Bylaws of the ESCMID Study Group for Implant-Associated Infections

These Bylaws are written rules of conduct of the Study Group, based on the Statutes of the Study Group and in particular Article 5. They set out the form, manner or procedure in which the Study Group is run.

§ 1 Name
ESCMID Study Group for Implant Associated Infections (ESGIAI).

§ 2 Purpose of the Study Group
Implants are used in most surgical specialities, including orthopaedic surgery and traumatology, neurosurgery, cardio-vascular surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, visceral surgery, urology, maxillofacial surgery and other medical and dental specialities. Despite advances in material design and biocompatibility, implant-associated infections remain one of the most feared and difficult to treat complications, causing high morbidity, considerable mortality and consume healthcare costs resulting in patient restriction from work and compromise their social life. These infections have several specific aspects, in particular that they are difficult to detect and difficult to treat due to the presence of biofilms on the implant surface. Understanding of biofilms under in vitro conditions and in experimental setting has improved in the last decade. However, many unresolved clinical challenges exist in pathogenesis, clinical microbiology, infectious diseases and infection prevention dealing with implant-associated infections. Therefore, an interdisciplinary collaboration is critical in the creation of a scientific forum, which can address these challenges.

The problem of implant-associated infections will continue to increase due to the following factors:

- increasing array of new implants, inserted in the intravascular and extravascular body sites
- life-long risk of infection by hematogenous and contiguous route
- increasing incidence of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance
- increasing number of patients with severe comorbidities and immunosuppression
- implantation not only in elderly people but also in young, otherwise healthy people, in order to replace a missing anatomic structure or biological function

§ 3 Membership
The Study Group consists of members in the following categories:

1. Regular members, appointed following Article 3 of the Statutes of Study Group.

2. Affiliated members are members of other scientific groups (e.g. Study Groups, ESCMID Affiliated Societies) that have been accepted by the Executive Committee. They have no voting right at the Assembly of Members and they cannot be elected in the Executive Committee.

§ 4 Assembly of members
All regular and affiliated members of the Society shall be entitled to attend the Assembly of Members, which is usually held during ECCMID. The chair of the Study Group convenes the Assembly of Members by sending electronically the Agenda. The notice period shall be at least six weeks from the day following the dispatch of convocation. Assembly of members can be held online, except for the annual assembly at ECCMID. The Assembly of Members passes resolutions by a simple majority of the members present.
§ 5 Composition of the Executive Committee
The executive power of the Study Group is vested in the Executive Committee, which consists of:
- Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Education officer
- Science officer

As stated in article 4 of the Statutes, no more than one elected member of the Executive Committee shall come from the same country.

§ 6 Meetings of the Executive Committee
Regular meetings are held at least annually. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or a majority of the Executive Committee voting members.

The Executive Committee passes resolutions with the simple majority of its members present; the Chair has the casting vote. The quorum consists of four voting members. A secret voting procedure may be decided by the majority of the voting members.

§ 7 Vacancies in the Executive Committee
A member of the Executive Committee may vacate the position by resignation or termination of ESCMID membership. Any vacancy occurring in the Committee will normally be filled at the next scheduled election. If the vacancy cannot be filled with the interim appointment of another member, the Executive Committee may initiate new elections for a new member, to cover the remaining period of the term.

§ 8 Conferences
The Executive Committee decides on the location and timing of the courses organized by the ESGIAI group. The Executive Committee appoints a local organizing team that is in charge of the organisation of this meeting. The local organizing committee is responsible for drafting a budget that needs to be approved by the Executive Committee.

Approved by the ESGIAI Executive Committee on: 11 March 2019
Approved by the ESGIAI Assembly of members on: 14 March 2019
Approved by the ESCMID Executive Committee on: 20 March 2019