

# ESCMID NEWS SUPPLEMENT

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ESCMID's mission is to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases by promoting and supporting research, education and training in the infection disciplines. This is achieved by scientific exchange, educational programmes, grants and awards, certification and consultation with professional and government agencies.

Back page: Lecture at the ECCMID  
Glasgow 2003

Front page: Organizational meeting for  
the first European Congress of Clinical  
Microbiology (ECCM) in Munich in 1983.  
In the same year the ECCM took  
place in Bologna with Arturo Visconti as  
Congress President. From left to right:  
Arne Forsgren, Mark Casewell, Jan  
Verhoef (standing), Jacques Acar, Arturo  
Visconti, Evelio Perea (standing), Tom  
Bergan, Ilja Braveny (standing), Eugène  
Yourassowsky, Daryl Elder

**THE FIRST 25 YEARS  
FROM 1983–2008  
The History of the European  
Society of Clinical Microbiology  
and Infectious Diseases**



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## Introduction



This essay is dedicated to the members of the original organizing committee who are no longer with us – Tom Bergan, Ilja Braveny, Eugène Yourassowsky and David Williams.

The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases – ESCMID – is twenty-five years old. As part of the celebration, the Executive Committee (EC) asked me to produce a brief history as one who was a member of the Committee for many years and has been involved in most of its activities at one time or another. At the same time, I was asked to organize the archives of the Society, and this I have done with the essential help of Birgit Menzemer and Peter Schoch. I hope that we leave behind in the Society's offices in Basel a resource that is easy of access to anyone wishing to know more about our history.

Ian Phillips, Author, Archivist

## The Aims of the Society and Their Fulfilment

Two letters from Arturo Visconti, dated 16 December 1982 and addressed to Ilja Braveny and Jan Verhoef, respectively, are the first written evidence in our archives of the moves to form a [European Society of Clinical Microbiology \(ESCM\)](#). It has sometimes been said that the correct title should have had the word “for” rather than “of”, but “of” it remains! There soon followed a preliminary meeting of these three prime movers, on 8 January 1983, in Munich. The Foundation Meeting was

held on 12 February 1983, also in Munich and was attended by Jacques Acar, Tom Bergan, Ilja Braveny, Arne Forsgren, Evelio Perea, Jan Verhoef, Arturo Visconti, David Williams, Eugène Yourassowsky, and Oto Zak – our founding Fathers. A quotation from the first published notice of the Society's existence in the *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology* (1983, 2, 277) provides a clear idea of how the Society saw itself. “The Society will devote itself to the promotion of research, teaching and diagnostics in the field of clinical microbiology... to encompass the study of pathogens and pathogenesis, the diagnosis, epidemiology and therapy of infectious diseases, infection control in hospitals, and other basic problems of infection and immunity. (It) will strive to bring together persons active in the field ... in the individual European countries ... by the holding of scientific congresses, by the arrangement of exchange visits, the creation of facilities for postgraduate education, and by collaboration in research...”. Draft Statutes were circulated to members of the Steering Committee in February 1983. Interestingly, there was discussion from the start as to whether the Society should also encompass Infectious Diseases, but a decision to do so was not made until 1990.



Members vote to approve changes to the Statutes at the Assembly of Members in 2007

### Table of Contents

2	Introduction
3	The Aims of the Society and Their Fulfilment
4	The Organization
6	Gallery of ESCMID Presidents
9	Publications
12	Management and Finance
14	Education
16	Research
18	Awards, Grants and Fellowships
20	Clinical and Laboratory Practice
20	The Present

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# The Organization

The first part of the organization to be put in place was the Executive Committee, formally constituted on a provisional basis in 1983, and approved by members in 1985. Thanks to Birgit Menzemer, who provided secretarial services from 1984, and thus during virtually all of the period of existence of the Society, our archives include a full set of minutes of the Executive Committee. Reading them is rather like reading Jane Austen: the great affairs of the world pass us by and there is a general mood of tranquility which is somewhat at odds with the feeling of wrestling in mud that overtook us not infrequently. This is as it should be!

The date of the Foundation Meeting of the Society, 12 February 1983, has been taken as its date of birth. It was agreed that Ilja Braveny would be the President of the Steering Committee (being named somewhat confusingly as President of the Society in the original official document of foundation, see below), and that the Society would be the Europe-

an Society of Clinical Microbiology, with its official seat in Munich, with the already existing European Journal of Clinical Microbiology (EJCM), edited by Ilja Braveny, as its official organ, and with a meeting already being organized in Bologna under the chairmanship of Arturo Visconti to be the first European Congress of Clinical Microbiology (ECCM). At two further meetings of the group in 1983, held in Munich and in Vienna, it was agreed that the Steering Committee would become the provisional Executive Committee, and Björn Hoffstedt (from Sweden but working in Germany) took charge of “administration and book-keeping”. Finally in 1983, Jan Verhoef was appointed “Chairman”, so the new Society, in effect, acquired its first President, while Ilja Braveny and Arturo Visconti became Vice-Presidents, and Evelio Perea Secretary. By July 1983, the fledgling Society had 41 members. Ciba-Geigy supported the early meetings by inviting the Steering Committee members



The Executive Committee at work, ECCMID 2006 in Nice

Microbiology and Infectious Diseases) and an ECCMID Programme Director. Traditionally, the Past President chairs the Nominations Committee responsible for recruiting potential candidates for membership of the Executive Committee, the Awards Committee, and the Publications Committee. The editor of *CMI* is an *ex officio* and later an *ad hoc* member. Similarly, presidents of congresses became *ex officio* and then *ad hoc* members. Finally, in 2000 the Managing Director became an *ex officio* non-voting member of the EC.

to Basel, Bristol-Myers and Roussel gave essential financial support to the Executive Committee in the early years. The scene was thus efficiently set for the twenty-five years of growth and development that we now celebrate. The Executive Committee (EC) set up as a result of the foundation meetings, and confirmed by ballot of the Society in 1985, continued in office until 1990, with the addition of Carl Erik Nord in 1986. Such a long period without change of leadership was not envisaged when the Society was set up, but was necessitated by the constant changes which seemed to demand stability if they were to be effected. In 1990, Evelio Perea became the second President and Arne Forsgren, David Williams, and Eugène Yourassowsky retired from the Committee and were replaced by Hartmut Lode, Gian Carlo Schito and Ian Phillips at the invitation of the EC. Björn Hoffstedt was confirmed in the dual role of Treasurer and Secretary, while other members of the EC were appointed to specific roles – Carl Erik Nord as Scientific-Secretary, Gian Carlo Schito to supervise meetings, Jacques Acar to lead in professional affairs, Hartmut Lode to recruit clinicians, and Ian Phillips to supervise publications and education. This arrangement shaped the future although there have of course been changes in detail in the way the Society is managed. Table 1 lists the officers and members of the Executive Committee for the past 25 years. From time to time, the EC set up sub-committees. For example, in 1993 there were five of them, taking care of Professional Affairs (with Niels Høiby as Chairman), Publications (Ian Phillips), Education and Training (Ian Phillips), Congresses and Meetings (Gian Carlo Schito), and Scientific Matters (Michel Glauser). This arrangement evolved to the present system which identifies particular responsibilities for all the members of the EC. The EC thus consists of a President, a Past President, a President-elect, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, and officers for Scientific Affairs, Education, and Professional Affairs (Clinical

