



Dear ESGNTA members,

A new year has started, and we hope it started well for you all!  
We wanted to touch base and reflect on some events that may be relevant to many of us this coming year. Below are some events and reminders, and that we would be happy if as many of us as possible could be involved.

## 1. Study group elections

ESGNTA executive elections have started! As per ESCMID regulations it contains 2 phases: The nomination phase (**January 8-February 2**), and then the election phase (**February 19 to March 5**).

Currently we are at the nomination step in which you can suggest possible members to be nominated as candidates for the EC.

In order to participate make sure you have paid ESCMID membership and that your membership is active.

Then please login to:

- <https://my.escmid.org>
- Choose the study group election box
- Click on ESGNTA line. Here you can support members, see if anyone have suggested you to be elected to EC, etc...

Please be aware that in the new EC there will be a place for a an **early-career member or trainee** as an observer and could play an active role in shaping the group's work. A few already sent us mail with interest in such role (thank you) but again **if any trainees or early-career members are interested, please let Gina or Ran know so we can pass along your name.**

## 2. Upcoming Workshops and Conferences

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

May 11-13, 2026

Tbilisi, Georgia

Workshop details are published and registration is open here, as well as updated program: <https://www.escmid.org/event-detail/bacteriophage-therapy-and-phage-derived-proteins-dual-strategies/>

Please be aware that there are 16 attendance grants, and details on how to apply are listed in the workshop site.

#### Faculty Members

Georgia	<b>Tamar Didbaridze</b>
Georgia	<b>Mzia Kutateladze</b>
Poland	<b>Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa</b>
Georgia	<b>Sophio Rigvava</b>
Georgia	<b>Dea Nizharadze</b>
Georgia	<b>Lia Nadareishvili</b>
Georgia	<b>Mariam Dadiani</b>
Georgia	<b>Nikoloz Vashakmadze</b>
Canada	<b>Greg German</b>
Israel	<b>Ran Nir-Paz</b>
Italy	<b>Alfonso Recordare</b>
Italy	<b>Novella Cesta</b>
USA	<b>Gina Suh</b>
France	<b>Tristan Ferry</b>
Portugal	<b>Joana Azeredo</b>
Switzerland	<b>Martin J. Loessner</b>
Belgium	<b>Yves Briers</b>
Belgium	<b>Rob Lavigne</b>
Sweden	<b>Federico Iovino</b>



# 2.2 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!



Please login to the ESCMID global site for the full details. More than 6000 abstracts were selected by the program committee and we expect many more beyond those already listed on the conference site. A few examples are listed here: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April:

5528	08:30 - 10:30	Hall A1-1
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; border-radius: 10px; margin-right: 5px;">AMR</div> <div style="background-color: #6c757d; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; border-radius: 10px; margin-right: 5px;">TRN</div> </div> 2-hour Symposium		
<b>Microbial interactions and bacterial adaptation in the microbiome</b>		
<i>Chairs</i>	<i>Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa (Wroclaw, Poland)</i> <i>Mauricio Farfan (Santiago, Chile)</i>	
5528-1	08:30	<b>The interplay of genetic drift and bacterial adaptation in skin microbiomes</b> <i>Julia Oh (Durham, United States)</i>
5528-2	09:00	<b>Pathways of adaptive evolution in chronic lung infections</b> <i>Helle Krogh Johansen (Copenhagen, Denmark)</i>
5528-3	09:30	<b>Bacteriophages and their interaction with the gut microbiome</b> <i>Corinne Maurice (Montreal, Quebec, Canada)</i>
5528-4	10:00	<b>Quantifying microbiome-host interactions in the human gut</b> <i>Markus Arnoldini (Zurich, Switzerland)</i>

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5508

16:15 – 18:15

2-hour Symposium

ANT CLN

**Cracking the phage code: from clinical insights to precision design**

*Chairs*

*Tristan Ferry (Lyon, France)*

*Jean-Paul Pirnay (Brussels, Belgium)*

- 5508-1 16:15 **Designing Clinical Trials around Phage Therapy** *Pranita Tamma (Philadelphia, United States)*
- 5508-2 16:45 **Randomised controlled trials of phage therapy in diabetic foot ulcers** *Ran Nir-Paz (Jerusalem, Israel)*
- 5508-3 17:15 **AI for host-phage interaction prediction** *Michiel Stock (Ghent, Belgium)*
- 5508-4 17:45 **Towards cell-free production and selection of therapeutic phages** *Antoine Levrier (France)*

Co-organised with: ESCMID Study Group for Non-traditional Antibacterial Therapy (ESGNTA)

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April:

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5070

16:15 – 17:15

Hall B0-1

1-hour Symposium

AMR ANT TRN

**The future of clinical phage susceptibility testing**

*Chairs*

*Saima Aslam (San Diego, United States)*

*Laurent Frederic (Lyon, France)*

- 5070-1 16:15 **Bacteriophage potency and quality control: guidelines vs. real life** *Pieter-Jan Ceyssens (Brussels, Belgium)*
- 5070-2 16:45 **Bacteriophage susceptibility testing: EUCAST perspectives on standardisation** *Annika Yanina Classen (Cologne, Germany)*

Co-organised with: ESCMID Study Group for Non-traditional Antibacterial Therapy (ESGNTA), EUCAST Steering Committee

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April :

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5204

16:15 – 17:15

Hall B0-1

1-hour Symposium

AMR ANT CLN

**Bacteriophages in implant-related infections: translating a century-old concept into a modern solution for AMR**

*Chairs*

*Gina Suh (Scottsdale, United States)  
Andrej Trampuz (Brisbane, Australia)*

- 5204-1 16:15 **Bacteriophage** therapy in cardiac and orthopaedic device-related infection *Tristan Ferry (Lyon, France)*
- 5204-2 16:45 **Challenges and future directions of phagotherapy in multidrug-resistant implant infections** *Fintan Moriarty (Davos, Switzerland)*

Co-organised with: ESCMID Study Group for Implant-associated Infections (ESGIAI), ESCMID Study Group for Non-traditional Antibacterial Therapy (ESGNTA)

## 2.3 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!



## 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.

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

## 4. Welcome new members!

As of January 15, 2026, ESGNTA now has **1120** 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**



**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 Wroclaw. Department of Pathogen Biology and Immunology  
Wroclaw



**Tristan Ferry**  
Education Officer  
Hospices Civils de Lyon. Infectious C  
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
- **Elections are now underway!**
- All members will have the possibility to cast 5 votes

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

Follow us on Twitter! [@ESGNTA](https://twitter.com/ESGNTA)