ecological safety of antibiotic-containing infection prevention strategies such as SDD and SOD and preventing hospital-acquired infections. He uses mathematical modelling to investigate transmission of these bacteria in hospital settings and was among the first to describe the complex epidemiology of vancomycin-resistant enterococci. Keen to build (inter-)national relationships, Marc has participated in European research consortia, including MOSAR, SATURN, CONCORDE, EvoTAR and PREPARE. He is also instrumental in developing a high-quality European clinical trial network for the evaluation of new antimicrobial agents to combat antibiotic resistance and for large-scale European epidemiological studies, providing a platform for microbiology similar to the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer.

Marc Bonten will be presented with his award at the 25th ECCMID in Copenhagen by Gunnar Kahlmeter, ESCMID Past President, and Murat Akova, ESCMID President, on Sunday, 26 April 2015 from 11.30–12.30 in Hall A. During this ceremony he will give his recipient's lecture: 'The modern ICU: are antibiotics used to save the patients or to soothe the minds of the doctors?'

## ESCMID Young Investigator Awards for Research in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2015



**Carolina Garcia-Vidal**

Carolina Garcia-Vidal completed her training in Internal Medicine in 2005 at the Hospital Universitari Mútua Terrassa and her fellowship in Infectious Diseases in 2007 at Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge. She achieved her PhD *cum laude* on the topic of 'Improving the management of community-acquired pneumonia', under the guidance of Professor Jordi Carratalà (Universitat de Barcelona) in 2009. She won the best PhD award from the Catalan Society of Internal Medicine as well as the Young Internist of the Year award for research by the Spanish Society of Internal Medicine (2009). She is currently employed as a consultant physician in infectious diseases at Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge, and works in IDIBELL (biomedical research institute), in the 'Infections of the respiratory tract and in immunocompromised patients' group.

Her research is focussed on respiratory tract infections, especially within the immunocompromised host. Her work is based on clinical research and covers a large range of topics, including pneumonia, fungal infections, bacterial COPD exacerbations, tuberculosis, and infections in patients receiving biological therapies. She has produced more than 80 indexed publications in several prominent journals with more than 1,200 citations. Her present Hirsch Index is 20.

Carolina Garcia-Vidal will receive her award during the ESCMID Young Investigator Awards Session on 27 April 2015 from 14.30–15.30 in Hall B. During the session, she will give her presentation: 'Clinical research on respiratory tract infection'



**Jason Roberts**

In his roles as professor and consultant clinical pharmacist, Jason has shown a strong interest in addressing the persistently poor outcomes of critically ill infected patients. Improving treatment of infections, including reducing the emergence of resistance, is work that urgently needs to be undertaken for our currently available antibiotics as the time until new antibiotics become available may be lengthy. A better understanding of dose-exposure and exposure-effect relationships for antibiotics using pre-clinical and clinical PK/PD research presents an excellent approach to addressing these problems.

Jason started his research pathway 10 years ago and has worked as a clinician-scientist throughout. In 2012 he was named Australian Clinical Pharmacist of the year by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. He has a strong interest in clinical and research mentoring and enjoys the opportunity to interact with many like-minded people to share ideas on how best to treat infections in difficult-to-treat patients like the critically ill. He contributes to the critical review of guidelines, as an editor with several journals and convening numerous conferences. He has more than 170 career publications, has been awarded over USD 16 million in grants and supervises 16 higher research degree students.

Jason Roberts will be presented with his award during the ESCMID Young Investigator Awards Session on 27 April 2015 from 14.30–15.30 in Hall B. During the session, he will present some of his research under the title: 'Can PK/PD get us better outcomes for infected ICU patients?'



**Roy Sleator**

Roy Sleator graduated from University College Cork, Ireland, with a BSc in Microbiology, an MA in Education and a PhD in Molecular Biology, and holds a PG Cert in Bioinformatics from The University of Manchester, UK. In 2006 he was awarded the Society for Applied Microbiology's WH Pierce Prize for his excellent contributions to the field of bacteriology and was a recipient of an ESCMID Research Fellowship in 2004, 2010 and again in 2011. He is a lecturer at the Department of Biological Sciences at Cork Institute of Technology as well as a Principal Investigator at both CIT's BioExplore Research Centre and University College Cork's Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre. He is also founding Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal *Bioengineered*, published by Taylor and Francis, New York, USA.

Roy Sleator's main interests are the development of improved diagnostic approaches and novel therapeutic strategies for the identification and control of new and emerging pathogens; particularly those associated with the human gastrointestinal tract. His lab, which was named Pharmaceutical Laboratory of the Year at the Irish National Laboratory Awards in 2014, concentrates not only on academic excellence, but also on providing effective solutions to real world clinical problems.

Roy Sleator will receive his award during the ESCMID Young Investigator Awards Session on 27 April 2015 from 14.30–15.30 in Hall B. During the session, he will give his presentation: 'Following my gut feelings...'

## ESCMID Research Grants 2015

The following ESCMID members have received a Research Grant in 2015 for the indicated project.



**Diana Angelica Aguilar-Ayala**  
Biochemistry and Microbiology,  
Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

**Project:** *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in a cholesterol and fatty acid rich environment: global response to dormancy and antibiotic resistance



**Berend Jan Bosch**  
Department Infectious Diseases & Immunology, Virology Division, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands

**Project:** Propagation of enteric coronaviruses: no guts no glory



**Serena Cavallero**  
Department of Public Health and Infectious Diseases, Sapienza, University of Rome, Rome, Italy

**Project:** Comparative analyses on transcriptomes of anisakid pathogenic species



**Xavier Charpentier**  
MAP UMR5240, CNRS, Villeurbanne, France

**Project:** Antibiotic activity of a trans-translation inhibitor against the intracellular pathogen *Legionella pneumophila*



**Dirk Eggink**  
Medical Microbiology, Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

**Project:** Adaptive evolutionary pathways of highly pathogenic avian H5N1 influenza in humans



**Joseph Meletiadis**  
Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, Attikon University Hospital, Athens, Greece

**Project:** Determination of pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic breakpoints for voriconazole and posaconazole against *Candida glabrata* and *Candida krusei* in a multicentre study



**Jasmina Nikodinovic-Runic**  
Medical Mycology Reference Laboratory, Serbian Society of Medical Mycology, Belgrade, Serbia

**Project:** Development of biopolymeric formulation of antifungal polyenes using medium chain length poly hydroxyalkanoate (PHA): validation against superficial mycoses



**João Perdigão**  
Research Institute for Medicines, Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

**Project:** Transcriptomic profiling of clinical *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strains: global transcriptomic response towards drug exposure and metabolic shift towards latency



**Ville Nikolai Pimenoff**  
Infections and Cancer, Catalan Institute of Oncology, Barcelona, Spain

**Project:** Evolutionary history of oncogenic human papillomavirus type 16 (HPV16) inferred from 1194 worldwide HPV16 variant isolates and 410 historical HPV16 isolates collected in the last 86 years in Europe-implications for the viral evolution after global HPV16



**Meta Roestenberg**  
Parasitology L4-Q, Leiden University Medical Centre, Leiden, the Netherlands

**Project:** Diagnosis of schistosomiasis in travellers by urine CAA testing



**Margarida Saraiva**  
Life and Health Sciences Research Institute, Braga, Portugal

**Project:** Deciphering the candidate *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* molecular signatures of TLR2 vs TLR4 activation



**Vicky Sender**  
Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

**Project:** Influenza-induced modulations of TLR inhibitors: a mechanism contributing to enhanced susceptibility to secondary pneumococcal pneumonia



ESCMID / FEMS Fellow 2015

**Lidija Senerovic**  
Laboratory for Microbial Molecular Genetics and Ecology, Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, Belgrade, Serbia

**Project:** Structurally-guided identification of novel pharmacophores targeting *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* quorum sensing and biofilm formation



**Rita Sobral**  
CREM, FCT, UNL, Monte de Caparica, Portugal

**Project:** A new target inside an old molecule: glutamate amidation of peptidoglycan

## ESCMID TAE Awards for Training Achievements 2015



**Nelia Neves Silva**  
São João Hospital Centre,  
Porto, Portugal

Infectious Diseases



**Nicole Pagani**  
School of Infectious Diseases,  
Turin, Italy

Infectious Diseases

## ESCMID Cubist Award on Antimicrobial resistance in Gram-Positive Bacteria 2015

The ESCMID Cubist Award 2015 will be presented during the Young Scientists Reception at ECCMID.



**Marie Kempf**  
Hospital University of Angers,  
Angers, France

**for Abstract:** 0099 – Trends in antibiotic resistance and serotype distribution in invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) in France from 2003 to 2013; on-going survey of the French Pneumococcus Network

*M. Kempf (Angers, France), N. Brieu, E. Varon, M. Ploy, A. Lepoutre, and the French Pneumococcus Network*



**Markus Hilty**  
University of Berne,  
Berne, Switzerland

**for Abstract:** P0175 – Dynamics of serotype/serogroup specific antibiotic resistance of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in Switzerland (2004 – 2013)

*C. Hauser, A. Kronenberg, M. Hilty (Berne, Switzerland)*

## Scientific Affairs Overview

[www.escmid.org/science](http://www.escmid.org/science)



**Annelies Zinkernagel**  
ESCMID Scientific Affairs Officer  
[annelies.zinkernagel@escmid.org](mailto:annelies.zinkernagel@escmid.org)

### A new start

The year has passed quickly – many great things have happened during this past year. I thank the Scientific Affairs Subcommittee (SAS) for their constant support during this time as well as Henri Saenz, the ESCMID Science Manager, for his constant support and for getting things done extremely efficiently.

### Study Groups buzzing with activity

Central to the Scientific Affairs portfolio are of course the now 29 (!) ESCMID Study Groups (SGs). We have had two new additions at the frontiers of completely different fields (forensic/post-mortem microbiology and veterinary microbiology, see page 16), which, excitingly, bring new aspects and new people to ESCMID. The already established SGs have been extremely active over the past year (see a list of their main activities on page 17–21) leading to the best SG evaluation – done by SAS – since the systematic evaluation was introduced in 2010. Congratulations to all our groups; you deserve acclaim! I cannot omit to highlight in particular our Immunocompromised Host Group, ESGICH, performing just excellently, and I highly recommend that you read their interesting article about how they were founded by bringing two groups together, their activities and exciting plans for the future on page 21.

Last year the focus was on the collaborative efforts for educational events. Thus I draw your attention to the collaborative efforts resulting in various interesting research projects. The number of these projects has continuously risen during recent years, from 24 projects run by 14 SGs in 2011 to 52 projects run by 23 SGs in 2014. In addition many SGs participate in projects

with external funding such as CAESAR (WHO), DRIVE-AB (IMI), INCREMENT (ERDF), PREPARE (FP7) and TRICE (ECDC).

SGs have also been involved in current topics of high interest, either by organizing expert conferences ('New Life for Old Antibiotics' to tackle antimicrobial resistance and 'Vaccines for Mutual Protection' to counter vaccine fatigue, see pages 52–55) or by uploading up-to-date information to our website, as was done for Ebola ([www.escmid.org/Ebola](http://www.escmid.org/Ebola)). Many thanks to all of you!

### Research Grants – a success story with a workload

Are you surprised to hear that our SGs have also been involved in the procedural revision of our Research Grant programme? At the last Scientific Affairs Meeting in Barcelona 2014 – where SAS and the chairpersons of all SGs met – it became clear that with the increasing number of applicants for Research Grants, we would have to make the application and reviewing process more transparent and clearer, both for the applicant and the reviewer, with the ultimate goal of improving submission and review quality. A task force of four volunteers from SAS and SGs was chosen, and they made thoughtful and practical recommendations on how to adapt the existing procedure (for details, see page 9) which we implemented for last year's submissions and the review of the newly selected Research Grants for 2015. At this point, I would like to thank all the people who have contributed to this success story so far, especially the experts/reviewers listed on page 61–62. Of course, we are still optimizing this system, but the results are already amazing!

### New year – new people

By the end of 2014, four long-serving SAS members completed their term of office: Maiken Cavling Arendrup, Birgitta Evengård, Hakan Leblebicioglu and Paul Savelkoul. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for their commitment over the years. This opened the committee to fresh members, who joined SAS at the beginning of 2015: Luigi Gradoni, Gilbert Greub, Andreas Groll and Adriana Vince. Once again, a warm welcome to them! You will find their assigned fields in the box below. Another year has started and I look forward to working on new plans with SAS, SGs and you!

#### ESCMID Sections (and responsible Section Leader)

- Bacteria & Bacterial Diseases (Marek Gniadkowski, Warsaw, PL)
- Fungi & Fungal Diseases (Andreas Groll, Münster, DE)
- Parasites & Parasitic Diseases (Luigi Gradoni, Rome, IT)
- Viruses & Viral Diseases (Adriana Vince, Zagreb, CR)

#### ESCMID Themes (and responsible Theme Leader)

- Pathogenesis & Immunology (Hervé Pelloux, Grenoble, FR)
- Epidemiology, Public Health & Vaccinology (Rosemary Barnes, Cardiff, UK)
- Clinics & Therapeutics (Hanan Balkhy, Riyadh, SA)
- Diagnostics (Gilbert Greub, Lausanne, CH)
- Antimicrobial Resistance & Susceptibility Testing (Germán Bou, La Coruña, ES)

For more information see [www.escmid.org/science](http://www.escmid.org/science).



#### Scientific Affairs Subcommittee Meeting in 2014

(l. to r., front) Birgitta Evengård, Maiken Cavling Arendrup, Rosemary Barnes (l. to r., back) Germán Bou, Hervé Pelloux, Murat Akova (Scientific Affairs Officer until May 2014), William Hope (Guidelines Director), Henri Saenz, Hakan Leblebicioglu, Paul Savelkoul, Marek Gniadkowski

# Study Groups

[www.escmid.org/studygroups](http://www.escmid.org/studygroups)

ESCMID Study Groups are expert circles with a common, focused interest. You can find an overview of Study Groups, their positioning within the ESCMID Sections and Themes as well as their activities online at [www.escmid.org/studygroups](http://www.escmid.org/studygroups).

## Portrait of a top-performing Study Group



The ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Compromised Hosts (ESGICH) was created in December 2010 with the aim of promoting research and education in the field of infectious diseases in immunocompromised patients. The group emerged from an initiative by infectious disease specialists involved in the prevention and management of infections in onco-haematological patients and in solid-organ transplant recipients, but who were also interested in other topics such as primary immunodeficiencies, infection in patients receiving novel biological therapies and HIV infection. Since then we have evolved to become a multidisciplinary and wide-ranging group including haematologists, oncologists, microbiologists and transplant physicians dedicated to the care of immunocompromised patients. There are currently 71 members in our Study Group.

The main focus of our activity is based in both educational and research endeavours. In that regard 2014 was a very productive year. We contributed to the writing of two important guidelines: the 'First European recommendations on the prevention and management of infections in solid-organ transplant recipients' (included in a supplement of *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*), and the 'Fourth European conference on infections in leukaemia group' (ECIL-4). This resulted in the publication of a total of 17 articles written and/or endorsed by our Study Group, including original research on the management of EBV-related post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorders, and on the epide-

miology of invasive aspergillosis in kidney transplant recipients. In terms of educational activities, we organized a very successful educational programme on transplant infectious diseases in São Paulo, Brazil, with world-renowned experts in transplant infections from Europe and Latin America. We are heavily involved in collaborating with other societies with similar clinical interests, too. We jointly organized two symposia with the TID group of the Transplantation Society (TTS) and the Immunocompromised Host Society (ICHS) before ECCMID and at the ICHS meeting respectively. Finally, our study group co-organized two educational workshops at ECCMID 2014 in Barcelona.

We are very excited to carry on with an increasingly busy schedule for 2015. Our main current objective is to further develop a European research network for the study of infections in immunocompromised hosts. Given the growing significance of infections due to multidrug-resistant organisms in our patient populations, our key interest is to create a comprehensive research project for assessing the epidemiology and management of infection due to multidrug-resistant pathogens at a European level. In that regard we have planned several research and educational activities on this topic for the coming months.

