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1. Articles and conference presentations

The ESGVM EC is happy to announce the first scientific publication and conference presentations of the Study Group:


- GUARDABASSI L. Diagnostic microbiology in veterinary dermatology: present and future. World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology (WCVD), 1-6 June 2016, Bordeaux, France.

- ESPINOSA-GONGORA C. Staphylococcal colonization and infection in animals. ESCMID postgraduate education course Virulence and Resistance in Staphylococcus aureus: 2016 State of the Art. 28 June-1 July 2016, Lyon, France.

2. Educational activities

The joint ESGVM/ESGAP Postgraduate Course on Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterinary Medicine was held in Gothenburg on 11-12 September. The course has been the first training event organized by ESCMID for a veterinary audience. The course was a great success, beyond the most optimistic expectations, with 54 attendees from 21 countries and 4 continents. Considering this positive response and the excellent evaluations received from the attendees, ESGVM is determined to launch a similar educational initiative in 2018. The plan is to arrange this course within the programme of the annual congress of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA).

![Group picture at the ESGVM course in Gothenburg](image)

3. Research projects

**ESCMID SG Research project.** The ESCMID SG Research Funding grant application by Ass. Prof. Arshnee Moodley (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) has been granted by the ESCMID Executive Committee. The project is entitled “Identification, taxonomy and ecology of the *Staphylococcus intermedius* group (SIG)”. The objectives of the project are i) to evaluate and improve the performance of the databases of the two MALDI-TOF MS instruments available in the market for species identification of *Staphylococcus intermedius* Group (SIG) isolates, and 2) to assess phylogeny and host adaptation of the three species belonging to this group by whole genome sequencing. The project will be carried out in collaboration with the co-investigator Dr. Ivonnie Stamm (Vet Med Labor, IDEXX Laboratories, Ludwigsburg, Germany) and will involve participation of Prof. Luca Guardabassi (Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, St Kitts and Nevis), Ass. Prof. Peter Damborg (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), and Prof. Vincent Perreten (University of Berne, Switzerland). Please check the ESGVM homepage for more information about the project. The group is looking for additional *S. intermedius* and *S. delphini* isolates to be included in the study. SIG strains that cannot be identified to the species
level by MALDI-TOF MS are of particular interest for the project. If you would like to participate in the project by providing strains, please contact the principal investigator Arshnee Moodley by email (asm@sund.ku.dk).

Arshnee Moodley

**PREPARE-VET.** As planned during the last ESGVM meeting at ECCMID 2016 in Amsterdam, an educational project on education of veterinary students on antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use has been launched this year. The project is coordinated by Dr. Carmen Espinosa Gongora and is carried out in collaboration with the ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies (ESGAP), which has previously performed a similar study with medical students. The project is entitled 'PREPARE-VET' (PREscriber Perspectives on Antibiotic use and Resistance Education in Europe – VETERinary medicine) and aims at evaluating the quality of education on antimicrobial stewardship in final year veterinary students using a questionnaire. To date 31 European countries have been enrolled in the study. A core group formed of experts in antimicrobial stewardship from six of the countries, has prepared a list of the most important elements of education in this field that will serve as a template to evaluate the results of the survey. The questionnaire is currently under revision among the core group and will soon be reviewed by representatives of all the countries involved in the study. We expect to start running the questionnaire in 2017 and to finalise the study within the end of the year.

4. **Activities at ECCMID 2017**

Two of the six proposals by ESGVM for scientific and educational sessions at ECCMID 2017 have been accepted by the conference organization. Here is a complete list of the ECCMID activities that were selected or rejected for the ECCMID 2017 in Vienna:

- **ECCMID 2017 Vienna 1-hour Symposium: Strategies to optimize antimicrobial therapy in livestock;** Organizer(s): ESGVM, EPASG (not selected).
- **ECCMID 2017 Vienna 2-hour Symposium: One Health - One Medicine - from use of antimicrobials in animals to resistance in humans;** Organizer(s): ESGS, ESGVM (not selected).
- **ECCMID 2017 Vienna 2-hour Symposium: One Health microbiome research in clinical microbiology;** Organizer(s): ESGVM, ESGMD (not selected).
- **ECCMID 2017 Vienna Meet-the-Expert Session: Trichinella - about meat and humans;** Organizer(s): ESGCP, ESGVM, EFWISG (not selected).

5. **Other issues**

- Presently 51 members are affiliated to the group. Two members have been involved in the evaluation of 9 ESCMID research grants, and 6 members have acted as reviewers for a total of 250 ECCMID abstracts.
- The next ESGVM meeting will be held at ECCMID 2017 in Vienna. This year is particularly important to attend the meeting because the EC members will have to be elected. We will communicate the exact date and a tentative agenda in due time. Please contact the ESGVM Secretary (cindy.dierikx@rivm.nl) if you have any issues that should be included in the agenda.