# ESCMID Yearbook 2013/2014

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Message from the President

With the closure of ECCMID 2014, my two year period as the president of ESCMID is over. They have been two very busy years and I do not think my family, or my laboratory or EUCAST colleagues would have looked kindly at a longer term!

The ESCMID Executive Committee, both regular and ad hoc members (see pages 4 and 5), is a boisterous crowd of scientists and CM and ID specialists. They all have lots of ideas about how to improve ESCMID and ECCMID, as well as the everyday work situation for colleagues in CM and ID, cooperation with other societies, return on investments (financial and otherwise), IT-support, communication and much more. It has been a pleasure and an honour, not to mention a challenge (!), to lead them during this period.

Together we have organised two successful ECCMIDs: Berlin 2013 with Congrex as our congress provider, and Barcelona 2014 together with Kenes. We continue to make ECCMID grow and each new ECCMID seems to break the record of previous years, both in the number of submitted abstracts and in attendance. This year the number of abstracts exceeded 4’500. Only a few years ago the record was 2’900. ECCMID also seems to attract more and more people. In Berlin there were almost 10’000 of us and, at the time of writing, two months before ECCMID in Barcelona, the numbers are looking even better. It has become a truly international meeting, with attendees from all over the world; but despite its size it retains the qualities of a ‘workshop’. It is the natural host of many satellite meetings, both large and small, covering research planning, Study Group meetings, committee meetings (like those of EUCAST, reporting on the last 12 months and plans for the next 12), meetings to write grant applications, to plan Postgraduate Courses or to arrange Observerships and much, much more. These ‘meetings within the meeting’ are the nerve and soul of ESCMID and ECCMID, and I am sure that is why we are successful. Do you feel, as I do, the constructive, friendly atmosphere among colleagues and friends in CM and ID? Do you find, as I do, many friends in ‘unlikely places’? Do you enjoy, as I do, making our youngest colleagues feel wanted and welcome? Do you thrive on this, as indeed I do?

Together with successful ECCMIDs, we have been able to offer you medical guidelines, Postgraduate Courses, Summer Schools, scientific support in Study Groups (now almost 30 strong), research grants and awards, the now very popular ESCMID Observerships (some dedicated to public health through our cooperation with WHO Europe and ECDC), and the ESCMID Online Lecture Library where almost all ECCMID and many other lectures are available. Together with ECDC and EMA we also continue to give you harmonised antimicrobial breakpoints through EUCAST (the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing) and a standardised European disk diffusion test, which is constantly under development.

The ESCMID Executive Committee will, when I hand over to Murat Akova, consist of four male colleagues, Murat Akova (ID, Turkey), Mario Poljak (CM, Slovenia), Jesús Rodríguez-Baño (ID, Spain) and myself for another two years as the Past President (CM, Sweden), and three female colleagues (Evelina Taconelli (ID, Germany), Cornelia Lass-Flörl (CM, Austria) and Annelies Zinkernagel (ID, Switzerland). Our Programme Director for several years, Jordi Vila (CM, Spain) will hand over to Winfried Kern, (ID, Germany). This means that a clear bias towards CM over the past few years will now be turned into an ID dominance with a good gender balance. Some of you may think that this influences everyday committee work and decisions but I can tell you that we only rarely take a stand as CM or ID specialists and we all try to make sure that ESCMID and ECCMID are balanced in every possible way; CM and ID, north and south, west and east, male and female. It is often difficult and sometimes not achieved but this is our aim.

It is a handover to Murat Akova in the fine tradition of ESCMID. I shall continue to work for ESCMID and ECCMID are balanced in every possible way; CM and ID, north and south, west and east, male and female. It is often difficult and sometimes not achieved but this is our aim.

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Finally, I shall continue my endeavours to provide even more support for all of you from EUCAST.

Message from the Incoming President

When I joined the ESCMID Executive Committee in 2007, Giuseppe Cornaglia, then the Incoming President, asked in his article in an ESCMID Newsletter ‘What will ESCMID look like in a couple of years’ time?’ Now, after almost seven years, one can frankly answer this question by saying ‘the Society looks great!’ As Gunnar Kahlmeter explains clearly in his column opposite, this is not simply because ESCMID now organises the world’s most successful congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infection Diseases. ESCMID also gathers the best scientists from Europe and elsewhere to work with the Society, embraces young physicians and scientists and offers them many educational activities, and gives them opportunities to express their ideas and influence the future of our profession. ESCMID provides them with grants to maintain their research and attend ECCMIDs, courses and Summer Schools.

Now, it is my turn to ask the very same question: What future awaits ESCMID in the coming years? Considering the challenges we currently face, there is no easy answer. However, I suggest that three terms stand out as our priorities: networking, encouragement and synergy.

In ESCMID, networking has always been of major importance. To maintain the Society’s attractiveness, networking should be even more extensive. Observerships, introduced a few years ago, have been a huge success because they foster understanding between countries. I hope to extend this part of our activity beyond Europe and beyond everyday working practice to include science and research. ESCMID’s future lies in the hands and brains of our young colleagues. Thus, we have to encourage them, allow them to take active roles and continue to provide them with every opportunity not only for their own research and education but also for their ideas and feedback to benefit the Society.

ESCMID must stimulate synergy. We have been very successful in showing that a laboratory discipline (microbiology) can complementarily join forces with a clinical speciality (infectious diseases). We have also managed to bring about very successful cooperation between our Study Groups working on diverse subjects. It should be possible to increase our work with numerous specialities, ranging from the main sciences to clinical medicine. In that sense, ESCMID should continue to foster its good working relationships with other global and local organisations, including WHO and ECDC, for the benefit of public health and attempt to create a system for a prompt, coordinated response to infectious diseases-related crises occurring anywhere in the world.

Obviously, to achieve all these ambitious desires requires teamwork. My teammates, who are magnificent scientists and hardworking professionals, include the Executive Committee and our Executive Office in Basel as well as those who take responsibility on various committees and subcommittees. But it also requires financial resources, which, historically, are sometimes more and sometimes less abundant. Our management of these resources will be crucial for our future success.

ESCMID’s current success would not have been possible without the vision and inextinguishable energy of all the superb presidents of the Society, some of whom I have had the privilege to serve during the past seven years. Their passion and wisdom, while transforming ESCMID from a local organisation in its early days to a global society, inspire me to take on such a challenge for the next two years. What does the future hold for ESCMID? More networking, more encouragement and more synergy and, together with appropriate financial resources, more success!
ESCMID – about the Society

Gunnar Kahlmeter
ESCMID President
gunnar.kahlmeter@escmid.org

ESCMID – reaching out to the world from its Swiss hub

Since May 2011 ESCMID has been based in Switzerland and continues to provide services and activities that longstanding members have come to appreciate. We are pleased to report that the Society has now grown to more members than ever – 5,587 – an increase of over 15% compared to 2013! From this year everyone with an ESCMID login or membership may use this to register for ECCMID. We believe this has made the process more user-friendly and it’s easier for participants to save on registration fees by purchasing a membership beforehand. As seen in Figure 1, the largest portion of our membership is in Europe, yet some of our top 40 countries are in North America, Asia and Africa (Figure 2), and we have members from 109 countries worldwide, proving that we are not just attractive to European professionals.

The annual congress, ECCMID, is the Society’s biggest annual event. It is now the largest congress of its kind in the fields of CM and ID. However, the Society has much more to offer than the annual meeting!

To facilitate the professional life and careers of our young colleagues, we offer a variety of programmes that especially target members still at an early stage in their careers including:

• ESCMID Observerships, including special Observerships with ECDC and WHO
• Travel Grants for the annual congress – ECCMID
• Travel Grants for ESCMID courses, workshops and conferences
• ESCMID-Online Lecture Library (OLL)
• Option to participate in the Trainees Association of ESCMID (TAE)
• ESCMID Research Grants
• ESCMID Summer School

Other core benefits of ESCMID membership include:

• ESCMID Collaborative Centre programme – to host Observers
• Post-graduate courses – continuing education
• Scientific conferences on special topics
• The Society’s Journals – CMI and NMNI
• ESCMID guidelines – medical and laboratory
• European projects – e.g. EUCAST
• Study Groups – expert groups on specific topics

One of the Society’s main strengths is its facilitation of networking inside Europe. ESCMID has over 50 Affiliated Societies that provide input into our activities and whose members we regularly contact. Collaboration with ECDC and WHO has strengthened – both actively participate in ESCMID and ECCMID activities. To reach out beyond Europe, ESCMID delegations regularly travel to conferences and meetings all over the world, as far afield as Russia, India, China and Brazil.

We invite you to visit our website and explore our many resources.

Key membership statistics as of 12th March 2014

Figure 1. ESCMID Members according to continent
- Europe
- Americas
- Asia
- Oceania
- Africa

The total number of ESCMID members: 5,587
- Young Scientist membership: 1,497
- Full membership: 1,872
- Basic membership: 2,218

Figure 2. Countries with the most ESCMID members

Vote at Assembly of members 2013

ESCMID attendees moving through ‘ESCMID World’ 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United Kingdom</th>
<th>Germany</th>
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<th>Spain</th>
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<td>71</td>
<td>68</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The ESCMID Executive Committee 2013–14

1. to 5 | Gunnar Kahlmeter, Sweden
        Giuseppe Cornaglia, Italy
        Cornelia Lass-Flörl, Austria
        Mario Pejak, Slovenia
        Eveline Tacconelli, Germany

6. to 10 | Murat Akova, Turkey
         Jesús Rodríguez-Baño, Spain
         Caterina Guzzanti, Italy
         Luciana Maccario, Italy
         Nicola Girolami, Italy

11. to 14 | Mark Solomon, USA
           Elena Malpeli, Italy
           Arnaud Franci, France
           Jennifer Marshall, USA
           Régis Moulonguet, France
ESCMID Executive Committee Elections Held in 2013

An election to fill the vacancy on the ESCMID Executive Committee was held from 25 November to 16 December 2013 via a web-based platform. Selection of candidates had been based on professional and geographical criteria to ensure a wide choice and a well-balanced and competent Executive Committee.

