We are looking back at another productive and interactive year! Many thanks to all of you and in particular the study groups and their members, the old and new Scientific Affairs Subcommittee members, and all ESCMID members for their fantastic inputs, support and relentless work. It is a pleasure working together!

In order to reinforce all these efforts we have recruited fantastic staff to the ESCMID Office. Welcome aboard! Together, we are looking forward to another fruitful year.

The "engine room" of ESCMID scientific activity: the Study groups
ESCMID Study Groups (SGs) are the core of our Society. Through them, ESCMID actively enriches the scientific community with new findings, which results in scientific publications, including medical guidelines and textbooks. This is why we guarantee that all SGs have adequate scientific and financial resources, and we help them set up new collaborations.

Our SG community is increasing every year. In 2018, three new SGs were founded: the SG for Respiratory Viruses (ESGREV), the SG for Host and Microbiota Interaction (ESGHAMI) and the SG for Public Health Microbiology (ESGPHM).

In addition, SGs are always evolving, leading to the expansion of activity fields. For instance, the SG for bloodstream infections and sepsis now also covers endocarditis (ESGBIES) and the SG for Mycoplasma infections now embraces Chlamydia (ESGMAC).

SG scientific meetings and joint conferences with other international organisations are another important activity in this portfolio, which the Scientific Affairs Subcommittee (SAS) also oversees. Finally, as Scientific Affairs Officer, I am enthusiastic to promote the collaboration of SGs with the ECCMID Programme Director in further developing ECCMID scientific programme.

New year, new people: the new Scientific Affairs Subcommittee
One of the major roles of SAS is to assist the Scientific Affairs Officer and the Society in defining Scientific Affairs priorities and supporting science in general, and specifically supporting the ESCMID Study Groups. Furthermore, the SAS members carefully analyze and evaluate the productivity of the SGs, with the final aim of maximizing their scientific activity.

In 2018, four experienced SAS members completed their terms of office. Luigi Gradoni, Gilbert Greub, Andreas Groll and Adriana Vince. I am thankful to them for their commitment over all these years and for their hard work!

Starting from January 2019, we are pleased to complement our team with Holger Rohde, Kate Templeton, Mary Horgan and Zeno Bisoffi. I warmly welcome the newly appointed members and am looking forward to working together. I am looking forward to your new and stimulating inputs!
Here we look back over the many activities performed by our study groups in the calendar year 2018. The following pages show a selection of major achievements or ongoing activities of the individual study groups. In general the study groups strongly contribute to ECCMID’s scientific programme by proposing symposia, educational workshops and meet-the-expert sessions. They organize the majority of courses/workshops for the ESCMID education programme [see page 44 Education] and publish a number of scientific articles in ESCMID’s name [see page 29 Publications].

- Organisation of the conference “8th Advances Against Aspergillosis [AAA]”, 31/01 – 04/02/2018, Lisboa, Portugal
- Organisation of the postgraduate technical workshop “Antifungal Resistance in Candida and Aspergillus: from clinic to current laboratory”, 18 – 21/09/2018, Delhi, India
- Publication of the article “Developing definitions for invasive fungal diseases in critically ill adult patients in intensive care units: Protocol of the FungiGels infections Definitions in ICU patients (FUNDDICU) project”, Mycoses, 2018

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• New name, new scope: ESCMID Study Group for Bloodstream Infections, Endocarditis and Sepsis
• Publication of the article “Survival following Staphylococcus aureus bloodstream infection: A prospective multinational cohort study assessing the impact of place of care”, Nambiar et al., J Infect., 2018
• Organisation of the course “Better methods for clinical studies in infectious diseases and clinical microbiology: a hands-on workshop”, 7–9/11/2018, Seville, Spain

Figure legend: Phenylogenic reconstruction of Borrelia species based on 791 aligned protein homologs built with the PEPR pipeline and FastTree2 with 100 jackknifed resampling replicates (Margos et al., 2018)

• Publication of the article “Laboratory support for the diagnosis of Lyme borreliosis: a position paper of ESGBOR, the ESCMID study group for Lyme borreliosis”, Dessau et al., CMI, 2018
• Commentary on the WHO ICD11 disease classification codes for Lyme borreliosis
• Position on the EU parliament resolution on Lyme borreliosis