At the very first meeting of the provisional EC, draft Statutes were tabled by Ilja Braveny. Proposals included regular, corporate and honorary membership; the establishment of Munich as the official seat; the deferment of discussion of the question of ownership of the Journal; the acceptance of the Bologna meeting as the first ECCM; the inclusion of a Journal subscription in the fees; the election of the EC by members of the Society, and of President, Secretary and Treasurer by the EC; the duration of membership of the EC and of officers; and the establishment of a provisional Steering Committee. These Statutes appear to have been agreed in 1983, but were not published until 1987 (EJCM, 6, p. 364). Like every other aspect of the Society, its Statutes evolved.

After a meeting of “good people” in 1988, and with the approval of 83% of the members, the name of the Society was changed in 1990 to the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID). This major change brought new Statutes, as already noted, confirming the intended rotation of membership of the EC and its officers, accepted by the EC in their eighth draft in 1989. It also brought about the first change of President as Evelio Perea took over the role, and the creation of the post of President-elect, filled by Jacques Acar and of Past President, filled by Jan Verhoef. It seems likely that the latter two posts replaced those for two vice-presidents. It was also determined at this time that membership of the EC should no longer be by invitation but by election by members of the Society. However, it took until the end of the millennium for the last non-elected member – myself – to leave the EC. At the same time, the roles of members of the EC were more clearly defined. Björn Hoffstedt was confirmed as both Treasurer and Secretary and Carl Erik Nord, who had chaired a Scientific Committee since 1986, as Scientific Officer, while the functions of Meetings Officer, Publications Officer and Professional Affairs Officer went to Professors Schito, Phillips and Acar, respectively.

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer	EC members (until)	Number of members
1983	Verhoef	Perea	Hoffstedt	Acar [00], Braveny, Bergan, Forsgren [90], Perea, Visconti	41
1984				Williams [90], Yourassowsky [90], Zak [90]	207
1985					
1986				Nord [current]	
1987					
1988					
1989					
1990	Perea	Hoffstedt		Lode [99], Schito [02], Phillips [00]	971
1991					1991
1992					1825
1993	Acar	Nord	Lode	Glauser [01], Høiby [05]	1764
1994					1800
1995	Phillips			Bouza [03]	1860
1996					1630
1997	Glauser			Carbon [05], Finch [05], Struelens [07]	2220
1998		Bouza	Schito		2223
1999	Nord				2602
2000					2612
2001	Finch	Norrby	Voss	Cornaglia [current], Giamarellou [03], Hakenbeck [03], Norrby [current], Voss [current]	2345
2002				Gould [03]	2322
2003	Struelens	Cornaglia		Jelinkova [04], Nagy [current], Towner [current], Vila [current]	2508
2004					2793
2005	Norrby	Francioli		Garau [current], Dellamonica [06], Read [current]	2915
2006			Nagy	Aubry-Damon [07], Ruf [07]	3014
2007	Cornaglia	Garau		Akova [current], Baquero [current]	3549

Table 1: The Executive Committees

# Gallery of ESCMID Presidents



Prof Dr Ilja Braveny, President of the Steering Committee for a short time span in 1983



Prof Dr Jan Verhoef, 1983–1990



Prof Dr Evelio J. Perea, 1990–1993



Prof Dr Jacques Acar, 1993–1995



Prof Dr Ian Phillips, 1995–1997



Prof Dr Michel Glauser, 1997–1999



Prof Dr Carl Erik Nord, 1999–2001



Prof Dr Roger G Finch, 2001–2003



Prof Dr Marc Struelens, 2003–2005



Prof Dr S Ragnar Norrby, 2005–2007



Prof Dr Giuseppe Cornaglia, 2007–present

The change of title of the Society to include infectious diseases was announced in 1989 while the journal, EJCMID, included it since the beginning of 1988). Except for the first line, the Statutes actually remained unchanged, amusingly maintaining the abbreviated title as ESCM for the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. Only in 1991 in EJCMID, 10, p.470 did revised Statutes appear. There were then running revisions until the very end of 1994 when the EJC-MID ceased to be the official publication of the Society. A suggestion widely misunderstood in the EC was that cooption was necessary when elections produced a lack of representation of certain geographical areas or a lack of particular talents. However, it was finally included in the Statutes in 1993. Further updates were announced in ESCMID News in 1997 and 2002. It was realized that the German authorities, who had to approve the Statutes, had not been invited to do so for some years, and this required rather careful handling. Not all the details of the Society's *modus operandi* need to be in the Statutes, but they do need to be formally approved by the EC and be known to the members. This is the role of the Bylaws. These appear to

have caused some trouble since a “final draft” produced in 1992 did not appear in ESCMID News until 1997. Here are details of how the various official bodies of the Society are required to conduct themselves and of the roles of individual members of these bodies. For the first time, the Society's requirements of those organizing publications, ECCMIDs, and Study Groups were set out in print. As with the Statutes, revision was necessary from time to time, and a new set was approved in 2004. Carl Erik Nord was particularly involved in ensuring that Statutes and Bylaws were kept up to date.

One of the more entertaining activities of the EC was the attempt to produce a logo that would command general respect. A map of Europe, suggested by Carl Erik Nord in 1992, was generally favoured as a basis, but there was some disagreement as to the geographical depiction! Certainly the inhabitants of Corsica and Sardinia might have been confused by the sudden union of their islands, the Scots by the loss of the Firth of Forth, and the Icelanders by the temporary disappearance of their island! After great efforts, errors have (I think!) finally been eradicated, or disguised by the small scale of the logo as usually used. This logo served



10th anniversary of ESCMID, 1993 in Seville [l. to r.: David Williams, Eugène Yourassowsky [seated], Evelio Perea, Jan Verhoef, Arne Forsgren, Oto Zak, Arturo Visconti, Jacques Acar, Tom Bergan]



The ECDC is one of the many organizations, with which ESCMID collaborates, here Director Zsuzsanna Jakab at the ECCMID press conference in 2004.

the Society until 2007 when a new logo with a more striking appearance and more clearly related to the role of the Society was adopted.

More important than logos was the problem of how the Society should be managed as it increased in size and complexity. As Secretary to the EC, Birgit Menzemer essentially fulfilled this role for more than 15 years. Credit is due to Michel Glauser for grasping a series of nettles in a sequence of moves that led to the setting up of the main Executive Office of the Society in Basel and the happy appointment of Peter Schoch as Managing Director in 1999.

