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European Antibiotic Awareness Day - Promoting prudent antibiotic use in Europe!

The European Committee on Infection control (EUCIC) and the ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies (ESGAP) are strongly supporting the ECDC European Antibiotic Awareness Day initiative!

European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) is a European health initiative coordinated by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Each year on 18 November, it provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the threat to public health posed by antimicrobial-resistant bacteria. This year, the World Health Organization also organises its first World Antibiotic Awareness Week that will take place on 16-22 November. ECDC will partner with this global initiative by organizing an EU-launch event on 16 November in Brussels, with social media activities starting on 18 November.

Join us on Twitter on 18 November: #EAAD (European Twitter chat) and #AntibioticResistance (Global Twitter chat), and during the World Antibiotic Awareness Week.

Remember the 18th of November

EAAD provides a focus for national campaigns on prudent antibiotic use, for the engagement of professionals and for communication capacity development. EAAD also provides support to European countries by developing evidence-based key messages and materials for different target audiences, including messages and template materials for medical doctors (primary care prescribers and hospital prescribers). These materials are provided for adaptation at national and local level. They are translated in all European Union official languages and made available from the EAAD website. Please have a look at all the freely available useful resources and do not hesitate to use them to raise awareness in your local, regional, national or international network! You will also find additional information on the ESGAP and EUCIC websites under current activities.

European Day during the World week

WHO is leading a global campaign on the most urgent antimicrobial trend - antibiotic resistance. 'Antibiotics: Handle with Care' will be launched during the first World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) which will be held from 16 to 22 November 2015. WAAW aims to increase awareness of global antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance. More information here.
**EUCIC & ESGAP**

**EUCIC activities:**

Earlier this year, ESCMID introduced the European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC), which aims to increase harmonization of infection prevention and control measures across Europe using education, training goals, guidelines and political awareness. Already, the network covers over 60% of European countries. National representatives of all missing European countries will be invited through affiliated scientific societies, in order to complete the boards of EUCIC. Specific working group will be focusing on education, consensus documents, and recognition of infection control as a self-standing specialty. These three working groups are currently formed and will start to work by the end of this year. In order to present EUCIC, a CMI theme issue including five reviews which cover topics of major importance in the field of infection prevention and control, is scheduled for publication in December 2015.

EUCIC will actively participate in the next ECCMID in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The types of activities will include educational workshop, meet-the-expert session and symposia. Further details will be announced. The next official EUCIC meeting will also take place during the next ECCMID. The first ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course organized by EUCIC "Infection Prevention and Control: Let's get practical!" will take place at the University Medical Center Groningen in the Netherlands from 29th May- 1st June 2016 (see ESCMID website for details).

**ESGAP activities:**

The Student-PREPARE survey on teaching of prudent antibiotic use to medical students has included more than 10,000 students so far, and results will be presented at the next ECCMID.

The survey on the Young Doctors' Perspectives on Antibiotic use and Resistance in Europe (YPAR) is underway, still inviting colleagues to participate. We expect that the results of the survey will give as more precise information on the knowledge gaps and especially the attitudes in different specialties. Student-PREPARE and YPAR will be the starting point for further ESGAP educational activities and the collaboration with all the stakeholders in the undergraduate and postgraduate education in Europe.

The Infectious diseases - clinical microbiology - infection control staffing survey in hospitals, a joint project of ESCMID Study Group for Infections in the Elderly (ESGIE), ESCMID Study Group for Nosocomial Infections (ESGNI), ESGAP and the ESCMID Professional Affairs Subcommittee (PAS) is currently in the phase of data analysis, the leaders of the project thank all the colleagues who took part and contributed the data.

The survey on forgotten antibiotics, another ESGAP project, currently underway in collaboration with React, is investigating the availability of old, usually narrow-spectrum antibiotics in European countries. It is a repetition of a former ESGAP study (CID 2011). Most of these antibiotics can be used efficiently instead of other broad-spectrum compounds, and some of for multi-drug resistant bacteria.

EAAD and the global Antibiotic Awareness Week provide an opportunity to inform medical society and lay public about the problems of antimicrobial resistance and proper use of the precious antimicrobial drugs. At the same time it is an opportunity for the professionals, who are involved in antimicrobial stewardship in Europe and beyond to exchange their experiences and help each other by sharing good practices and tools that have been proven successful. Therefore, ESGAP invites everyone to send short stories on their activities during EAAD 2015 together with copies of educational materials, photos . . . , to be published on the ESGAP Open Virtual Learning Community.