Dear colleagues and friends, dear ESGCD study group members.

Before we meet at the 30th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) in Paris, we would like to share with you a brief summary of the latest ESGCD study group activities as well as news related to Clostridium (Clostridioides) difficile infections (CDI).

Accepted sessions proposed by ESGCD for ECCMID 2020 in Paris, France

Edited by Sarah Tschudin-Sutter

From the seven submitted proposals, two proposals were accepted successfully:

1. Updated treatment guidelines for Clostridioides difficile (2-hour Educational Workshop/ESGCD, ESGHAMI).

2. How to manage patients with Clostridioides difficile infection under concomitant antibiotic treatment (Meet-the-expert session).

Also we cordially invite you to the ESGCD Annual Meeting on Sunday 19. 4. 2020 from 12:15-13:15.

An update of ESCMID guidelines for the treatment of Clostridium (Clostridioides) difficile infections (CDI)

Edited by Joffrey van Prehn

A literature search was performed for five selected PICOs: 1. Treatment of initial CDI, 2. Treatment of recurrent CDI, 3. Treatment of multiple recurrent CDI, 4. Prognostic factors for severe CDI 5. Prognostics factors for CDI recurrence. These PICOs will include severe/fulminant CDI subgroup analysis; over 4000 abstracts have been screened. Currently, extracted data are being assessed for the risk of bias of selected studies by groups from Leiden, Amsterdam and Madrid. The grading of evidence and the formulation of recommendations are planned for March. The concept of the guidelines will be ready for discussion at ECCMID 2020.

ESGCD research grant

Edited by Surbhi Malhotra-Kumar

We congratulate Prof. Dr. Surbhi Malhotra-Kumar, University of Antwerp, Belgium, for the selection of her research project “Single-molecule long-read sequencing to enable high-resolution analysis and comparative genomics of the clinical Clostridioides difficile ECDC/Leeds-Leiden reference collection” for funding as an ESCMID/ESGCD research project.
This project will be carried out in collaboration with Leiden University, The Netherlands (Prof. Dr. Ed Kuijper) that houses the ECDC/Leeds-Leiden reference collection. The University of Antwerp aims to combine third-generation PacBio long-read with short-read sequencing data of well-characterized *C. difficile* isolates from the reference collection in order to enable the generation of high-resolution assemblies. These will be utilized to establish a database of reference genomes that will be made available publicly. By studying mobile genetic elements, phages, extrachromosomal elements etc., a comparative genomics study will be performed with a focus on virulence in order to characterize better the mosaic *C. difficile* genome. Finally, accurate gapless assemblies will enable development of novel high-resolution typing methods and sequencing-based diagnostic algorithms such as identification of specific genetic targets suitable for the direct identification of specific ribotypes in patient stool samples.

A new wave of the ECDC surveillance of *Clostridium (Clostridioides) difficile* infection (CDI) in Europe

Edited by Pete Kinross

ECDC has coordinated CDI incidence surveillance in acute care hospitals (ACH) since January 2016. Over 21% of the ACHs in 23 EU/EEA countries have participated, with surveillance periods of 1-12 months each year. The 2020 update of the ECDC protocol for European surveillance of CDI includes several structure and process indicators of CDI prevention and control in accordance with the ESGCD Guidance document for prevention of CDI in acute healthcare settings. ACHs that do not already participate may wish to do so during a period designated for enhanced ACH participation, from 1 October to 31 December 2020 (webpage).

EU/EEA countries participating ECDC CDI incidence surveillance, 2016—2018
IMI call

Edited by Ed Kuijper

The new IMI-call “Innovations to accelerate vaccine development and manufacture” will be launched in January 2020. Please contact Ed Kuijper (E.J.Kuijper@lumc.nl) if you are interested in collaborating and/or suggest small companies that, you think, would be interested in participating.

We wish you a successful year and we look forward to seeing you at the ECCMID in Paris!

On behalf of ESGCD executive committee,

Marcela Krutova and Sarah Tschudin-Sutter

ESGCD executive committee members: Sarah Tschudin-Sutter (chair), Switzerland; Marcela Krutova (secretary), Czech Republic; Karen Burns (Treasurer), Ireland; Bente Olesen, Denmark; Alban Le Monnier, France; Elena Reigadas Ramirez, Spain; Lutz von Müller, Germany.