Bylaws of the ESCMID Study Group for Genomic and Molecular Diagnostics

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 Genomic and Molecular Diagnostics (ESGMD)

§ 2 Purpose of the Study Group
Molecular diagnostics (MDx) has become an essential component of clinical and public health microbiology. Recent advances in MDx (such as qPCR, multiplexing) allow the speedy detection and quantification of microbial nucleic acid targets with greater than ever accuracy. Integration of in-house and commercial molecular assays in laboratory workflows, together with other new technologies (such as MALDI-TOF) complement and occasionally replace traditional methods. The increasing accessibility to next-generation sequencing is further transforming microbiology and genomic-based diagnostics are being developed and implemented via whole-genome sequencing of microbes as well as metagenomics approaches. ESGMD is a cross-cutting study group under ESCMID that is dedicated to genomic and molecular diagnostics in clinical microbiology. As such it is envisaged to serve as the focus of expertise for molecular and genomic microbiology and as a hub for all professionals working in this field.

Key objectives:
1. Study all aspects of the use of molecular and genomic techniques underpinning the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control of infectious diseases as well as other diagnostic advances such as laboratory automation.
2. Lead the development, appraisal and implementation of new diagnostic strategies.
3. Initiate and coordinate international research projects to inform improved infectious disease diagnosis.
4. Train and educate professionals engaged in new diagnostics and support building of diagnostic capacity.
5. Develop guidance and policy on the development, integration and interpretation of genomic and molecular diagnostics.
6. Collaborate with a range of stakeholders in the field of clinical microbiology internally (other SGs) and externally.
7. Promote a growing international community dedicated to genomic and molecular diagnostics.

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

§ 4 Assembly of members
All members of the Study Group 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 pass 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
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- 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
The Executive Committee passes resolutions with the simple majority of its members present; the Chair has the casting vote. The quorum consists of 4 members. A secret voting procedure may be requested by the majority of the 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 periodic scientific meetings. The Executive Committee appoints a local organising team that is in charge of the organisation of this meeting. The local organising committee is responsible for drafting a budget that needs to be approved by the Executive Committee.

Approved by the ESGMD Executive Committee: 11 March 2019
Approved by the ESGMD membership: 14 March 2019
Approved by ESCMID Executive Committee: 20 March 2019