Another good example of collaboration on different levels is the topic ‘New Life for Old Antibiotics’. Our PK/PD of Anti-Infectives group (EPASG) and ESGAP received an SG Research Grant to create an inventory of dosing regimens for old antibiotics that need updating to optimise and preserve their efficacy. With the help of the ESCMID office, the information was published on a dedicated website (http://epasg.escmid.org) now allowing for comment and information exchange. When the principal investigator, Dr Ursula Theuretzbacher, came up with the idea of holding a conference on this topic, the ESCMID Executive Committee decided to make it an official ESCMID Conference (www.escmid.org/Vienna2014), and to fund it completely.

### Collaboration is key

Since SGs have to apply for ESCMID funding for their various projects, competition is increasing with the growing number of SGs. We counter unnecessary competition by stimulating SGs to collaborate to propose projects for research projects when applying for SG Research Grant funding, when submitting suggestions for ECCMID sessions, or when proposing free-standing courses as part of the annual Education Programme. A good example is the Education Programme 2014 in which 9 of the 17 Postgraduate Education Courses accepted were proposed and are organised by two or more SGs (see forthcoming events, page 59).

A paradigm of internal collaboration within an SG is the new Open Virtual Learning Community (http://esgap.escmid.org), a new knowledge and networking resource on antimicrobial and staphylococcal diseases and vaccines became SGs. Their works of experts focusing on a topic apply for SG status. Over ECCMID sessions, or when proposing free-standing courses as an SG, the SG established the Staphylococcal Study Group – the newly formed ESCMID Study Group for Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections in Chicago, August 2014, with the possibility of supporting a session or selected oral speakers

The main task of the Scientific Affairs Subcommittee (SAS) is to have a close eye on the activity of all SGs. This implies a monitoring function but, in reality, it usually means working together with SGs with the aim of creating new projects, new initiatives or even new roles for SGs. An example from 2013 is when SAS asked SGs to offer their expertise and to contribute as reviewers to evaluate many Research Grant applications. This worked fine and I heartily thank all reviewers and the related SGs for undertaking this new activity (see page 66). Every year in the Scientific Affairs Meeting (see picture of the 2013 meeting), SAS and all SGs come together to discuss everything, from individual projects to the future of science.

### New SAS tasks

As science is constantly developing, the tasks of SAS change slightly from time to time. This year SAS acquired the new task as advisory board for the Medical Guidelines Director, to use their expertise to help assess the diverse guideline and consensus statement proposals. I look forward to this new opportunity for fruitful collaboration.

To close the circle, I would like to say a special thank you to all the members of SAS and all active SG members; only their constant commitment and involvement enables our Society and the whole scientific community to advance.

Murray Akova
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**ESCMID Study Groups**

ESCMID Study Groups are expert circles with a common, focused interest. You can find an overview of Study Groups, their positioning within the ESCMID Sections and Themes as well as their activities online at www.escmid.org/studygroups.

**New Study Groups**

The newly founded ESCMID Vaccine Study Group began its work in 2013.

**Planned activities**

- **ECCMID 2014, Barcelona: 2-hour Educational Workshop**: Vaccination in the elderly: perspectives
  - 2-hour Symposium: Hot topics in vaccine-preventable diseases
  - Meet-the-Expert Session: Healthcare providers and influenza vaccination
  - **Conference on The Importance of Mutual Protection**, Spring 2015
  - **Consensus Statement on Recommended Immunisation Schedules for Adults and the Elderly to be completed within 2014

**Study Group News**

www.escmid.org/studygroups

The newly formed ESCMID Study Group for Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections started its activities in 2013.

**Planned activities**

- Organise sessions at ECCMID 2015, especially joint ones with other Study Groups
- Participate and assist in the organisation of the ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop ‘Molecular Typing Methods for Pathogens’, 30 June – 4 July 2014, Lyon, France, coordinated by ESGEM

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The foundations of the group were laid in Stockholm in 2000, steered enthusiastically by Jon Brazier together with several Clostridium difficile stalwarts, and the group’s inaugural symposium was held at ECCMID in Istanbul in 2001. Jon Brazier completed two 2-year terms as Chair (2001-2005), with Ian Poxton taking over the reins from 2005-2009, again ably assisted by Michel Delmée as treasurer and Ed Kuijper as secretary. From the outset, the group’s Executive Committee consisted of individuals with a long-established history of C. difficile research from the European countries where C. difficile infections (CDIs) were most actively investigated.

The great success of the Study Group is the result of many factors, including a great drive to host symposia, educational workshops and ‘meet the expert’ sessions at ECCMID; being proactive in organising prospective surveys to determine the epidemiology of C. difficile in European Member States; and developing international guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of CDIs—in collaboration with ECDC and other interested parties in Europe and North America. Collaborations with ESCMID Study Groups and other societies have also been important. Notable among these were the joint post-graduate education courses with ESGB (now named ESGA) on anaerobic bacteria in Szeged (2007) and Groningen (2010); the joint FEMS/ESGCMD series on New Frontiers in Microbiology and Infection: ‘Clostridia: from old diseases to new threats’, held in Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland, in 2008, and being part of the organising committees for the four International Clostridium difficile Symposia held in Slovenia 2004–12.

The Study Group was instrumental in securing funding from the EU for Framework Six and Seven projects, and has collaborated with ECDC on two large projects: ‘European Clostridium Infection Survey (2008–2009)’ and ‘Supporting capacity building for surveillance of Clostridium difficile infections at European level (2010–2014)’ (see www.ecdisnet.eu). The group also provided support for the publication of ‘Clostridium difficile infection in Europe’ (sponsored by Astellas). Using recent support from ESCMID, an update of the treatment guidance document was published as a special issue of CMI (March 2014).

Planned activities
• The Study Group is involved in applications for Horizon 2020 projects and for Joint Programming Initiatives on Antimicrobial Resistance.
• An update of the diagnostic guidance document has been scheduled for 2014–2015.
• At ECCMID 2014, a two-hour Symposium will be held on ‘New approaches to prevent transmission of Clostridium difficile infections,’ and a one-hour Symposium on ‘Emergence of Clostridium difficile infections outside healthcare facilities.’
• ESGCD will also organise a session at the 9th Healthcare Infection Society International Conference 2014 in association with the French Society for Hospital Hygiene (SF2H).
• In close collaboration with ESGA and EUCAST, fidaxomycin ECOFFs will be determined.
• ESGCD will provide a chapter in Infectious Diseases 4th edition (Cohen, Powderly and Opal).

ESGCD Business Meeting at ECCMID 2013

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• Petra Gausvær, Hospital Infection Control, Ullevål University Hospital, Oslo, Norway  
• Mark Miko, Dept. Med. Microbiology, University of Leeds  
• Emilio Bouza, Dept. Med. Microbiology, University Hospital, Basle, Switzerland  
• Jafekra Fasuyi, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Dublin, Ireland  
• Richard Blaas, Transcrip Partners, Reading, UK  

Chairperson: Ed Kuijper, Dept. Med. Microbiology, Leiden University Medical Center  
Secretary: Jean O’Driscoll, Dept. Med. Microbiology, St. Mary’s Hospital, London, UK  
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ESCMID Study Groups (cont.)

EHSG Workshop 2012 in Ljubljana
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