The second formal group to be founded after the EC was the Assembly of Members. Since the Society had been founded by and for clinical microbiologists virtually all the original members were in that professional group. They first met as a formal body at the first European Congress of Clinical Microbiology (ECCM) in Bologna in 1983 and thereafter at over-long intervals of two years dictated by the frequency of ECCMs. Membership steadily increased from 41 in 1983 as is recorded in Table 1. The Assembly has always been the ultimate source of authority in the Society, and has had the task of approving the composition and activities of the EC. The Assembly has met at all the Society's Congresses, and has often been the occasion for lively discussion, not always approving the best laid plans of the EC.

From the beginning it was recognized that a formal relationship was needed with national societies. This was initially achieved through the creation of the European Council, on which each

European country had a place, filled initially by local elections. Its creation appears not to have been formally approved until 1990. Since the electorate for each country consisted of the members "of good standing", i.e. having paid their dues, in that country, it may be imagined that elections were no light undertaking. They were managed faultlessly by Birgit Menzemer. The Council's main role was to advise the EC and to provide members of sub-committees, such as the Nominating Committee. In 2001, after much discussion, it was agreed that a pilot experiment of association of national societies might be tried, and the Italian Society of Clinical Microbiology and The British Infection Society agreed to be the guinea pigs. The arrangement was finalized for all national societies associated with ESCMID in 2002. The Council consisted at that time of an official representative of each associated society, the chairpersons of the ESCMID Study Groups and the elected country representatives. The whole organization was simplified in 2005 when the Council was reconstituted to include only representatives of affiliated national societies. This move gave these societies greater authority in the affairs of the Society.

## Publications

Initially, the Society communicated with its members via dedicated blue pages in the *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology* (subsequently *and Infectious Diseases*). These blue pages reported on the affairs of the Society, for example giving news of congresses with first announcements and then preliminary programmes; news of special meetings and symposia; announcement of collaborative studies (and eventually of formal Study Groups); planned ESCM awards for young scientists; acknowledgement of support from named pharmaceutical companies; notice of the first plenary meeting of the Society; the first Statutes of ESCM in *EJCM* 1987, 6, p.364 and of ESCMID in *EJCMID* 1991, 10, p.470; and news of the election of the first European Council. The Journal was thus the main means of communication between the EC and the members of the Society during the long gap between meetings. Quite soon these Society news items were accompanied by a President's report, and it is in one of these that the need for a separate Newsletter was first mentioned. Evelio Perea initiated a separate letter to members during his presidency, but the activities of the Society continued to be advertised in the *European Jour-*

*nal*, until the function was taken over by the publication of a regular newsletter, *ESCMID News*, in June 1993. The first ESCMID News editor was Helmut Mittermeyer and he had the able assistance of Birgit Menzemer, Carrie Klarl, and Carl Erik Nord. It included messages from the Editor and from the then President, Jacques Acar, as well as summaries of a widened range of Society activities – features that have continued. Quite soon articles of more general interest started to appear, including a series kicked off by Niels Høiby, on the organization of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases services in different parts of Europe. Niels took over as editor of ESCMID News in 1997, and more substantial issues became the norm. Finally, a "new start" was made in 2001, with three issues per year published by an initial editorial team of Peter Schoch, Carl Erik Nord and Pam Hunter centred on the Basel office of the Society. The range widened again with the inclusion of précis of publications of potential interest to members, feature articles and even of papers on the impact of infectious diseases on music and art, all in a comfortable magazine style. The final part of the communication network to be put in place

For many years Niels Høiby has taken on different positions within ESCMID, such as Executive Committee member 1993–1995, ECCMID Congress President in 2005, editor of *CMI* and *ESCMID News*, and Chairman of the biofilms Study Group since 2005.



Year	Editor-in-Chief	Associate Editors, Assistant Editors and Editors
1995	Jacques Acar	David Speller (1995, continuing as an Editor until 1998), Judith Crane as Editorial Assistant, Editorial Managing Consultant (from 1996) and Managing Editor (from 2001), A Auckenthaler (2003), AE Baert (1996), A Bauernfeind (2003), G Botta (2000), JP Butzler (2000), C Carbon (2003), P Chiodini (2006), P Courvalin (2003), JC Desenclos (2000, and 2004), P Francioli (2003), IM Hoepelman (2003), H Mittermayer (2003), A Pascual (2003), JC Péchère (1998), P Shah (2003), C Svanborg (2003) S Zinner (2003)
1996		I Phillips (2005), O Lortholary (1998)
1997		P Jenks (1997)
1998		N Høiby (2003), CR Madeley (2007), ME Jones (2004)
1999		H Goossens (2003), PA Hunter (2003), TL Pitt (2001), KJ Towner (2000), AJ Hedges (2003), S Peters (2000), F Vandenesch (2003)
2000		E Bouza (as Editor-in-Chief-elect), O Lortholary (2003), WA Lynn (2000)
2000	Emilio Bouza	R Alonso (2003), E Cercenado (2003), P Muñoz (2003)
2001		BA Cunha (2003), F Daschner (2003), H Lode (2003), F Paradisi (2003)
2003		J Aguado (2003), AH Groll (2003), JL Mainardi (2003), D Raoult (2003), MJ Struelens (2003), A van Belkum
2004	Kevin Towner	CE Nord (2007) as Supplements Editor, K Levi (2007) as Assistant Editor, F Allerberger, G Antonelli, P Appelbaum (2006), S Brisse (2004), D Brown, M Clementi, E Collatz, V Fussing (2006), H Humphreys, P Huovinen, D Jonas, G Kahlmeter (2006), K Klugman (2005), E Roilides, E Rubinstein (2004), P Savelkoul, H Seifert, F Soriano, PT Tassios, J Threlfall (2004), J Van Eldere, J Vila
2005		M Cavling Arendrup, P Goubau, M Ieven, F Mascart, F Mégraud, J Raymond
2006		P Brouqui, R Canton, D Mack, L Vieira Peixe, L Poirel, T Riley (2006), P Sandven, A Sundsfjord, E Tacconelli, T Walsh (2006)
2007		C Bailey as Editorial Assistant, P Arendrup, P Gerner-Smidt, JL Mainardi, H Palmer

**Table 2:** *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*: the Official organ of the Society  
Dates of retirement in parenthesis after editor's names unless otherwise indicated

The name of the scientific journal and the covers have changed over the years from the EJCM era to 2007.



