PRESS STATEMENT

Award given to international expert at a time of growing alarm about antibiotic resistance

27 April 2013, BERLIN: At a time when there is growing alarm about increasing antibiotic resistance, Professor Patrice Nordmann is being honoured for his work in emerging resistance worldwide to antibiotics, mostly to carbapenems (a class of antibiotics often regarded as a last line of treatment when other antibiotics fail). He will receive the Excellence Award from the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID).

“Professor Nordmann has made a huge contribution to microbiology as a world leader in antibiotic resistance and his work spans the research lab to the hospital bedside”, said Professor Giuseppe Cornaglia, Chair of the ESCMID Award Committee who will present the award together with the ESCMID President, Professor Gunnar Kahlmeter, during the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) taking place in Berlin, 27-30 April.

Professor Nordmann is Chief of the Department of Microbiology at the hospital Bicetre, South-Paris Medical School (South-Paris University) where he founded the INSERM Unit “Emerging antibiotic resistance” focused on cutting edge research in this field. His group has identified many of the currently wide spreading antibiotic resistance determinants.

Accepting the award Professor Nordmann said: “This acknowledgement of the work of myself and many others in antibiotic resistance is very much welcomed. We are seeing the number of infections resisting most known antibiotics explode, and there are genuine fears that we could return to the times when antibiotics did not exist which could risk a paralysis of modern medicine”.

Professor Nordmann stressed, “When faced with such a worrying scenario there is a pressing need for increased investment in innovative research, as well as coordinated action between countries.”

The ESCMID Excellence Award, given annually, recognises an outstanding lifetime contribution in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases.

Contact: Claire Hoffman, claire.hoffman@bartley-robbs.co.uk +44 7977 440 353

www.escmid.org

ESCMID is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases in Europe and beyond. The Society promotes and supports research, education and training and shares good medical practice in the infection disciplines to build capacity throughout Europe.