



Dear ESGNTA members,

As we wrap up the year, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on what ESGNTA has accomplished since we first launched four years ago. Thanks to your energy and engagement, we have grown into one of ESCMID's most active study groups, reaching the top five once and remaining close in other years. Our workshops, conference sessions, and contributions to initiatives such as the ECUAST phage susceptibility testing subcommittee have helped build real momentum both within ESCMID and across the broader phage and non-traditional antibacterials community.

Reaching this four-year mark also means it is time to welcome **new colleagues** into the ESGNTA Executive Committee (EC). Under the updated ESCMID SOPs, an **early-career member or trainee** may now join the EC as an observer and play an active role in shaping the group's work. Because the EC will be partially renewed this cycle, we feel it is best for the newly elected EC to select this representative. **If any trainees or early-career members are interested, please let Gina or Ran know so we can pass along your name.**

Wishing all of you a warm holiday season, a happy New Year, and a fruitful 2026 ahead!

## 1. Upcoming Conferences

### 1.1 Postgraduate course Bacteriophage Therapy and Phage-Derived Proteins: Dual Strategies Against Antimicrobial Resistance and for Diagnostic Innovation

May 11-13, 2026

Tbilisi, Georgia



## FACULTY SPEAKERS

Country	Name	Affiliation
Georgia	Tamar Didbaridze	Tbilisi State Medical University
Georgia	Mzia Kutateladze	G.Eliava Institute of Bacteriophages, Microbiology and Virology
Georgia	Sophio Rigvava	G.Eliava Institute of Bacteriophages, Microbiology and Virology
Poland	Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa	University of Wroclaw
Poland	Krystyna Dąbrowska	Institute of Immunology and Experimental Therapy/ Wroclaw University of Science and Technology
Georgia	Dea Nizharadze	Eliava Phage Therapy Center
Georgia	Lia Nadareishvili	Eliava Phage Therapy Center
Georgia	Mariam Dadiani	Eliava Phage Therapy Center
Georgia	Nikoloz Vashakmadze	West Georgia Heart Centre
Canada	Greg German	St. Joseph's Hospital: Unity Health Toronto
Israel	Ran Nir-Paz	Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center
Italy	Alfonso Recordare	Dell' Angelo Hospital , Mestre-Venice
Belgium	Willem-Jan Metsemakers	University Hospitals Leuven
USA	Gina Suh	Mayo Clinic
France	Tristan Ferry	University of Lyon
Portugal	Joana Azeredo	University of Minho
Switzerland	Martin J. Loessner	ETH Zurich
Belgium	Yves Briers	Ghent University
Belgium	Rob Lavigne	KU Leuven
Sweden	Federico Iovino	Karolinska Institute

Stay tuned for registration info!

# 1.2 ESCMID Global

ESCMID global will be held in Munich, Germany April 17-21, 2026! This will be a very busy conference for ESGNTA. Stay tuned for information on a get-together!



Below are few of the session and you can find more on the ESCMID global site:

Co-organisers: ESCMID Study Group for Implant-associated Infections (ESGIAI), ESCMID Study Group for Non-traditional Antibacterial Therapy (ESGNTA)
Session type: 1-hour Symposium
<b>Session title: Bacteriophages in implant-related infections: translating a century-old concept into a modern solution for AMR</b>
Category: 8. Healthcare-associated infections, infection prevention & control
<b>Talk title: Bacteriophage therapy in cardiac and orthopaedic device-related infection</b>
Speaker: Tristan Ferry, Male, FR
<b>Talk title: Challenges and future directions of phagotherapy in multidrug-resistant implant infections</b>
Speaker: Rob Lavigne, Male, BE

Co-organisers: ESCMID Study Group for Non-traditional Antibacterial Therapy (ESGNTA)
Session type: 2-hour Symposium
<b>Session title: Cracking the phage code: from clinical insights to precision design</b>
Category: 5. New antibacterial agents, PK/PD & Stewardship
<b>Talk title: Phage therapy in cystic fibrosis patients: a randomised controlled trial</b>
Speaker: Robert Schooley, Male, US
<b>Talk title: Randomised controlled trials of phage therapy in diabetic foot ulcers</b>
Speaker: Ran Nir-Paz, Male, IL
<b>Talk title: Machine Learning based approach to predict bacteriophage hosts</b>
Speaker: Mette Voldby Larsen, Female, DK
<b>Talk title: Cell-free production of personalised therapeutic phages</b>
Speaker: Christina Ludwig, Female, DE

Co-organisers: ESCMID Study Group for Non-traditional Antibacterial Therapy (ESGNTA), EU-CAST Steering Committee
Session type: 1-hour Symposium
<b>Session title: The future of clinical phage susceptibility testing</b>
Category: 3. Bacterial susceptibility & resistance
<b>Talk title: Bacteriophage potency determinations: european pharmacopeia vs. real life</b>
Speaker: Pieter-Jan Ceysens, Male, BE
<b>Talk title: Current EUCAST phage susceptibility reference</b>
Speaker: Annika Claßen, Female, DE

Co-organisers: ESCMID Study Group for Biofilms (ESGB), ESCMID Study Group for Non-traditional Antibacterial Therapy (ESGNTA)
Session type: 2-hour Educational Session
<b>Session title: Strategies to tackle biofilm-associated infections</b>
Category: 9. Fundamental microbiology, pathogenesis & immunity to infection
<b>Talk title: Pathogenesis of biofilm-associated infections</b>
Speaker: Kimberly Kline, Female, CH
<b>Talk title: Bacterial regulatory networks influencing infection dynamics during polymicrobial infections</b>
Speaker: Katrin Schilcher, Female, AT
<b>Talk title: Molecular basis of tolerance and resistance in biofilms</b>
Speaker: Tom Coenye, Male, BE
<b>Talk title: Assessing <i>in vivo</i> anti-biofilm activity</b>
Speaker: Valerie Waters, Female, CA

