Dear colleagues,

There is less than a month before the 24th ECCMID takes place in Barcelona!

EFWISG can reflect with some degree of satisfaction on the contributions it has made to previous ECCMIDs in the form of Educational Workshops, Official Symposia and Meet the Expert Sessions, several of which were organised in collaboration with colleagues in other Study Groups. We are delighted to inform our members that, once again, EFWISG will be hosting an Educational Workshop and a Meet the Expert session in Barcelona.

EFWISG members at the Business Meeting, 23rd ECCMID, Berlin

Educational Workshop: When is a food-borne infection not a food-borne infection

The Workshop is at 11:00-13:00, Saturday, 10 May 2014 in Hall F, and features the following topics and speakers:

Risky reptiles and perilous pets: food-borne infection acquired from companion animals; Malcolm Bennett (Liverpool, UK).

Norovirus: kitchen hygiene versus hand hygiene; Marion Koopmans (Rotterdam, NL).

Tracking down toxoplasmosis; Eskild Petersen (Aarhus, DK).

Campylobacter: don’t just blame the chickens; Francis Mégraud (Bordeaux, FR).

Meet the Expert session: Outbreak of P. aeruginosa in your hospital and you think it could be water-related? Want to know what to do next?

This session will take place on Sunday, 11 May in Hall D, 07:45-08:45. The experts convening this session are: Michael Weinbren (Chesterfield, UK) and Matthias Trautmann (Stuttgart, DE).

EFWISG members (and, indeed, all other ECCMID delegates!) are cordially invited to attend both of these sessions which cover a wide range of interesting and topical issues.

Network Corner

As in previous ECCMIDs, EFWISG will be represented again at Network Corner. This is centrally located as part of “ESCMID World”, which includes a leisure area with tables and chairs for informal meetings and discussions.

Annual Business Meeting

We extend a warm invitation to EFWISG members attending the Barcelona ECCMID to our Annual Business Meeting which is to be held on Sunday, 11 May, from 18:15-19:15 in Room 132.
**The Future of EFWISG – Good news!**

The performance of all ESCMID Study Groups is reviewed annually by the Scientific Affairs Subcommittee. We were very pleased to learn that EFWISG’s activity score had increased considerably in 2013. Not only is this an achievement from which we can take satisfaction but, more importantly, it also means that EFWISG can continue as an ESCMID Study Group. However, we must not be complacent and should strive to maintain momentum if EFWISG is to flourish.

**Executive Committee Elections**

Now that the continuation of EFWISG has been confirmed, it is time to begin the process of electing a new Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Kevin Kerr, Panayotis Tassios and John Coia, respectively, are all demitting office and are not standing for re-election. Further details regarding the elections will be made available after the Barcelona ECCMID. Watch this space! Please feel free to contact a member of the Executive Committee to discuss what the respective roles entail. Please also remember you must be an ESCMID member before you can stand as a candidate.

**EFWISG research activities**

The EUCODI (European, multi-centre, prospective quarterly point prevalence study of community-acquired diarrhoea) made a very significant contribution to our increased score in the Scientific Affairs Subcommittee’s review of our Study Group. EFWISG is very grateful to the Principal Investigator, Franz Allerberger (Vienna, AT) for his dogged determination in bringing this project to fruition. This is a multi-national study which is investigating the aetiology and prevalence of community-acquired gastrointestinal infection, using both conventional techniques and a multiplex PCR-based system. Preliminary results will be shared by Prof Allerberger and colleagues at the Barcelona ECCMID.

**25th ECCMID**

Study Group members are invited to submit suggestions for suitable topics for an Educational Workshop, Official Symposium or Meet the Expert session at the 2015 ECCMID in Copenhagen. As always, ideas for proposals which are likely to appeal to a truly multi-disciplinary audience are particularly welcome. Please send your suggestions to a member of the Executive Committee (email addresses below).

With kind regards,

The EFWISG Executive Committee

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