The new Executive Committee Member will be inaugurated at the Assembly of Members held during the 24th ECCMID in Barcelona.

The newly elected member of the ESCMID Executive Committee is:

Annelies Zinkernagel
annelies.zinkernagel@escmid.org

I am very pleased to be elected as a member of the ESCMID Executive Committee. As a physician/scientist I strive to combine basic research with patient care. I am highly motivated to expand this work. Together with the other members of the Executive Committee and ESCMID members I shall strive to further evolve and consolidate basic as well as clinical research. Further, my involvement with ESCMID will be to enhance educational, professional and scientific activity in order to solidify ESCMID as ‘the’ scientific and clinical organisation for all issues related to infectious diseases.

Position and affiliation
Senior Physician in Infectious Diseases, Laboratory Group Leader, University Hospital Zurich, Division of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology

Good reasons for membership:
• Society’s journals: CMI, NMNI
• Registration discounts for events
• Participation in Study Groups
• ESCMID Newsletter and Yearbook
• Discounts to other journals
• Access to the Online Lecture Library and Membership Directory
• Eligibility for ESCMID Awards, Research Grants and Observerships
• Right to vote and participate in ESCMID

Apply for Membership
Visit our website and join us now!

www.escmid.org/membership
ESCMID had a successful 2013, having been through a period of profound transformation, both organisationally and financially, in 2011 and 2012. In 2013, with our seat in Switzerland well-established, we spent EUR 0.5 million more on key activities than in 2012 (see graph). This applies especially to the Scientific Affairs sector, where we doubled our expenses, since this field encompasses our core competencies and is essential to the future of the Society.

The 2014 budget foresees expenditures of approximately EUR 3.4 million, mostly concentrated in the areas of Science, Professional Affairs and Education (Figure 1). ESCMID is proud to keep supporting previously successful projects and is committed to funding new scientific and educational activities, including Study Groups, conferences and workshops, medical guidelines, awards and grants.

**Figure 1. Budgeted expenses 2014**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Affairs</td>
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<td>1200</td>
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<td>Executive Committee</td>
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<td>1000</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration, Finances, Office</td>
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<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishing</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses for key activities**

We are pleased to present the recipients of awards and grants for the year 2014. ESCMID continues its strong commitment to the grant programmes, as evidenced by our support of 13 individuals for an ESCMID Research Grant as well as our generous allocation of funds for ECCMID travel grants. In 2013 attendance grant funding for courses and conferences increased by some 60%, demonstrating our commitment to continuous learning and exchange.

Ilaria Capua (Padua, Italy) is the ESCMID Excellence awardee for 2014. In addition to the publication of more than 200 scientific papers, many of which were published in leading international peer-reviewed journals, she has also played a key role in launching global initiatives, served on international committees and received numerous accolades. Her lifetime achievements and contributions to research, particularly in the management of avian influenza viruses and other animal viruses, have significantly influenced recent intervention strategies developed for animal and, consequently, human health issues.

The Young Investigator Awardees for 2014 are Michael Ramharter (Vienna, Austria) and Joost Wiersinga (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). Michael Ramharter has been pivotal in the pre-clinical and clinical development of anti-malarial drugs, with a focus on Central Africa and paediatric patients. Joost Wiersinga’s field of interest is sepsis, and he has an excellent track record for the interplay between severe infections and host response, combining experimental animal studies, laboratory investigations and clinical studies.

The recipients of the 2014 Trainee Association of ESCMID Awards for Training Achievements are Liliana Praticò in Infectious Diseases (Pavia, Italy), Neven Pupic in Infectious Diseases (Zagreb, Croatia) and Yusuf Erlangga in Clinical Microbiology (Brussels, Belgium).

The International Sepsis Forum (ISF) Award recipient for 2014 is Jacqueline M. Lankelma (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). Thirteen young colleagues received an ESCMID Research Grant in 2014 to work on their proposed basic or applied research projects. The choice was exceptionally difficult this year as we received a record number of 145 research grant applications of high-quality. Every year one of those receiving a grant is also awarded the ESCMID/FEMS fellowship and this year it goes to two recipients. We are truly thankful to the large number of Research Grant Reviewers who dedicated their time and energy to evaluate all these applications thoroughly. We proudly acknowledge our Reviewers by name on page 61.

In addition, ESCMID supports young colleagues with merit-based travel grants and free registration to enable them to attend ECCMID. We gave more than 100 young scientists travel grants and free registration for ECCMID Barcelona, where they will present the results of their work. ESCMID also supports its young members with attendance grants for ESCMID conferences, the Summer School, post-graduate educational courses and other educational and/or scientific events. In 2013 ESCMID spent 60% more on these activities compared to 2012.

You can find details of all recipients of awards and research/travel grants for 2014 on the following pages.
ESCMID Award for Excellence in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2014

Ilaria Capua

Ilaria Capua is currently a Member of the Italian Parliament and Vice-President of the 7th Parliamentary Commission for Culture, Science and Education. Therefore, she has taken a leave of absence from her position as Director of the Division of Comparative Biomedical Sciences at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Legnaro (Padua), Italy; her division hosts the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Reference Laboratories for animal and avian influenza and Newcastle disease, rabies and the OIE Collaborating Centre for Diseases at the Human-Animal Interface. She is also a visiting professor at the Centre for Virus Research at the University of Glasgow. Her group in Legnaro of over 70 staff provides diagnostic expertise globally and conducts cutting-edge research on influenza viruses and viral zoonoses.

She has extensive experience in coordinating international research projects funded by the European Commission, and has also worked closely with FAO, managing Technical Cooperation Projects covering 40 countries, and with OIE in international activities and training projects. She is author or co-author of over 200 publications in peer-reviewed journals as well as editor of scientific books and of books and articles for the general public. In 2006 she initiated an international debate on enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration to foster transparency of genetic data of influenza viruses, which has promoted a review of international health policies on data sharing to improve pandemic preparedness.

In 2007 she was among the winners of the Scientific American 50 Award and, in 2008, was included among Seed Magazine’s Revolutionary Minds for leadership in science policy. She is the first female recipient of the Penn Vet World Lead-ership in Animal Health Award, the most prestigious award in veterinary medicine (2011). In 2012 she became a Grande Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana, the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic awarded by the Italian President.

Research Interests
Her areas of research include viral diseases of birds, mammals and fish, with particular reference to zoonotic viral infections. Her group is actively involved in the epidemiology, evolution and phylogeny of avian influenza viruses and in the development of novel vaccines for influenza infections. In addition, studies on interspecies transmission mechanisms and on the metabolic consequences of influenza infection have become core parts of her research activities. The group also functions as an international reference laboratory for rabies and lyssaviruses, which is involved in molecular evolution studies and the development of novel control and prevention strategies. Other areas of interest include the diagnosis and control of Newcastle disease and coronavirus infections in poultry, pathogenesis and vaccine development for viral diseases of fish and poultry and research on selected viral zoonotic agents, including astroviruses, West Nile virus and related flaviviruses. The application and integration of advanced tools in molecular genetics and bioinformatics for research focusing on infectious diseases at the animal-human interface is also a key activity of her group.

Ilaria Capua will be presented with her award during the ESCMID Excellence Award ceremony by Gunnar Kahleiter, ESCMID President, and Giuseppe Cornaglia, ESCMID Past President, on Monday, 12 May 2014, 14.30 – 15.30 in Hall C. During the ceremony she will give her recipient’s lecture: ‘Close encounters of the third kind – pathogens and globalisation’.

ESCMID Young Investigator Awards for Research in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2014

Michael Ramharter

Michael Ramharter is Associate Professor at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria, and leader of the Infectious Disease Control Group—a scientific working group co-affiliated to the Institut für Tropenmedizin, Universität Tübingen, and the Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné in the Central African country of Gabon. Early in his career he worked under the guidance of Walter H. Werns dorfer on the preclinical development of anti-malarials in the Thai-Myanmar border region—an experience which sparked an ever-increasing interest in the clinical investigation of infectious diseases in the tropics. He shifted the focus of his work to Central Africa when he joined Professor Peter G. Krems-ner’s team at the Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné, at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Gabon. He has held postdoctoral positions at the Institut für Tropenmedizin, Universität Tübingen, and the Institut Pasteur, Université de la Méditer- ranée, Marseille, France. He currently works as a specialist in Internal Medicine and consultant in Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine at the Division of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine headed by Professor Wolfgang Graninger.

Research Interests
Starting from the preclinical evaluation of antimalarial drugs, he developed a strong interest in the clinical development of antimalarial combination therapies. He has led a series of clinical trials investigating novel drugs and drug combinations for the treatment and prevention of malaria in children and pregnant women—two of the most vulnerable patient populations in sub-Saharan Africa. More recently, his main research activities focus on the epidemiology and management of neglected tropical diseases including schistosomiasis and echinococcosis and other infectious diseases occurring in the tropics.

Michael Ramharter will be presented with his award during the ESCMID Young Investigator Awards Session on 13 May 2014 at 11.30 – 12.30 in Hall E. During the session, he will present his work: ‘Development of antimalarial drugs in Lambaréné, Gabon’.

Joost Wiersinga

Joost Wiersinga received his medical training at the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands) with additional courses at the Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH, Bethesda, MD). He achieved his PhD on the topic ‘ToxOllike receptors and the innate immune response in sepsis caused by Burkholderia pseudomallei’ (melioidosis), cum laude under the guidance of Professor Tom van der Poll (University of Amsterdam) and Professor Sharon Peacock (Universiteit of Oxford); during this period he worked in Thailand at the Wellcome Trust South-East Asia Major Overseas Programme in Bangkok. Previous awards won by him are the O’Callaghan PhD Award, the Andreas Bonn Medalion and the GSK ICAC Award. At the moment, he divides his time between patient care at the Department of Medicine (sub-speciality Infectious Diseases), research and teaching in the Center for Experimental Molecular Medicine (CEMM) and the Center for Infection and Immunity (CINIMA), all at the Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Research Interests
During this ceremony he investigates innate immune responses in sepsis, with a special interest in sepsis caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Burkholderia pseudomallei and Salmonella typhi.