Should you have an interest in the field of infections in the immunocompromised host, we would like to encourage you to register as a member of ESGICH through the ESCMID website. Finally, we would like to take advantage of this opportunity to kindly invite you to attend ESGICH's next educational activity, a cutting-edge symposium on transplant virology, jointly organized with ESGVH, which will take place next June in beautiful Lausanne, Switzerland.

*The ESGICH Executive Committee*



## New Study Groups



The ESCMID Study Group for Forensic and Postmortem Microbiology (ESGFOR) was established in 2014. Main objectives are:

- Establish European guidance for standardized microbiological sampling in forensic cases
- Create new networks between microbiologists, virologists, anthropologists and archaeologists working in the field of forensic medicine
- Facilitate cooperation between (forensic) pathologists and (forensic) microbiologists with shared points of interest
- Facilitate cooperation between European Societies of microbiology and pathology
- Facilitate cooperation between microbiologists from ESCMID and from the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI)



The newly formed ESCMID Study Group for Veterinary Microbiology (ESGVM) started its activities earlier this year. Main objectives are:

- Contribute to the advancement and harmonization of methods for diagnosis and antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) of veterinary pathogens
- Foster research aimed at optimizing formulation and dosing regimens of veterinary anti-infectives to improve clinical efficacy and reduce resistance development
- Support and disseminate antimicrobial stewardship and best infection control practices in veterinary medicine
- Lay the foundations for the creation of a European network for surveillance of zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance in animal populations and for early detection of new or exotic infectious agents using animals as sentinels of human disease
- Provide a joint European forum for veterinary microbiologists working in research, public health and animal health care, including both public and private organizations
- Promote 'One-Health' by facilitating joint research and training collaboration between medical and veterinary microbiologists within areas of common interests (e.g. zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance)
- Offer advice to European agencies (EMA, EFSA and ECDC) on topics related to control and prevention of veterinary and zoonotic infections
- Undertake actions in order to promote awareness of neglected (underdiagnosed) zoonotic infections in human medicine

During its first year ESGVM will organize periodic meetings of the newly established EUCAST subcommittee dealing with antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacteria of animal origin (VetCAST), a 'One Health' educational workshop to be held at ECCMID 2016 and other initiatives to promote collaboration between medical and veterinary microbiologists.

## Existing Study Groups

This yearbook looks back over the many activities performed by our Study Groups in the calendar year 2014. In summary, the groups contributed to the organization of 21 symposia, 17 educational workshops and 12 meet-the-expert sessions at ECCMID 2014 in Barcelona, organized 17 ESCMID Postgraduate Education Courses / Technical Workshops throughout Europe (see page 32).

Here is a selection of major achievements of the individual Study Groups.



- Published the ESCMID Fungal Infection Study Group (EFISG) and European Confederation of Medical Mycology (ECMM) 2013 joint guidelines on diagnosis and management of rare and emerging fungal diseases. *CMI* 2014 Apr;20 Suppl. 3
- Co-organized the 9th International Conference on Cryptococcus and Cryptococcosis (ICCC-9), 15–19 May 2014, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Currently drafting the ESCMID guidelines for the diagnosis and management of *Aspergillus* diseases in collaboration with ESGICH, ECMM, ERS, EACCI



- Completed data collection for EFWISG Neutropenic Dietary Advice Survey (ENDAS); manuscript preparation ongoing
- Runs the European multi-centre prospective quarterly point prevalence study of community-acquired diarrhoea (EUCODI), study coordinator Franz Allerberger, Austria
- Runs the Study Group Research Grant project 'Discrimination of *Salmonella* non-typhoid high-risk clones by high-throughput spectroscopic techniques (MALDI-TOF and FTIR-ATR)', study co-ordinator Luisa M. V. Peixe, Portugal



- Published the traditional supplement of the journal *Helicobacter*, 'The year in *Helicobacter* 2014', with a summary of the main articles published in the field during that year (*Helicobacter* 2014; 19 (Suppl. s1):1–180)
- Organized the XXVIIth International Workshop with a slightly different name in order to include our focus on gastric microbiota '*Helicobacter* and Microbiota in Chronic Digestive Inflammation and Gastric Cancer' (11–13 September 2014; Rome, Italy)

- Co-organized the Kyoto Global Consensus Conference on Gastritis with the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (30 January – 1 February 2014; Kyoto, Japan). The consensus will be published in 2015. The outcome of this consensus is a breakthrough, because it states that *H. pylori* gastritis per se is an infectious disease and must be treated as such.



- Organized the ESCMID Conference 'Reviving Old Antibiotics', 22–24 Oct 2014, Vienna, Austria
- Published the results of an EPASG/ESGAP study funded by an ESCMID Study Group Research Grant 'Product information for parenteral colistin varies substantially across Europe', U. Theuretzbacher, *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy* 2014, 69(7):1987–92
- Published the article 'Individualized antibiotic dosing for patients who are critically ill: challenges and potential solutions', Roberts JA, Abdul-Aziz MH, Lipman J, Mouton JW, Vinks AA, Felton TW, Hope WW, Farkas A, Neely MN, Schentag JJ, Drusano G, Frey OR, Theuretzbacher U, Kuti JL, on behalf of ISAP and EPASG. *Lancet Infectious Diseases* 2014 Jun;14(6):498–509.
- Running an IMI project in the ND4BB programme: DRIVE-AB (Re-investment in R&D and responsible antibiotic use), study coordinator Ursula Theuretzbacher



- Runs the Study Group Research Grant project 'Investigation of antimicrobial susceptibility patterns of *Prevotella* isolates in European countries', study coordinator Nurver Ulger Toprak, Turkey. The first preliminary results will be discussed in 2015
- Running a pilot study 'Study for comparison of *Bacteroides* antibiotic resistance genes between clinical isolates and isolates in normal flora' study coordinator Jozsef Soki, Hungary. The study is financed by ESGAI resources
- Runs ENRIA (European network for rapid identification of anaerobes), a joint initiative between ESGAI and ESGEM. Seven laboratories with great expertise form the core of ENRIA. At this moment >600 anaerobic strains have been collected, the identity of which was confirmed by 16S rRNA gene sequencing



- Published the article 'European medical students: first multi-centre study of knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of antibiotic prescribing and antibiotic resistance', Dyar OJ, Pulcini C, Howard P, Nathwani D; ESGAP (ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies). *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy* 2014 Mar;69(3):842–6
- Celine Pulcini represents ESGAP on the European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC) Stakeholder Committee
- Runs the Open Virtual Learning Community (OVLC; <http://esgap.escmid.org>), an open-access, web-based resource providing information and tools to promote Antimicrobial Stewardship among healthcare professionals



- Developed the novel surveillance system for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, CAESAR, in collaboration with WHO and RIVM, which published its first annual report in 2015. The system is compatible with EARS-Net, and focuses on invasive isolates only. ESGARS contributes with microbiological capacity building as well as methodology for surveillance and interpretation of data
- Organized a multi-country workshop on AMR in Georgia in July 2014, in two parts: a multi-country seminar for a broad audience of health professionals to raise general awareness, and a laboratory workshop for medical microbiologists to strengthen laboratory capacity for national and international AMR surveillance. The participating countries were Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- Organized national workshops in Georgia, Moldova, Uzbekistan and Albania



- Completed the Study Group Research Grant project 'Virulence and resistance features of *Acinetobacter baumannii* genetic lineages associated with biofilm-based urinary catheter-related infections', study coordinator Gianfranco Donelli, Italy

- Runs the medical guidelines project 'Diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment of biofilm infections', study coordinator Niels Hoiby, Denmark
- Runs an annual online course on biofilms, 1 Sep – 7 Nov 2014 (ESGB); advertised event on ESCMID website



- Coordinates the INCREMENT project 'An international consortium for the clinical study of bloodstream infections caused by multidrug-resistant Enterobacteriaceae' ([www.incrementproject.org](http://www.incrementproject.org))
- Coordinates the BICHROME project 'Bloodstream infections in patients with liver cirrhosis; a prospective multicentre cohort study', study coordinator Pierluigi Viale, Italy
- Submitted the application for a Marie Curie International Training Grant (MC ITN) for the European Sepsis Academy, an international training network for PhD students in the field of bloodstream infections and sepsis, study coordinator Joost Wiersinga, Netherlands
- Supports the International *Staphylococcus aureus* collaboration (ISAC) trials initiative



- ESGBOR/ESCMID expert Franc Strle, Slovenia, contributes to IDSA's Lyme borreliosis medical guideline project
- Runs EU-wide external quality assessment study on the sensitivity and specificity of different DNA amplification protocols for detection of *Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato*, study coordinator Volker Fingerle, Germany
- Runs comparative evaluation of methods used in Europe for the detection of antibodies to *Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato*, study coordinators Klaus-Peter Hunfeld, Germany, and Gerold Stanek, Austria



- Published CDI treatment guidelines 'European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases: update of the treatment guidance document for *Clostridium difficile* infection', Debast SB, Bauer MP, Kuijper EJ, ESCMID, *CMI* 2014 Mar;20 Suppl. 2:1–26
- Runs CDI diagnosis guidelines project, study coordinator Ed J. Kuijper, the Netherlands
- Runs the European multi-centre prospective bi-annual point prevalence study of the incidence of *Clostridium difficile* infection in patients with nosocomial diarrhoea (EUCLID), Astellas-sponsored point prevalence study coordinated by Mark Wilcox )



- Runs medical guideline project 'Nebulized antibiotics', study coordinator Jordi Rello, Spain, including an electronic survey (ESGCIP/EPASG) on current practice of nebulizing antibiotics in mechanically ventilated patients
- Runs the Study Group Research Grant EU-VAE project 'Prospective evaluation of incidence, risk factors, and outcomes for patients with ventilator-associated events in European intensive care units', study coordinator Leonel Lagunes Luna, Spain
- Presented the results of the ESGCIP Survey 2013 on the 'Definition and significance of salvage treatment in critically ill patients' at ECCMID 2014. Submitted for publication in 2015



- Runs the Study Group Research Grant project 'Improving and harmonizing *Leishmania* molecular diagnostics in Europe', study coordinator Peter Chiodini, United Kingdom
- Runs the Study Group Research Grant project 'Reviewing prevention measures and evaluating the burden of toxoplasmosis in transplant patients in European countries' (in collaboration with ESGICH), study coordinator Florence Robert-Gangneux, France



- Published the article 'The dynamic changes of dominant clones of *Staphylococcus aureus* causing bloodstream infections in the European region: results of a second structured survey', Grundmann H, Schouls LM, Aanensen DM, Pluister GN, Tami A, Chlebowicz M, Glasner C, Sabat AJ, Weist K, Heuer O, Friedrich AW, on behalf of ESGEM and the European Staphylococcal Reference Laboratory Working Group. *Eurosurveillance* 2014;19(49)
- Completed the Study Group Research Grant project 'Intestinal colonization of Dutch travellers with extended-spectrum beta-lactamases and carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae after foreign travel', study coordinator Sunita Paltansing, the Netherlands



**ESGIE** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR INFECTIONS IN THE ELDERLY  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Published a series of reviews authored by ESGIE members in the *CMI* thematic section entitled 'Infections in the elderly', addressing antibiotic prescribing, polypharmacy, antibiotic stewardship and ethical considerations in the elderly. *CMI* 2015 Jan;21(1)
- Runs the Study Group Research Grant project 'The participation of the elderly in randomized controlled trials of antibiotic treatment', study coordinator Mical Paul, Israel

**ESGIAI** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR IMPLANT-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Published the article 'Characteristics of prosthetic joint infections due to *Enterococcus* sp and predictors of failure: a multinational study', Tornero E, Senneville E, Euba G, Petersdorf S, Rodriguez-Pardo D, Lakatos B, Ferrari MC, Pilares M, Bahamonde A, Trebse R, Benito N, Sorli L, Toro MD, Baraia-etxaburu JM, Ramos A, Riera M, Jover-Sáenz A, Palomino J, Ariza J, Soriano A; the ESCMID Study Group of Implant-Associated Infections (ESGIAI). *CMI* 2014 Jun 18
- Runs the European Implant Cohort Study (EICS), a multi-centre European research project established by the Foundation for Implant-Associated Infection (FAI). Currently more than 100 centres have expressed their interest in participating. [www.europeanimplantcohort.org](http://www.europeanimplantcohort.org)

**ESGITM** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR INFECTIONS IN TRAVELLERS AND MIGRANTS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Provided guidance for the consensus document 'Recommendations on travel medicine and management of endemic diseases in solid organ transplant recipients – Latin America' (together with ESGICH)
- Contributed to the 6th Eurasia Congress of Infectious Diseases, 24–27 September 2014, Belgrade, Serbia, with one symposium and one keynote lecture
- Contributed through several ESGITM members to ESCMID's Ebola news page ([www.escmid.org/ebola](http://www.escmid.org/ebola))

**ESGLI** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR LEGIONELLA INFECTIONS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Organized 2nd ESGLI Meeting, Barcelona, Spain, 16–19 September 2014
- Revised ESGLI/EWGLI technical guidelines for control and prevention of travel associated Legionnaires' disease, expected to be published in 2015
- Runs project to improve MALDI-TOF MS databases by two reference laboratories in Switzerland and Germany in collaboration with two major manufacturers bioMérieux and Bruker
- Awards an ESGLI Prize (funding) for the best research proposal. First presentation in 2015

**ESGIB** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF THE BRAIN  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Completed the Study Group Research Grant project 'Novel adjuvant therapies in experimental meningococcal meningitis', study coordinator Susanna Ricci, Italy. Results published, 'Inhibition of matrix metalloproteinases attenuates brain damage in experimental meningococcal meningitis', Ricci S, Grandgirard D, Wenzel M, Braccini T, Salvatore P, Oggioni MR, Leib SL, Koedel U, *BMC Infect Dis.* 2014 Dec 31;14(1):3853
- Published the ESGIB cooperative study 'Increase in hippocampal water diffusion and volume during experimental pneumococcal meningitis is aggravated by bacteraemia', Holler JG1, Brandt CT, Leib SL, Rowland IJ, Østergaard C, *BMC Infect Dis.* 2014 May 6;14:240
- Runs guidelines project for diagnosis and treatment of bacterial meningitis. The presentation of the guideline is planned for ECCMID 2015 in Copenhagen

**ESGMD** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Completed project 'Survey on current molecular diagnostic methods used in patient management in Europe'. Our aim was to investigate the current use of molecular methods and to estimate access to and usage of guidelines
- Collaborates with working groups outside ESCMID: SoGat, MolecularDiagnostics.be (Belgium), WMDI (the Netherlands), Clinical Virology Network (UK) and QCMD (UK)
- Published several articles about diagnosis and epidemiology of poliovirus in *Eurosurveillance* 2014;19 (7)

**ESGMI** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR MYCOPLASMA INFECTIONS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Organized a meeting during the 20th congress of the International Organization for Mycoplasmology (IOM), Blumenau, SC, Brazil, 1–6 June 2014
- Runs project 'International guidance on Mycoplasma pneumoniae multi-locus variable-number tandem-repeat analysis (MLVA) has been agreed', study coordinator Vicky Chalker, United Kingdom. Publication is underway
- Runs project to study international resistance determination and monitoring of macrolide resistance in *M. pneumoniae*

**ESGMYC** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR MYCOBACTERIAL INFECTIONS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Published the article 'Revisiting susceptibility testing in multidrug-resistant tuberculosis by a standardized quantitative phenotypic assessment in a European multicentre study', Cambau E, Viveiros M, Machado D, Raskine L, Ritter C, Tortoli E, Matthys V, Hoffner S, Richter E, Perez Del Molino ML, Cirillo DM, van Soolingen D, Böttger E. *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy* doi:10.1093/jac/dku43
- Established collaboration with TB-NET (research projects) and EUCAST (antimicrobial susceptibility testing)
- Runs medical guidelines project 'Guidelines for non-tuberculous mycobacteria' jointly with European Respiratory Society, American Thoracic Society and IDSA, study coordinator Emmanuelle Cambau, France

