Four exceptional contributions to the advancement of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases recognised at ECCMID

Ground-breaking work in hospital epidemiology, respiratory tract infections, antimicrobial therapy for ICU patients and the treatment of emerging gastrointestinal pathogens to be rewarded

26 April 2015, Copenhagen: The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (ESCMID) announces the winners of its 2015 excellence awards live at its annual congress. The exceptional contributions to scientific research made by four scientists working in the field of clinical microbiology are recognised at the 25th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) taking place in Copenhagen today.

Marc Bonten, who runs the Medical Microbiology department at UMC Utrecht and leads the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Research Group at the Julius Center of Health Sciences and Primary Care, received the ‘ESCMID Award for Excellence in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2015’.

Three more clinical microbiologists, Carolina Garcia-Vidal (Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain), Jason Roberts (Brisbane, Australia) and Roy Sleator (Cork, Ireland), will receive ‘ESCMID Young Investigator Awards for Research in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases’. Due to the large number of excellent Young Investigator applications this year, ESCMID found it especially difficult to select a single winner and decided to choose three recipients for 2015.

After receiving their Awards, all four will be presenting papers at this year’s exhibition and conference. The ESCMID Award for Excellence in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases recognises and rewards an outstanding lifetime contribution in the areas of science, education or professional affairs in clinical microbiology and/or infectious diseases. The Young Investigator Award acknowledges excellence in research, and stimulates further research of the highest scientific level.

Marc Bonten is being recognised by ESCMID for his ground-breaking work in the field of hospital epidemiology and ICU infections, in which he has published nearly 400 articles in top refereed journals. He coordinates several very large projects within the Framework Programmes of the European Commission, and is currently leading one of the largest public-
private partnership programmes in the world to support the development of new drugs against resistant bacteria (the New Drugs for Bad Bugs, ND4BB, Programme).

Marc received his award at the 25th ECCMID in Copenhagen from Gunnar Kahlmeter, ESCMID Past President, and Murat Akova, ESCMID President, on Sunday, 26 April 2015. During this ceremony he gave his recipient’s lecture: ‘The modern ICU: are antibiotics used to save the patients or to soothe the minds of the doctors?’

Carolina Garcia-Vidal’s work is proving invaluable in the fields of respiratory tract infections, especially in immunocompromised hosts. Jason Roberts has developed large networks of researchers throughout the world, enabling him to deliver seminal studies of antimicrobial therapy in ICU patients, while Roy Sleator’s work on the characterization and treatment of new and emerging gastrointestinal pathogens has made a significant impact in this field.

Carolina, Jason and Roy will receive their awards during the ESCMID Young Investigator Awards Session on 27 April 2015 from 14.30 –15.30 in Hall B. Carolina’s presentation is entitled ‘Clinical research on respiratory tract infection’, Jason’s is ‘Can PK/PD get us better outcomes for infected ICU patients?’ and Roy’s is: ‘Following my gut feelings…’.

Announcing the winners, Annelies Zinkernagel, chairperson of the ESCMID Scientific Affairs subcommittee said, "In making these Awards, and the grants that go with them, ESCMID is demonstrating its continuing, strong commitment to supporting clinical research. In addition to recognising the achievements of Marc, Carolina, Jason and Roy, we will also be supporting 14 other individuals through ESCMID Research Grants, plus a generous allocation of funds for ECCMID travel grants."

All medical schools and institutions active in the field of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases in Europe, ESCMID's affiliated societies, ESCMID members, as well as ESCMID Subcommittees and Study Groups, are encouraged to nominate candidates for these prestigious awards.

As one of the world’s largest conferences on clinical microbiology and infectious diseases, ECCMID offers microbiologists and clinicians an invaluable opportunity to share their most recent research. The global challenges and hazards threatening people worldwide are addressed in some 200 keynote lectures, oral sessions, educational workshops, symposia and approximately 2500 poster presentations.

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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 the world. www.escmid.org