Dear Colleagues,

First of all, something

Really important!

As you know, in 2012, ESCMID introduced a new system for the management of Study Group membership. What does this mean for individual EFWISG members? Well, firstly, you can only be a member of EFWISG if you are a member of ESCMID. If you aren’t already a member, now is the time to join. Membership is not expensive (as little as €38) and includes a subscription to Clinical Microbiology & Infection, one of the best infection-related journals around! Secondly, you need to re-apply to join EFWISG. This is easy to do online at www.escmid.org/research_projects/study_groups/foodwater_infections/efwisg_membership_application/ And, finally, elections for Executive Committee members are coming soon. If you want to get involved as a proposer/seconder of candidates or to cast your vote, then you must re-apply for membership. Please do this as soon as you can; the continued success of EFWISIG depends on a thriving membership.

Now, looking back over the past year, we can reflect on two very successful sessions, an Educational Workshop: Infection on the menu: food- and water-borne hazards for the immunocompromised patient and an Official Symposium: Faster, higher, stronger... and infection-free: a new motto for the Olympics? Infection and sporting events) at the 22nd ECCMID in London. Both events were extremely well attended and generated much food for thought!

EFWISG members at the Business Meeting, 22nd ECCMID, London

For this year’s 23rd ECCMID in Berlin, we are again very grateful to the ECCMID Programme Committee’s invitation to organise an Educational Workshop and a Meet the Expert Session.

Educational Workshop: What’s new on the menu? Emerging issues in food-borne infection

The Workshop (EW08) is at 08:45-10:45, Saturday 27th April 2012 and features the following topics and speakers:

“We never look for it because we never find it”: emerging food-borne pathogens you need to know about: E.J. Threlfall (London, GB).

Unwanted souvenirs: food-borne infection in the returning traveller: N.J. Beeching (Liverpool, GB).

Biting off more than we can chew?: How multiple drug resistance is affecting how we manage food-borne infection: L. Peixe (Porto, P).
Jettison your gels: new methods for typing food-borne pathogens: M. Achtman (Cork, IRL).

Meet the expert session: How to assess hospital cleanliness

Tuesday 30th April 2012 from 07:45-08:45 in Hall 3 with SJ Dancer (Lanarkshire, GB) and C Ruef (Zurich, CH) as the experts.

“What is the link between food-borne infection and hospital cleanliness?” you might ask. Well, the answer can be linked to strategies that the food industry has developed to ensure that food products are microbiologically safe. Can these be adopted by infection control professionals for use in their hospitals?

EFWISG members (and all other ECCMID delegates!) are cordially invited to attend both these sessions.

But we would also be delighted to see you at the

EFWISG Business Meeting

on Sunday 28th April in Salon 11/12, 18:15-19:15.

Postgraduate Education Course

EFWISG was very pleased to work with the Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology Specialty Society of Turkey, the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology and the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Compromised Hosts, to organize an ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course on Infections in Returning Travelers: No Border for Transmission of Infection in Istanbul, Turkey from 16-18 November 2012 and was extremely successful, attracting 56 participants from 27 countries.

Safe food and water for immune-compromised patients

EFWISG is drawing up a consensus document on this important topic. As part of this work, the Group is conducting an online survey of current practice. If your institution provides care for patients with solid organ or haematological malignancy, please take part. Invitations to take part in surveys are always arriving in the email inbox. Often these are put aside to “get around to later” but this is a short, user-friendly survey which shouldn’t take long to complete: try it at www.surveymonkey.com/s/ENDAS

Research Project: call for participants

Does your lab test stool specimens from in-patients (hospital stay of ≥48hr) for Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter or other pathogens typically classed as “community-acquired”? If yes, we invite you to participate in a study to examine how this approach compares with protocols which do not include such testing. Please email Kevin Kerr to register your interest.

With kind regards,

The EFWISG Executive Committee

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