Recent interests include the role of gut microbiota during severe bacterial infections and optimisation of antibiotic therapy for—among others—cellulitis/erysipelas. He currently steers the European Sepsis Academy grant initiatives and the European Melioidosis Network. His work has been published in Nature Microbiology, PLoS Pathog PLoS Medicine, New England Journal of Medicine and other journals.

Joost Wiersinga will be presented with his award during the ESCMID Young Investigator Awards Session on 13 May 2014 at 11.30 – 12.30 in Hall E. During the session, he will present his work: ‘Gut-lung axis: the intestinal microbiota in pneumococcal pneumonia’. 
ESCMID Research Grants 2014

The following ESCMID members have received a Research Grant in 2014 for the indicated project.

Paula Espinal
Microbiology, Centre Esther Koplowitz, Barcelona, Spain
Project: Relationship between resistance mechanisms and potential virulence in Acinetobacter spp. strains using the Caenorhabditis elegans model.

Ana Sofia Fernandes
BSG, Institute for Biotechnology and Bioengineering (IBB), Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Lisbon, Portugal
Project: How do bacterial phosphotyrosine phosphatase proteins modulate host-pathogen interactions?

Gabriela Flores-Ramirez
Department of Rickettsiology, Institute of Virology, Bratislava, Slovakia
Project: Profile of the protein response in the process to tetracycline resistance by Coxiella burnetii

Mateja Jelen
Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Project: Genome sequencing analysis of more than 2100 vaccine-relevant, globally circulating, human papillomavirus HPV-6 and HPV-11 isolates

Boštjan J. Kocjan
Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Project: Determination of molecular mechanisms of low-risk HPV-mediated carcinogenesis

Anália Lourenço
University of Vigo, Ourense, Spain
Project: Reconstruction of polymicrobial interactions in infections: the case of Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Candida albicans: cross talk in ventilator-associated pneumonia

Michael McConnell
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, Biomedical Institute of Seville, Seville, Spain
Project: Identification of novel antibiotic targets for Acinetobacter baumannii through the characterization of metabolic genes required for biofilm formation, virulence and infection

Jana Bossa Soteres
Infectious Diseases, Hospital Universitari Vall d’Hebron, Barcelona, Spain
Project: PLGA nanoparticles as specific carriers for nebulized drug delivery of antibiotic combinations against respiratory infections caused by high-risk clones of Pseudomonas in the murine model

Cynthia Mira Sharma
Institute for Molecular Infection Biology (IMIB)/Research Center for Infectious Diseases (ZINF), University of Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany
Project: New 3D infection models based on tissue-engineering to study pathogenicity of Helicobacter pylori and Campylobacter jejuni

Isabel Soares Silva
Serviço de Nefrologia, Hospital de S. João, Porto, Portugal
Project: Establishment of an in vitro model system for the study of biofilm formation in haemodialysis tunnelled catheters

Sandra Sousa
Infection and immunity, Group of Molecular Microbiology, IBMC, Porto, Portugal
Project: Novel interfaces during host responses to pore-forming toxins: crosstalk between ER chaperones and cytoskeletonal proteins

Debby van Riel
Viroscience, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Project: Cell-to-cell transmission of influenza viruses along the olfactory route

M. Isabel Veiga
Life and Health Sciences Research Institute (ICVS), University of Minho, Braga, Portugal
Project: The ATP-binding cassette transporters Plasmemum polyoxyns multidrug resistance proteins (pMRPs) and their relevance in antimicrobial drug-resistance

ESCMID / FEMS Fellow 2014

ESCMID / FEMS Fellow 2014
ESCMID TAE Awards for Training Achievements 2014

 Noran Pasic
 University Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Zagreb, Croatia
 Infectious Diseases

 Liliana Pietro
 Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, Pavia, Italy
 Infectious Diseases

 ISF Sepsis Award 2014
 Jacqueline Lankelma will give a short presentation about her project in the ISF session on Saturday, 10 May 2014 from 13:30 – 15:30 in Hall K.

 Jacqueline M. Lankelma
 Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 Project: Protective role of the gut microbiota in pneumonia-derived sepsis

 CMI
 CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY AND INFECTION
 The authoritative source of information across the fields of microbiology and infectious disease

 Editor-in-Chief: Didier Raoult

 Latest Impact Factor: 4.578

 Clinical Microbiology and Infection is delighted to present these Special Issues:

 - ESCMID Guidelines for the Management of the Infection Control Measures to Reduce Transmission of Multidrug-resistant Gram-negative Bacteria in Hospitalised Patients
 - ESCMID Update of the Treatment Guidance Document for Clostridium difficile Infection
 - Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines

 www.cmijournal.com
The basis is growing

The main driving force within ESCMID is its large number of highly active Study Groups (SGs). Every year some new networks of experts focusing on a topic apply for SG status. Over the last year three groups from the diverse fields of mycoplasma and staphylococcal diseases and vaccines became SGs. Their planned activities are described on page 19.

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 on proposals 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. Researchers from UK, France, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark and others, have recently been formed and would welcome other European SG members. According to the data obtained, guidelines will be written for improving MLVA typing for M. pneumoniae.

The main task of the Scientific Affairs Subcommittee (SAS) is to have a close eye on the activity of all SGs. This implies 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 the 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.

The newly formed ESCMID Study Group for Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Diseases 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 ESGM

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 formed ESCMID Vaccine Study Group began its work in 2013.

Planned activities

- Undertake a multicentre European survey to assess the prevalence of CA-MRSA in skin and soft-tissue infections at hospital admission, and the proportion of these caused by the major clone USA300 vs other lineages, similar to the Moran et al NEJM 2006 study
- Interaction with the International Symposium on Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections in Chicago, August 2014, with the possibility of supporting a session or selected oral speakers
The Study Groups held their annual meeting at ECCMID 2013

ESGCD - European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

ESGARAB (now named ESGAI) – on anaerobic bacteria in Szeged (2007) and Groningen (2010); seven projects, and has collaborated with ECDC on two large projects: ‘European Clostridium difficile 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 ESGAI and EUCAST, fidaxomycin ECOFFs will be determined.
• ESGCD will provide a chapter in Infectious Diseases 4th edition (Cohen, Powderly and Opal).
ESCMID Study Groups [cont.]

EHSG Workshop 2012 in Ljubljana
...online

find lectures, abstracts, posters

Take your ECCMID home!
- ECCMID 2014 material: Over 3'500 abstracts, Around 2'000 [e]posters, More than 250 slide-sets and recorded webcasts
- Material from previous ECCMIDs, ECCMID Conferences and Courses
- Abstracts and [e]posters free for everyone
- Latest slides and webcasts exclusively for ESCMID Members
- Older material free to the public

Check it out online at www.escmid.org/OLL
ESCMI D actively supports the publication of high-quality, evidence-based guidance to support best medical practice in the diagnosis and management of infectious disease. The guidance is based on current best evidence and is intended to support patient management, although this of necessity demands the careful consideration of all issues relevant to a particular patient.

ESCMI D supported guidance may be in the form of Clinical Practice Guidelines, Consensus Statements or Technology Reviews. The table below lists currently ongoing and recently completed guidance projects. The diligent work of all partnering Study Groups and Societies in these projects is greatly appreciated.

On the Medical Guidelines website (see top of page for direct link), you can find published guidelines written, endorsed or otherwise promoted by ESCMI D; furthermore, there are detailed instructions if you want to submit a proposal for guidelines yourself.

We are looking forward to your proposals for new guidelines.

Guideline: Fever and neutropenia
Owner: ESCMI D/ESIL [ESGICH]
Status: Published 2013

Guideline: Surviving sepsis campaign (treatment guideline) – revision 2012
Owner: ISF/ESCMI D
Status: Published 2013

Guideline: Infection control measures for MDR Gram-negative bacteria in the healthcare setting
Owner: ESCMI D
Status: Published 2014

Guideline: Diagnosis and treatment of emerging fungal diseases
Owner: ESCMI D/ECMM [EFSS]
Status: Published 2014

Guideline: Treatment of Clostridium difficile – update
Owner: ESCMI D [ESGCD]
Status: Published 2014

Guideline: Diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment of bacteraemia
Owner: ESCMI D [ESGIB]
Status: Publication planned in 2014

Guideline: Diagnosis and treatment of Aspergillus diseases
Owner: ESCMI D/ECMM/ERS/ EACCI [EFSS]
Status: Publication planned in 2014

Guideline: Diagnosis and treatment of bacterial meningitis
Owner: ESCMI D [ESGIB]
Status: Publication planned in 2014

Guideline: HAP/VAP
Owner: ERS/ESCM/ESCMI D
Status: Publication planned in 2014

Guideline: The diagnosis and management of vertebral osteomyelitis
Owner: IDSA/ESCMI D
Status: Publication planned in 2014

Guideline: Clinical practice guidelines on leishmaniasis
Owner: IDSA/ESCMI D/ASTMH
Status: Publication planned in 2014

Guideline: Nontuberculous mycobacteria
Owner: IDSA/ATC/ERS/ESCMI D
Status: Started 2013

Nienke van de Sande
WHO Regional Office for Europe
NVS@euro.who.int

The Central Asian and Eastern European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (CAESAR) project is a joint initiative of ESCMI D, The Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe. The aim of CAESAR is to set up a network of national surveillance systems of antibiotic resistance in all countries of the WHO European Region that are not part of EARS-Net, by using similar methodology.

CAESAR is an important step towards the implementation of the European strategic action plan on antibiotic resistance adopted by the WHO-EURO Regional Committee 61 in Baku, Azerbaijan, in September 2011.

Country assessments
WHO-Europe, in collaboration with ESCMI D and RIVM, performs country assessments to determine Member States’ status with respect to the prevention and control of antibiotic resistance through surveillance, prudent use of antibiotics and infection control. It specifically focuses on promoting national coordination and strategy, strengthening AMR surveillance and improving clinical microbiology practice. The team meets (during one week as feasible) for discussions with relevant stakeholders and organisations at national, regional and local level. In 2013 country assessments were performed in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

National and sub-regional CAESAR workshops
CAESAR workshops were held in Turkey, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Belarus, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At ECCMID last year, the first CAESAR network meeting brought together the national AMR Focal Points of the first 8 countries engaged in CAESAR, the CAESAR project group and a pool of experts. Challenges, opportunities and needs in setting up or strengthening national AMR surveillance were discussed. From 6–8 November 2013 WHO/Europe organised a regional workshop on Surveillance of Antibiotic Resistance. Consumption and Raising of Awareness hosted by RIVM in collaboration with ESGARS-ESCMID, University of Antwerp and BAPCOC, Belgium.

