Press statement

Society welcomes new President at a time of record breaking participation at world’s largest conference on infectious diseases and a dynamic programme of activities for its membership

12 May 2014, BARCELONA: As the world’s largest gathering on infectious diseases takes place in Barcelona, the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) welcomed its new President who was officially inaugurated today. Professor Murat Akova starts his two year term as President at a time when the Society is going from strength to strength and breaking records with its annual congress – The European Congress on Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) - which has seen its highest number of participants exceeding 10,000 from 112 countries, and an increase of 1000 abstracts from last year’s 3500.

Outgoing President Gunnar Kahlmeter said; “ESCMID has continued to gather the best scientists from Europe and around the world to work for the Society, offers young physicians and scientists a host of educational activities and opportunities, and organises the world’s most successful congress of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases. It has been my privilege as President to work alongside outstanding individuals in our field and I wish Professor Akova ever more success as ESCMID builds on its reputation and reach.”

Speaking in Barcelona, Professor Akova said; “As I take on this new role at such an exciting time for the Society I believe that collaboration and synergy of efforts will continue to be crucial. ESCMID has successfully created collaborative initiatives across disciplines and continents. I am indebted to the past Presidents of the Society whose passion and wisdom has transformed ESCMID from a local organisation into a truly global society.”

Professor Akova is an attending Physician in the Department of Infectious Diseases at the Hacettepe University School of Medicine in Ankara and has a research background and interest in medical education, antimicrobial resistance and infections in immuno-compromised patients.

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The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infection-related diseases. This is achieved by promoting and supporting research, education, training, and good medical practice www.escmid.org