27 August 2015

Dear Colleague,

ECCMID 2015 was a huge success as a conference generally, but also for the EPASG with some excellent sessions, presentations and posters. A highlight was the debate between Prof George Drusano and Prof David Livermore on “Can PK/PD provide all the answers for breakpoints & antibiotic dosing?”. Both speakers provided excellent data and interpretation which made for a fascinating exchange between the two.

We now look forward to ECCMID 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey! The current EPASG Executive Committee has submitted for numerous PK/PD sessions at ECCMID and whilst many were not accepted because of the huge competitive nature of the selection process, we are sure there will be excellent opportunities generally for EPASG members at ECCMID 2016.

Save the date for these important upcoming EPASG events:

Moving Antimicrobial Stewardship Forward in Special Population Settings
5 - 6 November 2015, Ferney-Voltaire, France

Improving the Dosage of Old Antibiotics
19 - 21 November 2015, Warsaw, Poland
Please note that there is a grant available to help attendance at this course with a deadline of 1 September. Additionally, the registration deadline for this course is 5 October 2015.

Population Modeling and Dose Optimization with Pmetrics and BestDose: Antimicrobial Applications
13 - 16 April 2016, Lyon, France

Individualized Medicine in Infectious Diseases: a Practical Approach
3 - 4 June 2016, Tübingen, Germany

Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing and Surveillance: from Laboratory to Clinic. A EUCAST, ESGARS and EPASG Perspective
20 - 23 September 2016, Bochum, Germany
Proposed publication – expression of interest

EPASG is planning to link in with the International Society of Anti-infective Pharmacology (Chair is former EPASG Chair, Dr Ursula Theuretzbacher) on a state-of-the-art review of the role of infection models and PK/PD modeling on optimizing patient care. If you believe you have expertise in this area, then please contact Jason Roberts (j.roberts2@uq.edu.au) who is coordinating this paper, before 30 September 2015. Please note there will only be limited numbers of people that will be able to contribute to this paper to keep the writing group to a manageable size.

EPASG Study Grant

In the last newsletter we were excited to announce a new study grant for members of EPASG. The grant is intended to foster collaboration across laboratories and help mentoring of young investigators who may wish to spend some time as an observer in a laboratory that can provide additional education/training that is not available locally. The grants are available up to Euro 1000 and we invite applications for 2015-16 with a deadline of 31 October. To apply, please send an email to the EPASG Executive Committee, Prof William Couet (Chairperson) via Jason Roberts, j.roberts2@uq.edu.au. Please provide a letter of application outlining why you have chosen the intended laboratory and the objectives of your stay. You will also need to provide letters of support from your supervisor and the intended hosting laboratory. If you are awarded the Study Grant, then you will be required to complete a short study report which can be included in the EPASG newsletter. You should also provide copies of receipts that you are claiming for and these will then be reimbursed after your visit. Awards will be presented annually at ECCMID Congresses. The first Study Grant was awarded to Dr Christina Koenig from Hamburg, Germany who travelled to Prof William Hope’s Antimicrobial Pharmacodynamics Laboratory at the University of Liverpool, UK. Christina’s report can be found on the EPASG website where she shares some of her experiences from her visit to Liverpool.

Invitation for review of document by experts in PK/PD

EMA invited EPASG members including Ursula Theuretzbacher, Alasdair MacGowan, Johan Mouton and Elisabet Nielsen, to a workshop discussing pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics in the development of antibacterial medicinal products. The presentations and discussions will support the drafting of a regulatory guideline for developers on PK/PD of antibacterial agents, as proposed by a concept paper published by EMA. Comments are welcomed by 23 October (email to utheuretzbacher@cefaia.com).

“Old Antibiotics” Website

A valuable resource initiated by Dr Ursula Theuretzbacher is the Old Antibiotics website. We would request that any person interested in helping update this website contact Dr Theuretzbacher (utheuretzbacher@cefaia.com).
Other comments

If you are interested in actively participating in the planning and organization of EPASG activities, please become EPASG member on our website (www.escmid.org/epasg). It only takes you some minutes. Note: Study Group membership is only available for ESCMID members (low basic membership fees are available here). When you are ESCMID member, EPASG membership is free of charge.

To request more in-depth information or to discuss our work, please contact us directly. We appreciate any comments, suggestions, and contributions! Share with us ideas for new projects and help growing the PK/PD community in Europe and beyond!

The EPASG Executive Committee
William Couet (Chairperson)
Jason Roberts (Secretary)
Elisabet Nielsen (Treasurer)