From left to right:  
David Speller, Co-editor of *CMI* from 1995–1998

Emilio Bouza, *CMI* Editor-in-Chief from 2000–2003

Kevin Towner, *CMI* Editor-in-Chief from 2004–present

Judith Crane, *CMI* Editorial Assistant 1995–1996, *CMI* Editorial Managing Consultant 1996–2001, *CMI* Managing Editor 2001–present

was the ESCMID website. The first version, produced by Birgit and Achim Menzemer under the eye of Niels Høiby, became available in 1999, covering information about the Society's activities, and an essential source for members and non-members alike – www.escmid.org. This was replaced by a system designed by Peter Schoch in 2000. This website in turn will be replaced in 2008, when a major relaunch with additional material and functions will be made. The ephemeral nature of websites has led to pleas from the Archivist for snapshots of the system to be taken from time to time, and retained so that its evolution can be studied and documented.

The Society completed its initial organizational objectives by recognizing the *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology* as its official organ. The Journal first appeared, as a bimonthly publication, in February 1982, before the Society existed, with Ilja Braveny as Editor-in-Chief and with several members of the eventual Executive Committee as editors or members of the large editorial board. It had a foreword by Max Finland, and then many of the elements that became standard – including, in addition to conventional contents, a report on an automated antibiotic susceptibility testing (AST) system from a European collaborative committee (the precursor of Society Study Group reports), and a collection of papers on *Gardnerella vaginalis* under the heading “Current Topic” with a guest editor, in all but name a supplement, commendably “subjected to the same selection procedure as regularly submitted papers”. The Journal became a monthly publication in 1989. Eventually the anomaly of the Society's not owning the title and not being able to influence its management or content became apparent. The publisher was adamant that the authority must rest with Ilja Braveny specifi-

cally, and he remained Editor until his tragic death in 2007. Despite prolonged discussions (evidence of which is held in the archives), no resolution of the dilemma emerged, and this finally led the Society to produce its own journal, *Clinical Microbiology and Infection (CMI)* in 1995, with the somewhat unwilling consent of the members. Its evolution is summarized in Table 2. The first Editor-in-Chief was Jacques Acar with David Speller as Co-editor, supported by 17 Associate Editors and a large International Advisory Board. Judith Crane was appointed as Editorial Assistant, soon to be promoted to Editorial Managing Consultant. The first publisher was Brian Decker who, after running a not entirely successful office in Paris, eventually opened a highly valued office under Vivienne Oakes in London. The first issue established the pattern for the next few years with reviews, original articles (including brief technical reports), letters and general rather than Society-specific news. It also included exemplary continuing education articles, commissioned by David Speller, the first of them on glycopeptide resistance, sadly not to be continued in the early format, possibly because of the considerable labour involved. Finally, the first volume included an independently edited supplement, and these continued to be produced. From 1997 the abstracts of the ECCMID were published as a supplement to *CMI*. The Society now owned its official organ and was in a position to deliver what the EC asked for. It has to be said that the early days were not easy as we struggled with increasing demands for publication of papers, responding by what seemed like eternal reorganization. For volume 3 in 1997, the editorial arrangements changed in response to this greater rate of submission of papers and six issues were published. At the same time the *CMI* Execu-

utive Committee was founded with Ian Phillips as its chairman. This eventually became the ESCMID Publications Committee currently chaired by the Past President. Volume 4 (1998) consisted of monthly publications, and this rapid transition called for yet another editorial reorganization, still under Jacques Acar. *CMI* volume 4, number 12 was dedicated to David Speller in recognition of his particularly valued services when he left the Journal at the end of 1998. During 1997, in addition to monthly issues we published four supplements including the abstracts for the 8th ECCMID in Lausanne.

During Jacques Acar's editorship, we struggled for recognition, both by our members and by the international community. Judith Crane was instrumental in keeping our achievements before those who list world scientific literature and award the dreaded impact factors. For example, in January 2000 she wrote to the Director of the NIH drawing his attention to the apparent lack of consistency in the assessment of applications for *Index Medicus* listing and to the responsibility borne by an American institution working on behalf of the international scientific community. The letter drew an immediate response and *CMI* was given immediate re-review instead of having to wait for a further four years. Indexing in *Current Contents* and several other lists was announced in April 2000, and listing in the all-important *MEDLINE/Index Medicus* in July 2000. This listing covered issues of *CMI* from the beginning in 1995. The progress of impact factors is shown in Figure 1. Jacques Acar's last issue as Editor-in-Chief was volume 6 number 5 in May 2000.

Emilio Bouza became Editor-in-Chief from June 2000, and with three Deputy Editors, Roberto Alonso, Emilia Cercenado and Patricia Muñoz, as-

sisted by Rocio Fernández as Editorial Assistant, set up his office in Madrid. He also was supported by the Paris office run by Judith Crane, who was now given the title Managing Editor. Blackwell Science (from 2001 Blackwell Publishing), with offices in Oxford, came ahead of considerable competition and took over as Publishers. Clearly, the Journal relied more and more on new communication technology to co-ordinate these far-flung functions, and perhaps the stability of the new editorial arrangements was a measure of the success of this. The possibility of introducing ScholarOne as a management system for the editorial process from receipt of manuscript to the creation of a full edited paper was first discussed at a meeting of the ESCMID Publications Committee in June 2001. It was introduced in 2003.

Kevin Towner took up the role of Editor-in-Chief-elect for the July issue of 2003 along with Carl Erik Nord as Supplements Editor and Katrina Levi as an Editorial Assistant, as papers continued to flow in. Volume 9 had almost 1300 pages as efforts were made to clear backlogs of accepted manuscripts. From the beginning of 2004 he partitioned editorial work among 27 Editors. At the same time the large International Advisory Board was replaced by a much smaller Publications Advisory Board whose responsibilities included all aspects of the Society's publications. This group has continued to meet regularly. By this time *CMI* had, according to membership polls, become one of the most valued aspects of Society membership, passing the critical 3-point stage in impact factor in 2006. The advent of on-line submission of papers occurred in 2003 and on-line early publication came early in 2004. In response to the movement towards universal open access to publications, from 2005 the publisher made available, at no cost, the previous volumes except the two most recent ones on the internet and from mid 2006 authors had the option to make their papers immediately available on the net – for a not inconsiderable fee!