External Quality Assessment of CAESAR laboratories
In November 2013 a first EQA for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing for 121 laboratories in nine countries engaged in CAESAR was performed by UK NEQAS. Results of this EQA will be discussed at the second CAESAR network meeting at ECCMID 2014.

CAESAR data collection
So far data have been collected according to CAESAR methodology in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey. We plan to include results from three more countries in the first CAESAR annual report that will be issued at the end of 2014.

CAESAR project group
Nienke van de Sande (WHO EURO); Danilo Lo Fo Wong (WHO EURO); Christian Giske (ESGARS-ESCMID); Robert Skov (ESGARS-ESCMID); Jos Monen (RIVM-CIB); Tjalling Leenstra (RIVM-CIB).

CAESAR Project

27 YEARBOOK 2013/2014 SCIENCE YEARBOOK 2013/2014
The 23rd ECCMID, held in Berlin from 27 to 30 April 2013, was remarkable for two reasons. The quality of the abstracts presented was outstanding, showing the excellence of research in the fields of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases in Europe, and we had the largest technical exhibition an ECCMID has ever had, despite the economic crisis. The Programme Committee devised a balanced scientific programme for both specialties, including bacteriology, virology, microbiology, mycology, parasitology and infection control from the diagnostic, prevention and treatment points-of-view. A big thank you to all members of the Programme Committee for their achievements in setting up such an interesting programme. Thanks also go to more than 200 reviewers, who conducted a blind review of the abstracts. As we do every year, we have received some complaints about specific abstracts being rejected. In 2013, of the 3'602 submitted abstracts (Figure 1), just above 30% were rejected. Many excellent abstracts inevitably had to be excluded because of time and space constraints but this contributed to the extremely high quality of the presentations and posters. The most popular topics of accepted abstracts were: diagnostic/laboratory methods (other than molecular) (288 abstracts), molecular bacteriology (207), resistance surveillance (187), antibiotic usage (156) and infection control (152).

Although over 65% of Congress participants were logically from Europe, we were pleased to see increased percentages of participants from North and South America, Asia and Africa (Figure 3). This trend reflects our Society’s efforts to extend our activities beyond Europe, especially in fast growing economic areas.

All delegates who attend ECCMID are welcome to get in touch with us with any comments or criticism that can help improve the meeting.

Table 1. Key ECCMID figures

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The congress programme consisted of 20 Educational Workshops, including the TAE Trainees Day, 12 keynote lectures, 16 meet-the-expert sessions, 64 official symposia, 33 oral sessions and 19 integrated symposia. The total number of speakers and chairs was 345. Figure 2 shows the wide distribution of the countries of origin of the speakers. The contact time during keynote lectures, symposia, educational workshops, meet-the-expert sessions and oral sessions hit an all-time high of more than 260 hours.

All delegates who attend ECCMID are welcome to get in touch with us with any comments or criticism that can help improve the meeting.
ESCMID Observerships

Improve your clinical and laboratory skills!

The ESCMID Observership programme provides funding for our members to visit an ESCMID Collaborative Centre in another country for one day to one month to learn good clinical and/or laboratory practice. Applications accepted throughout the year. Apply now and get financial support to visit our Collaborative Centres: www.escmid.org/observerships

ESCMID Observership in 2014

Visit the WHO Regional Office for Europe and learn about their programmes!

A group of 10 observers (ESCMID members) are offered a 3 day programme at the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Division of Communicable Diseases, Health Security and Environment (DCE) in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Date of Observership: 30 September – 2 October 2014
Applications accepted from: 15 May 2014, 10:00 CET
Selection: First come, first served; but ensuring CM, ID, gender and country balance.

To apply, visit the ESCMID website. Deadline for applications: 30 May 2014, 16:00 CET
www.escmid.org/WHO_Observership

ESCMID Educational Activities

EDUCATION

Main educational activities in 2013

Never before in the history of ESCMID have so many proposals for educational courses been submitted as there were in 2013. From the 26 proposals, the Education Subcommittee chose nine educational courses and five technical workshops. ESCMID Study Groups joined forces with many foreign institutes to organise a splendid array of opportunities for professional development, becoming more and more involved in ESCMID’s Education Programme and contributing greatly to ensure its high quality. In addition, ESCMID and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), offered the 15th Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology in Brussels, in conjunction with the Aesculap Academy. For a few intensive days, participants were offered one of three modules for interactive training that has practical applicability to their own hospital settings.

The courses were held in cities across Europe, from Porto to Izmir and from Madrid to Athens. Three were in Spain: two technical workshops and an educational course, while Italy and Switzerland hosted two educational courses and two technical workshops, respectively. The number of participants varied according to the format of each course, ranging from 20 participants for certain lab-based workshops to over 120 for other formats. The activities were determined by the host Study Group with a view to providing up-to-date information or a practical approach.

The 12th Summer School took place in the seaside town of Vranora, Greece, from 6 – 13 July 2013. There were 55 participants from 21 countries at this year’s event, which everyone enjoyed, particularly as they could follow their intensive study with a dip in the Aegean in the evening (see separate report).

ESCMID helps young members to attend courses and workshops by offering them grants. Some of our young colleagues struggle financially, especially when practising in countries with a much lower cost of living than that where the courses are held. The course organisers, with the help of the ESCMID Executive Office, select the recipients. The Education Programme provides excellent opportunities for young members to develop professionally so please encourage your less well-off and inexperienced colleagues to apply for courses and, where necessary, funding. While attending courses and workshops in person

brings the most benefit, all members have access to the Online Lecture Library (OLL), which includes presentations of all our educational activities and is available to ESCMID members at www.escmid.org/OLL.

Outlook for 2014 and 2015

One course in 2014 will be located in São Paulo, Brazil, while the rest of the 17 postgraduate courses and technical workshops will, as usual, be held in cities across Europe. The number of proposals has increased to 28 and the standard has once again been extremely high, so the programme promises to be exciting. See the calendar section on the Society’s website for full details of the 2014 Education Programme (www.escmid.org/calendar).

This year’s Summer School heads back north, to Sigtuna, Sweden, from 5 – 12 July 2014. Registration is already underway and details can be found online at www.escmid.org/summerschool.

We have already contacted all Study Groups and Affiliated Societies to ask for their ideas for the 2015 programme to be submitted by the end of May 2014 so we can meet our mid-July deadline for the full programme. Members are welcome to contact us with ideas for future courses and workshops and, of course, we highly recommend taking part in this year’s programme.

ESCMID Education Officer

Jesús Rodríguez-Batío
ESCMID Education Officer
jesuasr@us.es

Education Subcommittee 2013
Patricia Nordmann, Ramankishor Gopalakrishnan, Anna Skådra, Sibel Ascioglu, Thomas Greif, Bernd Salzberger, Emmi Andersson, Dorothea Orth, Tibor Pál, Jesús Rodríguez-Batío; Absent: Peter Chvedich

www.euro.who.int
www.escmid.org/OLL
ESCMID Courses and Workshops

Educational Programme on Transplant Infectious Diseases
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
24 – 25 May 2013, Madrid, Spain
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Compromised Hosts (ESGICH)

Gaining Expertise on Mycobacterial Infections
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
27 – 29 May 2013, Paris, France
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Mycobacterial Infections (ESGMYC), École du Val-de-Grâce, Société française de Microbiologie (SFM), French National Reference Center for mycobacteria and resistance to antituberculosis drugs, Université Paris Diderot and Hôpitaux Universitaires Lariboisière-Saint Louis

Infections in the Elderly: Prevention and Management
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
30 – 31 May 2013, Rome, Italy
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in the Elderly (ESGIE) and Universitätsklinikum Tübingen

Hot Topics on Infections in the Critically Ill Patient
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
31 May – 1 June 2013, Athens, Greece
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Critically Ill Patients (ESGICP) and Hellenic Society of Chemotherapy

Technical Workshop for Basic and Clinical Parasitology
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
17 – 21 June 2013, Porto, Portugal
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP), Faculty of Medicine – University of Porto and São João Hospital Centre

Antifungal Resistance and its Challenges in the Management of Invasive Fungal Infections
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
20 – 22 June 2013, Sibiu, Romania
Organised by the ESCMID Fungal Infection Study Group (EFISG) and Romanian Society of Medical Mycology and Mycotoxicology (RSMMM)

Mechanisms of Antimicrobial Resistance: A Practical Approach
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
23 – 28 June 2013, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
Organised by the Spanish Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology (SEIMC)

Intracellular Bacteria: From Biology to Clinic
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
26 – 30 August 2013, Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Coxiella, Anaplasma, Rickettsia and Bartonella (ESCAR)

Meningitis Update 2013
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
2 – 4 September 2013, İzmir, Turkey
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Infectious Diseases of the Brain (ESGIB), Turkish Society of Infectious Diseases Specialists (EKMUD) and Turkish Society of Hospital Infection and Control (HIDER)

Bioinformatic Tools in Clinical Microbiology
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
16 – 19 September 2013, Santander, Spain
Organised by the University Hospital Marqués de Valdecilla (HUMV) and University of Cantabria (UC)

ESCMID-SHEA Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology
22 – 25 September 2013, Brussels, Belgium
Organised by the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID), The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and Aesculap Academy

Infectious Diseases in Pregnant Women, Foetuses and Newborns
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
29 September – 3 October 2013, Bologna, Italy
Organised by the Association of Italian Clinical Microbiologists (AMCLI), Italian Society of Infectious and Tropical Diseases (SIMIT) and Universities of Bologna, Brescia and Pavia

Bloodstream Infections: Management and Research
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
2 – 5 April 2014, Erice, Italy
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Bloodstream Infections and Sepsis (ESGBIS), University of Seville, University Hospital Freiburg and Red Española de Investigación en Patología Infecciosa (REIP)

Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes: Developing, Implementing & Measuring
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
8 – 10 May 2014, Seva (Barcelona), Spain
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies (ESGAP) and Nosocomial Infections Study Group of the Spanish Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology (GEIH)

Viral Hepatitis: Recent Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
28 February – 1 March 2014, Istanbul, Turkey
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Viral Hepatitis (ESGVH), Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology Specialty Society of Turkey (EKMUD) and Turkish Viral Hepatitis Society (VHSD)

ESCMID Courses and Workshops

Practical Diagnosis of Arthropod-Borne Infections
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
17 – 19 March 2014, Marseille, France
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Coxiella, Ana-plasma, Rickettsia and Bartonella (ESCAR), Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire Méditerranéenne-Infection Marseille and Eurotravnet Coordinating Center ECDC Marseille

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
5 – 7 March 2014, Maastricht, The Netherlands
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Molecular Diagnostics (ESGMD), Institute of Medical Microbiology and Hospital Hygiene – Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, University Hospital Antwerp, Ministry of Health Jerusalem, Bioanalytika AG Lucerne, Edinburgh Specialist Virology Centre, Maastricht University Medical Centre, University Medical Center Groningen, Leiden University Medical Center and Jesa Hospital Hasselt

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
25 – 26 April 2014, São Paulo, Brazil
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Infection in Compromised Hosts (ESGICH)
The 12th Summer School took place in Vravrona, Greece, from 6 to 13 July 2013, in a hotel located on a beautiful beach. We were slightly worried that the sea would be too tempting for the young people attending the course but, instead, it served as a way to relax after a day full of lectures, presentations and interactive sessions.

This year’s Summer School directors were George Petrikos (Athens), Anna Skiada (Athens) and Mical Paul (Tel Aviv). They put together a very interesting programme, covering a wide range of topics in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases. The 34 lectures included various aspects of infections such as MDR bacteria, invasive fungal infections, influenza and other viral infections, HIV, endemic infections and infections in the immunocompromised host.

In addition, lectures about ‘how to prepare a presentation’ and ‘how to publish the results of research’ were very well received by the audience and considered really useful. There were also two pro-con sessions presented by the students and coordinated by members of the faculty, as well as five small-group tutorials. Furthermore, all the students presented their research or some case reports and this gave them the opportunity to practise their skills and to ignite lively conversations.

There were 55 participants from 21 countries: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom. Their vivacity and enthusiasm was transmitted to the 19 faculty members from five countries who supervised all the students’ activities and were constantly available for further interaction, both scientific and social.

Overall, it was a very exciting experience for everybody. Many thanks to all the members of the faculty for sharing their expertise and knowledge and thus contributing to a very successful event – as successful as the previous Summer School in Innsbruck, Austria, and, I am sure, as the next one in Sigtuna, Sweden.
Message from the CMI Editor-in-Chief

CMI appears monthly and includes peer-reviewed manuscripts, reviews and research notes. Each print and online issue includes a themed section, highlighting the key subjects CMI wishes to focus on. A guest editor assembles three to five invited reviews on the chosen topic, an editorial and related cover images. The following page shows all the themed sections published in 2013 and those scheduled for 2014. Elsewhere, ‘Hot Topics’ highlights particular infections and remains a very popular section of the journal.

Among the noteworthy developments of the past year is that CMI has published articles from countries with emerging economies; Madagascar for instance. This clearly confirms the willingness of the journal to be open to the world and not just advanced nations. It is also significant that China and Taiwan are among the top five countries submitting papers to CMI. However, while around a quarter of the papers submitted from Spain (the highest contributor) and the USA were accepted, the figure for those from China was only 9%. CMI editors continue to work with authors to improve the quality of papers coming from countries with cultural and organisational difficulties, enabling them to reach a standard more consistent with that of our own scientific community (Table 1).

We have tried to balance the various topics covered by CMI. About a third of the journal concerns bacteriology, with epidemiology, mycology, infectious diseases and virology at between 11% and 18% each. Tropical and parasitic diseases account for 7.4%. The proportion of manuscripts submitted as original articles or as research notes (separate from invited reviews and editorials) is continually increasing (Table 2).

In terms of citations and its impact, CMI is going from strength to strength. Figures for 2012 show increases in both the headline 2- and 5-year impact factors. The immediacy index (papers both published and cited during 2012) increased by over 25%, indicating that CMI is publishing highly topical material that is cited very soon after publication. Likewise, the Eigen factor (up 1%) and article influence score (up 8.2%) both indicate the journal’s increasing prestige. CMI also passed a major milestone in 2013: our millionth full text download, achieving an all-time high of 1,092,747, up 34% on 2012 (see Figure 1). The two articles downloaded most often in 2013 can be found in Table 3.

For the next two years we want to stabilise the current size of the journal in order to better assess its real impact on the scientific community.

We are of course aware of how important it is for researchers to have their findings published quickly so we have been steadily reducing the time from submission to publication over the last two years. Publication online (Early View) now takes 32 working days (about six weeks, down from 55 in 2012 and 48 in 2013) and print publication takes on average 130 working days (roughly six months). We shall continue to streamline the process without compromising quality.

CMI strives to reflect ESCMID’s academic activities and, more generally, the world of infectious diseases and clinical microbiology, as well as to attract the best articles and reviews. It also aims to draw attention to emerging fields and to questions raised in the themed sections. As always, we welcome feedback on our efforts and look forward to the challenges ahead.

Table 1. Most prolific contributors to CMI

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<tr>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Number of submissions in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submission type</th>
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<td>Infectious Novel Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invited Editorials</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited Reviews</td>
<td>93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recent Articles</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Notes, online only</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>1634</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. The two most downloaded articles from 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Article Title</th>
<th>Vol.</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Downloads</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roberto Longo, Tamara G. Deeks, and Albert Denamur</td>
<td>Leishmania donovani LPGM1 oxidase assembly at the phagosome membrane</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael što</td>
<td>MERS virus and spread</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2637</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEW MICROBES AND NEW INFECTIONS

Editor-in-Chief: Michel Drancourt
ISSN: 2052-2975

NMNI is an Open Access journal with a focus on new genomes, new microbes, and new technology applied to the diagnosis of infectious and tropical diseases.

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Message from the NMNI Editor-in-Chief

Michel Drancourt
NMNI Editor-in-Chief
michel.drancourt@escmids.org

Microbes and infections ignore frontiers but clinical microbiology does not. A recent survey by Didier Raoult, Editor-in-Chief of CMI, showed that papers from emerging countries are still under-represented in infectious diseases and clinical microbiology journals (1). This is a shame, not only for the scientists from these countries but also for ID/CM scientists at large, and has a knock-on effect for health authorities and populations. Microbes and infections have always used the most advanced travel vehicles provided by humans to jump over frontiers and reach target populations. The frightening pandemic of the Beijing family of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, one of the major modern pathogens, illustrates this as it has invaded the whole world within only 20 years (2). Therefore, it is of prime importance for us to leap over all boundaries and communicate as soon as possible any new event in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases because the evolution of microbes and outcome of infections is unpredictable.

New Microbes and New Infections serves the field as a peer-reviewed, open access journal for the rapid dissemination of the latest research, with a particular focus on new genomes, new microbes, and new technology applied to the diagnosis of infectious/tropical diseases. As Editor-in-Chief, I am pleased to report that the first issue of this official ESCMID publication was issued in October 2013, papers having been solicited since May. Article categories include any country’s first descriptions of a microbe, first noted resistance or first case reports, new genomes and new technologies for diagnosis. The journal welcomes mini-reviews as well as full length original articles. NMNI serves clinicians and researchers a rapid route to publication and the opportunity to circulate their work in a highly visible global forum. The sooner these new data are published, the sooner the issues they raise can be tackled.

Scientists and medical practitioners in emerging countries have a great deal to contribute and NMNI is at the forefront of addressing the imbalance in papers from these countries. One key characteristic of this new digital journal is to break language barriers by being multilingual. Authors may submit manuscripts not only in English but also in one of five other languages. Papers will be handled by the most appropriate member of the Editorial Board, taking language into consideration. Its members are Tahar Kernif (Arabic), Jónatas Santos Abrahão (Portuguese), Wanderley de Souza (Portuguese), Ruifu Yang (Chinese), Wengu Chen (Chinese), François Denis (French), Xavier de Lamberie (French), Ogborwa Dumbob (French), Oleg Medianikov (Russian) and Míriam-Iosé Álvarez Martínez (Spanish). The journal offers a payment model affordable for any research group worldwide.

All articles published by NMNI are fully open access: immediately freely available to read, download and share.

New Microbes and New Infections – the title says it all and, to ensure the information is absolutely up-to-date, the editors strive for a one-month review period. NMNI is something we do want to go viral!

Follow us on twitter: @WB_InfDisease

References:

PA Workshop

The Future of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Europe
Ljubljana, Slovenia, 5 – 6 June 2014

Workshop Objectives

• To review the status of the specialties, Clinical / Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, across Europe.
• To discuss initiatives to improve the organisational basis for medical practice in our disciplines.

Workshop Faculty

Mario Mondelli, Pavia, IT
Polona Maver Vodicar, Ljubljana, SI
Pier Luigi Lopalco, Stockholm, SE
Truls Michael Leegaard, Lørenskog, NO
Titia Kortbeek, Bilthoven, NL
Winfried V. Kern, Freiburg, DE
Gunnar Kahlmeter, Växjö, SE
Davorka Dušek, Zagreb, HR
Bojana Beovic, Ljubljana, SI
Nur Benzonana, Istanbul, TR
Nicholas John Beeching, Liverpool, UK
Bruno Baršic, Zagreb, HR
Petra Apfalter, Linz, AT
Murat Akova, Ankara, TR
Workshop on Professional Affairs in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

ESCMID’s involvement in Professional Affairs’ activities for both Clinical Microbiology (CM) and Infectious Diseases (ID) has continued to grow over the past year.

Less than a month after ECCMID 2014 we hope to see you in Ljubljana, Slovenia, to discuss the future of both our professions at the ‘3rd ESCMID Workshop on Professional Affairs in CM & ID: The Future of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Europe’. More information on page 40 and at: www.escmid.org/PAworkshop14.

