Dear all,

Over the past year, our study group has grown significantly, with over 530 participants from 90 countries!

After a successful Symposium at the 19th ECCMID in Helsinki last year, “Hard to swallow – emerging and re-emerging issues in food-borne infection”, we have even more activities at the upcoming 20th ECCMID in Vienna: these are presented at the end of this Newsletter.

Theme Section of Clinical Microbiology and Infection, January 2010

As you may have seen, the January 2010 issue of Clinical Microbiology and Infection contained a theme section on “Hard to swallow – emerging and re-emerging issues in food-borne infection”, consisting of a short editorial by the two co-editors, K. Kerr and P. Tassios, and four reviews:

- Clostridium difficile in food – innocent bystander or serious threat? - J. S. Weese
- Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in food products: cause for concern or case for complacency? - J. A. J. W. Kluytmans
- Listeriosis: a resurgent foodborne infection - F. Allerberger and M. Wagner
- Much meat, much malady: changing perceptions of the epidemiology of hepatitis E - C. G. Teo

In preparation for 2011, we’d like to invite every member to propose ideas for the following:

Proposals for sessions at the 21st ECCMID/ 27th ICC in Milan, 2011

Possible formats are:

- two-hour Symposium (four topics, four speakers)
- one-hour Symposium (two topics, two speakers)
- four-hour Educational Workshop (eight topics, max. six speakers, including the convener[s])
- two-hour Educational Workshop (four topics, max. four speakers, including the convener[s])

Please send in your ideas (subject, format, titles of presentations, proposed speakers for each presentation - with full contact details (please include at least one alternative speaker for each talk) to our Secretary, Panayotis Tassios (ptasios@med.uoa.gr) by 21 April 2010.

Proposals for an ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course or Technical Workshop in 2011 (outside of ECCMID)

Please propose:

- Topics, and names for the teaching faculty
- Place and time, if you are proposing to host the course or workshop at your own institution
Please send in your ideas to our Secretary, Panayotis Tassios (ptasios@med.uoa.gr) by 14 April 2010.

**Annual Business Meeting at the Vienna ECCMID**

This – the new term for the Annual General Meeting of all study group members – will take place on Sunday, 11 April, 11:00-12:00, in Meeting Room D 441.

This will be the perfect occasion to discuss future activities (including the proposals mentioned above). Please come along: face-to-face interactions are always more fruitful than e-mail!

Also, please find attached the Minutes from last year’s ABM.

**Interactive Educational Workshop on “Too much on your plate? A practical guide to investigating and controlling outbreaks of food-borne infection in hospitals”**

This will take place on Saturday, April 10, 09:00-13:00 (Hall E2), and will be built around six presentations:

* Guess what’s coming to dinner? Food-borne outbreaks in the hospital setting - K. Kerr (Harrogate, UK)
* Laboratory detection of food-borne infection in hospitals – room for improvement? - J. Coia (Glasgow, UK)
* Epidemiological investigation of a suspected outbreak: what do you need to know? - K. Nygård (Oslo, NO)
* Managing an outbreak of food-borne infection in hospital – the role of the infection control team - M. Hell (Salzburg, AT)
* The final piece in the puzzle: molecular typing of patient and food-derived isolates - F.X. Weill (Paris, FR)
* It’s good to talk – dealing with the media and reassuring the public during an outbreak - B. Adak (Colindale, UK)

**Official Symposium on “Food for thought: tackling the problem of food-borne infection in the elderly”**

This will take place on Sunday, April 11, 14:30 - 15:30, in Lecture Hall F1, and will consist of two presentations:

* The elderly patient as a sitting duck for food-borne infections: causes and consequences - L. Medeiros (Columbus, US)
* Epidemiology of food-borne infection in the elderly: what has changed and why did it change? - S. O'Brien (Manchester, UK)

Once again, EFWISG will be participating in the European Network Corner (Foyer E near the Registration Area on the Ground Floor of the Congress Hall). There will be tables and chairs for informal meetings.

Looking ahead, EFWISG wishes to develop a consensus statement on the provision of microbiologically safe food and water for immunocompromised patients. If you would like to participate in a working group on this topic please contact our Chairperson, Kevin Kerr (kevin.kerr@hdf.t.nhs.uk).

With best wishes,

- Kevin Kerr (Chairperson) kevin.kerr@hdf.t.nhs.uk
- Panayotis Tassios (Secretary) ptaios@med.uoa.gr
- John Coia (Treasurer) john.coia@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
- Elisaveta Draghieva (Executive Committee Officer) edraghieva@abv.bg
- Dominique Moittie (Executive Committee Officer) laboduplessis@wanadoo.fr
- Dzmitry Piskun (Executive Committee Officer) dypiskun@rambler.ru