BIOS FOR SPOKESPEOPLE

Professor Giuseppe Cornaglia, ESCMID President, Professor of Microbiology, Department of Pathology, Verona University
Professor Cornaglia is the current President of ESCMID, a post he has held since April 2007. He graduated in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Sassari, Italy, and is Full Professor of Microbiology in the Department of Pathology and Diagnostics, Verona University.

Professor Cornaglia has co-ordinated the activities of the Italian Surveillance Group for Antimicrobial Resistance (ISGAR), including the creation of a national database of antimicrobial susceptibility data. Since 1999 he is also the leader of the Italian chapter of the Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA).

Professor Cornaglia was a key organiser of a meeting on the Role of Research in Combating Antibiotic Resistance in conjunction with the European Commission and Italian Ministries of Research and Health. In 1997 with Professor Jacques Acar he founded the European Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (ESGARS) as part of ESCMID and is currently Chairman of the Study Group.

Professor Jonathan Cohen, MSc, MB, FRCP, FRCPATH, FRCPED, FMedSci, 22nd ECCMID President
Professor Cohen has been the Foundation Dean of Brighton and Sussex Medical School since 2003. Previously he was Professor of Infectious Diseases and Chairman of the Dept of Infectious Diseases and Bacteriology at Hammersmith Hospital, at Imperial College.

His research interests are the pathogenesis and treatment of severe bacterial infections (septic shock). He has served on the Medical Research Council Infection and Inflammation Board and Chair of CRUK’s principal grant committee for clinical trial work. Recent editorial commitments include PLoS Medicine and Lancet Infectious Disease, and 5 years as Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Infectious Diseases. He is currently Treasurer and a member of the Executive committee of the International Society for Infectious Diseases.

Professor Jordi Vila, ECCMID Programme Director
Professor of Microbiology, School of Medicine at University of Barcelona
Professor Vila is currently a member of ESCMID Executive Committee and the Programme Director for ECCMID. He is Professor of Microbiology at the University of Barcelona and Head of the Department of Clinical Microbiology at Barcelona Hospital Clinic.

Receiving his education at the University of Barcelona where he specialized in Clinical Microbiology and he also gained his Ph.D in Biochemistry, Professor Vila held a post-doctoral position at the University of Virginia, was a Visiting Professor at the Center for Genetic Adaptation and Antimicrobial Resistance at Tufts University in Boston and Visiting Professor at the Department of Cellular and Molecular Biology at the University of California, Berkeley.

His areas of interest include antimicrobial resistance, development of new antimicrobial drugs, traveller’s diarrhoea and child diarrhoea in developing countries and he has served on the editorial boards of Jurnal of Clinical Microbiology, Clinical Microbiology and Infection, Revista Española de Enfermedades Infecciosas y Microbiología Clínica, Revista Española de Quimioterapia
Professor Evelina Tacconelli, ESCMID Executive Committee
Professor Evelina Tacconelli began working with the ESCMID Executive Committee in 2009, when she was co-opted Professional Affairs Officer (PAO) in Infectious Diseases, and she felt honoured to be an elected member of the new executive group. She believes that the Society would greatly benefit from broadening the basis of participation, as a result of which the ESCMID Parity Commission was formed, to play a key role in diversifying participation in the Society's educational and scientific activities.

In her opinion, nowadays, international scientific societies are fundamental for improving access for all scientists to the best available evidence in their discipline and for making research and work opportunities equally available throughout Europe. The Society should seek to bridge the gap between scientists at national level and the international scientific community. She cannot contemplate achieving these goals without the help and essential contribution of all ESCMID members.

John McConnell, The Lancet Infectious Diseases
John McConnell was the founding editor of The Lancet Infectious Diseases in 2001. He gained a degree in clinical microbiology and parasitology from the University of East London, before spending 6 years researching septic-shock-related topics at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, London.

John joined The Lancet in 1990. He was a peer-review editor for several years, and in 1996 was the first editor of the journal's website. In addition, he has organised the programmes for conferences on influenza in Singapore and Beijing, on healthcare-associated infections in London, and on mass gatherings medicine in Jeddah.

John has authored research papers, editorials, and commentaries, and delivered lectures on academic publishing and infection-related topics. John has appeared as an expert commentator on BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Sky News, Al Jazeera, CNBC, and CNN, on regional and national radio, and in national newspapers.

In 2011 he was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.