Many ESCMID members consider the ESCMID Collaborative Centre (ECC) and Observership Programme to be one of the most original and successful activities of our Society, and it is proving to be increasingly successful. Two new Observership opportunities – with ECDC and WHO – were established last year and we welcomed three new ESCMID Collaborative Centres on other continents (South Africa, China and Peru). More information about can be found on pages 42 and 43.

The ESCMID Parity Commission (EPC) reports on interesting achievements and initiatives to review and improve equal representation (page 44).

The Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) continues to thrive in its work on new and ongoing projects (page 47).

A new project dealing with infection control is being launched in 2014. ESCMID is pleased to dedicate resources to this important topic (page 49).

Both PA officers have also been working closely with the Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases sections of the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS) to further harmonise and improve the quality of both specialisations within European Countries. An update on the current status of the Clinical/Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases profession throughout Europe will be presented at the 3rd Professional Affairs Workshop in Ljubljana on 5 – 6 June 2014.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to our EU Partner Search Platform and the Job Platform on the ESCMID website. Both platforms are in constant development, with the aim of entirely meeting the needs of our members.

The EU Partner Search Platform is useful for finding new collaboration opportunities among European Research Centres.

The Job Platform is an easy way to find your next job or to fill an open position in CM and ID. Open positions are then published in the ESCMID newsletter and on the homepage.

An overview of the current activities within the Professional Affairs’ portfolios can be found on the following 8 pages.

www.escmid.org/eupartner
www.escmid.org/jobs

Mario Poljak, Professional Affairs Officer for Clinical Microbiology
mario.poljak@escmid.org
Evelina Tacconelli, Professional Affairs Officer for Infectious Diseases
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Mario Poljak, Professional Affairs Officer for Clinical Microbiology
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Evelina Tacconelli, Professional Affairs Officer for Infectious Diseases
evelina.tacconelli@escmid.org
The ESCMID Collaborative Centres (ECCs) and Observership Programme is one of the most original and successful activities of our Society. Clinical Microbiology/Infectious Disease centres of excellence in Europe and beyond welcome ESCMID members from abroad to learn about diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and the local organisation of services, as well as to establish new contacts and foster international exchange. The ECC programme was launched in early 2009 and currently lists 67 fully operating centres (Figure 1). The countries with the most ECCs are Spain (7), the Netherlands (7), the United Kingdom (6), Turkey (6) and Germany (5) (Figure 2). Many other European countries have not yet joined this initiative but it is ESCMID’s intention to increase the number of ECCs outside Europe (Figure 1). Just recently ESCMID welcomed the University of Cape Town, South Africa (Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV), the Peking Union Medical College Hospital in Beijing, China and the Instituto de Medicina Tropical Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru as new ESCMID Collaborative Centres. For some time, an ECC in Tunisia, offers observers a chance to gain experience of infections rarely seen in Europe and learn from local diagnostic approaches.

The ESCMID Observership Programme started in the second half of 2009 and is flourishing. More than 274 Observership visits had taken place by 1 February 2014. Approximately 95% of Observers rate their Observership visit excellent and 5% good. The Centre for Musculoskeletal Surgery at the Charité-University Medicine in Berlin, Germany hosted the largest number of Observers in 2013.

Two new Observership initiatives were successfully launched in 2013 with ECDC and WHO as reported on page 46. We are pleased to announce that both initiatives continue also in 2014. Details of calls for applications in 2014 are available on pages 30 and 44.

Activities within the ESCMID Collaborative Centre and Observership Programme

European Network Corner at ECCMID

In recent years, the European Network Corner has had a dedicated area at ECCMID for ECCs to showcase their activities and connect with potential Observers. Also at this ECCMID, the European Network Corner will again have a dedicated area for ECCs to present themselves.

ECC activity in 2013

In the past year ESCMID approved eight new institutions as Collaborative Centres, increasing the number of operating ECCs to 67. A Centralised Request Form for Observerships and ECC administration has been introduced to streamline the process.

Observer visits in 2013

In 2013 a total of 76 Observership visits took place, up 10% on last year. Most of the visits were between 1 and 4 weeks (55%) and 45% of the visits were short. Observers came from all over the world: 65 from various European countries and 11 from further afield (including Australia, India, Pakistan, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen). For more details, see Figures 4–7.

The Observers’ reports are published on the ESCMID website at www.escmid.org/observership and testify to the usefulness of the programme for the Observers’ professional development.

Do you have a question about ESCMID Observerships? Consult our FAQ: www.escmid.org/observerships.
ESCmid Parity Commission

Evelina Tacconelli
Co-chairperson of ESCmid Parity Commission (EPC)
evelina.tacconelli@escmid.org

The ESCMid Parity Commission has been very active during the past year. After the ESCMid survey carried out in 2011, where semi-structured questionnaires were administered to 1’274 CM/ID professionals, we identified a need to further deepen our understanding of some of the most interesting results, this time through a mostly qualitative approach. Furthermore, the need to address all possible determinants of professional inequality besides gender also became apparent: national origin, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation. On the basis of such considerations, EPC decided to promote a research study aimed at integrating the 2011 ESCMid survey with additional information on a broader array of inequality factors in the CM/ID sector. Through this additional qualitative focus, the study, in its two components (quantitative survey and qualitative research study) will be able to represent a unitary, replicable study, in its two components (quantitative survey and qualitative research study) will be able to represent a unitary, replicable model, both in time and in different disciplinary areas, countries and international societies among others.

EPC is also actively working on a mentorship programme, designed to connect young or inexperienced CM/ID scientists, or those who want to improve in a specific area, with experienced practitioners willing to help them. ESCMid believes that the creation of this European network of mentors will provide extended opportunities to all ESCMid members to improve their research or advance their career level.

Recently, a surveillance study showed that in some European countries the prescribing of antibiotics in the community is significantly influenced by the gender of the patients (after adjusting for major clinical and epidemiological biases). To understand the contributing factors and characteristics of this phenomenon, EPC started a specific, systematic review of the literature and ‘on site’ analysis of antibiotics prescribing in selected European countries.

We trust that these projects will contribute to improve representativeness and balance, both in terms of career and research, among ID/CM professionals in Europe. EPC would be glad to work with all Society members to further define the next projects to be undertaken to reduce the areas of discrimination presently existing within the medical scientific community in Europe. Therefore, we encourage all our members to send their feedback and proposals for current and future activities of EPC to: parity@escmid.org.

Infection control and preventive measures: an ESCMid priority

Evelina Tacconelli, Professional Affairs
Officer for Infectious Diseases
evelina.tacconelli@escmid.org

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. Therapy is becoming ever more difficult because of the increasing rate of antimicrobial resistance among common HAI pathogens. Over the last decade, multidrug-resistant bacteria have been implicated in severe invasive infections and their occurrence has increased steadily. Patients are starting to see the rate of HAI and antibiotic resistance as an important indicator of quality of care. After presenting the first European Guidelines on infection control in Berlin, intended to reduce the spread of multidrug-resistant bacteria in hospitalised patients, ESCMid is going to increase its influence and involvement in infection control. A new ESCMid Committee for Infection Control was formed at the beginning of 2014 and had its kick-off meeting in March 2014. A list of members can be found below. Major goals will be: to harmonise infection control and preventive measures in all European countries and to reduce morbidity and mortality related to HAI. Development of new educational tools as well as specific guidelines and expert opinion with ‘real life’ applicability are a major focus. Research will be coordinated through dedicated networking. Questions about this programme can be directed to: infectioncontrol@escmid.org.

Visit ECDC and learn about the organisation!

A group of 10 observers (ESCmid members) are offered a 5 day programme at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm, Sweden. 

Date of Observership: 01 – 05 September 2014
Applications accepted from: 15 May 2014, 10:00 CET

To apply, visit the ESCmid website.
Deadline for applications: 30 May 2014, 16:00 CET
www.escmid.org/ECDC-Observership
www.ecdc.europa.eu

Deadline for applications: 30 May 2014, 16:00 CET
To apply, visit the ESCMid website.
www.escmid.org/ECDC-Observership
www.ecdc.europa.eu

Participants at the first ESCMid Infection Control Committee meeting

Members of the ESCMid Infection Control Committee
Evelina Tacconelli, Tübingen, Germany
Alexander W. Friedrich, Groningen, The Netherlands
Petra Geastra, Berlin, Germany
Achilleas Gikas, Heraklion, Greece
Emese Szilágyi, Budapest, Hungary
Herman Goossens, Edegem, Belgium
Stephan Jürgen Harbarth, Geneva, Switzerland
Alison Helen Holmes, London, United Kingdom
Anders Johannsson, Umeå, Sweden
Jean-Christophe Lucet, Paris, France
Jesús Rodríguez-Bilbao, Sarrià, Spain
Elvira Szilágyi, Budapest, Hungary
New ESCMID Observerships with ECDC and WHO

Gunnar Kahlmeter
ESCMID President
gunnar.kahlmeter@escmid.org

In 2013 ESCMID invited ECDC and WHO to co-organise Observerships for ESCMID members. We quickly realised that these would have to be different from ‘standard’ ESCMID Observerships, that it would be more efficient to invite several people to visit at the same time and for them to interact with ECDC and WHO staff and each other as part of the Observerships. The aim is to familiarise ESCMID members with the public health efforts of these two important public health agencies. The reports from ECDC and WHO below speak to the success of the first series of Observerships.

In 2014 ESCMID, ECDC and WHO have all agreed to increase the number of invited Observers from five to ten for each of the two programmes. The WHO Observerships are in the spectacular new UN building in Copenhagen, Denmark, and the ECDC Observerships are in the beautiful ECDC building in the grounds of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. Details of how to apply for 2014 are available on pages 30 and 44.