Figure legend: Lung biopsy showing bronchiolitis in a case of respiratory syncytial virus-associated infant death (by B. Aguilera)

• Publication of the review “Management of KPC-producing Klebsiella pneumoniae infections”, Bassetti et al., CMI, 2018
• Co-organisation of the “7th Next Generation Sequencing Workshop on Neisseria gonorrhoeae and Clostridioides difficile”, 21–23/03/2018, Vienna, Austria
• Collaborative project on the standardization of faecal microbiota transplantation for treatment of patients with multiple recurrences of C. difficile

• At their first assembly at ECCMID 2018, members elected the ESGHAMI Executive Committee: Prof. Ed Kuijper (Netherlands), Prof. Benoit Guery (Switzerland) and Prof. Maria Vehreschild (Germany) were selected as chair, secretary and treasurer, respectively
• Membership increased rapidly: 29 people from 16 countries become ESGHAMI members by the end of the year
• Strong contribution to the ECCMID 2019 scientific programme with co-organisation of 5 sessions
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Yearbook 2018/2019

ESGI
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Publication of the article "Multidrug [MSR] and extensively drug resistant (XDR) Gram negative prostatic joint infections (PJi): Role of surgery and impact of colistin administration", Papadopoulos et al., 2018
- Organisation of the ESCMID Postgraduate Course "Update on Endocarditis and Endovascular Infections", 20–23/03/2018, Muenster, Germany
- Development of the free-of-charge application "PJi Database" that helps researchers collect clinical data on periprosthetic joint infections and creates a common database for prospective studies

ESGIB
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Figure legend: the ESGIB app "PJi Database" on the Apple store

ESGIC
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Figure legend: Metallophilic macrophage rings [green] surrounded by the red pulp [violet] in the spleen of mice have been identified as the location in which Streptococcus pneumoniae replicates before causing invasive disease [Ercoli et al., 2018]
- Support to the publication "Combined effect of non-bacteriolytic antibiotic and inhibition of matrix metalloproteinases prevents brain injury and preserves learning, memory and hearing function in experimental paediatric pneumococcal meningitis", Muri et al., Journal of Neuroinflammation, 2018
- Organisation of the ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course "Acute Bacterial CNS Infections of the Brain", 11–13/10/2018, Munich, Germany
- Publication of the systematic review "Diagnostic value of cerebrospinal fluid CXCL13 for acute Lyme neuroborreliosis. A systematic review and meta-analysis", Ruprecht et al., CMI, 2018

ESGICH
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Figure legend: Mode of action of T-lymphocyte associated antigen 4 (CTLA-4)-targeted agents. Iplimumab and tremelimumab are monoclonal antibodies that bind CTLA-4, thus preventing engagement by agonist ligands like B7-1 (CD80) and B7-2 (CD86), and blocking its inhibitory effect on T-cell priming (from Redelman-Sidi et al., 2018, part of the ESGICH Consensus Document on the safety of targeted and biological therapies)
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- Publication of the review "Antimicrobial consumption and impact of antimicrobial stewardship programmes in long-term care facilities", Falzone et al., CMI, 2018
- Organisation of the postgraduate course "Infection in Older Populations: the next Challenges", 12–14/09/2018, Grenoble, France
- Support to the publication "Serum albumin is a strong predictor of sepsis outcome in elderly patients", Arnau-Barrés et al., CMI, 2018

ESGIMAC
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Figure legend: Mycoplasma pneumoniae infecting AS49 cells [by Roger Dumke]
- New name, new scope: to study and understand the clinical presentation, and the epidemiology [including development of antimicrobial resistance] of Mycoplasma, Ureaplasma, Chlamydia and Chlamyphila infections in humans as well as to improve diagnosis, treatment, control and prevention
- Co-organisation of a symposium on antimicrobial Resistance at the "International Organization for Mycoplasmaology meeting (IOM)", 9–12/07/2018, Portsmouth, USA
- Allocation of four student awards to ESGMAC members presenting posters at the IGM meeting