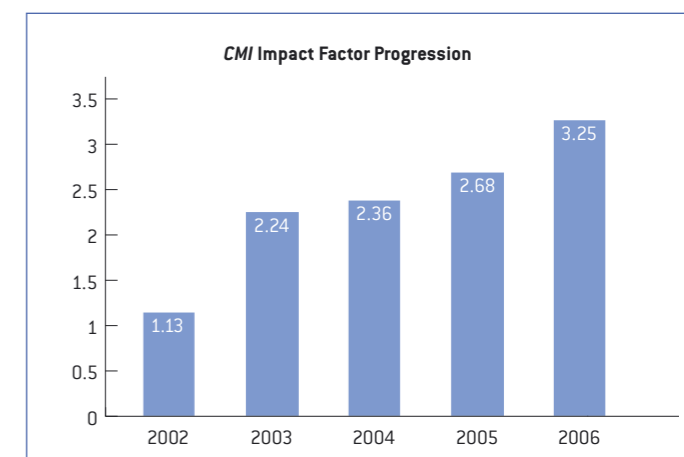


Figure 1. *CMI* Impact Factor

# Management and Finance

The first meetings of the EC were supported by funds from Ciba-Geigy and Bristol Myers, and the Society started off its own funding with the transfer of USD 20,000 (DM 51,922) from the Italian Society of Clinical Microbiology, from the profits of the first ECCM. From the earliest times the Society was largely managed by the Executive Committee with the essential help of Birgit Menzemer. The problems of maintaining the charitable status of the Society caused particular concern, and the status was actually lost for a time, with the resulting threat of unexpected tax bills. Conflicting advice and conflicting views led to suitable arrangements not being made. The idea of creating a GmbH was rejected in 1994. Eventually, in 1997, Michel Glauser persuaded his somewhat unwilling colleagues that an independent organization should be responsible for the Society's business affairs, including organizing the non-scientific aspects of congresses. After their successful organization of the Lausanne ECCMID in 1997, a proposal was received to this effect from Kurt Hädener and Heinz Lindenmann of the congress organizers AKM in Basel, and this was accepted. In 1999 the ESCMID Executive Office was established as business unit of AKM with Peter Schoch as Managing Director. The office personnel are fully dedicated to ESCMID and accountable to the EC for their business actions. The Basel office grew continuously and has now six staff members: Peter Schoch as Managing Director, Barbara Siegrist responsible for Secretariat and Finances, Dianne White for Publications, Karin Werner for Professional Affairs and Public Relations, Henri Saenz for Educa-

tion and Scientific Affairs, and Marie-Claude Jemoli, followed in November 2007 by Loredana Merlini, for the ECCMID Secretariat and Meeting Organization. Birgit Menzemer continues to run the Munich office and provide membership services. In 1998 AKM successfully appointed Thomas Koeb who became Project Manager for ECCMID as of 11th ECCMID 2001 in Istanbul. It is now generally agreed that the arrangement with AKM is an admirable one, and Michel Glauser is to be congratulated on his foresight and persistence.

In 2003 new contracts with AKM took effect. A service contract covers the provision of infrastructure and personnel for the ESCMID Executive Office; a congress organization contract stipulates the role of AKM and ESCMID in organizing the scientific part of our annual congresses, and a licensing contract warrants AKM the right to run a commercial exhibition and sponsoring activities at ECCMIDs. These contracts are optimized to



Birgit Menzemer has provided various services for the Society since 1984. Since 2000 she is in charge of membership.



ESCMID Executive Office staff (l. to r.: Dianne White, Karin Werner, Peter Schoch, Loredana Merlini, Henri Saenz, Barbara Siegrist)



Poster walk at the 14th ECCMID 2004 in Prague. Poster walks were first introduced at the ECCMID Glasgow 2003.



Emilo Bouza and David Denning at the 5th PGEC in Segovia, Spain

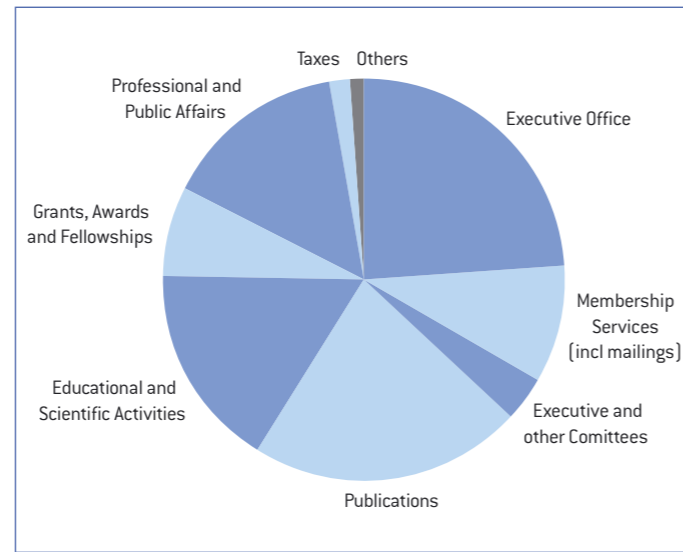


Exhibition at the 17th ECCMID / 25th ICC in Munich

secure ESCMID's status of a tax privileged organization.

The growth of ESCM and ESCMID during the 25 years since its foundation is also reflected by its financial key figures. Table 3 shows the annual income, expenses, surplus or loss, and the total assets of the balance sheet. The figures are proof of prudent finance management without jeopardizing the Society at any time warranting sufficient reserves that would allow the Society to survive even under the most unpleasant situation of two years without income.

Where does ESCMID spend its money? Figure 2 shows that the use of ESCMID's resources is in compliance with its mission to support science and education and advance the professions of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.



**Figure 2.** Where does ESCMID spend its money? The chart shows spending at the time of the 25th anniversary; an average of the actual and planned expenditures in 2007 and 2008, respectively, is given.

Year	Income DM	Expenses DM	Surplus DM	Total Assets* DM
1983	33 282	21 885	11 397	11 397
1984	105 838	53 052	52 786	64 183
1985	53 489	45 902	7 587	71 770
1986	161 074	84 407	76 667	1 48 437
1987	126 610	221 347	-94 737	53 700
1988	325 977	181 297	1 44 680	331 485
1989	738 098	398 981	339 117	554 644
1990	509 887	453 780	56 107	577 365
1991	290 881	388 431	-97 550	811 713
1992	1 158 082	561 397	596 685	1 389 632
1993	980 174	600 807	379 367	1 763 196
1994	395 869	425 493	-29 622	1 690 964
1995	664 817	752 672	87 855	1 726 774
1996	1 289 626	809 658	479 968	2 232 755
1997	1 652 324	1 286 362	365 962	2 882 766
1998	716 458	1 152 177	-435 719	2 490 116
1999	1 475 180	1 663 490	-188 310	2 238 086
2000	1 516 633	1 469 027	47 605	2 014 793
2001	1 723 941	1 341 361	382 580	2 627 146
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
2002	607 669	852 970	245 299	1 075 165
2003	725 963	656 907	69 056	1 139 436
2004	1 853 002	973 112	879 890	2 106 162
2005	1 382 097	756 935	625 163	2 772 063
2006	2 668 326	968 596	1 699 730	4 470 027

**Table 3.** Annual loss- and profit accounts and total assets amounts of the balance sheet for the years 1983–2006

\* For the early years (1983–87) this corresponds to the bank assets of ESCMID, later to the balance sheet total.