**ESGNI** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR NOSOCOMIAL INFECTIONS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Published the article: 'Training infection control and hospital hygiene professionals in Europe, 2010: agreed core competencies among 33 European countries', Brusaferrero S, Cookson B, Kalenic S, Cooper T, Fabry J, Gallagher R, Hartemann P, Mannerquist K, Popp W, Privitera G, Ruef C, Viale P, Coiz F, Fabbro E, Suetens C, Varela Santos C, National representatives of the training in infection control in Europe (TRICE) project. *Eurosurveillance* 2014;19(49):pii=20985
- Coordinated (upon ESCMID's request) comments on draft guidelines for the control of highly resistant Gram-negative rods; liaison Markus Hell, Austria
- Participates in the European Network in Infection Control, liaison Barry Cookson, United Kingdom. The plan is to contribute to the new ECDC Infection Control/Hospital Hygiene (IC/HH) wiki

**ESGS** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR STAPHYLOCOCCI AND STAPHYLOCOCCAL DISEASES  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Contributed to the International Symposium on Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Diseases, Chicago, United States, 26–29 Aug 2014
- Organized external quality control (EQC; Olivier Denis and Arianne Deplano, both from Belgium) for *Staphylococcus aureus* identification, typing and resistance with 11 laboratories volunteering
- Started a project to study CA-MRSA prevalence in skin and soft tissue infections with the aim to set up a prospective multicentre study involving patients presenting to emergency departments with SSTIs in several European countries, to identify the role and the respective contribution of MSSA, MRSA and PVL-producing *S. aureus* strains as causative agents of SSTIs

**ESGVH** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Organized and co-funded 1st ESGVH symposium on acute hepatitis C, Utrecht, the Netherlands, 24–25 April 2014 (A.I.M. Hoepelman & J.E. Arends)
- Runs and funds the project 'Low HBV-Replication in Adherent TDF/ETV-treated patients, magnitude and determinants, the LoHRA study, a European surveillance network', study coordinator Karine Lacombe, France
- Organizes a student exchange between ESGVH members

**EVASG** ESCMID VACCINE STUDY GROUP  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Published two articles on paediatric vaccination in *CMI* 2014; 20 (Suppl. 5)
- Organized the 3rd ESCMID Conference on Vaccines – Vaccines for Mutual Protection, 6–8 March 2015, Lisbon, Portugal, organizing committee: Ron Dagan, Israel, Susanna Esposito, Italy and Mario Poljak, Slovenia
- Writing consensus statement on recommended immunization schedules for adults and elderly, study coordinator Susanna Esposito



# CAESAR Project



Nienke van de Sande  
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The CAESAR (Central Asian and Eastern European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance) network is a joint initiative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, ESCMID and the Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). CAESAR aims to support establishing or strengthening antimicrobial resistance surveillance in all WHO European Region countries that are not already part of the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (EARS-Net) coordinated by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in the European Union (EU).

Currently the following countries have initiatives at various stages of development to participate in CAESAR: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, in addition to Kosovo (in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)). To date five countries (Belarus, Serbia, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) have submitted data to the CAESAR database.



- Countries submitting data to CAESAR
- Countries visited for CAESAR participation
- Countries to be visited for CAESAR participation
- Countries participation in EARS-Net

The first annual CAESAR report, published in April 2015, describes the antimicrobial susceptibility testing results of invasive isolates reported by those initial five member states, provides background information about patients from their respective national AMR surveillance networks and will be available at

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/antimicrobial-resistance>. In some countries, limitations that influence the selection of patients eligible for blood culturing or the quality of AST performed, which are beyond the direct control of the national AMR surveillance system, may reduce the reliability and representativeness of the data. Therefore the CAESAR annual report includes a reader's guide that describes several potential sources of error and bias in AMR surveillance data and provides a 'level of evidence' for each country-specific data chapter to guide the interpretation of the data presented in this report. The report also includes the results of the first CAESAR external quality assessment (EQA) exercise that was performed in 2013, which is similar to the EARS-Net EQA. Nine countries from the CAESAR network participated. Overall performance was very good and consistent with that seen in previous EQA surveys among participants in EU countries. In 2014 the second CAESAR EQA was performed, this time including laboratories from 13 countries.

To help countries set up national AMR surveillance, WHO Regional Office of Europe, RIVM and ESCMID together organize national workshops. The main topics under discussion are:

- The European strategic action plan on antibiotic resistance
- EUCAST guidelines, principles of antimicrobial susceptibility testing and interpretations
- Quality control and the role of a national AMR reference centre
- CAESAR methodology, national AMR surveillance and WHONET

#### CAESAR Project Group

- ESCMID – Christian Giske, Robert Skov
- RIVM – Tjalling Leenstra, Jos Monen
- WHO Europe – Danilo Lo Fo Wong, Saskia Nahrgang, Nienke van de Sande

#### CAESAR/AMR Focal Points

Lindita Molla (Albania), Kristina Gyurjyan (Armenia), Nazifa Mursalova (Azerbaijan), Leonid Titov (Belarus), Amela Dedei-Ljubovi and Analiza Pava Dimitrijevi (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Paata Imnadze (Georgia), Lul Raka (Kosovo, in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)), Baktygul Ismailova and Baktygul Kambaraliev (Kyrgyzstan), Golubinka Bosevska (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Radu Cojocaru (the Republic of Moldova), Gordana Mijovic (Montenegro), Roman Kozlov (Russian Federation), Zora Jelesic (Serbia), Andreas Kronenberg (Switzerland), Azamjon Mirzoev Safolovich (Tajikistan), Husniye Simsek (Turkey), Gurbangul Ovllyakulova (Turkmenistan), Aidyn Salmanov (Ukraine), Gulnora Abdukhalilova (Uzbekistan)

For more information and for details of the CAESAR network's upcoming activities, join us at the CAESAR Network meeting at ECCMID, 25–28 April 2015, Copenhagen, Denmark. The meeting will take place on Monday, 27 April, 9.00–12.00 in Room N.



In 2014 national workshops took place in Albania, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

# ESCMID Medical Guidelines

[www.escmid.org/guidelines](http://www.escmid.org/guidelines)



William W. Hope  
ESCMID Guidelines Director  
william.hope@escmid.org

ESCMID actively supports the publication of high-quality, evidence-based guidance to support best medical practice in the diagnosis and management of infectious disease.

The process of developing ESCMID Medical Guidelines has been reviewed and restructured in 2014/2015 (see [www.escmid.org/eop](http://www.escmid.org/eop) for the current Operating Procedures in this field). These changes were prompted by a desire of the ESCMID Executive Committee (EC) to generate Guidelines that are clinically useful, sustainable and that remain current. One significant change is that the EC will now directly commission all Medical Guidelines to ensure there is a core set that can be used in the care of European patients. This core set is currently being devel-

oped, in collaboration with the Scientific Affairs Subcommittee. ESCMID is investigating ways to ensure that guidelines can be used at the bedside (e.g. develop dynamic webpages and apps); ESCMID will insist on the use of GRADE, will promote collaboration with other European societies wherever that is appropriate, and will promote the rapid incorporation of new knowledge to facilitate rapid translation to the clinic.

Guidelines produced by ESCMID will be published in the Society's journal *Clinical Microbiology and Infection (CMI)*. The CMI leadership team will be involved at the early stage of guideline development to ensure a robust and seamless pathway to publication. Individual Study Groups will be free to produce position papers, and systematic reviews. Such activity will be acknowledged in the Study Group evaluation, but will free Study Groups from the requirement for ultimate approval by the EC.

Guideline	Owner	Status
Infection control measures for MDR Gram-negative bacteria in the healthcare setting	ESCMID	Published 2014
Diagnosis and treatment of emerging fungal diseases	ESCMID/ECMM (EFISG)	Published 2014
Treatment of <i>Clostridium difficile</i> – update	ESCMID (ESGCD)	Published 2014
Diagnosis and treatment of emerging fungal diseases	ESCMID/ECMM (EFISG)	Published 2014
Treatment of <i>Clostridium difficile</i> – update	ESCMID (ESGCD)	Published 2014
Diagnosis of <i>Clostridium difficile</i> – update	ESCMID (ESGCD)	Publication planned in 2015
Diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment of biofilm infections	ESCMID (ESGB)	Publication planned in 2015
Diagnosis and treatment of <i>Aspergillus</i> diseases	ESCMID/ECMM/ERS/EACCI (EFISG)	Publication planned in 2015
Diagnosis and treatment of bacterial meningitis	ESCMID (ESGIB)	Publication planned in 2015
HAP/VAP	ERS/ESICM/ESCMID	Publication planned in 2015
The diagnosis and management of vertebral osteomyelitis	IDSA/ESCMID	Publication planned in 2015
Clinical practice guidelines on leishmaniasis	IDSA/ESCMID/ASTMH	Publication planned in 2015
Surviving sepsis campaign – revision 2016	ISF/ESCMID	Started 2014
Nebulized Antibiotics	ESCMID (ESGCIP)	Started 2014
Nontuberculous mycobacteria	IDSA/ATC/ERS/ESCMID	Started 2013

# 24th ECCMID 2014: Barcelona, ES



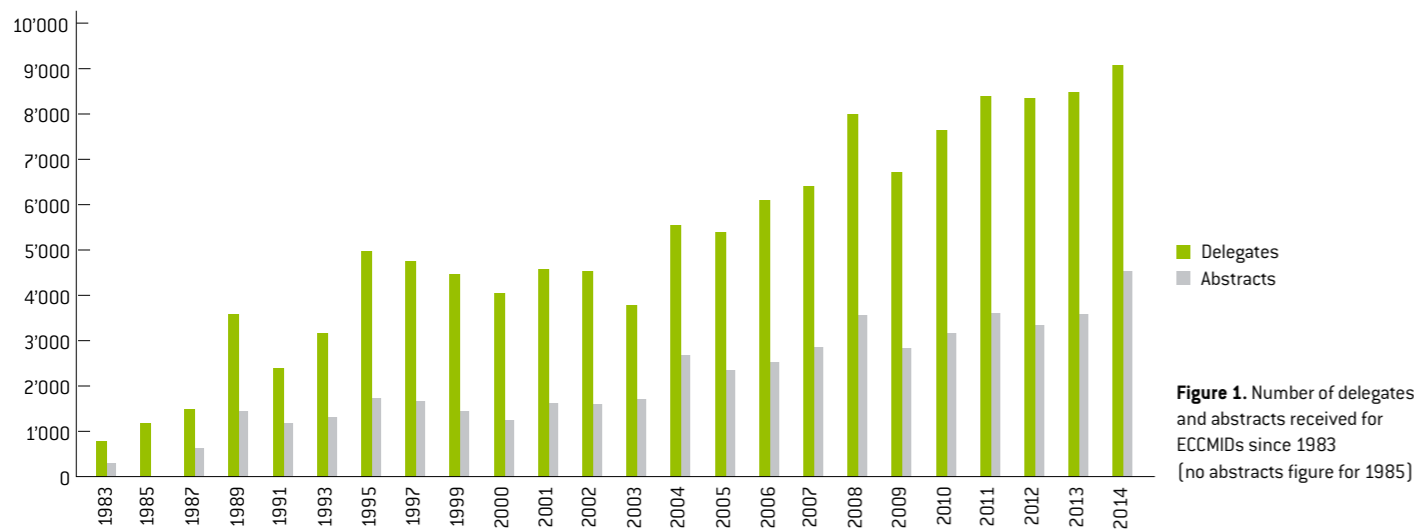
**Jordi Vila**  
ECCMID 2014 Programme Director  
jordi.vila@escmid.org

The 24th ECCMID, held in Barcelona from 10–13 May 2014, exceeded all ESCMID's expectations. It had the highest attendance of scientific participants and we received around 1,000 abstracts more than in the past. Furthermore, the quality of the abstracts presented was outstanding, showing the excellence of research in the fields of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Europe. The growth of the exhibition and sponsored integrated symposia surprised us positively. The Programme Committee devised a balanced scientific programme for both specialties, including bacteriology, virology, mycology mycobacteriology, parasitology and infection control from the diagnostic, prevention and treatment points-of-view. All members of the Programme Committee must be thanked for their great efforts to set up such an interesting programme. Thanks also to the more than 250 reviewers, who conducted blind reviews of the abstracts, especially those who stepped in last minute over Christmas. As in every previous year, we had to reject a sizeable portion (less than 30%) of the 4,500 submitted abstracts (Figure 1). Time and space constraints will, inevitably, always force us to exclude many excellent abstracts but it also means that the quality of the presentations and posters is always extremely high.

The congress programme consisted of 20 educational workshops including the TAE Trainees Day, 10 keynote lectures,

19 meet-the-expert sessions, 58 official symposia, 36 oral sessions and 24 integrated symposia. The total number of speakers and chairpersons was 386. Figure 3 shows the wide distribution of the countries of origin of the speakers. The contact time during keynote lectures, symposia, educational workshops, meet-the-expert sessions and oral sessions hit an all-time high of more than 260 hours. Although over 65% of congress participants were, logically, from Europe, we were pleased to see high attendance of participants from North and especially South America, Asia and Africa (Figure 2). This trend reflects our Society's efforts to extend our activities beyond Europe, especially into fast growing economic areas. All delegates who attend ECCMID are welcome to get in touch with us with any comments or criticism that can help improve the meeting.

This was my last ECCMID as the Programme Director and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues and friends who have helped me organize the scientific programme during the last five years, from the members of the different scientific programme committees to all those working in the ESCMID office, without whom the success of previous ECCMIDs would not have been possible. The best thing about these five years is the great number of good friends that I have made.



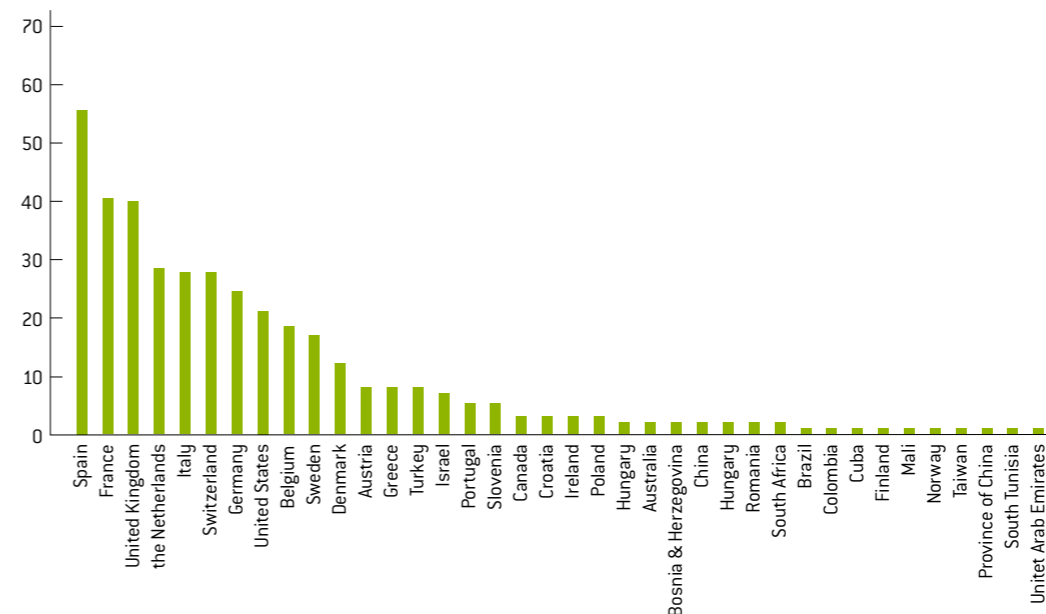
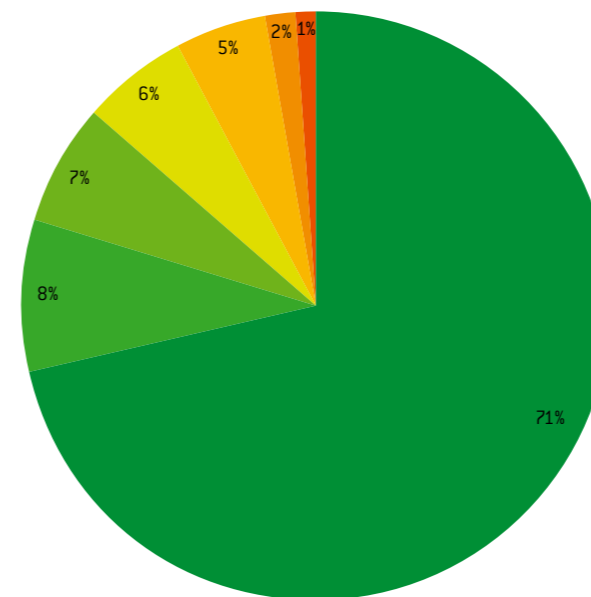
**Figure 1.** Number of delegates and abstracts received for ECCMIDs since 1983 (no abstracts figure for 1985)

