Bylaws of the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Compromised Hosts

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 Infections in Compromised Hosts (ESGICH).

§ 2 Purpose of the Study Group
There has been a significant increase in the number of immunocompromised patients in modern medicine over the last 3 decades. This is due to remarkable therapeutic progresses, being able to keep alive and in better condition patients with bad prognosis not long ago. This has been often obtained through the impairment of defence mechanism and the manipulation of the immune system. Nowadays, patients with haematological malignancies and undergoing Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) or Solid Organ Transplantation (SOT) are at risk of a variety of opportunistic bacterial, fungal and viral infections. In addition, recent research developments in the therapy of autoinflammatory diseases (e.g. rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel diseases) with anti-TNF and other biological agents have created another group of patients with specific immunological defects which render them susceptible to unusual infections, like, for example, disseminated tuberculosis. Almost all infections are difficult to diagnose and treat, with high rates of mortality and morbidity. Several unanswered questions remain, which include, but are not limited to, changing epidemiology of infecting agents, development of resistance, need to optimize therapies, availability of more effective diagnostic procedures, new risk assessment strategies and new treatment strategies on time to start and time to cease antimicrobial therapy. Finally, opportunistic infections remain an important clinical problems in the HIV-positive population as well, especially among AIDS-presenters. This is a challenging problem for all infectious disease specialists, and not only for those dealing strictly with HIV.

Therefore the aims of the Study Group are:

- producing data on the epidemiology of infections in immunocompromised hosts and SOT / HSCT recipients, including bacterial resistance, emerging pathogens, viral and protozoan infections
- implementing interventional trials with translational purposes
- providing a multidisciplinary platform for research, discussion and education on infections in immunocompromised hosts and SOT / HSCT recipients, to define standards for diagnosing and treating opportunistic infections (i.e. producing clinical guidelines)
- promoting awareness among the scientific community about epidemiology, prophylaxis, diagnosis and treatment of opportunistic infections in immunocompromised patients (e.g. organizing postgraduate education courses, scientific sessions in congresses)
- cooperating with other international organizations in multidisciplinary initiatives

§ 3 Membership
No additions to what is stated in the Article 3 of the Study Group Statutes.

§ 4 Assembly of members
All regular, honorary, and affiliated members of the Study Group shall be entitled to attend the Assembly of Members, which is usually held during ECCMID or upon a resolution of the Executive Committee. 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 quarterly. 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 Chair or requested 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 Subcommittees
The Study Group has the following subcommittees

- Election subcommittee
- Education subcommittee
- Research subcommittee

All subcommittees are accountable to the Executive Committee and can take no unilateral action. All Sub committee members must be Study Group regular, honorary or affiliated members.

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