## Education



Patrick Francioli, first Programme Director from 1998–2006



Andreas Voss, Programme Director from 2006–present



Pierre Dellamonica, Congress President of the 16th ECCMID 2006 in Nice

The first scientific meeting of the Society, the European Congress on Clinical Microbiology (ECCM) was held in Bologna in 1983, under the presidency of Arturo Visconti and with Mark Casewell as Scientific Secretary. The EC acted as the organizing and scientific committee and worked alongside a local committee of the Italian Society of Clinical Microbiology, whose meeting this originally was. Thanks to Birgit Menzemer, we hold a virtually complete collection of the programmes of the first and all subsequent ECsCMID, more usually referred to as ECCMIDs. Information on ECCMs and subsequent ECCMIDs is given in Table 4. Initially, meetings took place every two years, but from 1999 they became annual. The decision to make this change was a difficult one since other European organizations felt that their meetings were threatened. In reading through ephemeral material that could not be kept, I was particularly entertained by occasional insights into the problems of organizing our meetings, particularly be-

fore there was a permanent organizing group. Tom Bergan, as President of the Oslo Congress, takes my prize in thanking an aggrieved attendee for a “rather rancid letter”! With the change to annual congresses came proposals for collaboration with other European organizations such as the Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) and the European Society of Chemotherapy (ESC). Joint sessions with FEMS during ECCMIDs have often been held. The annual meeting of 2007 was a joint venture by ESCMID and the International Society of Chemotherapy (ISC). In addition there has been collaboration with the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) with joint symposia at the respective congresses on both sides of the Atlantic. In 1998, the Society, once again persuaded by Michel Glauser, created the post of ECCMID Programme Director to ensure the continuity of the format and content of our Congress, and Patrick Francioli was given and

Year	Date	Congress	Venue	President	Participants	Abstracts Received	Exhibition*
1983	20 – 21 Oct	1st ECCM	Bologna	Arturo Visconti	850	275	–
1985	1 – 5 Sep	2nd ECCM	Brighton	David Williams	1150	–	–
1987	11 – 14 May	3rd ECCM	The Hague	Jan Verhoef	1450	650	–
1989	17 – 20 Apr	4th ECCM	Nice	Jacques Acar	3600	1400	–
1991	9 – 11 Sep	5th ECCMID	Oslo	Tom Bergan	2400	1200	2400/57
1993	28 – 31 Mar	6th ECCMID	Sevilla	Evelio Perea	3200	1400	4500/48
1995	26 – 30 Mar	7th ECCMID	Vienna	Hannes Pichler	5800	1800	3500/44
1997	25 – 28 May	8th ECCMID	Lausanne	Michel Glauser	5700	1768	2500/70
1999	21 – 24 May	9th ECCMID	Berlin	Hartmut Lode	5000	1540	2000/72
2000	28 – 31 May	10th ECCMID	Stockholm	Ragnar Norrby	4000	1318	2000
2001	1 – 4 Apr	11th ECCMID	Istanbul	Özdem Ang	4600	1667	1700
2002	24 – 27 Apr	12th ECCMID	Milan	Gian Carlo Schito	4600	1651	1504/49
2003	10 – 13 May	13th ECCMID	Glasgow	Ian Gould	3800	1735	1558/53
2004	1 – 4 May	14th ECCMID	Prague	Jarmila Jelinkova	5500	2644	1707/57
2005	2 – 5 Apr	15th ECCMID	Copenhagen	Niels Hoiby	5400	2419	1788/80
2006	1 – 4 Apr	16th ECCMID	Nice	Pierre Dellamonica	6128	2560	2106/80
2007	31 Mar – 3 Apr	17th ECCMID 25th ICC	Munich	Bernhard Ruf	6389	2915	2511/101
2008	19 – 22 Apr	18th ECCMID	Barcelona	Fernando Baquero	8000**	3655	2800**/120**

**Table 4.** The Society's European Congresses 1983–2008

\* square metres / number of exhibitors, \*\* estimated figure, – figure unavailable

succeeded in that role, ably assisted by a strong Programme Committee. The pattern of oral and poster presentations, as well as the inclusion of educational workshops for younger members of the Society, is now well established, and the stability that has resulted from centralization of organization has been welcomed. From the beginning, industry sponsorship was vital to ECCMIDs, and the Society gratefully acknowledges that support. At every congress there has been an opportunity for industry to contribute science and education in relation to its own products as well as advertisement of the same on stands in an exhibition area.

The Society's first formal training courses for microbiologist and infectious diseases trainees were held in Oslo during the ECCMID there, and have continued in association with subsequent congresses. An alternative was free-standing courses lasting several days, the first of which was held in Trabzon, Turkey, with Halit Özsüt leading the local and then the general organization. Its arrangement of teachers and taught being together for much of the time, and of culture interspersed with education, was very successful, although new to

most of the participants. The organization of such courses directed at trainees was a major objective of Ian Phillips during his presidency. The commitment to education may be said to have blossomed during the past twenty-one years. The Postgraduate Education Courses have now reached number 50 delivered or planned: many are now organized by ESCMID Study Groups or by affiliated societies. They have included several excellent "hands-on" practical courses, in Majorca, Warsaw and Oeiras. To them has been added the successful annual ESCMID Summer School, the brainchild of Claude Carbon, who, sadly, was unable to achieve the university links that he initially envisaged. These educational activities and those included in ECCMIDs (Meet-the-Expert Sessions and Educational Workshops) are now the responsibility of the EC member designated as Education Officer. To the list must also be added a burgeoning series of free-standing Symposia organized by members of the EC, by Study Groups, and by independent bodies and individuals given the cachet (and sometimes the cash) of the Society. The archives contain programmes for most of these. More recently a series of ESCMID Conferences on specific scientific

topics – beta-lactamases, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, multi-drug resistance in Gram-positives and haemorrhagic fever to date – have started under the eye of the Scientific Affairs Officer, and annual ESCMID-FEMS Conferences, the first on *Escherichia coli*, the second on mycobacterial infections, and the third on *Streptococcus pneumoniae* have now been held. Overall there has been a move towards greater central accountability for scientific meetings which are the responsibility of the EC members designated as Scientific Affairs Officer, Education Officer and ECCMID Programme Director.

The idea for postgraduate course attendance grants was discussed by the first EC, and for all of the educational activities outlined above, ESCMID has provided direct financial support to young participants who are still in training, with precedence given to those who are members of the Society.



The second ESCMID School held in Utrecht, the Netherlands reflecting the local character of the setting



From left to right:  
Meeting of ESCMID delegates with the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences in December 2002, collaboration initiated by Roger Finch [3rd f. l.] and the late Leonid Stratchounski [4th f. r.]

