



ESGCD

ESCMID STUDY GROUP
FOR CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



Newsletter Spring 2026

Message from the Study group Executive Committee

Dear colleagues, friends and ESGCD study group members,
Spring is in the air, and that can only mean one thing...the count-down to ESCMID Global 2026!
See further down for details of the study group business meeting and sessions at ESCMID Global to look out for. The elections for study group Exec have now closed, we should hear the results soon, with the new Exec taking up their posts at ESCMID Global.

Please remember that we are keen to support research projects, and that the membership can be leveraged to answer some pertinent questions. If you have a project/research question that you think the membership can help with, please get in touch.

As always, if you have any items for inclusion in our next newsletter or ideas for future study group activities, please email Dr Wiep Klaas Smits, Educational Officer; W.K.Smits@lumc.nl. This really is your study group! We really do want to hear your suggestions and ideas please don't be shy!

Please make sure you keep us up to date of any upcoming projects that you think the committee can help advise on, and please check out our ESCMID SG webpage [ESCMID: ESGCD](#), and our LinkedIn page <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13099388/> for updates and networking. We've also added some new guidance on our webpage on how to apply for sponsorship for meetings relevant to the study group.

With our very best wishes, and with hopes to see you all at ESCMID Global in Munich!

Kerrie Davies – (UK) – Chair,
Erik Dubberke (US) – Secretary,
John Coia- (DK) – Treasurer,
Benoit Guery – (Switzerland) - Science officer,
Wiep Klaas Smits– (NL) - Education officer,
John Heritage – (UK) – Patient Representative,
Andrea Marino- (Italy) – TAE Young Science Rep.



Recent publications

We are always interested in publications and research activities of our members, so please let us know when your *C. difficile*-related articles are published. When publishing your research, we would ask that you **add your ESGCD affiliation** to relevant papers that you submit. This helps highlight the impact of our study group to a wider audience. Unfortunately, although the two papers below do include ESGCD members, they cannot be counted in our end of year report, as papers must have three members from two different countries, so its always good to think about those collaborations early!

1. [How to set up and manage a microbiome research facility](#) Henderickx JGE, Smits WK, Zeller GF, Kuijper EJ. Clin Microbiol Infect. 2026 Feb 14:S1198-743X(26)00065-0. doi: 0.1016/j.cmi.2026.02.007. Online ahead of print. PMID: 41698463
2. [Current practices to reduce the risk of transmission of *Clostridioides difficile* in France: results of a national survey - PubMed](#) Khanafer N, Venier AG, Nasso R, Baroux R, Vanhems P. Anaerobe. 2025 ec;96:103004. doi: 10.1016/j.anaerobe.2025.103004. Epub 2025 Oct 9. PMID: 41067311
3. Current challenges in real-world management of *Clostridioides difficile* infection. Clin Microbiol Infect 2026 32 3:347-349. doi: 10.1016/j.cmi.2025.12.012
4. Patient satisfaction with infection prevention and control interventions in acute hospitals: a systematic review and meta-analysis Skally M, Kearney A, Strawbridge J, Heritage J, Cox C, Bennett KE, Humpreys H, Fitzpatrick F BMJ Open 2025;15:e103431. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2025-10343

News item

Strains belonging to PCR ribotype 181 have been associated with outbreaks in for instance Greece (PMID: 35688364). These outbreak strains belong to 7-gene MLST type 1 (ST1, clade 2), to which also epidemic ribotypes like RT027 and RT176 belong. Genomic analyses suggest these are multidrug resistant, including possible heme-dependent metronidazole resistance. Recently, multiple European reference centres have noted that strains typed by capillary PCR ribotyping as RT181 can belong to two different ST's: ST1 (clade 2) and ST16 (clade 1; strains that are generally considered less virulent).

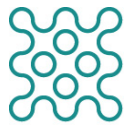
For laboratories using capillary PCR ribotyping as their main typing method, this suggests that a second line test (whole genome sequencing, or a qPCR approach aimed at identifying presumptive RT027/ST1 strains, for instance) may be needed to identify RT181/ST1 isolates.

In case of questions, feel free to reach out to w.k.smits@lumc.nl for further details.

Travel grants for ESCMID Global

Congratulations to the winners of our Xmas case presentations. They were all fantastic, and won funding towards travel and accommodation for ESCMID Global. Congratulations!

Winners



Saoirse Ni Bhaoill
Robyn Traynor

Runners up

Ian Lo
Klaudia Szarek

We were able to support 4 travel grants for ESCMID Global this year (over and above those already won during the Xmas case presentations in December). We look forward to seeing you all at the conference

Congratulations to

Ahmed Mostafa Abdrabou
Blair Merrick
Thanh Le
Diana Espadinha

ESCMID Global study group business meeting

As usual, we will be hosting a business meeting from the study group Exec at the ESCMID Global conference. This is a chance for you to come and meet us, and each other face-to-face, find out about the work of the committee and discuss issues you want to raise. We usually use the time to discuss potential talks for the following years conference, so get your thinking caps on!

Date and Time: Saturday, 18.04.2026, 11:00-12:00

Room name: Room ICM 3

ESCMID Global *C. difficile* sessions

There is always lots to see at the conference, but look out for the two *C. diff* sessions organised by the study group

19th April 13:30-14:30 CET Hall ICM1

05. New antibacterial agents, PK/PD & Stewardship

Novel therapeutics for *C. difficile* infection

Organised by ESCMID Study Group for *Clostridioides difficile* (ESGCD)

Clostridioides difficile infection (CDI) is a toxin-based disease. Anti-toxin approaches have been demonstrated to be effective at preventing CDI / recurrent CDI (rCDI), but effective vaccines remain elusive. Vancomycin is highly efficacious at treating active CDI but leads to a high incidence of rCDI due to microbiome disruptions it causes. Several narrow spectrum antibiotics that preserve the microbiome have not met study endpoints. Despite these failures, the CDI prevention and treatment pipeline remains robust. This session will highlight agents that are in various stages of preclinical and clinical development and examine how to avoid past failures.

21st April 13:30-14:30 Hall A1-4

08. Healthcare-associated infections, infection prevention & control

One Health beyond AMR: the challenge of *Clostridioides difficile* infection control outside the hospital



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Organised by ESCMID Study Group for Clostridioides difficile (ESGCD), ESCMID Study Group for Veterinary Microbiology (ESGVM)

Clostridioides difficile infection (CDI) has been traditionally viewed through the lens of hospital-acquired infections. However, in recent years, the focus has moved outside this setting. Whole genome sequencing suggests that community and hospital *C. difficile* strains are genetically distinct. *C. difficile* has been isolated from a diverse array of reservoirs including food animals, seafood, vegetables, the household environment and the natural environment. The aim of this one-hour symposium is to review the epidemiology, diagnosis and management of CDI in the community through the One Health lens and propose interventions that cut across human health, animal health and the wider environment.

Where flowers bloom, so does hope

Lady Bird Johnson