Co-organisers: ESCMID Study Group for Mycobacterial Infections (ESGMYC), ESCMID Study Group for Non-traditional Antibacterial Therapy (ESGNTA)
Session type: 1-hour Symposium
<b>Session title: Innovations in the management of tuberculosis and non-tuberculous mycobacteria</b>
Category: 2. Bacterial infection & disease
<b>Talk title: New diagnostics for mycobacterial infection</b>
Speaker: Daniela Cirillo, Female, IT
<b>Talk title: Targeting TB and NTM infections with Phage-Derived Tools</b>
Speaker: Graham Hatfull, Male, US

## 1.3 VoM - Viruses of Microbes 2026

VoM 2026 is going to take place in Prague, Czech Republic 6 – 10 July, 2026. The clinical session will be ESGNTA-supported and will be in 2 consecutive days. The sessions will have 2 pre-selected speakers and the rest will be selected from submitted abstracts.

You can find more information here : <https://www.vom2026.org>

Early bird registration and hotel booking is now open!

## 2. G-CPR Events since our last newsletter

### Global Clinical Phage Rounds Session #24 (GCPR24)

July 28, 2025 Phage Therapy and Mycobacteria – Short Snapper

Speakers: Dr. Duncan Webster, Dr. William Connors, Dr. Greg German, Dr. Shahad Abu Hussien

### Global Clinical Phage Rounds Session #25 (GCPR25)

October 9, 2025 Ortho / Staph Quick Snappers Cases

Speakers: Dr. Hasan Bhally

### Global Clinical Phage Rounds Session #26 (GCPR26)

November 14, 2025 Pan Canadian Phage Therapy Forum

Facilitated by Dr. Greg German and Dr. Steffanie Strathdee and speakers from global phage community

If you are interested in joining the distribution list, please email [Gregory.German@unityhealth.to](mailto:Gregory.German@unityhealth.to) or sign up on [phagerounds.com](http://phagerounds.com)

## 3. Publications of ESGNTA Members

Don't forget to include the ESGNTA affiliation in your publication—every mention helps! If your publication involves members from multiple countries, it further enhances our visibility within ESCMID, so please ensure ESGNTA is listed as an additional affiliation. Additionally, let us know about your publication so we can help promote it here.



Suh GA, Scobie A, PiuZZi NS, Bartak V, Anyaehie UE, Arciola CR, Batailler C, Benes M, Binlaksar R, Buttaro M, Damioli LE, de Beaubien BC, Dietz MJ, Doub JB, Elmenawi KA, Falez F, Ferry T, Goswami K, Kucukdurmaz F, Li B, Metsemakers WJ, Moriarty TF, Saeed M, Shah RP, Springer B, Tootsi K, Tsiridis E, Urish KL. 2025 ICM: Role of Unconventional Medications. J Arthroplasty. 2025 Oct 31:S0883-5403(25)01395-6. doi: 10.1016/j.arth.2025.10.092. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41177193.



Alvarez RD, Finlayson-Trick EC, Lin RC, German GJ. Phage therapy: An international survey of attitudes and experiences amongst clinicians. Int J Antimicrob Agents. 2025 Dec;66(6):107627. doi: 10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2025.107627. Epub 2025 Sep 19. PMID: 40976373.



Alvarez RD, Årdal C, Classen AY, Nagel TE, Ceyskens PJ, German GJ. Cross-border dialogue: An international survey of regulators on phage therapy. *Int J Antimicrob Agents*. 2025 Dec;66(6):107614. doi: 10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2025.107614. Epub 2025 Sep 6. PMID: 40921257.



Napolitano V, Privitera M, Drulis-Kawa Z, Marasco D, Fallarini S, Berisio R, Squeglia F. Structural and functional features of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* capsular degradation by the phage depolymerase KP32gp38: implications for vaccination. *Int J Antimicrob Agents*. 2025 Dec;66(6):107596. doi: 10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2025.107596. Epub 2025 Aug 20. PMID: 40846037.

**ESGNTA affiliation for publications: Add “ESCMID Study Group for Non-traditional Antibacterial therapy (ESGNTA)” after your university affiliation**

## 4. Stay tuned for ESGNTA elections – coming in 2026!



**Ran Nir-Paz**  
Chair  
Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, Clinical Microbiology and Diseases  
Jerusalem, Israel



**Jean-Paul Pirnay**  
Science Officer  
Queen Astrid Military Hospital, LabMCT  
Brussels, Belgium



**Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa**  
Treasurer  
University of Wrocław, Department of Pathogen Biology and Immunology  
Wrocław



**Tristan Ferry**  
Education Officer  
Hospices Civils de Lyon, Infectious Diseases  
Lyon, France



**Gina Suh**  
Secretary  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, United States

## ESGNTA 2024-2026 Board

- Elections every 2 years
  - 4 years maximum at any single position
  - 8 years maximum on the executive board in total
- In 2024, 46% of members voted
- **Next election will be in 2026**
- All members will have the possibility to cast 5 votes

## 5. Welcome new members!

As of November 28, 2025, ESGNTA now has **988** members!!

**On behalf of the ESGNTA Executive Committee,**

**Chair: Prof. Ran NIR-PAZ**

**Treasurer: Prof. Zuzanna DRULIS-KAWA**

**Secretary: Dr. Gina SUH**

**Science Officer: Dr. Jean-Paul PIRNAY**

**Education Officer / Clinical Officer: Prof. Tristan FERRY**

**Email: [esgnta.board@gmail.com](mailto:esgnta.board@gmail.com)**

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