Jarmila Jelinkova, ECCMID President in 2004, being thanked for a job well done

# Research

The promotion of research as a core activity of the Society also had early origins. Katherine Dornbusch's proposal in 1985 that the Society should associate itself with her existing international study of antibiotic resistance gave rise to the idea of Study Groups and Working Parties, strongly supported by Jacques Acar during his presidency. Katherine's Group became successively ISGAR, ISGAR-ESCM, and finally ESGAR and finished its work in 1989, but the next group to be founded in 1986 by Carl Erik Nord and Ian Phillips, on antimicrobial resistance in anaerobic bacteria (ESGAB, EARSS (sic) and then ESGARAB), became effectively permanent, as did that on antibiotic breakpoints (also confusingly ESGAB), formed under the chairmanship of Ian Phillips, in eventually broadening its range to include antibiotic susceptibility testing and eventually becoming the permanent European Committee on Antibiotic

Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST). Derek Brown acted as Scientific Secretary to EUCAST throughout. Although the committee made considerable progress towards establishing the comparability of the several methods of susceptibility testing used in Europe, it fell to Gunnar Kahlmeter, who took over as Chairman in 2001, to use his own work on basal populations and the concept of epidemiological breakpoints, to persuade national organizations to accept greater responsibility for the Committee. A major impetus for EUCAST was their success in gaining EU funding, and thus independence of industry funding, generally held to be a desirable development on the "Caesar's Wife" principle.

In general Study Groups have been stable, though some have gone through periods of dormancy and a few have gone out of existence. A full list of them (one hopes) is given in Table 5. It is difficult to reconstruct the earlier history of Work-

ing Parties and Study Groups since, as Michel Glauser found in 1994, none had Statutes, few had clearly stated aims, and most did not report to the EC on their activities. Guidelines on requirements were published in the Newsletter in 1997, when there were 10 active groups (one difference between the two types was expected to be a limited single objective based lifetime for Working Parties and semi-permanence for Study Groups). Ten years later, there were 16 active groups, administered by Henri Saenz recruited in 2006 as Science and Education Manager in the Executive Office.

The study groups' main objective was to bring together researchers to collaborate in multi-centre studies, to address scientific issues in position papers or practice guidelines and to mount educational meetings. Their activities were finally to become the responsibility of a member of the EC designated as Scientific Affairs Officer who also supervised

arrangements for symposia organized by Study Groups and others (*vide supra*). As ever, the involvement of industry was important, but moves towards additional funding by the EU were strongly supported. These moves finally achieved fruition under the enthusiastic co-ordination of Marc Struelens, when ARPAC, a study of antibiotic resistance involving four Study Groups, received EU funding. A summary of its outcome is to be found in volume 11 of *CMI*. The Society also received EU funding for its participation in a study of lower respiratory tract infection, GRACE. Roger Finch co-chaired the group responsible for the Work Package on education and dissemination of results. We are currently trying to build up a satisfactory archive describing the activities of the groups.



Derek Brown, acting Scientific Secretary to EUCAST since its initiation

Acronym	Chair	Full title (start date)
EFISG	Denning, Cuenca-Estrella	ESCMID Fungal Infection Study Group (2001)
EFWISG	Kerr	ESCMID Food- and Water-borne Infection Study Group (2007)
EHS	Mégraud, Rokkas, Wadström, Andersen, Kuipers	European <i>Helicobacter</i> Study Group (1995)
EMESG	Leib	ESCMID Meningitis Study Group (2007)
ENSEI	Carbon, Moreillon	European Network for the Study of Experimental Infections (1991-2002)
ESCAR (EUWOG)	Raoult, Stein, Oteo, Brouqui	ESCMID Working Group for <i>Coxiella</i> , <i>Anaplasma</i> , <i>Rickettsia</i> and <i>Bartonella</i> (later Study Group)
ESGAB	Phillips	European Study Group on Antibiotic Breakpoints (1988, became EUCAST in 1997)
ESGAP	van der Meer, Gould, Gyssens	ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies (1998)
ESGAR	Dornbusch	European Study Group on Antibiotic Resistance (1986-1989)
ESGARAB (ESGAB, EARSS, ESGARA)	Phillips, Nord	ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance in Anaerobic Bacteria (1986)
ESGARS	Fontana, Baquero	ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (1999)
ESGB	Høiby	ESCMID Study Group for Biofilms (2005)
ESGCD	Brazier, Poxton	ESCMID Study Group for <i>Clostridium difficile</i> (2000)
ESGCI (ESGBE)	Francioli	European Study Group on Cardiovascular Infections (1995-2004)
ESGCP	Evengard	ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (2007, originally ESGT)
ESGEM	Struelens, Dijkshoorn, van Belkum, Tassios, Haeggman	ESCMID Study Group for Epidemiological Markers (1995)
ESGMD	Altwegg, Ieven	ESCMID Study Group for Molecular Diagnostics (1995)
ESGNI	Mehtar, Bouza, Voss, Únal, Gordts	ESCMID Study Group for Nosocomial Infections (originally Hospital Infection)
ESGT	Evengard	ESCMID Study Group on Toxoplasmosis (2003-2007, became ESGCP in 2007)
ESGVH	Salmon	ESCMID Study Group for Viral Hepatitis (2007)
ESPRIT	Verheij	ESCMID Study Group for Primary Care Topics (2005)
EUCAST	Phillips, Kahlmeter	European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (1997)
EWPICP	Klasteriski	European Working Party on Infections in Cancer Patients (1995-1999)
	Norrby	European Working Party on European Guidelines for the Clinical Evaluation of Anti-infective Drug Products (1990-1993)

**Table 5.** ESCMID Study Groups and Working Parties\*  
\*Until 2004, Chairmen of Study Groups were members of the European Council

Gunnar Kahlmeter, EUCAST Chairman since 2001, giving a lecture at the 14th ECCMID in Prague



# Awards, Grants and Fellowships

Since 1997, the Society has presented an award to an individual in recognition of professional or scientific achievements in the field of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. The recipients of this senior Excellence Award are listed in Table 6. The Young Investigator Award is made each year to one or two young scientists on the basis of outstanding research achievements (Table 6). Until 2007 up to five Research Fellowships were provided to young ESCMID members per year at the annual Assembly of Members; in 2008 they were replaced by much more generous Research Grants. Also in 2008 Training Fellowships were established to promote mobility of young ESCMID members seeking training abroad. Occasionally, ESCMID cooperated with companies to give grants or awards, e.g. the AstraZeneca / ESCMID Grant for Research on Antibiotic Resistance (2003, 2004 and 2005) and the ESCMID and bioMérieux Award for Advances in Clinical Microbiology (2005 - ). In addition, ESCMID provides travel support to

young ESCMID members for short training periods in foreign institutions. The Awards, Grants and Fellowships programme is under the responsibility of the Past President. It is gratifying that so much human effort has been expended on education by large numbers of more senior members of the Society. Regular audits show how much these efforts have been appreciated by participants.



Elisabeth Nagy presenting the Young Investigator Award to Mihai Netea in 2005



In 2006 ESCMID gave support to over 230 individuals for attending ECCMID, courses and conferences as well as foreign laboratory stays. Since then ESCMID has increased funding to support young scientists. The picture shows Efstathios Giotis who received funding for training in a foreign laboratory.