ECDC/ESCMID Observership Report
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Scientific Officer Microbiology,
Microbiology Coordination section,
Office of the Chief Scientist unit
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
polysa.rozin@ecdc.europa.eu
Marc Struelens
Chief Microbiologist
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
Marc.Struelens@ecdc.europa.eu

In September 2013, for the first time, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) hosted five ESCMID members as part of a new Observership in Public Health. These mid-career health professionals have diverse interests in the areas of clinical microbiology, infectious diseases and public health. During their four-day stay at ECDC they met with ECDC staff and learned about the mission and activities of the Centre. The Observers became acquainted with European-level surveillance and epidemic intelligence work, different disease programmes and networks as well as the Centre’s public health microbiology and molecular surveillance activities. The ESCMID Observers also met with fellows from the European Public Health Microbiology (EUPHEM) training programme. The positive evaluation received encouraged ESCMID and ECDC to offer ten ESCMID members the opportunity to visit ECDC in September 2014. Details on the ECDC Observership and reports from the 2013 ECDC visit are available on ESCMID’s ECDC Observership pages at www.escmid.org/ECDC_observer.

WHO/ESCMID Observership report
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Technical Officer AMR Communicable Diseases,
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WHO Regional Office for Europe
NV@pearo.who.int

The first ESCMID-WHO Observership took place from 18–20 June 2014 at the Division of Communicable Diseases, Health Security and Environment (DCE) of the WHO Regional Office for Europe. During the 3-day Observership, 4 participants were introduced to WHO at all levels and programmes via presentations, ‘speed dates’, a tour of the department and more in-depth visits to the programmes in which the Observers had indicated their specific interest. The Observers were: Nuno Mendonça from Portugal, Alina Martynova from Russia, Giuseppe Pichieri from the UK and Carmen Muñoz-Almagro from Spain. The Observers gained a broad overview of the scope of WHO and had the opportunity to talk to many different WHO staff working in a variety of public health fields. On the last day the ESCMID President, Gunnar Kahlmeter, joined the programme. The Observers had prepared presentations on their observations during the Observership as well as opportunities for collaboration with WHO, which led to a fruitful discussion. Both the Observers and WHO staff were very enthusiastic about this first Observership, which will be the first of many.

Further details on the WHO Observership are on ESCMID’s WHO Observership pages at: www.escmid.org/WHO_observ.

Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE)

Polona Mavor Vodivcar
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The young generation involved in the future development of CM/ID

Founded in November 2009, the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) represents a group of trainees and young specialists who finished their training fewer than three years ago. The TAE has a Steering Committee (SC) consisting of six elected members, three of whom are active in the field of clinical microbiology (CM) and the other three in infectious diseases (ID). In 2013 the very first TAE Steering Committee handed over the baton to their successors. With fresh motivation and youthful energy, we continue the initial idea of increasing and supporting the scientific and medical contribution of young clinical microbiologists and infectious disease specialists all over Europe.

On the first day of ECCMID 2013 in Berlin, TAE organised the third ‘Trainees Day: a time for trainees to share their knowledge under the supervision of seniors’. This special session dedicated to trainees was an interactive event covering important epidemiological links between infections and animal exposure, surgical site infections and a workshop on how to produce high quality research papers. This year at ECCMID 2014 in Barcelo-

na, TAE is preparing the fourth ‘Trainees Day’ with new, attractive and educational topics. In addition, we are actively involved in three other sessions presented at this year’s ECCMID. An ESCMID educational quiz composed of 20 questions with different levels of difficulty was run online from 1 September to 31 October 2013. Almost 200 participants from 40 different countries completed the quiz, demonstrating that this kind of online educational approach is very appealing.
EUCAST is the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing. It provides common European breakpoints and antimicrobial susceptibility testing methodology. ESCMID continues to provide the administrative, financial and scientific framework for EUCAST. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) supports EUCAST while ESCMID supports the development of the EUCAST disk diffusion method.

The EUCAST Steering Committee for 2013–14 consists of Rafael Cantón (Chairman), Derek Brown (Scientific Secretary), Gunnar Kahlmeter (Clinical Data Coordinator), Luc Dubreuil (France), Søren Gatermann (Germany), Christian Giske (Sweden), Alasdair MacGowan or Robin Howe (UK), Luis Martinez-Martínez (Spain), Johan Mouton (The Netherlands), Robert Skov (Denmark) and Martin Steinback (Norway).

National Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Committees (NACs)

Most European countries now have established NACs. Responses to a questionaire sent in December 2012, with some updating in 2013, are given in the figure below, which illustrates the national status with regard to NACs. Although EUCAST has not been specifically promoted outside Europe, it is notable that the interest in EUCAST outside Europe is becoming stronger and NACs have been set up in non-European countries including Australia, Israel, South Africa and the USA. These committees promote a national strategy for antimicrobial susceptibility testing and help to implement EUCAST breakpoints and methods where appropriate.

EUCAST breakpoints

Version 4.0 of the EUCAST breakpoint tables, which include MIC and zone diameter breakpoints for bacteria, was published on the EUCAST website in January 2014 (see below for information on breakpoints for antifungal agents).

Breakpoints for new agents are set by EUCAST as part of the marketing authorisation process by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Through this process, breakpoints have been set in the past year for cefepime and for the antmycobacterial agents delamanid and bedaquiline. Several other new agents are currently in progress.

Several breakpoints have been set for organism-agent combinations that did not previously have breakpoints. These include ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin breakpoints for Enterococcus spp. in UTI, breakpoints for Pseudomonas spp. other than P. aeruginosa and breakpoints for Corynebacterium spp. In addition, specific amoxicillin-clavulanic acid breakpoints were set for UTI isolates and ciprofloxacin breakpoints for Salmonella spp. Some breakpoints have been revised in the light of new information, including doripenem breakpoints, benzylpenicillin breakpoints for cougulase-negative staphylococci, penicillinase-resistant penicillin breakpoints for group B streptococci and cephalosporin breakpoints for Haemophilus influenzae and Moraxella catarrhalis.

Breakpoints currently under discussion include those for several agents with Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Neisseria meningitidis and Acinetobacter spp. Following two rounds of wide consultation and protracted discussion on breakpoints for topical agents, it has been decided to publish a guidance note rather than breakpoints.

EUCAST disk diffusion method

Extensive studies have been undertaken at the EUCAST Laboratory for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing in Växjö, Sweden, to validate existing zone diameter breakpoints, to develop new screening methods, and to deal with technical problems with disk diffusion and MIC methods. All developments are performed with Mueller-Hinton medium from at least three manufacturers and disks from at least two manufacturers. MIC-zone diameter correlations have been produced to establish or validate zone diameter breakpoints, both for particular organisms, such as Corynebacterium spp., and for new antimicrobial agents. The EUCAST broth microdilution medium for fastidious organisms, MH-F broth, has been further evaluated for several organisms, including H. influenzae, M. catarrhalis and Corynebacterium spp.

Collaboration with other laboratories, both within and outside Europe, has increased. Several European laboratories have been involved in studies to investigate inter-laboratory test variations of breakpoints on control strains and clinical isolates, e.g. a collaborative study led to revised recommendations for the disk diffusion test for detection of inducible clindamycin resistance in staphylococci and streptococci. Several projects have also been performed in collaboration with JMI Laboratories, USA, e.g. it was established that zone diameter breakpoints for P. aeruginosa can also be used for Pseudomonas species other than P. aeruginosa. Isolates from the worldwide SENTRY Antimicrobial Surveillance Program have kindly been provided by JMI for a number of EUCAST projects. In collaboration with other laboratories EUCAST has developed a screening method with the pefloxacin 5 µg disk to detect low-level ciprofloxacin resistance in Salmonella spp., criteria for use of cefoxitin 30 µg disks to screen for methicillin-resistance in S. pseudintermedius, and disk diffusion criteria for the new amoxicillin-clavulanate breakpoints for Enterobacteriaceae in un complicated UTI.

Current work includes establishment of MIC quality control ranges for amoxicillin-clavulanate and ampicillin-sulbactam with a questionaire to establish MIC quality control ranges for H. influenzae. In collaboration with pharmaceutical companies, studies to establish MIC-zone diameter correlations for several new agents are also in progress.

EUCAST website

The EUCAST website continues to be developed and updated, and provides all EUCAST breakpoints and documents free of charge. Additional documents have been published on the EUCAST website, including:

- Annual update of QC tables and antimicrobial susceptibility testing reading guide for disk diffusion.
- New files on the calibration and validation of the EUCAST disk diffusion method.
- Guidance document on susceptibility testing of Burkholderia cepacia.
- New Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for operation and maintenance of the EUCAST websites (SOP 6.0) and handling of EUCAST minutes (SOP 7.0).
- Revised SOPs for setting breakpoints for new agents (SOP 2.1) and setting of harmonised breakpoints for existing agents (SOP 2.1).
- Translations of technical documents available through National Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Committees (NACs) in different countries on the detection of resistance mechanisms and resistance reports.
- Updated file on compliance of manufacturers with EUCAST breakpoints and methods.

EUCAST MIC and zone diameter website

This presents collated MIC and zone diameter distributions of bacteria and fungi and the number of distributions included is constantly increasing (currently over 28,000). In addition, graphs showing MIC-zone diameter correlations continue to be expanded. The distributions highlight wild type populations and give epidemiological cut-off values (ECOFFs).

Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee (AFST)

In 2013 the AFST Steering Committee consisted of Maiken C. Arendrup (Chairman), William Hope (Secretary), Cornelia Lass-Förl (Austria) and Manuel Cuenca-Estrella. The group has continued to develop breakpoints for antifungal compounds and to revise and update reference methods for susceptibility testing of yeasts and moulds.

Mycopathogen breakpoints for Candida were released and flaconazole and anidulafungin breakpoints for Candida were revised. Rationale documents for these breakpoints were published on the EUCAST website and ‘Technical Notes’ summarising both these and voriconazole breakpoints for Aspergillus have been published in ‘Clinical Microbiology and Infection’ and ‘Mycoses’.

In collaboration with CLSI the AFST subcommittee documented problems in variability associated with susceptibility testing of Candida spp. affecting both EUCAST and CLSI methods, and this has led to common recommendations for the use of anidulafungin as a marker for caspofungin resistance (published by Ana Espinel-Ingrof et al. in Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy). Additionally, a review that summarizes the EUCAST AFST breakpoint setting process, including strengths and limitations and the existing breakpoints for Candida spp. and Aspergillus spp., was accepted for publication in Drug Resistance Updates. Currently, the EUCAST definitive document EDEF 9.2 ‘Method for the determination of broth dilution minimum inhibitory concentrations of antifungal agents for conidia forming moulds’ is being revised and itraconazole breakpoints for Candida have been proposed for consultation.