<b>Number of participants:</b> 10'839 from 109 different countries, of which: 9'148 scientific delegates 1'631 exhibitor personnel	<b>Exhibition:</b> 145 exhibiting companies 3'817 m <sup>2</sup> net area
<b>Countries with highest attendance:</b> Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, France	<b>Press:</b> 57 registered journalists 3 press releases

**Table 1.** Key ECCMID figures

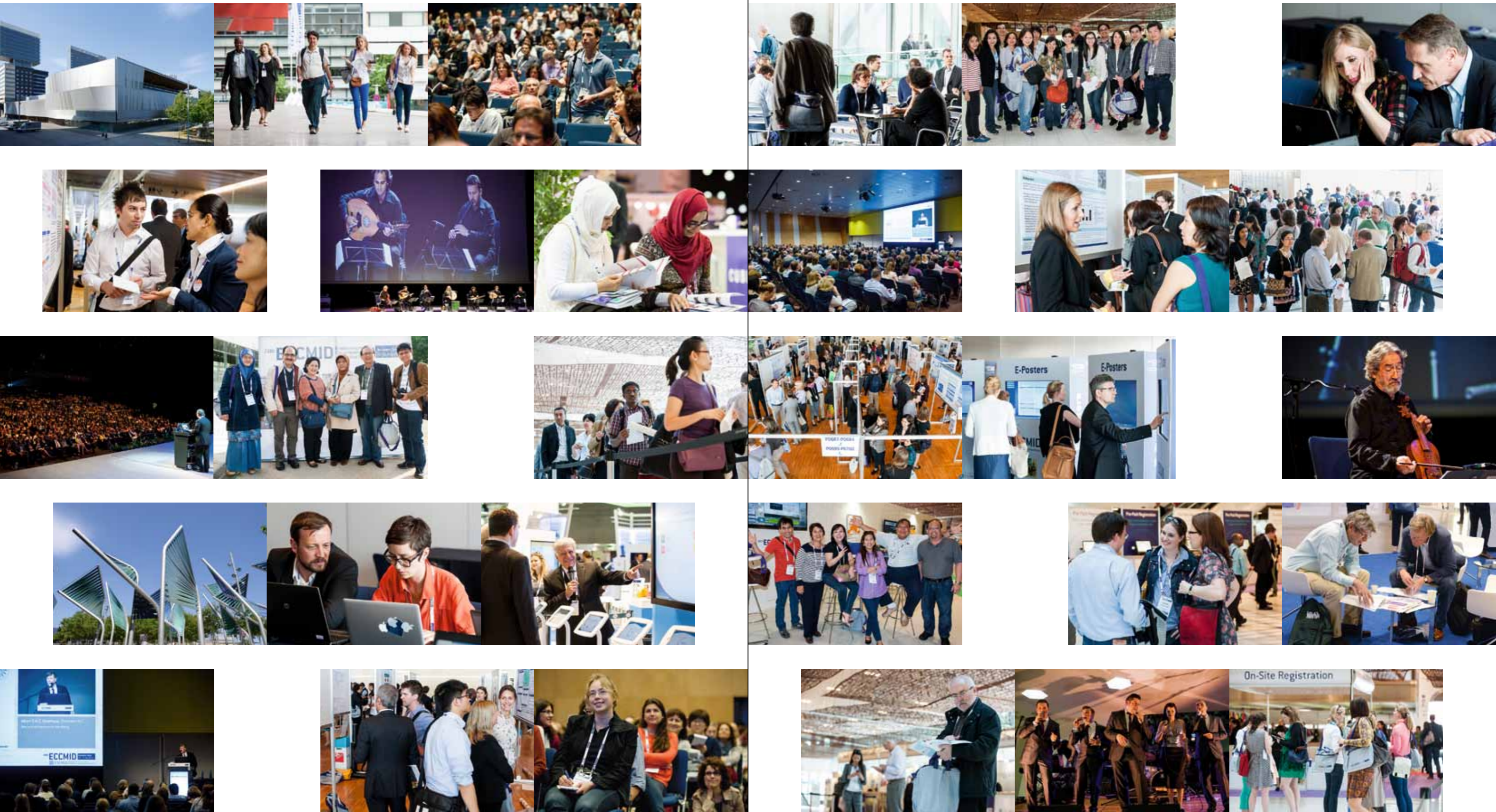


**Figure 2.** Geographical analysis of participants



**Figure 3.** Country of origin of Speakers and Chairs  
36 countries  
386 speakers and chairs

# Impressions ECCMID 2014



# CMI Clinical Microbiology and Infection

Editor-in-Chief: Didier Raoult

The authoritative, peer-reviewed source of papers covering basic and applied research relevant to therapy and diagnostics in the fields of microbiology, infectious diseases, virology, parasitology, immunology and epidemiology.

## Online Access for ESCMID Members

The way you access CMI remains the same.

- Go to [www.escmid.org](http://www.escmid.org)
- After entering your ESCMID ID and password, you can link directly to CMI (no need to log in again).



The ESCMID Member Welcome Page is your gateway to full access to CMI as well as *New Microbes and New Infections*.



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Infectious Disease  
Tuberculosis

## 25th ECCMID 2015: Copenhagen, DK



Winfried Kern  
ECCMID 2015 Programme Director  
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It has been an exciting year, taking over from Jordi Vila after ECCMID in Barcelona last year to prepare for ECCMID in Copenhagen. There are over thirty of us on the Programme Committee so it meant the chance to put faces to many distinguished names, establish new networks and refresh our enthusiasm for ECCMID, which means so much to all of us as ESCMID's annual flagship conference.

Among the changes introduced for this year has been a scoring system to evaluate the scientific proposals for ECCMID. This enables the committee members to make a fairer and more objective decision in accepting or rejecting a proposal, based on the individual proposal's merits, making the whole process more transparent. As always, the committee has been especially careful to ensure a balance within the programme is achieved in categories, topics and themes as well as gender and geographic distribution when choosing the faculty. Believe me, we had intense and most interesting discussions while attempting to build the most attractive and excellent scientific sessions – and fun.

ECCMID opens with the Educational Workshops, which have evolved to take full advantage of advances in technology and modern media. They will become more interactive, allowing participants to become actively involved and get the maximum benefit from the sessions. The 19 sessions explore a wide range of currently important topics. Organized by ESCMID's Study

Groups, the Trainee Association and EUCAST, the workshops offer superb networking opportunities in addition to their educational value. This is also true of the Meet-the-Expert sessions where we want to include more personal views and experience and want to see more direct interaction of participants with the expert. In more than a dozen sessions, experts help find practical solutions of how to deal with important issues. I will be very happy to listen to your feedback on the innovative ways to participate, and I am keen to hear ideas for new event formats and ways to increase interactivity even more!

While you read this, we'll have already started preparing for ECCMID 2016 – isn't that unbelievable? I am totally happy to be on board with this group of energetic and enthusiastic colleagues who enjoy 'doing' Microbiology or Infectious Diseases... and @Jordi: we still miss you.

As Programme Director, I am very grateful to the more than 400 reviewers who were involved in assessing around 4,000 abstracts this year. ECCMID is growing steadily every year so the pressure on all of us to ensure quality remains high is also rising. I also very much appreciate the great support of the Programme Committee members and the ESCMID office. Thank you all.



The Programme Committee  
finalizes the ECCMID Programme  
in small groups.

ESCMID ECDC Observerships in 2015

## Visit ECDC and find out about the organisation!

A group of 10 observers (ESCMID members) are offered a 5-day programme at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm, Sweden.

Date of Observership: 07–11 September 2015

**Applications accepted from: 01 May 2015, 10:00 CET**

Selection: 'first come, first served' but ensuring CM, ID, gender and country balance.

To apply, visit the ESCMID website.

Deadline for applications: 30 May 2015, 16:00 CET

[www.escmid.org/ECDC\\_Observer](http://www.escmid.org/ECDC_Observer)  
[www.ecdc.europa.eu](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu)



## ESCMID Educational Activities



*Jesús Rodríguez Baño*  
ESCMID Education Officer  
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### Main educational activities in 2014

The Education Programme 2014 again offered a wide and interesting array of educational courses and technical workshops covering many topics in CM and ID. With 13 postgraduate courses and 4 technical workshops organized in 2014, there were three more courses than the year before. The Education Subcommittee again faced the challenging task of choosing the ideal programme from nearly 30 proposals. The commitment from our Study Groups, Affiliated Societies and local institutes is steadily increasing, as illustrated by the continual increase in course proposals submitted over recent years. Beside the conventional programme, ESCMID perpetuated its long-standing tradition of co-organizing the training course in hospital epidemiology with SHEA. This edition was held on beautiful Phuket, Thailand. The course was split into two different modules (core and advanced) and attracted numerous physicians from different disciplines in infection control.

The other courses were held in cities across Europe, including Istanbul, Dubrovnik, Seville, Liverpool and Groningen. Four courses were held in France, three in the Netherlands and two in Spain and Turkey, respectively.

The number of participants varied depending on the type and format of the course. For instance, the course held in Maastricht on 'Principles of Molecular Microbiological Diagnostics' was particularly successful, with a total participant number of nearly 100. The course held in Seville (bloodstream infections) and the pre-ECCMID course in Seva (antimicrobial stewardship programmes) were also well attended by participants from all over the world. Another highlight in 2014 was the first education course ESCMID organized in South America. The course, dealing with transplant infectious diseases, took place in São Paulo, Brazil. It was a great pleasure to see that this event was also very successful and that ESCMID is gaining more and more ground outside Europe.

The 13th Summer School took place in Sigtuna, a small town located not very far from Stockholm beside a beautiful lake. There were 58 participants from 24 countries at this year's event, which everyone enjoyed, particularly as they could mix intensive studying with a swim in Lake Mälaren (see separate report). As usual, the Summer School programme included lectures on diverse, highly interesting topics in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology from international experts, workshops, and students' presentations in a friendly atmosphere.

ESCMID helps junior members to attend courses and workshops by offering them grants. Some of our colleagues early in their careers struggle financially, especially when practising in countries with a much lower cost of living than those where the courses are held. The course organizers, with the help of the ESCMID Executive Office, select the recipients. The Education Programme provides excellent opportunities for these members to develop professionally. So please encourage your less well-off and inexperienced colleagues to apply for courses and, where necessary, funding. While attending courses and workshops in person brings the most benefit, all members have access to the Online Lecture Library (OLL), which includes presentations of all our educational activities and is available to ESCMID members at [www.escmid.org/OLL](http://www.escmid.org/OLL).

### Outlook for 2015

ESCMID will continue to follow its ambition to undertake its educational activities in areas outside Europe. Among the 16 events planned for 2015 there will be courses in Tunis, Delhi and Beijing. The rest of the 11 postgraduate courses and five technical workshops will be held in different cities all over Europe. The programme promises to be very exciting. See the calendar section on the Society's website for full details of the 2015 Education Programme at [www.escmid.org/calendar](http://www.escmid.org/calendar).

This year's Summer School will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 4 to 11 July 2015. Registration is open and details can be found online at [www.escmid.org/summerschool2015](http://www.escmid.org/summerschool2015).

We have already contacted all Study Groups and Affiliated Societies to ask for their ideas for the 2016 programme to be submitted by the end of May 2015 so we can meet our mid-July deadline for the full programme. Members are welcome to contact us with ideas for future courses and workshops and, of course, we highly recommend taking part in this year's programme.



### Education Subcommittee at ECCMID 2014

[Back row, left to right] Kanita Dedic, Maurizio Sanguinetti, Sibel Ascioğlu, Emmi Andersson, Alejandro Martín-Quiros, Tibor Pál, Dorothea Orth-Hoeller, Bernd Salzberger, Céline Pulcini. [Front row, left to right] Thomas Greif, Jesús Rodríguez Baño [Chair]. Absent: Eskild Petersen, Maria Souli

ESCMID WHO Observership in 2015

## Visit the WHO Regional Office for Europe and discover their programmes!

A group of 10 observers (ESCMID members) are offered a 3-day programme at the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Division of Communicable Diseases, Health Security and Environment (DCE) in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Date of Observership: 6–8 October 2015

**Applications accepted from: 15 May 2015, 10:00 CET**

Selection: 'First come, first served', but ensuring CM, ID, gender and country balance.

To apply, visit the ESCMID website.

Deadline for applications: 30 May 2015, 16:00 CET

[www.escmid.org/WHO\\_Observer](http://www.escmid.org/WHO_Observer)  
[www.euro.who.int](http://www.euro.who.int)



# ESCMID Courses and Workshops

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## Molecular Typing Methods for Pathogens

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

30 June – 4 July 2014, Lyon, France

Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Epidemiological Markers (ESGEM) and Lyon East Medical School

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## Bringing PK and PD in Fungal Infections into the Clinic

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

4 – 6 July 2014, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Organized by the ESCMID PK/PD of Anti-Infectives Study Group (EPASG), ESCMID Fungal Infection Study Group (EFISG), Radboud University Medical Center Nijmegen, National and Kapodistrian University Athens, Center for Anti-Infective Agents Vienna and Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg

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## 3rd Workshop on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing and Surveillance

ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop

16 – 19 September 2014, Linz, Austria

Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (ESGARS), ESCMID PK/PD of Anti-Infectives Study Group (EPASG), European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) and analyse BioLab Linz

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## Infectious Diseases in the Mediterranean and the Middle East: Current Challenges

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

22 – 24 September 2014, Izmir, Turkey

Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP), Ege University School of Medicine Izmir, Turkish Society of Hydatidology (THD), Turkish Society of Infectious Diseases Specialists (EKMUD) and Turkish Society of Microbiology (TMC)

---

## Anaerobic Bacteria: Next Generation Technology Meets Anaerobic Diagnostics

ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop

29 September – 1 October 2014, Groningen, Netherlands

Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Anaerobic Infections (ESGAI), ESCMID Study Group for Epidemiological Markers (ESGEM), University Medical Center Groningen and University of Szeged

---

## Infection Management in the Elderly: Room for Improvement

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

2 – 3 October 2014, Annecy, France

Organized by the ESCMID PK/PD of Anti-Infectives Study Group (EPASG) and ESCMID Study Group for Infections in the Elderly (ESGIE)

---

## Advanced Antimicrobial Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Modelling and Simulation

ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop

6 – 8 October 2014, Liverpool, United Kingdom

Organized by the ESCMID PK/PD of Anti-Infectives Study Group (EPASG), University of Liverpool, Laboratory of Applied Pharmacokinetics (LAPK) Los Angeles, University of Southern California (USC) Los Angeles, and Monash University Melbourne

---

## Mobility and Infection: Diagnosis and Management

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

16 – 17 October 2014, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Travellers and Migrants (ESGITM), ESCMID Study Group for Infections in the Elderly (ESGIE), Croatian Society of Infectious Diseases of the Croatian Medical Association (CSID-CMA), Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology Specialty Society of Turkey (EKMUD), University of Zagreb, School of Medicine and Andrija Štampar School of Public Health – WHO Collaborating Centre for Occupational Health

---

## Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology

20 – 23 October 2014, Phuket, Thailand

Organized by ESCMID and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)

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## Acute Infectious Encephalitis: Challenges in Clinical and Biological Diagnosis

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

29 – 31 October 2014, Grenoble, France

Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Infectious Diseases of the Brain (ESGIB) and Société de Pathologie Infectieuse de Langue Française (SPILF)

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## How to Design and Perform your Clinical Studies in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

7 – 8 November 2014, Tübingen, Germany

Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Bloodstream Infections and Sepsis (ESGBIS) and the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in the Elderly (ESGIE)

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## Laboratory Diagnosis of Human Parasitic Infections

ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop

26 – 30 January 2015, Leiden, Netherlands

Organized by the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) – Department of Parasitology, Boerhaave CME and University of Applied Sciences Leiden

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## Update on Implant-Associated Infections: Diagnosis and Management

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

12 – 14 February 2015, Budapest, Hungary

Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Implant-Associated Infections (ESGIAI)

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## Advances in Diagnosis and Management of Viral Hepatitis

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

6 – 7 March 2015, Tunis, Tunisia

Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Viral Hepatitis (ESGVH), Tunisian Society of Infectious Diseases (TSID) and Confédération Maghrébine de lutte contre les IST/SIDA (COMALISIDA)

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## New Perspectives in Infection Control

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

12 – 14 March 2015, Kayseri, Turkey

Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Nosocomial Infections (ESGNI), Turkish Society of Hospital Infections and Control and Erciyes University

---

## Diagnosis and Management of Fungal Infections Both in the West and the East

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

19 – 21 March 2015, Delhi, India

Organized by the ESCMID Fungal Infection Study Group (EFISG), Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute – University of Delhi and European Confederation of Medical Mycology (ECMM)

---

## Management and Control of Health Care-Associated Bloodstream Infections

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

23 – 24 April 2015, Copenhagen, Denmark

Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies (ESGAP), ESCMID Study Group for Bloodstream Infections and Sepsis (ESGBIS) and ESCMID Study Group for Nosocomial Infections (ESGNI)

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Participants at the 3rd Workshop on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing and Surveillance, Linz, Austria



Participants at the course on 'How to Design and Perform your Clinical Studies in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology', Tübingen, Germany



Participants at course on 'Molecular Typing Methods for Pathogens', Lyon, France

# 13th ESCMID Summer School 2014

*Emmi Andersson*  
13th ESCMID Summer School Co-Director  
Stockholm, Sweden  
emmi.andersson@gmail.com

The 13th ESCMID Summer School took place in the small historic town of Sigtuna in Sweden, 5–12 July 2014. This was the first (but certainly not the last) time the Summer School was arranged in a Scandinavian country, and the participants were lucky to enjoy the very best of Swedish summer weather. The location of the venue, overlooking Lake Mälaren, made both swimming and canoeing after the sessions possible.

