2009 Annual Report of
The ESCMID Study Group for Clostridium difficile (ESGCD)

1. Executive Committee as of February 2010.

Chairman: Ed J. Kuijper, MD, PhD. Department of Medical Microbiology, Center of Infectious Diseases, Leiden University

Secretary: Jean O'Driscoll, MB, MSc, Dept. Med Microbiology, Stoke Mandeville Hospital Aylesbury, UK


Members:
- Anne Collignon: PhD, Pharmaceutical doctor, Faculte de Pharmacie, Departement de Microbiologie, University of Paris-Sud.
- Paola Mastrantonio: PhD, DSc. Department of Infectious Diseases, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome.
- Petra Gastmeier, Hospital Infection Control, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- Mark Wilcox, Dept. Med. Microbiology, University of Leeds
- Emilio Bouza, Dept. Med. Microbiology, University Hospital, Madrid, Spain
- Reno Frei, Dept. Med. Microbiology, University Hospital, Basel, Switzerland
- Fidelma Fitzpatrick, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Dublin, Ireland.

2. Past activities:

Guidelines and Consensus Documents.

Using financial support from ESCMID, two guidance documents have been prepared and published in Clin Microbiol Infec Dis 2009:


Publications.


Presentations on behalf of the Study Group at Scientific Meetings.

*ECCMID 2009; Helsinki, 16-18 May 2009:*

* E. Kuijper, B. Goorhuis, T. van der Kooi, P. Filius. Antimicrobials and *Clostridium difficile* infection in the Netherlands and Europe


* M. Rupnik. Update on *Clostridium difficile* pathogenesis

* Application of Molecular Methods to Diagnose CDI and to Study Its Epidemiology

E. J. Kuijper - Leiden University Medical Center, The Netherlands

* Prevalence and antimicrobial susceptibility of *C. difficile* ribotypes in Ireland, March 2009

* Molecular characterization of Clostridium difficile isolated from animals in Italy. Drigo, I., L. Bano, C. Bacchin, P. Spigaglia, F. Barbanti, P. Mastrantonio, M.C. Ossiprandi, and F. Agnoletti.


Organization of workshops and scientific meetings.

Clostridia: The Impact of Genomics on Disease Control 6th ClostPath International Conference Rome, 19 - 23 October 2009

Regular meetings of the ESGCD Executive Committee. Two meetings were held in 2009: the minutes were published on the website of ESGCD. The first meeting was held in Brussels, 24th February, 2009, 13.00-16.00. The second meeting was held in Paris, Monday 3rd November 2009, Institut Pasteur. At the second meeting, new chairman, secretary and treasurer were chosen. No replies had been received to the request to nominate candidates for the positions of chairman, secretary and treasurer. The members present at this meeting unanimously proposed Jean (secretary), Frederic (treasurer) and Ed (chairman) for the available positions.

ECCMID 2009 at Helsinki. Two specific sessions were devoted to CDI: “An update of Clostridium difficile” with two invited speakers and “Clostridium difficile” with selected oral presentations from submitted abstracts. In total, 76 abstracts on CDI were presented at ECCMID.


Educational activities

Culture collection. A so called “ECDC-Brazier collection” encompassing 25 frequently found PCR ribotypes in Europe has been established and is available for reference labs and for research purposes. The collection has been developed and controlled by Jon Brazier (Cardiff, Wales), Mark Wilcox (Leeds, UK), Maja Rupnik (Maribor, Slovenia), Alexander Indra (Vienna, Austria) and Ed Kuijper (Leiden, The Netherlands). A larger additional collection of 50 strains is currently under development.

ECCMID 2010 Vienna. An educational session will be held, entitled: “Practical approaches to Clostridium difficile infections”, chaired by Frederic Barbut.

A 2-hour Symposium: New aspects of emerging C.difficile infections will also be held.

Research projects.

EU-Framework 6 grant on “European approach to combat outbreaks of CDAD by the development of rapid diagnostic tests (EACCAD)” progressed in its third year. The final meeting was held in Maastricht (November 2009).

EU- Framework 7 proposal on“The Physiological Basis of Hypervirulence in Clostridium difficile: a Prerequisite for Effective Infection Control” progresses in its first year. Meetings were held in Nottingham and Rome.
ECDC granted surveillance study. This study was performed using a network of 106 laboratories in 34 European member states and ended April 2009. Strain characterisation and interpretation of clinical and epidemiological data have been completed. A report awaiting final approval has been sent to ECDC and the country coordinators.

3. Planned activities

Surveillance studies. The final results of the pan-European surveillance study will be discussed with ECDC to develop future activities.

4. Administration

Number of the current members.
The number of ESGCD members at 21st January, 2008 was 83.

Agenda for General Assembly:

2. Planned activities for 2009/2010
3. New members of committee
4. Discussion topics – for future
   What do members want?
5. Educational activities – workshops, postgraduate courses?

5. Finances

The total balance of ESGCD was € 12449 with no major expenses in 2009. The account will be managed by ESCMID.

March 5th, 2010

On behalf of ESGCD: Ed Kuijper, Jean O'Driscoll and Frederic Barbut
Correspondence: eikuijper@gmail.com