Dear colleagues,

Looking back over the past year we can reflect on two very successful sessions, an Educational Workshop (Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water: which focused on leisure-associated waterborne infections) and a Symposium (Antimicrobial-resistant bacteria in food and potable water: a recipe for disaster?) at the 21st ECCMID/27th ICC in Milan. Both were extremely well attended and generated lively discussion.

We are very grateful to the ECCMID Programme Committee's invitation to organise an Educational Workshop and an Official Symposium at the 22nd ECCMID in London.

Educational Workshop: Infection on the menu: food- and water-borne hazards for the immunocompromised patient

The Workshop is at 08:45-10:45, Saturday March 31st 2012 and features the following topics and speakers

What's coming out of the kitchen? Food-borne infection in vulnerable patients: M. Cormican (Galway, IE)

Problems in the pipeline; troubles on tap: safe drinking water and immunocompromised: M. Exner (Bonn, DE)

Hospital-associated listeriosis: causes and consequences: F. Allerberger (Vienna, AT)

Appetite for change: time to ditch neutropenic diets?: S. Jubelirer (Charleston, US)

Official Symposium: Faster, higher, stronger…and infection-free: a new motto for the Olympics? Infection and sporting events

This session has been arranged in conjunction with the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy and takes place on Monday 2nd April 2012 from 16:00-18:00 with the following presentations on the programme

Safeguarding spectators; caring for the crowds: public health and infection control for major sporting events: B. McCloskey (London, UK)

Another hurdle to clear: infections in sport: N.J. Beeching (Liverpool, UK)

Effect of exercise on the immune system: N. Bishop (Loughborough, UK)

Antimicrobials in athletes - is it an issue?: D. Dwyer (Sydney, AU)

EFWISG members (and all other ECCMID delegates!) are cordially invited to attend.
EFWISG is very pleased to work with the Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology Specialty Society of Turkey (EKMUD), the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP) and the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Compromised Hosts (ESGICH) to organize an ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course Infections in Returning Travelers: There Is No Border for Transmission of Infections. This will take place in Istanbul, Turkey from 16 – 18th November 2012. The course is designed for infectious diseases and clinical microbiology specialists, trainees and PhD students. For further details, please see the Educational Activities of the ESCMID website.

EFWISG is aiming to draw up a consensus document on this important topic. As part of this work, the Study Group is conducting a user-friendly online survey of current practice. If you or your institution provides care for patients with solid organ or haematological malignancy, please take part in the survey.

Details of participation will be announced at the EFWISG Educational Workshop at the London ECCMID and on the EFWISG pages of the ESCMID website.

Members are invited to submit suggestions for suitable topics for an Educational Workshop and Official Symposium at the 2013 ECCMID in Berlin. Ideas for subjects which are likely to appeal to a truly multi-disciplinary audience are especially welcome. Please send your suggestions to a member of the Executive Committee (email addresses below).

Research Project: call for participants

Does your laboratory test stool specimens from hospital in-patients (hospital stay of ≥48hr) for Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter or other pathogens which are typically classed as “community-acquired”?

If yes, we invite you to participate in a study to examine how this approach compares with protocols in which such routine testing is not recommended.

Please email Kevin Kerr to register your interest.

With kind regards,

The EFWISG Executive Committee

- Kevin Kerr (Chairperson)
  kevin.kerr(at)hdft.nhs.uk
- Panayotis Tassios (Secretary)
  ptasios(at)med.uoa.gr
- John Coia (Treasurer)
  john.coia(at)ggc.scot.nhs.uk
- Elisaveta Draghijeva (Executive Committee Officer)
  Edraghijeva(at)abv.bg
- Dominique Moittie (Executive Committee Officer)
  Laboduplessis(at)wanadoo.fr
- Dzmitry Piskun (Executive Committee Officer)
  Dvpiskun(at)rambler.ru