Emmi Andersson (Stockholm) and Tibor Pál (Al Ain) directed this year's Summer School. The programme was, as always, comprehensive and covered a wide range of topics from Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases to career advice lectures. The target audience of the Summer School is early-career MDs at the end of their specialty training as well as biologists, pharmacists, PhD students and postdoctoral fellows working in the infection field. A total of 58 students from 24 countries attended this year's edition, and ESCMID financed 20 of them with an attendance grant.

Renowned faculty members from eleven countries were invited to share their expert knowledge and interact with these future specialists in the field. Both the former and the current president of ESCMID and other ESCMID committee members lectured during the course. The unique networking possibilities with junior and senior colleagues from all over the world is one of the main benefits of the Summer School.

All students contributed their own interesting presentations of cases from their clinical experience or studies they were involved in. This was a great opportunity to practice professional presentation in English, and to receive feedback from fellow participants and faculty. Everyone engaged heavily in discussions following the lectures, making the most of the presence of world leading experts. The interactivity was further enhanced by small group tutorials that were highly appreciated.

After an intense, inspiring and fun week with peers from all over the world we had all made new friends and networks, and it was a little sad to say good-bye. We all had new perspectives and experiences to take home and I am sure that we will meet again at many future ESCMID events!

This year's Summer School will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, from 4–11 July 2015. Professor Sibel Ascioğlu has prepared an exciting programme at a venue that even has wet lab possibilities. So do not hesitate, apply for Summer School or send your junior colleagues to learn and be inspired in the spirit of ESCMID!



## 14th ESCMID Summer School Istanbul, Turkey 4 – 11 July 2015

Summer School  
www.escmid.org/summerschool2015

Postgraduate and continuing medical education in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases.

Including:

- Viral infections
- Infections in immunocompromised hosts
- Multidrug-resistant bacteria
- Difficult questions in infectious diseases
- Career development

Please register at [www.escmid.org/summerschool2015](http://www.escmid.org/summerschool2015). Places are limited, apply by 5 June 2015!

**Organized by the ESCMID Education Subcommittee**  
Hosted at «Acibadem University» in Istanbul, Turkey

# Message from the CMI Editor-in-Chief



**Didier Raoult**  
CMI Editor-in-Chief  
didier.raoult@escmid.org

*CMI* appears monthly and includes peer-reviewed manuscripts, reviews and research notes. Each print and online issue includes a themed section, highlighting the key subjects *CMI* wishes to focus on. A guest editor assembles three to five invited reviews on the chosen topic, an editorial and related cover images. On the following page all the themed sections published in 2014 and those scheduled for 2015 are shown. Elsewhere, 'Hot Topics' highlights particular infections and remains a very popular section of the journal. *CMI* also publishes well cited supplementary issues to cover ECCMID symposia and conferences sponsored by partners.

Among the noteworthy developments of the past year is that *CMI* has published articles from countries with emerging economies; Morocco for instance. This clearly confirms the

willingness of the journal to be open to the world and not just advanced nations. It is also significant that China and Taiwan are among the top five countries submitting papers to *CMI*. However, while around a quarter of the papers submitted from China (the highest contributor) and the USA were accepted, the figure for those from India was only 2%. *CMI* editors continue to work with authors to improve the quality of papers coming from countries with economic, cultural and/or organizational difficulties, enabling them to reach the standard we have come to expect (Table 1).

We try to balance the topics covered by *CMI*. About a third of the journal concerns bacteriology, with epidemiology, mycology, infectious diseases and virology at between 8% and 34% each. Tropical and parasitic diseases account for 4%. The proportion of manuscripts submitted as original articles or as research notes (separate from invited reviews and editorials) is continually increasing (Table 2).

*CMI* achieved excellent results in the latest Journal Citation Reports®. Most significantly, the headline 2-year Impact Factor increased by 13% to 5.197, taking the journal above 5 for the first time. *CMI*'s Impact Factor has grown significantly over the last decade and is now high above the aggregate and median levels for both of its subject categories. The journal is now ranked 7 of 72 journals in infectious diseases, and 18 of 119 in microbiology. Likewise, the Eigen factor (up 6%) and article influence score (up 4%) both indicate the journal's increasing prestige.

Submitting Author's country	Number of manuscripts
China	173
France	160
Spain	132
Italy	107
Taiwan	71
United States	54
Netherlands	50
Brazil	41
United Kingdom	38
India	38

Table 1. Most prolific contributors to CMI

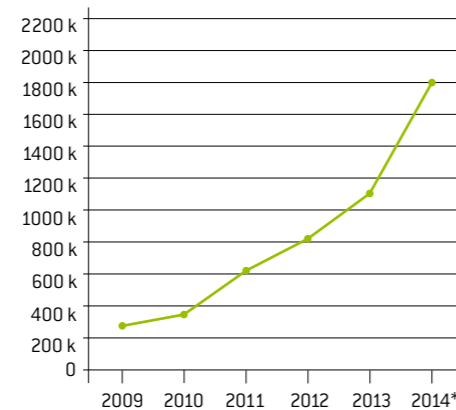


Figure 1.  
Number of full text downloads  
\* provisional

Manuscript type	Number
Infection Hot Topics	19
Invited Editorials	17
Invited Reviews	61
Letter	63
Original Articles	867
Original Articles, E-only	180
Research Notes, online only	217
Supplement Article	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1435</b>

Table 2. Number of submissions in 2014

Authors	Article Title	Vol.	Issue	Downloads
S. B. Debast	European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases: update of the treatment guidance document for Clostridium difficile infection	20	s2	23505
E. Tacconelli et al.	ESCMID guidelines for the management of the infection control measures to reduce transmission of multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria in hospitalized patients	20	s1	20508

Table 3. The two most downloaded articles in 2014

*CMI* once again achieved a major target in 2014: the millionth full-text download, achieving an all-time high of 1,800,000, up 64% on 2013 (see Figure 1). The two articles downloaded most frequently in 2014 can be found in Table 3. For the next two years we want to stabilize the current size of the journal in order to better assess its real impact on the scientific community.

We are of course aware of how important it is for researchers to have their findings published quickly. Publication online (Early View) in 2014 took 54 working days, while print publication takes 184 working days (roughly 6 months). We shall continue to streamline the process without compromising quality.

*CMI* strives to reflect ESCMID's academic activities and, more generally, the world of infectious diseases and clinical microbiology, as well as to attract the best articles and reviews. It also aims to draw attention to emerging fields and to questions raised in the themed sections. As always, we welcome feedback on our efforts and look forward to the challenges ahead.

## Monthly themed sections

2014	2015
<b>January</b> Emerging technology in tracking contagion. <i>P. Brouqui</i>	<b>January</b> Infection in the elderly. <i>M. Paul</i>
<b>February</b> Systematic review or meta-analysis? Their place in the evidence hierarchy. <i>M. Paul</i>	<b>February</b> Mass Gathering. <i>P. Gautret</i>
<b>March</b> Microbe discovery: lessons from the past. <i>M. Drancourt</i>	<b>March</b> Bacteraemia the hidden killer. <i>G. Greub and M. Paul</i>
<b>April</b> Parasitic diseases and immunosuppression. <i>E. Bottieau</i>	<b>April</b> Neuraminidase inhibitors for influenza: the new evidence. <i>M. Paul</i>
<b>May</b> Emerging clones of bacterial epidemics. <i>D. Raoult</i>	<b>May</b> Neglected zoonoses. <i>S. Cutler &amp; Ö. Ergönül</i>
<b>June</b> Bioterrorism: reality or phantom. <i>M. Grabusch and G. Greub</i>	<b>June</b> New diagnostic tools in parasitology. <i>E. Bottieau</i>
<b>July</b> New epidemiology of <i>S. aureus</i> infection. <i>G. Lina</i>	<b>July</b> New vector transmitted pathogens. <i>T. Avsic Zupanc</i>
<b>August</b> Norovirus. <i>L. Kaiser and P. Pothier</i>	<b>August</b> Acute diarrhoea: new perspective. <i>F. Allerberger</i>
<b>September</b> Carbapenemase in Enterobacteriaceae: a worldwide emerging concern. <i>G. Cornaglia and J.M. Rolain</i>	<b>September</b> Human papilloma viruses. <i>M. Poljak</i>
<b>October</b> Faecal transplantation and infectious diseases physician. <i>D. Raoult</i>	<b>October</b> Infectious origin of cancer. <i>G. Antonelli</i>
<b>November</b> Antimicrobial stewardship: an international emergency. <i>C. Pulcini and J.-L. Mainardi</i>	<b>November</b> Automation in Clinical Microbiology. <i>G. Lina and G. Greub</i>
<b>December</b> Host genetics and infections. <i>A. Guido and E. Roilides</i>	<b>December</b> Infection control. <i>E. Tacconelli</i>

# NMNI

## New Microbes and New Infections

Editor-in-Chief: Michel Drancourt

Latest research, focusing on new genomes, new microbes and new technology applied to the diagnosis of infectious and tropical diseases

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ESCMID OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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## Message from the NMNI Editor-in-Chief



Michel Drancourt  
NMNI Editor-in-Chief  
[michel.drancourt@escmid.org](mailto:michel.drancourt@escmid.org)

Microbes and infections ignore frontiers but clinical microbiology does not. A recent survey by Didier Raoult, editor-in-chief of *CMI*, showed that papers from emerging countries are still under-represented in infectious diseases and clinical microbiology journals (1). This is a shame, not only for the scientists from these countries but also for ID/CM scientists at large, and it has a knock-on effect for health authorities and populations. The recent on-going Ebola virus infection epidemics illustrate this. Microbes and infections have always used the most advanced travel vehicles provided by humans to jump over frontiers and reach target populations. Therefore, it is of prime importance for us to leap over all boundaries and communicate as soon as possible any new event in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases because the evolution of microbes and outcome of infections is unpredictable.

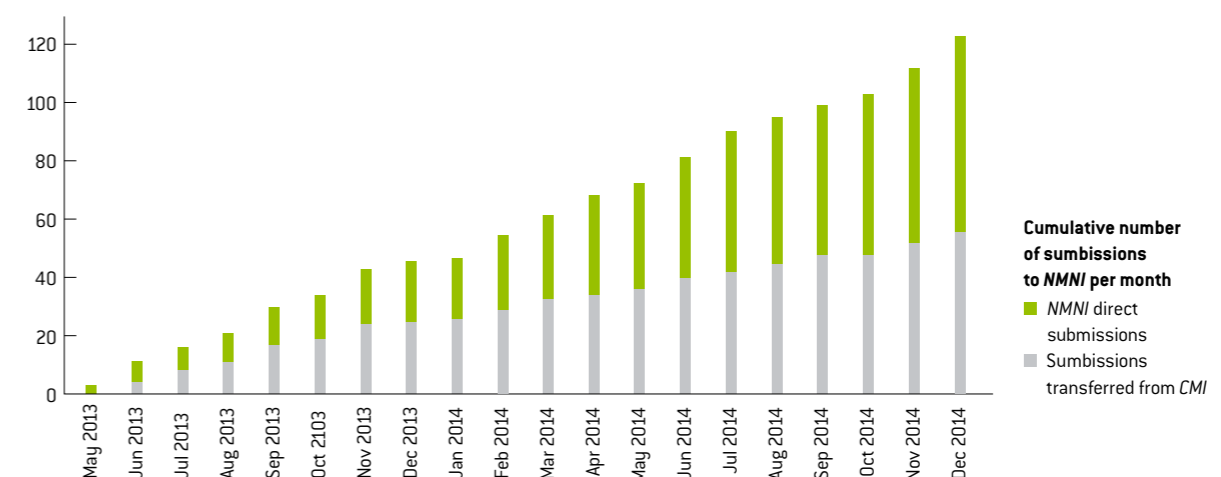
*New Microbes and New Infections* serves the field as a peer-reviewed, open access journal for the rapid dissemination of the latest research, with a particular focus on new genomes, new microbes, and new technology applied to the diagnosis of infectious/tropical diseases. As Editor-in-Chief, I am pleased to report that *New Microbes and New Infections* is now indexed in PubMed Central, increasing the visibility of your contributions. Article categories include any country's first descriptions of a microbe, first noted resistance or first case reports, new genomes and new technologies for diagnosis. The journal welcomes mini-

reviews as well as full-length original articles. *NMNI* offers clinicians and researchers a rapid route to publication and the opportunity to circulate their work in a highly visible global forum.

Scientists and medical practitioners in emerging countries have a great deal to contribute and *NMNI* is at the forefront of addressing the imbalance in papers from these countries. One key characteristic of this new digital journal is to break language barriers by being multilingual. Authors may submit manuscripts not only in English but also in one of six other languages. Papers will be handled by the most appropriate member of the editorial board, taking language into consideration. Its members are Tahar Kernif (Arabic), Jônatas Santos Abrahão (Portuguese), Wanderley de Souza (Portuguese), Ruifu Yang (Chinese), Wuguo Chen (Chinese), Xavier de Lamballerie (French), Ogobara Doumbo (French), Oleg Mediannikov (Russian) and Míriam-José Álvarez Martínez (Spanish). First dual-language papers are in press. All articles published by *NMNI* are fully open access: immediately freely available to read, download and share.

*New Microbes and New Infections* – the title says it all and, to ensure the information is absolutely up-to-date, the editors strive for a one-month review period. *NMNI* – spread the word not infections!

(1) Yelnik, C., Cousens, R. and Raoult, D. (2013), *CMI* Editorial Report 2013. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, 19: 1–7.