Year	Excellence in CM and ID	Young Investigator	Research Fellows*
1997	R van Furth	A Telenti	G Funke, C Goldsmith, J Kerr, R Reinert, P Verweij, K Trzcinski, J Vranes
1999	G Daikos, W Marget	A van Belkum	I Adamsson, F Boswell, P Grecka, A Markotic, A Norrby-Teglund
2000	C O Solberg	P Muñoz, U Römling	J Helweg-Larsen, F-J Schmitz, PT Tassios
2001	P Courvalin	D Dockrell, S Sriskandan	I Abbate, S Ascioğlu, CM Brandt, EJ Giamarellos-Bourboulis, J Meletiadis, D Szabó
2002	D Raoult	CH Bantel, MC Enright	CD Törömküney Akbulut, A Mazzariol, CS Mesnage, CD Morrison, E Ružii Sablji
2003	AM Geddes	F-J Schmitz	H Uhlig, M Rupnik, J Söki
2004	J-P Butzler	A Loregian, M Lecuit	R Sleanor (ESCMID-FEMS), J-D Docquier, L Poirel
2005	F Baquero	M Netea, E Tacconelli, A Whitehouse	P Cravo, R McMullan, A Warris (ESCMID-FEMS), J Söki
2006	R Leclercq	G Greub, S Harbarth	S Kasiakou, R Klont, S Malhotra-Kumar (ESCMID-FEMS)
2007	ER Moxon	S Blot, C Steininger	I Bekeredjian-Ding, P Cotter (ESCMID-FEMS), LJ Koumbi, RG Özkaya Sahin, M Ramaswamy
2008	P Huovinen	W Hope, S Brisse	F Breinig, AC van de Pol, M Sundqvist, A Vergison, W van Schaik, RM Anthony, G Canny, L Pallecchi, M Begley, M Hallin, P Tattevin, C Imbert, S Pournaras

**Table 6.** ESCMID awards and fellowships  
\* Starting in 2008 research fellowships were replaced by more generous research grants.

The AstraZeneca / ESCMID Grant for Research on Antibiotic Resistance was awarded to P. Nordmann and J.M. Pagès in 2002, to Alex van Belkum in 2003, to Michael Niederweis in 2004 and to Irma Bakker-Woudenberg in 2005. The ESCMID and bioMérieux Award for Advances in Clinical Microbiology in Central and Eastern Europe were first awarded in 2005 to Roman Kozlov, to Maja Rupnik (2006) to Anna Skoczynska (2007) and to Ivan Ivanov (2008).

## ESCMID Excellence Awardees from 2000 – present



Claus Ola Solberg, 2000



Patrice Courvalin, 2001



Didier Raoult, 2002



Carl Erik Nord presents the Young Investigator Awards to Ute Römling (middle) and Patricia Muñoz in 2001



Alasdair McIntosh Geddes, 2003



Jean Paul Butzler, 2004



Fernando Baquero Mochales, 2005



Roger Finch presenting the Young Investigator Award to Evelina Tacconelli in 2005



Roland Leclercq, 2006



E. Richard Moxton, 2007



Pentti Huovinen, 2008

## Clinical and Laboratory Practice

The setting up of arrangements for the governance of Professional Affairs had a long gestation, largely because other organizations at local and national levels were intrinsically involved, and because of the considerable diversity of national arrangements. In Clinical Microbiology the Society has a major interest in training, certification, continuing education, standards of practice, and mobility. There was a European body, the European Council for Laboratory Medicine, to whose meetings our Professional Affairs (Clinical Microbiology) EC member, initially Niels Højby, was soon invited. Unfortunately, the Council became defunct. From our point of view it is generally thought of as an impediment that within the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), Clinical Microbiology is subservient to a Biopathology “specialty” and that in some countries polyvalent clinical pathology is still practised. But through our observer status to the UEMS our voice is at least heard there. It was thus only natural that ESCMID supported the initiative by some countries to propose the foundation of an independent Section of Clinical Microbiology within UEMS, a proposal which has a good chance of being approved. In relation to Infectious Diseases we have a similar interest in education, training and practice, but have been disadvantaged by a lack of its recognition as a specialty in some European countries. Our hopes that the UEMS might rapidly progress towards European harmonization of clinical practice appear not to have been fulfilled. The Society, particularly during the presidencies of Roger Finch and Marc Struelens, has at least made a great effort to set out its hopes and expectations in two meetings on professional affairs, reported on in two publications – *Meeting the Challenges in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (CMI 2000, 6, 401-452)* and *Progress towards Meeting the Challenges in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (CMI 2005, 11, suppl 1)*. Over the years there has

been increasing recognition that our trainees in laboratory, public health or clinical disciplines, might benefit from integrated training courses. Clearly it would be an advantage for each of them at least to understand rather more of the other discipline if not to practice them with full assurance. The old apprenticeship systems in which some of us older members were trained, did provide such experience and thus insight, but are no longer possible in an increasingly regulating environment. One can only encourage our representatives not to lose heart in achieving a satisfactory environment for our disciplines. There have been hard fought successes in our relations with outside bodies. Marc Struelens led a Society EU Task Force, working from 2002 to 2006, which identified useful areas of contact with the EU, and, most importantly, acted on its findings. An example of a success is the recognition of the reformed EUCAST chaired by Gunnar Kahlmeter, working closely with national organizations, as having an important role in antibiotic registration by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA). Sadly, attempts to establish similar relationships with the European Standards Organisation, as the European authority potentially standardising the conduct and interpretation of antibiotic susceptibility testing for example, or with the EU body responsible for licensing in vitro diagnostic medical devices, appear not to have borne fruit. In 2006, Karin Werner was appointed Professional Affairs and Public Relations Manager to support the Officers responsible for Professional Affairs in the Executive Office.

## The Present

As I write, in 2007, the ESCMID is a mature scientific and professional society that has achieved many of the goals of the founding committee, though not without travail! The organization, directed from our offices in Basel, with the branch in Munich, is well suited to us, and, more importantly, works well. We would benefit from a diminution of the interest of fiscal authorities in our affairs, and an acceptance that all our activities have a charitable end, but this is perhaps too much to ask of them. Our educational, research and professional activities are well founded. Finally, we have been able to recruit a horde of dedicated members to offices great and small which are so vital to our success. We have every hope that our 25th birthday will only be the first milestone (or should I say kilometre stone?) that we celebrate.

## Acknowledgement

“I am particularly grateful to Birgit Menzemer and Peter Schoch for their unfailing willingness to help in the production of this History, and to those members of the Society who read and commented on drafts. Errors may be blamed on the Archivist.”

Ian Phillips, Author, Archivist



The 25-year anniversary of ESCMID will be commemorated at the 1st European Day of Fighting Infection in Barcelona, Spain on 23 April 2008.