Target Audience

15 – 20 young clinical microbiologists, infectious diseases specialists and technicians interested in Clostridium difficile, who want to get an updated overview of the theoretical and practical use of diagnostic approaches, molecular typing methods and comparative genomics for Clostridium difficile.

Faculty Members

Franz Allerberger, Vienna, Austria
Frédéric Barbut, Paris, France
Alexander Indra, Vienna, Austria
Sandra Janezic, Maribor, Slovenia
Ed Kuijper, Leiden, Netherlands
Elisabeth Nagy, Szeged, Hungary
Maja Rupnik, Maribor, Slovenia
Patrizia Spigaglia, Rome, Italy
Mark Wilcox, Leeds, United Kingdom

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Course Objectives

Provide young microbiologists with an updated overview of typing methods for Clostridium difficile. In a practical hands-on approach the participants will be trained in in-vitro susceptibility testing, agarose-based ribotyping, sequence-based capillary ribotyping, molecular toxin gene detection, and use of comparative genomics for epidemiological investigations in the daily infection control practice.
Course Programme

Wednesday, 2 September 2015
12:00 Registration (lunch provided in registration area)
13:00 Welcome and introduction. Franz Allerberger & Maja Rupnik
13:15 Clostridium difficile infection – underestimated public health problem. Franz Allerberger
13:35 ECDIS-net: European surveillance of Clostridium difficile infections. Ed Kuiper
14:00 Basic diagnostics. Frédéric Barbut
14:45 Break
15:00 Different platforms for agarose-based PCR-ribotyping. Sandra Janezic
15:30 Capillary sequencer-based PCR-ribotyping. Alexander Indra
16:00 Coffee break
16:30 Practicals
- Basic diagnostics (Part 1). Frédéric Barbut & Maja Rupnik
- DNA extraction and PCR setup for PCR-ribotyping. Sandra Janezic & Alexander Indra
- In-vitro antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Patrizia Spigaglia

Thursday, 3 September 2015
09:30 Practical: Agarose gel-based PCR-ribotyping. Sandra Janezic
10:30 Coffee break
11:00 Molecular detection of toxin genes. Maja Rupnik
11:30 Practical aspects of in-vitro antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Patrizia Spigaglia
12:15 Factors influencing the results of metronidazole resistance testing. Elisabeth Nagy
12:45 Lunch break
14:00 Practicals
- Basic diagnostics (Part 2). Frédéric Barbut & Maja Rupnik
- PCR-ribotyping – documenting results. Sandra Janezic
- PCR-ribotyping profile analysis with BioNumerics software. Sandra Janezic
- PCR-ribotyping profile analysis with WEBRIBO. Alexander Indra
- Introduction to exercise on comparative genomics. Alexander Indra
18:00 Dinner

Friday, 4 September 2015
09:30 Practicals
- Basic diagnostics (Part 3). Frédéric Barbut & Maja Rupnik
- In-vitro antimicrobial susceptibility testing – interpretation of results. Patrizia Spigaglia
11:00 Coffee break
11:30 Solving problems with interpretation of PCR-ribotyping results – general discussion. Mark Wilcox
12:30 Lunch break
14:00 Comparative genomics for phylogenetic studies. To be announced
14:45 Comparative genomics for epidemiological investigations. Mark Wilcox
15:30 Practical exercise on comparative genomics. Alexander Indra
19:00 Farewell dinner

Organisation

Course Venue
Faculty of Medicine
University of Maribor
Taborska 8
2000 Maribor
Slovenia

Registration Procedure
Register now online on the ESCMID website at www.escmid.org/education. Registration deadline is 31 July 2015.

Registration Fee
EUR 780 for ESCMID members (Full Membership/Young Scientist Membership)
EUR 830 for all others

The fee includes the scientific sessions (lectures, practicals, workshop material), coffee breaks, lunches and dinners. Accommodation and travel is not included.

Attendance Grants
ESCMID provides a number of attendance grants for ESCMID “Young Scientist members”. The grant covers the registration fee. Travel costs and accommodation are not included. Please apply via the ESCMID website at www.escmid.org/education before 15 June 2015. Applicants will be informed about their acceptance by 29 June 2015.

CME Accreditation
The organizers of the course will apply for European CME accreditation through EACCME.