ESCMID-ESGEM Conference

SAVE THE DATE

## 11th International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers (IMMEM XI)

Navigating Microbial Genomes:  
Insights from the Next Generation



Estoril, Portugal  
9–12 March 2016



 **ESGEM** ESCMID STUDY GROUP  
FOR EPIDEMIOLOGICAL  
MARKERS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

 **ESCMID** EUROPEAN SOCIETY  
OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY  
AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## Professional Affairs Overview



*Evelina Tacconelli, Professional Affairs  
Officer for Infectious Diseases  
and Clinical Microbiology  
evelina.tacconelli@escmid.org*

ESCMID's involvement in Professional Affairs' activities for both Clinical Microbiology (CM) and Infectious Diseases (ID) has continued to grow over the past year.

After ECCMID 2014 the '3rd ESCMID Workshop on Professional Affairs in CM & ID: The Future of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Europe' took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia (please see page 50 and 51).

Many ESCMID members consider the ESCMID Collaborative Centre (ECC) and Observership programme, including those hosted by ECDC and WHO, to be one of the most original and successful activities of our Society, and its popularity is increasing. As of 13 March there are 81 ECC and 361 Observerships have taken by 1 January 2015. In 2014 and 2015 we welcomed 19 new ECCs in the following countries: Australia, China, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Romania, South Africa, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. More information can be found on pages 42 and 43.

The ESCMID Parity Commission (EPC) which, in addition to its ongoing initiatives to review and improve equal representation in professional life for clinical microbiologists and infectious diseases specialists, completed a qualitative survey on discrimination in the work place and reports on a study of gender impact in antibiotic prescribing in communities across Europe (page 45).

The Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) had an election in 2014 and the new leadership is actively working on new projects. For more information see the article on page 50.

The European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC) was set up and started operating in 2014. For more details concerning the committee and its major goals see page 47).

The close and productive collaboration between the PA officer and UEMS continued towards the major goal to further harmonize and improve the quality of both specializations within European countries.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to our EU Partner Search Platform and encourage you to make full use of it to find international research partners for your projects. The Jobs Platform on the ESCMID website regularly features new positions and potential employees in CM & ID.

**[www.escmid.org/profession\\_career/eu\\_partner\\_search](http://www.escmid.org/profession_career/eu_partner_search)**  
The EU Partner Search Platform is useful for finding new collaboration opportunities among European Research Centres.

**[www.escmid.org/profession\\_career/jobs\\_in\\_cm\\_id](http://www.escmid.org/profession_career/jobs_in_cm_id)**  
The Jobs Platform is an easy way to find your next job or to fill an open position in CM and ID.

Details of the current activities within the Professional Affairs' portfolios can be found on the following 12 pages.

# ESCMID Collaborative Centres and Observerships

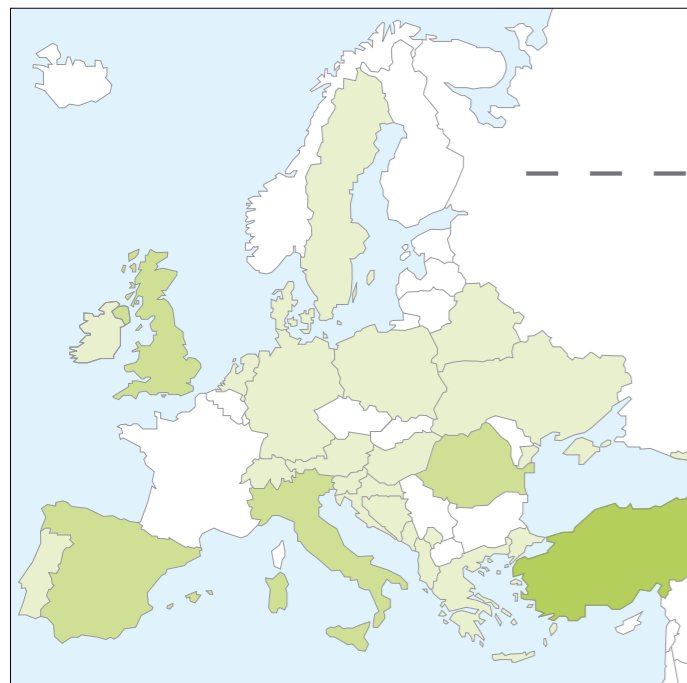
[www.escmid.org/observerships](http://www.escmid.org/observerships)

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The ESCMID Collaborative Centres (ECCs) and Observership Programme continued to be a popular Programme in 2014. Clinical Microbiology/Infectious Diseases centres of excellence in Europe and beyond welcome ESCMID members from abroad to learn about diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and the local organization of services, as well as to establish new contacts and foster international exchange. The ECC programme was launched in 2009 and currently lists 81 fully operating centres. The countries with the most ECCs are Spain (7), the Netherlands (7), the United Kingdom (7), Turkey (6), Italy (5) and Germany (5).

ESCMID's plan to increase the number of ECCs outside Europe is underway. Just recently ESCMID welcomed ECCs from China, USA and another ECC in South Africa. The ECCs in distant regions of the world offers Observers a chance to gain experience of infections rarely seen in Europe and learn from local diagnostic approaches.

## Where ESCMID observers come from

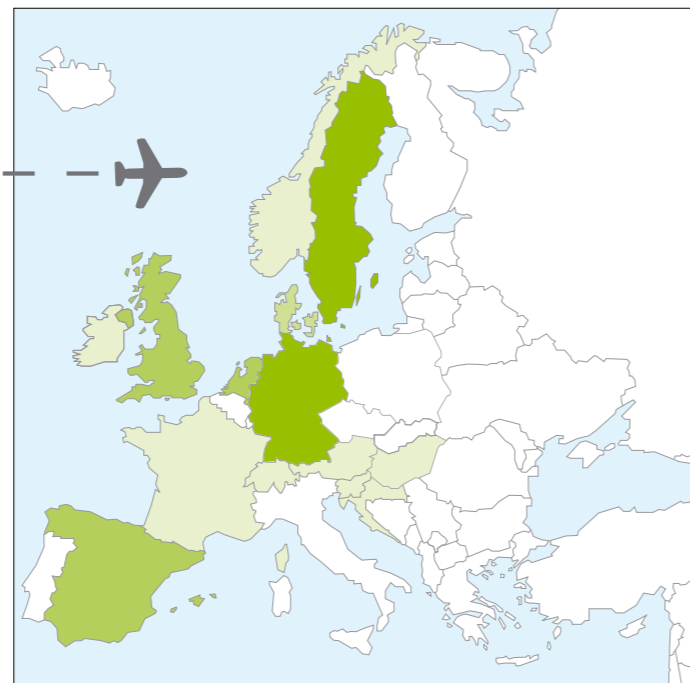


**Figure 1.**  
1 – 4 persons  
5 – 8 persons  
9 – 11 persons  
12 – 15 persons

By 1 January 2015 more than 361 Observership visits had taken place since the programme began back in 2009. Approximately 95% of Observers rate their Observership visit excellent and 5% good. The Center for Musculoskeletal Surgery at the Charité - University Medicine in Berlin, Germany and Canisius Wilhelmina Ziekenhuis (CWZ) in Nijmegen, the Netherlands hosted the largest number of Observers in 2014.

We are pleased to announce that the two new Observership initiatives with ECDC and WHO continued and expanded in 2014. Details of calls for applications in 2015 are available on page 28.

## ... and where they go!



## Activities within the ESCMID Collaborative Centres and Observership Programme

### European Network Corner at ECCMID

In recent years the European Network Corner had a dedicated area at ECCMID for ECCs to showcase their activities and connect with potential Observers. Likewise at this ECCMID, the European Network Corner will again have a dedicated area for ECCs to present themselves.

### ECC activity in 2014

In the past year, ESCMID approved 15 new institutions as Collaborative Centres, increasing the number of operating ECCs to 81.

### Observer visits in 2014

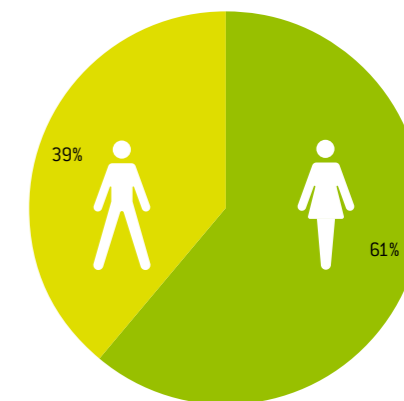
In 2014 a total of 87 Observership visits took place, up 14% on last year. The most popular duration was between one day and four weeks. Observers came from all over the world: 65 from various European countries and 22 from further afield (including Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania). For more details, see Figure 1.

The Observers' reports are published on the ESCMID website at [www.escmid.org/observership](http://www.escmid.org/observership) and testify to the usefulness of the programme for the Observers' professional development.

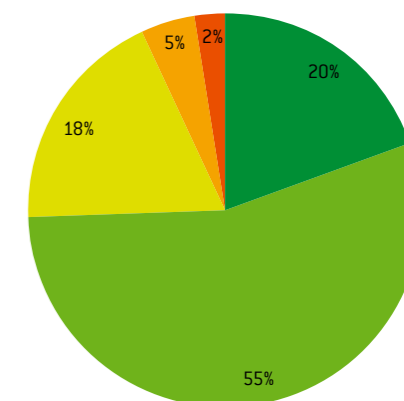
Do you have a question about ESCMID Observerships? Consult our FAQ: [www.escmid.org/observerships](http://www.escmid.org/observerships)



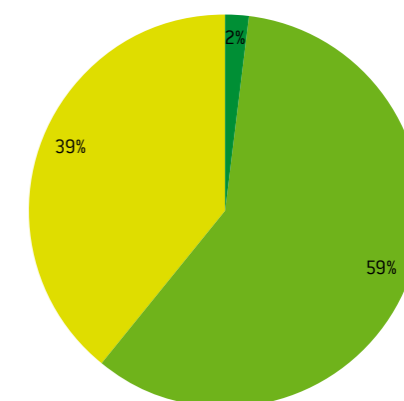
**Figure 2.** Distribution of the ECCs throughout Europe and beyond, (status: 13 March 2015) For a list of ECCs, please visit the website: [www.escmid.org/profession\\_career/collaborative\\_centres\\_observerships](http://www.escmid.org/profession_career/collaborative_centres_observerships)



**Figure 3.** Gender of Observers in 2014  
Female  
Male



**Figure 4.** Age distribution of Observers in 2014  
20 – 29 years  
30 – 39 years  
40 – 49 years  
50 – 59 years  
60 – 69 years



**Figure 5.** Length of Observership in 2014  
1 day  
2 – 10 days  
11 – 30 days

## ESCMID Observerships

# Update and improve your clinical and laboratory skills!

The ESCMID Observership programme is an opportunity for ESCMID members to visit an ESCMID Collaborative Center and to learn good clinical and laboratory practice.

Apply anytime throughout the year for a visit in another country between one day and one month. Funding is guaranteed.

[www.escmid.org/observerships](http://www.escmid.org/observerships)



## ESCMID Parity Commission

*Evelina Tacconelli*  
Chairperson ESCMID Parity Commission (EPC)  
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The Parity Commission welcomed Chrysanthi Skevaki (Advocate for Minorities) and Angela Huttner (Advocate for Gender) to the committee in 2014, replacing Nur Benzonana and Titia Kortbeek. This past year the EPC worked actively with the ESCMID Scientific Officer in order to further increase the quality of ESCMID educational events, ensuring balance in gender and countries of origin of teachers and course participants. The EPC also contributed to the organization of ECCMID 2015 and the successful improvement in gender balance, the involvement of younger investigators and the range of countries covered.

The Parity Commission also completed two new projects in 2015. The first was a systematic review and meta-analysis to analyse the impact of gender and age on the use of antibiotics in the community. The study, including national data and published studies, showed that the prescribing of antibiotics was significantly influenced by the gender of the patients, even after adjusting for age and therapy indications. On average the risk of receiving an antibiotic was doubled for women between 25 and 75 years old.

The second project was the follow-up of the 2013 parity survey (Tacconelli et al., *BMJ Open* 2014). A qualitative survey had been run by experts in five European countries with the highest risk of discrimination in the work place in the fields of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology. In two selected hospitals in each country, interviews were conducted by experts and two focus groups involving, in a first phase, local personnel, were formed in order to define type of discrimination and major perceived problems. In a second phase decision makers were integrated in the discussion and proposals for solutions were offered and discussed. Overall there were 45 in-depth interviews, each of them lasting from 45 to 90 minutes, and 7 focus groups were formed. The results, currently in the final analysis, will be published and will be available online.

For further information about our work in general and this study in particular, please visit the Parity Commission webpages on the ESCMID website.

## ESCMID Mentorships

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Being mentored is an excellent way for less experienced professionals to obtain appropriate advice and guidance from a trusted, reliable source. So ESCMID has launched a new initiative – the ESCMID Mentorship Programme. ESCMID members who are still at an early stage in their careers now have the opportunity to obtain guidance for research and career development for a maximum of two years from a senior ESCMID member, an expert from one of the newly established ESCMID Mentorship Centres (EMCs), usually departments of Infectious Diseases and/or Clinical Microbiology.

The ESCMID Mentorship Programme aims to provide a well-structured and organized professional environment where our members are guided by a caring expert for one to two years. Mentorships will be organized according to mentee needs and may be arranged as face-to-face meetings, an exchange of emails, telephone calls or internet video conversations.

Up to EUR 3,000 will be reimbursed against original receipts for costs incurred over the maximum two year period, including telephone bills, telephone conference invoices and travel costs (train, air ticket).

The selection of ESCMID Mentorship Centres has just started. If your centre has experience in mentorship or is a centre of excellence in a specific area of Infectious Diseases, Clinical Microbiology or infection control, please apply to be recognized as an ESCMID Mentorship Centre and contribute to the research and career development of up-and-coming scientists. Applications are easily submitted online at [www.escmid.org/mentorship](http://www.escmid.org/mentorship).

Mentorships are open to ESCMID members only (full membership and young scientist membership) and a member may only apply for one Mentorship. Applications have to be submitted at least three months before the intended Mentorship starts. There are no age or country restrictions. Every application is subject to review and approval by ESCMID and this process is undertaken by email, phone or in person at an EMC.

All mentees are obliged to submit a final report on conclusion of the Mentorship. These will serve to ensure the programme meets its objectives and indicate where improvements can be made. If the Mentorship is for two years, the mentee has to submit an interim report on completion of the first year. Once the Professional Affairs Officer has approved this interim report, the mentee may proceed with the second year. Take advantage of this new programme to discover your strengths and fulfil your potential. Apply now.

## ESCMID Mentorships

# Improve your career and skills and benefit from experienced professionals in the field of CM and ID.

ESCMID members can be mentored by an ESCMID Mentorship Centre for one or two years by a Mentor from our pool of Centres. Apply now!

[www.escmid.org/mentorships](http://www.escmid.org/mentorships)





Copenhagen, Denmark  
24 April 2015

## 7th International Day for Fighting Infection

### Learning from the Past for Shaping a Better Future

On 24 April 2015, the 7th edition of the International Day for Fighting Infection was held in the UN City of WHO. During this ESCMID/WHO joint meeting the current hot topics in vaccination were discussed and the many similarities of the respective missions were outlined. All presentations are accessible in our Online Lecture Library for ESCMID members under [www.escmid.org/oll](http://www.escmid.org/oll).



## European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC)

[www.escmid.org/eucic](http://www.escmid.org/eucic)

*Evelina Tacconelli*  
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Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. Of even more concern, therapy of HAIs is becoming more difficult due to the increasing rate of antimicrobial resistance among common HAI pathogens. Over the last decade, multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) have been implicated in severe invasive infections, and their occurrence has increased steadily. Patients and healthcare providers alike are starting to see the rate of HAI and antibiotic resistance as an important indicator of quality of care.

In addition to well-known HAI risk factors, international migration, travel and cross-border transfer of patients are leading to a permanent, growing risk of the spread of MDROs. This means that the introduction and establishment of MDROs in previously unaffected or less affected regions is becoming more likely every day. Successful infection control (IC) can therefore no longer be established by individual hospitals at a local level alone but international cooperation has become an absolute necessity to control further spread of MDROs.