The structure of the AFST Steering Committee will be changed in 2014, from when it will consist of a Chair (Maiken C. Arendrup), EUCAST, a Scientific Secretary (Susan Howard, UK) and a Data Coordinator (pending), a representative from the EUCAST Steering Committee (Johan Mouton, Netherlands) and two representatives of national committees (NACs): Manuel Cuenca-Estrella, Spain, and Cornelia Lass-Förl, Austria. See EUCAST SOP 4.1 on the EUCAST website for details of subcommittee structure and organisation.

Subcommittee on the detection of resistance mechanisms and resistance of clinical and/or epidemiological importance

This subgroup is chaired by Christian Giske. There has been extensive discussion and wide consultation on two drafts of a guideline document in 2012–13. Version 1.0 of EUCAST guidelines on the detection of resistance mechanisms and resistances of clinical and/or epidemiological importance was released on the EUCAST website in December 2013.
6th International Day for Fighting Infection

This year’s one-day symposium, the 6th organised by ESCMID to acknowledge the International Day for Fighting Infection, was on ‘how major scourges of the past still affect mankind’. The 2013 conference was held as usual on 23 April (St. George’s Day), this time at the University of Verona, where in 1546 Girolomo Fracastoro proposed that epidemic diseases were caused by transferable tiny particles able to transmit infection by direct or indirect contact.

Once again we are grateful to The Lancet Infections Diseases for their now traditional support.

Scientific Programme
Chairpersons:
Marc Sprenger, ECDC, Stockholm
Nedret Emiroglu, WHO Europe, Copenhagen
• Plague, the Great Mortality.
  Giuseppe Cornaglia, Verona, Italy
• Tuberculosis, the White Plague.
  Francis Dobrzenski, London, United Kingdom
• Smallpox, the Angel of Death.
  Gareth Williams, Bristol, United Kingdom
• Two Hundred Years of Fear and Mystification: The Battle Against Cholera.
  Renaud Planoix, Marseille, France
• Rabies, a Threat from the Wilderness.
  Paolo Le Benedectis, Padua, Italy
• Europe as a Polio-free Region: The Role of WHO.
  Nedret Emiroglu, WHO Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark
• Of Mice, Men and Other Animals: The Human-Animal Interface.
  Albert Osterhaus, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
• The Antibiotic Era – Is It Over?
  Gunnar Kahlmeter, Växjö, Sweden

Webcasts and presentations of the 6th International Day for Fighting Infection are available in the ESCMID Online Lecture Library at www.escmid.org/oll
ESCMID Conference on Escherichia coli: an old friend with new tidings

Last year, for the first time, ESCMID organised a conference on *Escherichia coli* with the subheading: an old friend with new tidings (20–22 November 2013), where experts on this microorganism revealed and debated the latest information on antimicrobial resistance, pathogenesis, and clinical aspects. Held in the beautiful city of Barcelona, the conference attracted more than 60 attendees from 23 different countries and brought together 19 renowned speakers and experts.

This conference was held in cooperation with the ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (ESGARS) and the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal).

For all ESCMID members who could not attend the meeting, slides from most presentations are now available in the ESCMID Online Lecture Library www.escmid.org/oll

Scientific Programme

Pathogenesis

- Biotinil of *E. coli*. Ute Romling (SE)
- Pathogenesis of neonatal sepsis by *E. coli*. Sara Soto (ES)
- Virulence of uropathogenic *E. coli*. James R. Johnson (USA)
- Pathogenesis of intestinal infections. James B. Kaper (USA)
- Transfer of *E. coli* isolated from animals to humans. Carmen Torres (ES)
- Pathogenicity islands. Ulrich Dobrindt (DE)
- Vaccines. Ann-Mari Svennerholm (SE)

Resistance

- Worldwide resistance in *E. coli*. Rafael Canton (ES)
- Quinolone resistance in *E. coli*. Jordi Vila (ES)
- *E. coli* strains producing extended-spectrum beta-lactamases. Luis Martínez-Martínez (ES)
- Is AmpC-producing *E. coli* an increasing problem? Christian Giske (SE)
- Carbapenemase-producing *E. coli*. Thierry Naas (FR)
- Genetic elements carrying resistant determinants in *E. coli*. Alessandra Carattoli (IT)

Clinical aspects

- *E. coli* and inflammatory bowel diseases. Margarita Martinez (ES)
- Infections by *E. coli*: to treat or not to treat? Martin Mairhofer (BE)
- *E. coli* as cause of diarrhoea in low-income countries. Inácio Mandomando (MZ)
- Urinary tract infection by *E. coli*: what is new? Antonia Andreu (ES)
- How to treat infections caused by multidrug-resistant *E. coli*. Jesús Rodríguez-Baño (ES)
- Plasticity of the genome of *E. coli*: can we define specific pathotypes? Fernando Baquero (ES)
Networking in Latin America

In 2013–14 ESCMID has strengthened its links with Latin America by engaging in a number of activities together with both the Asociación Panameicana de Infectología (led by Luis Bavestrello) and individual partners.

In November 2013 ESCMID participated together with APUA and IUMS in the 2nd Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance in Pathogens (Taller de Resistencia Bacteriana), held in Havana, Cuba. The first meeting took place in 2012 on the initiative of ESCMID and the Cuban Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. Joint activities are being planned to further cooperation.

ESCMID representatives were invited to give lectures at the University Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru. An important outcome of this visit is the establishment of the first ESCMID Collaborative Centre in South America with Eduardo Gotuzzo as host.

Once again ESCMID held a joint workshop during the Congress of the Asociación Panameicana de Infectología held in Santiago de Chile. The workshop focused on carbapenemases and it was coordinated by María Virginia Villegas.

In March 2014, ESCMID and SHEA together endorsed the Gram-Negative Bacteria Symposium within the VIII International Symposium on Antimicrobial Resistance, which was organised in Cartagena, Colombia, by the Centro Internacional de Entrenamiento e Investigaciones Médicas (CIDEIM).

Cooperative Initiatives in the Russian Federation

For the eighth consecutive year, ESCMID has joined the Interregional Association for Clinical Microbiology and Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (IACMAC), chaired by Roman Kozlov, to organise an International IACMAC/ESCMID conference on antimicrobial therapy. The conference was held from 22 to 24 May 2013 in Moscow, Russia, and was attended by 1'221 participants from 67 regions in Russia. ESCMID representatives focused on future collaboration with IACMAC.
On Monday, 29 April 2013 at ECCMID 2013, a special session was held with the Chinese Medical Association (CMA) and ESCMID. The purpose of the session was to get to know each other and to set up reciprocal visits.

ESCMID is joining forces with CMA, TLID and ISID to organise a meeting on ‘Infections and their control’, to be held in Beijing from 19 – 20 November 2014.

In 2013 ESCMID was also pleased to welcome the first ESCMID Collaborative Centre from Beijing, China. Our members can visit the Peking Union Medical College Hospital with support from the ESCMID Observership Programme. (www.escmid.org/observership)
**Forthcoming Events**

**Postgraduate Education Courses and Workshops**

Receive state-of-the-art knowledge from expert educators. Gather hands-on experience in your field of interest. Discuss your work with senior and peer colleagues.

**30 Jun – 4 Jul 2014**

**Molecular Typing Methods for Pathogens**

Lyon, France

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

**4 – 6 Jul 2014**

**Bringing PK and PD in Fungal Infections into the Clinic**

Nijmegen, The Netherlands

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

**16 – 19 Sep 2014**

**3rd Workshop on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing and Surveillance**

Linz, Austria

ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop

**22 – 24 Sep 2014**

**Infectious Diseases in the Mediterranean and the Middle East: Current Challenges**

Izmir, Turkey

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

**29 Sep – 1 Oct 2014**

**Anaerobic Bacteria: Next Generation Technology Meets Anaerobic Diagnostics**

Groningen, The Netherlands

ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop

**2 – 3 Oct 2014**

**Infection Management in the Elderly: Room for Improvement**

Annecy, France

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

**6 – 8 Oct 2014**

**Advanced Antimicrobial Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Modelling and Simulation**

Liverpool, United Kingdom

ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop

**16 – 17 Oct 2014**

**Mobility and Infection: Diagnosis and Management**

Dubrovnik, Croatia

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

**20 – 23 Oct 2014**

**ESCMID-SHEA Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology**

Phuket, Thailand

**29 – 31 Oct 2014**

**Acute Infectious Encephalitis: Challenges in Clinical and Biological Diagnosis**

Grenoble, France

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

**7 – 9 Nov 2014**

**How to Design and Perform your Clinical Studies in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology**

Tübingen, Germany

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

**ESCMID Summer School**

An intense one-week course covering diverse topics in the infection field. The high faculty/student ratio and the high level of interactivity make it so popular.

**5 – 12 Jul 2014**

**13th ESCMID Summer School**

Sigtuna, Sweden

**ESCMID Conferences**

Get the latest news about your field of work delivered from selected experts. Exchange ideas with your colleagues on hot topics.

**5 – 6 Jun 2014**

**3rd ESCMID Workshop on Professional Affairs in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases**

Ljubljana, Slovenia

**19 – 20 Sep 2014**

**Infections and their Prevention**

Beijing, China

**19 – 20 Sep 2014**

**Reviving Old Antibiotics**

Vienna, Austria

**6 – 8 Mar 2015**

**Vaccines for Mutual Protection**

Lisbon, Portugal

**Future ECCMIDs**

**25 – 28 April 2015**

**COPENHAGEN, DENMARK**

Bella Center Copenhagen

**9 – 12 April 2016**

**ISTANBUL, TURKEY**

ICC–Istanbul Congress Center

**25th ECCMID**

**26th ECCMID**

**www.escmid.org**

**Future Congresses**

www.eccmid.org

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**
A big thank you to all our dedicated ECCMID reviewers, who reviewed 1,000 abstracts.