The ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies – ESGAP

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Aims:
- To increase communication between interested parties in member countries by establishing links between any existing networks and provide a forum for all those involved in antimicrobial stewardship.
- To promote an awareness of antimicrobial misuse.
- To provide an opportunity for training in the appropriate use of antimicrobials through workshops and courses in collaboration with other ESCMID Study Groups or other organisations.
- To provide the evidence base that will provide a better understanding of the factors involved in antimicrobial resistance.
- To increase communication among interested parties in member countries by establishing links between any existing networks and provide a forum for all those involved in antimicrobial stewardship.
- To improve patient care and prevent the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance.

Mission Statement:
To play a significant role in Europe in formulating and promoting strategies to improve antimicrobial prescribing.

Background:
The ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies - ESGAP - was set up in 1998, the inaugural meeting was held at the 9th ECCMID in Berlin with Professor Jos van der Meer as Chairman and Dr Ian Gould as Secretary.

Research and Development:
Forgotten antibiotics study
The ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies (ESGAP) performed an inventory of antibiotics that have been marketed at any time in Europe, the US, Canada and Australia, and that have a particular value because they:
- have a spectrum which could be of value to treat multiresistant bacteria
- have an interesting narrow spectrum to treat specific or groups of pathogens
A poster will be presented at the 21th ECCMID Symposium, Milan, Italy, May 2011

Publications
- Several ESGAP executives were among the authors in a recent Lancet article entitled “Society's failure to protect a precious resource: antibiotics”.

ABC Calc – Antibiotic Consumption Calculator
ABC Calc is a simple computer tool to measure antibiotic consumption in hospitals and hospital wards. It transforms aggregated data provided by hospital pharmacies (generally as a number of packages or vials) into a meaningful and comparable antibiotic utilisation outcome: the WHO Defined Daily Dose. The ABC calculator has been further improved by Arno Muller arno.muller.pro@gmail.com. The updated ABC calculator is available at: http://app.esac.ua.ac.be/abccalc.html. The ESGAP members H. Hanberger and S. Harbarth have been involved in piloting and validating the update.

Completed Activities:
Presentations on behalf of the Study Group at scientific meetings
50th ICAAC Pre-meeting Workshop “Antimicrobial Stewardship” was organized in Boston (USA) on September 11, 2010 with Polk RE and Gyssens IC as conveners and in cooperation with ESGAP. There were three presentations by the ESGAP EC members:
- Linking antimicrobial resistance to antimicrobial exposure, and Use of biomarkers and newer diagnostic aids to improve antimicrobial stewardship (S. Harbarth), Case study:
- Audit of surgical prophylaxis (I.C. Gyssens).
The workshop was well attended and rated from good to excellent by the participants.

Organisation of educational workshops at ECCMID
- ESCMID PGE course “Antimicrobial Stewardship: Measuring, Auditing, Improving” 8-10 April 2010, before ECCMID Vienna, Austria.
- The three-day PGE Course was organized by Agnes Wechsler Foerdoes, Inge C Gyssens, and Bojana Beović. It was attended by 76 participants from 29 countries.
- The course received ESCMID grants. There were 34 presentations and 10 faculty. The mean presenters’ score was 3.35 (good to excellent).

Organisation of educational activities outside ECCMID
- Training Course “Improving Antibiotic Prescribing in Hospitals”, Belgrade, Serbia, from 4 to 5 March, 2011.
- The course was organized jointly by the ESGAP, Serbian Association of Prevention and Infection Control (SAPIC) and Serbian Society of Intensive Care Medicine.
- The course was well attended, more than 100 participants came from 8 countries. The course received an ESCMID grant. The evaluation is underway.

Funded research projects (especially collaborative projects)
- The Prudent Antibiotic User Website (PAUSE)
- This e-learning resource was launched in 2007 by BSAC. The PAUSE project replaces and expands the BSAC undergraduate e-learning tool API that was presented at the last ESGAP educational workshop at the ECCMID in Munich. The ESCMID executive approved the BSAC proposal to endorse PAUSE (R. Read, contact person). IC Gyssens is serving as ESCMID’s representative for the PAUSE Steering Committee.

Planned activities:
- Training course planned to be held in Suceava, Romania in 2012.
- The 4th Eurasia Congress of Infectious Diseases (EACID) organized by The Black Sea Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, and The Association of Infectiologists in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The congress will take place from 1 to 5 June 2011 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. ESGAP will participate with three speakers.

ESGAP presentations at ECCMID 2011:
- ESGAP Business Meeting is on 9 May, 18.15-19.15 (Room Amber 2).
- Saturday – Tuesday Poster presentation in the European Network Corner.

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