ESCMID has devoted resources to the fight against HAIs for many years. Study Groups and dedicated educational events, also in cooperation

with other major international stakeholders, has significantly contributed to the current evidence on HAI and the implementation of measures to reduce the HAI burden. To further strengthen this effort, a new ESCMID Committee for IC was founded in 2014: the European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC). Besides EUCAST, EUCIC is the second standing committee initiated by ESCMID.

The European approach to IC is still very inconsistent across different countries and sometimes also across different healthcare settings within the same country. Major goals of EUCIC are to contribute to the harmonization of IC and the standardization of procedures in Europe. This can only be successful if everyone involved develops new educational tools and promotes guidelines that meet current demands. These major objectives can only be achieved through strong cooperation between major European stakeholders together with several ESCMID sectors.

EUCIC wishes to create a new IC online network able to define the limitations of current IC approaches, outline mitigation actions, and engage representatives from major stakeholders and experts to develop consensus programmes and a homogenous approach to current and future IC strategies in Europe. Newly developed educational tools will focus on real life applicability and support of a new generation of IC specialists.

The Committee is aware of how ambitious the project is and therefore contributions and suggestions from the whole of ESCMID are essential for the success of the project.

We look forward to hearing from you with your comments and suggestions.



# 3rd ESCMID Professional Affairs Workshop

Mario Poljak

ESCMID President-Elect and Secretary General  
mario.poljak@escmid.org

168 professionals from 24 European countries met in June 2014 in Ljubljana, Slovenia for the 3rd ESCMID Professional Affairs Workshop to review the current state of our two specialties across Europe, Clinical/Medical Microbiology (CM) and Infectious Diseases (ID), and to discuss initiatives to improve the organizational basis for medical practice in the two disciplines.

The Scientific Programme of the 3rd ESCMID Professional Affairs Workshop was prepared in consultation with the ESCMID Professional Affairs Subcommittee, the Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases sections of UEMS, the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE), as well as in cooperation with the Slovenian Society for Clinical Microbiology and Hospital Infections of the Slovenian Medical Association and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. In the end 33 speakers from 17 European countries presented current major challenges in the field and moderated the discussion. In two days, over seven sessions, specialists in both fields from 24 countries throughout Europe (Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, and United Kingdom) discussed facts and ideas concerning professional development and cooperation.

In the first session, speakers presented a general overview of ESCMID as the unique scientific and professional society connecting CM and ID specialists, the state of the CM and ID specialties in 2014 throughout Europe, as well as ESCMID activities in the field of Infection Control, including the recently launched European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC).

In the second session we identified and discussed our main likes and dislikes about our fellow CM and ID specialists. After a lively discussion, we concluded that modern Clinical Microbiology needs staff from diverse backgrounds and that improving the collaboration between ID and other medical specialists is key for the successful management of our patients. We all agreed that only united can we stand and survive all the challenges of 21st century medicine.

In the following head-to-head session, speakers provided the main pro and contra arguments for five burning questions:

- Is antimicrobial multidrug-resistance a great problem in Europe or not?
- Who should perform, read and interpret the results of microbiology point-of-care testing in intensive care units?
- When managing patients with diverse infectious diseases, does the stand-alone ID hospital or the ID department in a big hospital provide the better solution?
- Who should be in charge (ID or CM specialists or someone else?) of infection control, counseling, antibiotic stewardship and auditing?
- Who should be in charge (ID specialists, hepatologists or general practitioners?) of treating hepatitis C patients with revolutionary, direct-acting antiviral agents?

In the session entitled 'Improving our practice' four burning questions were addressed in detail:

- Do laboratory consolidation and personnel shortages represent significant problems in Europe or not?
- Is it possible for one person to be both a basic researcher and an ID clinician?
- Do different infection prevalence and rates of antimicrobial resistance across Europe reflect different cultures and different attitudes or something else?
- Should MICs be given to non-ID clinicians?

In the following session, we discussed the challenges of practising CM/ID in a time of economic crisis, analysing the effects of financial cuts to health-care systems for communicable diseases in Europe. The Greek lesson shows how cuts in health-care programmes can produce dramatic decreases in the quality of care, which also resulted in the recent spread of HIV in marginal groups. The Trainee Association of ESCMID presented the main misfortunes of new generations of trainees and young specialists (in some countries known as the 'lost generation'), including rapidly increasing antimicrobial resistance, repressive working conditions, over-qualification for the jobs at hand, unemployment, lack of professional standards and

fiscal crisis. Presentations were followed by a critical discussion of these topics.

The subject of the last official session was the need for common Training requirements. Representatives of the Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases sections of UEMS presented a European curriculum and European medical exam in CM and ID respectively, and the current and future role of ESCMID in all these efforts was defined. Representatives of the UEMS Ophthalmology section showed us that both a European curriculum and European medical exam are possible. Several ways to make CM and ID more attractive for medical graduates were also presented.

In the afternoon of the second day, two focused breakout sessions were organized. The first breakout session, entitled 'Towards equality based on merit,' critically reviewed and discussed recent achievements towards improvement of gender and geographical imbalance in all segments of our sphere, how to promote women in research and career advancement, the ESCMID Mentorship Programme, a common EU immunization schedule and what kind of advocacy we need to improve the poor visibility of CM. In the second breakout session we again critically discussed several issues related to the future common European curriculum and European exam in CM/ID: the results of the mock CM/ID exam performed by TAE, the British experience with curriculum content and delivery, the emerging concept 'Train the trainers', and the outdated concept of CM as part of Polyvalent Laboratory Medicine.

According to the feedback received, the 3rd ESCMID Professional Affairs Workshop was a great success. Several ideas and proposals raised and agreed in workshop need a close follow-up from both ESCMID and UEMS. All workshop presentations are freely available for ESCMID members in the ESCMID Online Lecture Library [www.escmid.org/OLL](http://www.escmid.org/OLL).



# Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE)

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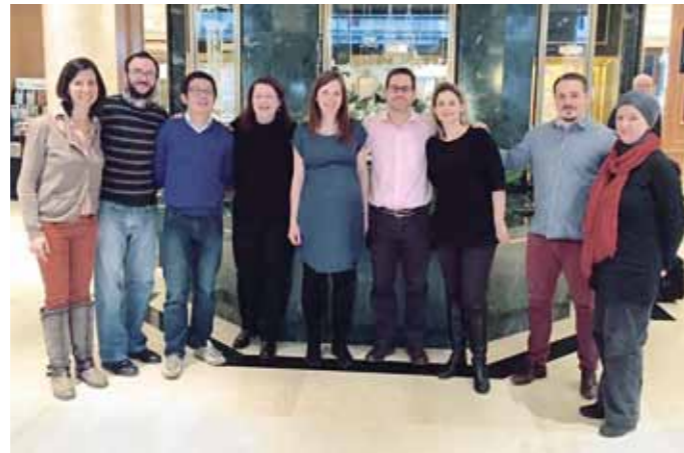
Founded in November 2009, the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) represents a group of trainees and specialists who finished their training fewer than three years ago. The TAE has a Steering Committee (SC) consisting of six elected members, three of whom are active in the field of Clinical Microbiology (CM) and the other three in Infectious Diseases (ID). In 2013 the very first TAE Steering Committee handed over the baton to their successors. In 2014 two new members were elected in order to have an appropriate turnover of TAE SC members. With fresh motivation and youthful energy, we continue the initial idea of increasing and supporting the scientific and medical contribution of young clinical microbiologists and infectious disease specialists all over Europe.

At ECCMID 2014 in Barcelona, the TAE prepared the fourth 'Trainees Day', a special session dedicated to trainees with new, attractive and educational topics. The TAE was also involved in the co-organization of three other ECCMID sessions. This year at ECCMID 2015 the TAE will be actively involved in three Educational Workshops and will present a completely innovative format for the Trainees Day: 'Everything you always wanted to discuss directly with an expert' with round tables and recognized experts in ID and CM as discussion leaders.

A UEMS ID/TAE mock exam was launched in May 2014, composed of 30 multiple choice (best of five) questions; 68 participants completed the quiz and it enabled us to pilot a mock exam for ID doctors. The TAE was actively involved in the ESCMID Professional Affairs Workshop, held 5–6 June 2014 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 'The Future of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Europe' in proposing lectures and oral communications presented by a TAE SC member.

At the 10th TAE SC Meeting, held in Zagreb in December 2014, besides welcoming the new TAE SC members, preparations for future activities progressed. This included not only the ECCMID sessions we are organizing but also the upcoming survey on training conditions in Europe and beyond, maintaining a good working relationship with both the Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases sections of UEMS, and the TAE Award in Training Achievements. This year we have two outstanding awardees that have set excellent standards in their training (page 14).

Last but not least, we are working to establish a solid and efficiently functioning network of CM and ID trainee representatives from all European countries and beyond. Together we can improve communication and cooperation among early-career ESCMID members and encourage trainees to get involved in the numerous ESCMID activities available to them, to share their knowledge among their peers, and to participate in the development of our specialities. The Trainee Association was also involved in the 3rd Professional Affairs Workshop described on the previous two pages.



TAE Steering Committee Meeting 2014 in Zagreb

# Observership reports from WHO and ECDC

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## WHO/ESCMID Observership Report 2014

Following the success of the first WHO Observership in 2013, the number of participants was doubled from five to ten, but two were sadly unable to attend. The organizers benefited from feedback from the first visit to further improve the experience. From September 30–October 2 the second ESCMID-WHO Observership took place at the Division of Communicable Diseases, Health Security and Environment (DCE) of the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, Denmark. During the three day Observership, eight participants were introduced to WHO activities and programmes via presentations, case studies, a tour of UN city and further, more in-depth meetings with staff working on programme for which the Observers had indicated their specific interest. The Observers were: Anna Jarchow-MacDonald (UK), Charles Elikwu (Nigeria), Aysegul Karahsan (Turkey), Zsofia Bognar (Hungary), Marloes Heijne (The Netherlands), Mohamad Ibrahim (Lebanon), Prashant Purohit (Kuwait), and Lessandra Michelim (Brazil). The Observers received a broad overview of the scope of WHO, and had the opportunity to talk to many different WHO staff working in a variety of public health fields. As they did last year, the Observers prepared presentations on their impressions during the visit as well as opportunities for collaboration with WHO, which led to a fruitful discussion.



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## ECDC/ESCMID Observership Report 2014

In September 2014 the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) hosted ten ESCMID members as part of the ESCMID ECDC Observership initiative. Their visit took place jointly with Observers from the European Society for Clinical Virology (ESCV) and Fellows from the European Programme for Public Health Microbiology Training (EUPHEM). The five-day programme covered the core operations of ECDC and its activities, including surveillance and epidemic intelligence, antimicrobial resistance, vaccine-preventable diseases, sexually-transmitted infections, as well as cross-cutting areas such as burden of diseases and evidence-based approach to public health. This introduction to ECDC was complemented by several 'hands-on' exercises, e.g. producing a rapid risk assessment on an infectious disease threat, analysing EU molecular surveillance data, using data from the European Burden of Communicable Diseases project to make informed public health decisions, and others. They had an opportunity to observe the daily analysis of epidemic intelligence information and present and discuss their own work with guest speakers, peers and ECDC colleagues.

The ESCMID Observers to ECDC in 2014 were from Greece, Turkey, the Netherlands, Romania, the United Kingdom, Spain, Australia and Nepal (ESCMID ECDC Observership page). Their visit reports are available on ESCMID's web pages (ECDC as an ESCMID Collaborative Centre). The 2015 ESCMID ECDC Observership is scheduled for 7–11 September 2015; the application period is 1–30 May.





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EUCAST provides breakpoints and antimicrobial susceptibility testing methodology. ESCMID provides the administrative, financial and scientific framework for EUCAST. The European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) and ESCMID both supported EUCAST financially in 2014, and ESCMID supports the development of the EUCAST disk diffusion method.

#### EUCAST Steering Committee

The committee met five times in 2014, dealing with various aspects of breakpoints and susceptibility testing. 'Visiting' General Committee members, European Medicines Agency (EMA) representatives and ECDC representatives attended some meetings. Six groups from pharmaceutical companies presented data on new agents.

#### EUCAST General Committee

The annual meeting for national representatives was held during ECCMID and the preceding year's activity was reviewed.

#### National Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Committees (NACs)

Most European countries have established NACs. The interest in EUCAST in countries outside Europe continues to be strong and NACs have been set up in Morocco and Brazil in the past year. As well as providing valuable national inputs to all aspects of EUCAST, NACs promote national strategies for susceptibility testing and help to implement EUCAST breakpoints and methods. A paper detailing the uptake of EUCAST breakpoints and methods and the establishment of NACs has recently been published in the Eurosurveillance journal.

[www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=21008](http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=21008)

#### EUCAST breakpoints

Version 5.0 of the MIC and zone diameter breakpoint tables for bacteria, and QC tables were published on the EUCAST website in January 2015.

Breakpoints for new agents are set by EUCAST as part of the marketing authorisation process by the EMA. In the past year breakpoints have been set for dalbavancin and several other agents are in process.

Nitroxoline and temocillin breakpoints for Enterobacteriaceae are currently under discussion. Linezolid breakpoints for staphylococci and enterococci, metronidazole breakpoints for anaerobes, fluoroquinolone breakpoints for *Corynebacterium* spp. and teicoplanin breakpoints for coagulase-negative staphylococci were reviewed but no changes were justified. The method for telavancin MIC determination was revised and breakpoints adjusted. For *Neisseria meningitidis* the intermediate category for ciprofloxacin was removed. Carbapenem and tigecycline breakpoints for Enterobacteriaceae and fluoroquinolone breakpoints for various organisms are being reviewed. For *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* discussions with Magnus Unemo and Gianfranco Spiteri (ECDC) have covered treatment, resistance, breakpoints and susceptibility testing issues.

A guidance note on breakpoints for topical agents has been published outlining the issues with topical agents and listing ECOFFs and systemic clinical breakpoints.

#### EUCAST disk diffusion method

Studies are undertaken at the EUCAST Development Laboratory (Växjö, Sweden) in collaboration with EUCAST Network Laboratories to develop susceptibility testing methods. Ongoing projects include zone diameter breakpoints for UTI agents, disk diffusion methods and breakpoints for *Kingella kingae* and *Aerococcus* spp., zone diameter breakpoints for fosfomycin and azithromycin disk diffusion tests for *Salmonella* spp. QC ranges have been established or studies are underway for a range of control stains and agents.

#### EUCAST website

There were approximately 54,000 visitors per month in 2014. Updates include new breakpoint tables, QC tables, reading guides and methodology sections and revised 'Frequently asked questions' 'Compliance of manufacturers' and 'Validation of MIC and inhibition zone diameter correlations' sections. 'Translations' and 'Contacts' sections have been added.

#### EUCAST MIC and zone diameter website

Additional MIC and zone diameter distributions and MIC-zone diameter correlations have been added and some changes made to simplify use of the MIC database.

#### EUCAST documents

SOPs have been published for preparation and handling of minutes (SOP 7.0), format and update of documents (SOP 8.0) and procedures for establishing zone diameter breakpoints and quality control ranges (SOP 9.0). The development of rationale documents giving the background data and the rationale for EUCAST breakpoints continues.

#### Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee (AFST)

The AFST continued with their work on breakpoints and methods for antifungal agents. The General Committee met once in 2014, during ECCMID, and the Steering Committee met twice. The structure of the Steering Committee has been reorganized to ensure a core of members with expertise but also some rotation of members (SOP 4.1).

A new azole agent is currently in the breakpoint setting process. Amphotericin B, posaconazole and voriconazole breakpoints for *Candida* spp. are currently being reviewed and *Cryptococcus* will also be included.

The document 'Method for the determination of broth dilution minimum inhibitory concentrations of antifungal agents for conidia forming moulds', has been revised (E.Def 9.2) and the rationale document on itraconazole breakpoints for *Candida*

spp. is now available. An updated table of breakpoints for antifungal agents, version 7.0, has been released.

#### Subcommittee on antimicrobial susceptibility testing by whole genome sequencing

This subcommittee is currently being established (chair Alasdair MacGowan).

#### Veterinary Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (VETCAST)

This committee is currently being established (chair Dik Mevius).

#### EUCAST expert rules

These are being updated by the Steering Committee and proposals will be subject to wide consultation.

