Welcome

Dear colleagues and friends, as ECCMID 2017 draws near, it seems like an appropriate time to bring you up to speed with ESGCD-related activities in the last year. It has been a busy year, with the appointment of a new executive committee, and numerous new and ongoing projects and a number of publications, which will be detailed in full in the study group annual report. In this newsletter Ed Kuijper, Mark Wilcox and Sarah Tschudin-Sutter provide details of some of these developments, and we highlight ESGCD events at the forthcoming ECCMID. I hope that we will have the opportunity to meet in Vienna, and thank you for your continued support of the ESGCD.

ECDC CDI surveillance

ESGCD is participating in the European CDI surveillance that started in 2016. A consortium from ESGCD consisting of microbiologists from Austria, France, Leeds and Leiden will provide microbiological support with typing of strains, exchange of SOPS, organising EQA and workshop (May 2017, Vienna). More information is available at http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/Healthcare-associated_infections/Clostridium-difficile-infections/. Further details can be requested at ecdisnet@lumc.nl.

IMI-9 Call

Following the submission of an outline bid, a consortium led by Marc Bonten and Mark Wilcox was awarded in late 2016 preferred bidder status for the IMI-9 call ‘Addressing the clinical burden of Clostridium difficile infection (CDI): Evaluation of the burden, current practices and set-up of a European research platform.’ A full proposal was duly submitted in January 2017, with an oral presentation and hearing held in February 2017. We are waiting to hear whether the proposal will be funded.

The COMBACTE-CDI consortium proposal represents the merger of European expertise on the clinical, diagnostic, and therapeutic issues related to CDI and the expertise and input of 7 EFPIA partners. It brings together experts that partnered in CDI projects (EUCLID, ECDIS-NET), the largest existing (IMI-funded) clinical and laboratory network in Europe (CLIN-Net and LAB-Net) for successfully executing challenging epidemiological and interventional studies related to bacterial infections (including those caused by antimicrobial-resistant bacteria), and a recently-
started network that maps all surveillance activities related to AMR in Europe (EPI-Net, also IMI-funded).

Our proposal aims to quantify CDI in the whole healthcare economy; compare animal and food isolates with those within human health; identify potential drivers of strain clustering; use a novel highly sensitive diagnostic assay for more accurate CDI case definition; provide both cost-effectiveness and transmission models of CDI; and determine the economic impact of novel CDI treatment options.

**Update of ESCMID IPC guidance**

Given the ongoing significance of CDI in Europe, ESGCD initiated a project to update existing Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) guidance to prevent transmission of CDI in healthcare settings (Vonberg R et al. Clin Microbiol Infect 2008;14 Suppl 5, 2-20).

The updated guideline document reviews the literature on interventions to control CDI in adult populations in acute health care settings and derives specific infection control recommendations. It aims to provide guidance to those responsible for institutional infection control programs, serving as a reference for best medical practice. The draft guidance is nearing completion and has been submitted for initial review comments. There will be an educational workshop at ECCMID in Vienna focusing on the revised guidance.

**FMT guidance**

ESGCD has a close collaboration with representatives (mainly gastroenterologists) from the United European Gastroenterology (UEG). At ECCMID 2017, a combined breakfast session (meet the experts) will be held entitled "Faecal microbial transplantation: safety, ethical and regulatory issues" at 24 April 2017, 07:45 - 08:45, Hall I. In Barcelona at the Annual meeting of UEG in 2017, a combined session "How to modulate the microbiome? will be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2017, 14:00 - 15:30, Room E4. The development of a guidance document will be...
further discussed; several ESGCD members (Dr. M. Vehereschild, Cologne, Prof. H. Sokol, Paris and Prof. E. Kuijper, Leiden) have an interest in developing such a guidance document. The Leiden group has submitted a overview on "How to develop a national feces donor bank" to CMI and will also present this at ECMID 2017.

ESGCD Planned Activities 2017 / 2018

Ongoing project of ESGCD with ECDC on European surveillance of CDI (Prof. Kuijper, Prof. Wilcox, Prof. Allerberger and Dr. Barbut)

Medical Guideline project ESGCD: CDI infection control headed by Dr. S. Tschudin Sutter, Prof. A. Widmer and Prof. E. Kuijper

Combined project of ESGCD with UEG: Standardization of Feces Microbiota Transplantation (Prof. Kuijper, Dr. Josbert Keller, Dr. F. Barbut). Joint symposia at ECCMID 2017 in Vienna and UEG Week 2017 in Barcelona

ECDC/ESGCD Workshop on Diagnostics and Typing of C. difficile in Vienna on 11 and 12 May, 2017

ESCMID Study Groups' competencies in antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship (ESCAPS); led by ESGAP with contributions by ESGCD

Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 (IMI 2) “Addressing the clinical burden of Clostridium difficile infection (CDI): Evaluation of the burden, current practices and set-up of a European research platform”; led by Prof Mark Wilcox and Prof Marc Bonten

ESCGD Executive Committee

Chairman: John Coia, MD. Scottish Microbiology Reference Laboratories, Glasgow, UK.

Secretary: Sarah Tschudin Sutter, MD, MSc. Division of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland.

Treasurer: Karen Burns, MB MSc. Health Protection Surveillance Centre & Beaumont Hospital, Dublin

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