#### Guidelines for companies on data for new anti-mycobacterial agents

A workshop (chair Emmanuelle Cambau) between EUCAST, the ESCMID Study Group for Mycobacterial Infections (ESGMYC) and EMA, was held in November 2014 with the objective to develop guidelines for companies submitting new antimycobacterial agents.



EUCAST Steering Committee at ECCMID 2014 in Barcelona

# ESCMID Conference: Reviving Old Antibiotics

In the face of rampant antimicrobial resistance development and the dwindling trickle of new antibacterial compounds, ESCMID arranged a three day conference on 'Reviving Old Antibiotics' in Vienna, Austria, between 22 and 24 October 2014. Almost 300 researchers, academics and representatives from WHO, EMA, ECDC and national medicines' agencies as well as pharmaceutical companies reviewed the increasing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and explored the potential benefits and disadvantages of using old, off-patent antibiotics that may still be effective against some pathogens resistant to more modern treatments, with a view to creating an action plan to take these old antibiotics into the future.

"We had a very fruitful and productive conference," said Ursula Theuretzbacher, founder of the Center for Anti-Infective Agents, Vienna, Austria, and Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee of this conference.

"It was the first of its kind to focus on the revival of old antibiotics as a viable tactic in confronting the threat of increasing AMR. We have known for some time that old generations of antibiotics, developed as long as 55 years ago, can be effective in certain clinical situations where multi-drug-resistance has been found."

However, these old drugs were not developed according to current standards of science, research and practice. Without a solid strategy to re-develop these old drugs and rigorously test them according to today's standards, harm may be done to patients or the development of multidrug-resistance may be stimulated even further. There's a pressing need to incorporate our current scientific knowledge into regulatory frameworks and practice that will make these old antibiotics properly effective as an interim measure, pending development of a whole new generation of drugs to tackle AMR. The conference aimed to create a roadmap for taking old antibiotics forward and putting them to work again, safely and effectively.

Over the course of the three-day conference delegates worked together to identify gaps in knowledge, reviewed ethical issues such as the problems of using antibiotic therapies on individual patients versus responsibility for the welfare of future society, clinical study issues; access to antibiotics in the developing world, availability and stewardship of old antibiotics, and the impact of AMR on public health.

Based on these discussions, conference delegates agreed a set of priorities for action:

- To identify and prioritize candidates that should be taken forward.
- For candidate antibiotics, to establish current quantities, global availability and dispersal, quality, appropriateness for human and non-human use, and to carry out the necessary studies to fill the knowledge gaps
- To engage in a co-ordinated effort to disseminate this information and communicate with all stakeholders – including governments, donors, academics, researchers, health professionals and the pharmaceutical industry - to build support and gain consensus on the need for rapid action to explore the benefits of using old antibiotics to tackle AMR.

"The ESCMID conference on reviving old antibiotics was very timely," said Gunnar Kahlmeter, ESCMID Communications Officer and Past President. "The challenge now is to find much needed resources – time, finances, people – to fast track everything that needs to be done in terms of improving the knowledge of these potentially life-saving drugs and bringing it from research bench to bedside in record time."

A full report from the conference, with recommendations and action plan, will be published.



Gunnar Kahlmeter and Ursula Theuretzbacher



Part of the faculty (l. to r.)  
Jason Roberts (AU),  
Vincent H. Tam (US),  
George L. Daikos (GR),  
Alasdair MacGowan (UK),  
Mical Paul (IL)

# 3rd ESCMID Conference on Vaccines

The 3rd ESCMID Conference on Vaccines, which was primarily devoted to the topic *Vaccines for Mutual Protection*, took place from 6–8 March 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal. Top vaccine experts from all parts of the world (36 speakers from 17 countries), presented findings to better understand and control a number of vaccine-preventable infectious diseases. More than 220 participants from 52 countries around the world exchanged ideas on new therapeutic approaches, recommendations and latest clinical data.

## Mutual protection – key to disease prevention

During the opening symposium, key exponents from international organizations outlined the role mutual protection plays in disease prevention. Liz Miller, a UK epidemiologist at the Health Protection Agency in London who also acts as WHO consultant, showed how herd immunity may protect older generations against influenza and pneumococcal disease. She also highlighted the importance of being prepared for resurgences so that confidence in the benefit of vaccination programmes would not be undermined.

Robb Butler from the WHO outlined the challenges of translating a global vaccine plan into a regional context to achieve a mutual response to shared threats in the European region. He presented the European Vaccine Action Plan (EVAP), which aims to address immunity gaps due to insufficient access as well as vaccine hesitancy and refusals. Butler explained that the challenge is to make sure that the programme is integrated with other health interventions and changes in health systems.

Pier Luigi Lopalco, Head of ECDC's Scientific Assessment Section, explained the role of surveillance in assuring mutual protection. Lopalco explained how data is collected and how outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases are detected and investigated. Lopalco urged participants to improve disease and vaccine monitoring, which not only means following up vaccine effectiveness during post marketing, but also monitoring public confidence in immunization programmes.

## Acceptance of vaccines – safety

Trust, confidence and acceptance were also the buzz words in the session dedicated to safety issues in vaccines and their impact on mutual protection. Litjen Tan, Chief Strategy Officer at the Immunization Action Coalition and Co-chair of the United States Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit, outlined how vaccine confidence evolved in the US. He recommends involving parents in vaccina-

tion decisions and supporting those who vaccinate their children so they may act as advocates in their communities.

Pauline Paterson and Heidi Larson from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine warned that it is important to understand the reasons behind vaccine hesitancy. They concluded that strong confidence in vaccines can help sustain vaccination coverage and—if above herd immunity threshold—can also help protect the community, while low confidence may have a detrimental impact on public health.

Frederic Boudier from Maastricht University showed how the unvaccinated population impacts the community they live in as even the shadow of a doubt may be enough to undermine trust. Therefore providers have to understand and adapt risk communication to the perceived risks of the population and society's worries, Boudier concluded.

## Fighting poliovirus and pertussis

In the session on recent threats of poliovirus Jacob Moran-Gilad from the Ministry of Health and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba, Israel, described the public health response to a silent introduction of wild-type poliovirus 1 into Israel. Paloma Carrillo-Santistevan from the ECDC's Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme outlined what is done to protect the population in Europe against polio. She concluded that there is no immediate risk, given the generally high levels of sanitation and hygiene in the EU. David Salisbury, a vaccination specialist at the UK Department of Health and the WHO, outlined the strategy on polio eradication and endgame, including a rationale and timetable for switching from tOPV to bOPV everywhere within a two-week period and strategies for containment.



Part of the faculty of the 3rd ESCMID Conference on Vaccines

In the pertussis session, top vaccine specialist Stanley Plotkin from the US outlined how pertussis is resurgent in many countries. The incidence of pertussis increased after the whole-cell vaccine had been replaced by an acellular vaccine, which may cause post-vaccination antibodies to wane faster, Plotkin said, adding that other reasons may include strain change decreasing effectiveness and transmission in childhood leading to less natural boosting and more susceptibility in older persons. Camille Loch shared his assessment of a new pertussis vaccine, a novel intranasal vaccine he is helping to develop at the Institut Pasteur in Lille, France. Susanna Esposito from the Paediatric Highly Intensive Care Unit at the University of Milan, Italy, showed that adults are an important source of infection for infants. She recommends antepartum and cocooning programmes to control the spread of disease.

## Lively debates

The sessions on how to effectively fight pertussis, poliovirus, viral gastroenteritis, human papillomavirus (HPV) or varicella zoster virus in Europe—to name just a few—generated a great deal of interest. But the conference also featured discussions on pandemic vaccination, transmission of influenza as well as a session on how to achieve meningococcal control.

The most extensive discussions ensued in the two popular pro-con debates. In the session on indirect effects of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines Marc Bonten from the University Medical Centre in Utrecht argued that these vaccines are not only effective and safe; vaccination would also be highly cost effective, particularly if medium and high-risk individuals are targeted. Ron Dagan from the Pediatric Infectious Disease Unit at the Soroka University Medical Center in Beersheba, Israel, on the other hand, argued that there is a little benefit in countries with high immunization rates due to the relatively extensive indirect protection for adults from vaccinated children.

A similar discussion also took place on a universal varicella zoster virus (VZV) vaccination, which sparked a lively discussion in the closing session. Adam Finn from the Bristol Children's Vaccine Centre presented hospitalization and mortality data showing that the VZV vaccine works, and that most complications occur in otherwise healthy children. As varicella can potentially be prevented for more than 30 years, it is time to start preventing it, Finn concluded. Hanna Nohynek from the National Institute of Health and Welfare

in Finland, however, reasoned that universal VZV vaccination is not advisable from a public health perspective because, despite the safety of the individual vaccines, uncertainty remains about its benefits, cost effectiveness and its potential to boost herpes zoster incidence.

A comprehensive summary can be found on the conference website at [www.escmid.org/research\\_projects/escmid\\_conferences/vaccines\\_conference](http://www.escmid.org/research_projects/escmid_conferences/vaccines_conference).



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In September 2014 the ESCMID International Affairs Subcommittee was founded, currently led by Giuseppe Cornaglia, International Affairs Director (see table below). The aim of this subcommittee is to raise awareness of ESCMID and promote its activities all over the world. Its mission is to develop sustainable alliances to the mutual benefit of the different geographic areas and ESCMID.

Details of the International Affairs Subcommittee's activities during 2014 are outlined on the following pages.

Geographic Region	Representative
Africa	Marc Mendelson, Cape Town, South Africa
The American Continents	Maria Virginia Villegas, Cali, Columbia
Australia, New Zealand	David Paterson, Brisbane, Australia
China	Qiu Haibo, Nanjing, China
Japan	Kazuhiro Tateda, Tokyo, Japan
India	Camilla Rodrigues, Mumbai, India
The Middle East	Atef Shibl, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
The Russian Federation	Roman Kozlov, Smolensk, Russia
Former USSR Euro-Asian Republics	Adalat Abdullajev, Baku, Azerbaijan

## Brazil – setting the stage

ESCMID's goals for collaborating with Brazilian organizations are to include Brazilian CM/ID experts in ESCMID activities and for ESCMID to support Brazilian/South American activities.

The first step was to identify potential collaborative societies in the fields of:

- Tropical Medicine
- Clinical Microbiology
- Infectious Diseases
- Healthcare-associated Infections

With 279 Brazilian delegates attending ECCMID 2014 and currently 77 Brazilian ESCMID members, Brazil is well represented within ESCMID/ECCMID. We envision finding ways to link Brazilian project ideas to the ESCMID Study Groups ESGNI, ESGARS, EFWISG and ESGCD, focusing on nosocomial infections, resistance issues, food and water-borne infections and *C. difficile*, respectively.

Another way of developing ESCMID's cooperation with South American CM/ID specialists is to participate in local conferences. A 2-hour joint symposium will be held at the Brazilian Congress of Infectious Diseases in Gramado, Brazil, 26–29 August 2015, where two Brazilian and two ESCMID speakers will give their talks.

Brazilian institutes are also very keen on becoming ESCMID Collaborative Centres and joining the new Mentorship initiative. We are expecting the first applications in 2015.

## Russia – consultation activities

The Russian Federation has been consulting with ESCMID about experts in tuberculosis and antimicrobial resistance surveillance. In addition to ESCMID's affiliation with IACMAC in Moscow, there have been active consultations with WHO-Russia and the Russian Ministry of Health. These are still ongoing and now represent an essential part of ESCMID's strategy in that country.



## Cuba – overview of activities

Rafael Canton participated in a one-day symposium at the VIII Congreso Cubano de Microbiología y Parasitología, in Havana, Cuba (14–16 October 2014).

He gave two talks on the following topics:

- Multiresistant Enterobacteriaceae, carbapenemase epidemiology and influence on therapeutics
- EUCAST versus CLSI: differences and similarities

Around 80 delegates attended the ESCMID-sponsored symposium with active participation during a questions and answer session. One of the main goals of his visit to Cuba was to influence the development of a national antimicrobial susceptibility testing committee (NAC) as was achieved in 2014 in Morocco.



(l. to r.) Rafael Canton, ESCMID Representative, Dianelys Quiñones, Instituto Pedro Kourí, Cuba [Organizer] Marcelo Galas, Instituto Malbrán, Buenos Aires, Argentina María-Isabel Morosini, Hospital Ramón y Cajal, Madrid, Spain

## China – joint conference

The 'International Conference on Infections and their Prevention' organized by ESCMID, International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID), Lancet Infectious Diseases and the Chinese Medical Association (CMA), was held in Beijing (China) from 19–20 September 2014 and was very successful. Murat Akova, Mario Poljak, Jesús Rodríguez-Baño and Giuseppe Cornaglia actively contributed to the conference. In addition, a half-day conference 'Best of ECCMID 2014' was organized for 19 September 2014.

Several collaborative centres have recently been established in China and there are currently five fully approved centres with proven English language capabilities and the appropriate scientific background. A follow-up meeting with CMA and ESCMID to further develop their close cooperation is scheduled at ECCMID 2015. Furthermore, the EUCAST hybrid session involving live video streaming with simultaneous translation in China promises to be an exciting, cutting-edge event.

Future activities under discussion are:

- The translation of recent ESCMID guidelines into Chinese
- More Chinese sessions at ECCMIDs with possible video transmission to China and simultaneous translation
- An ESCMID Summer School 2016 in Beijing, China
- Organization of a EUCAST national antimicrobial susceptibility testing committee in China



## Future Congresses

www.eccmid.org

# 26th ECCMID

9–12 APRIL 2016  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY

ICC–Istanbul Congress Center

# 27th ECCMID

22–25 APRIL 2017  
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Reed Messe Vienna

## Forthcoming Events

### Postgraduate Education Courses and Workshops

Receive state-of-the-art knowledge from expert educators. Gather hands-on experience in your field of interest. Discuss your work with senior and peer colleagues.

- 6–8 May 2015 **Indigenous Parasitic Diseases in Europe**  
Pavia, Italy  
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
- 8–9 May 2015 **Management of Infections in the Critically Ill Patients: a Hands-on Course on Current Challenges and Future Directions**  
Grado, Italy  
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
- 11–12 Jun 2015 **Educational Programme on Transplant Virology**  
Lausanne, Switzerland  
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
- 2–4 Sep 2015 **Clostridium Difficile: Practical Aspects of Diagnostics, Typing and Comparative Genomics**  
Maribor, Slovenia  
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
- 2–4 Sep 2015 **Improving Patient Safety: the Neglected Impact of Age and Gender**  
Barcelona, Spain  
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
- 24–25 Sep 2015 **Moving Antimicrobial Stewardship Forward in Special Population Settings**  
Ferney-Voltaire, France  
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
- 24–26 Sep 2015 **Carbapenemases in Enterobacteriaceae: Challenges and Preparedness**  
Verona, Italy  
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
- 7–9 Oct 2015 **Rapid NGS for Identification and Typing of ESBL and CRE**  
Groningen, Netherlands  
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
- 20–22 Nov 2015 **Microbiology for Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases: ABC and XYZ**  
Beijing, China  
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
- 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2015 **Improving the Dosage of Old Antibiotics**  
Nijmegen, Netherlands  
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

### ESCMID Summer School

An intense one-week course covering diverse topics in the infection field. The high faculty-student ratio and the high level of interactivity make it so popular.

- 4–11 Jul 2015 **14th ESCMID Summer School**  
Istanbul, Turkey

### ESCMID Conferences

Get the latest news about your field of work delivered from selected experts. Exchange ideas with your colleagues on hot topics.

- 9–12 Mar 2016 **ESCMID-ESGEM Conference**  
11th International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers  
*'Navigating Microbial Genomes: Insights from the Next Generation?'*

### Future ECCMIDs

- 9–12 Apr 2016 **26th ECCMID**  
Istanbul, Turkey
- 22–25 Apr 2017 **27th ECCMID**  
Vienna, Austria
- 21–24 Apr 2018 **28th ECCMID**  
To be announced

More detailed information  
can be found on the ESCMID website:  
[www.escmid.org](http://www.escmid.org)

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A big thank you to all our dedicated reviewers!

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