ESGMD
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Figure legend: Methods to identify microorganisms from positive blood cultures or blood (Peker et al., CMI, 2018)
- Publication of the commentary "Diagnostic stewardship: are we using the right term?", Oger et al., CMI, 2018
- Organisation of the 3rd course on "Principles of Molecular Microbiological Diagnostics", 17–19/01/2018, Maastricht, Netherlands
- Prof. John Rossen, ESGMD chair, represented ESCMID at "LMCE 2018 & 59 th KSLM Annual Meeting", where he gave the talk "Next generation sequencing in routine clinical microbiology", 1–3/11/2018, Seoul, South Korea

ESGNI
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Figure legend: Legionella pneumophila
- Presentation of the results of an ESGNI survey regarding the Sequence Base Typing (SBT) database at the 9th annual meeting of the European Legionnaires’ disease surveillance network (ELD-SNET), by Dr Victoria Chalker, Lyon, France
- Organisation of the "5th meeting of the ESCMID Study Group for Legionella infections", 28–30/08/2018, Lyon, France
- Obtained ECDIC travel grants for the project "Antimicrobial resistance in Legionella" and "Legionella SBT database WGS meeting"
• Publication of the perspective article "Insights on Mycobacterium leprae Efflux Pumps and Their Implications in Drug Resistance and Virulence", Machado et al., Front. Microbiol., 2018
• Organisation of the post graduate educational course "Management of mycobacterial infections and associated comorbidities", 27–28/09/2018, Rome, Italy
• Participation in the 3rd EUCAST-ESMYC Subcommittee meeting on antimycobacterial susceptibility testing, 21/04/2018, Madrid, Spain

• Publication of the research article "Variability in contact precautions to control the nosocomial spread of multi-drug resistant organisms in the endemic setting: a multinational cross-sectional survey", Vuichard Gysin et al., Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control, 2018
• Publication of the book "Clinically Relevant Mycoses. A Practical Approach", Springer, 2018
• Member of the scientific committee of the "International Conference on Multi-drug resistant organisms in the endemic setting: a multinational cross-sectional survey", Vuichard Gysin et al., Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control, 2018

• At their first assembly at ECCMB 2018, members elected the ESGPHM Executive Committee: Titia Kortbeek (Netherlands): chair; Androulla Efstratiou (United Kingdom): co-chair; Georgina Tzanakaki (Greece): scientific secretary; Silvia Herrera Leon (Spain): treasurer; additional members: Andreas Sing (Germany), Steven Vangucht (Belgium), Rune Stensvold (Denmark)
• The first ESGPHM newsletter was sent to the members in November 2018
• ESGPHM is member of the scientific committee of the 12th International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers (IMMEM XII) to be held on 18 – 21/09/2018, Dubrovnik, Croatia

• Publication of the article "Optimization of Antimicrobial Treatment to Minimize Resistance Selection", Guardabassi et al., Microbiol Spectrum, 2018
• Collaboration with VetCAST for the organisation of the workshop "Determination of clinical breakpoints", 22/06/2018, Wroclaw, Poland
• Organisation of the course "Challenges in Veterinary Hospital Infection Control and Antimicrobial Stewardship", 04/04/2018, Birmingham, United Kingdom

• Publication of the article "Variability in contact precautions to control the nosocomial spread of multi-drug resistant organisms in the endemic setting: a multinational cross-sectional survey", Vuichard Gysin et al., Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control, 2018
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• At their first assembly at ECCMB 2018, members elected the ESGMYC Executive Committee: Tita Kortbeek (Netherlands): chair; Androulla Efstratiou (United Kingdom): co-chair; Georgina Tzanakaki (Greece): scientific secretary, Silvia Herrera Leon (Spain): treasurer, additional members: Andreas Sing (Germany), Steven Vangucht (Belgium), Rune Stensvold (Denmark)
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• Member of the Scientific Committee of the "International Conference on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance (ICOHAR)" to be held in April 2019, Utrecht, Netherlands

• At their first assembly at ECCMB 2018, members elected the ESGREV Executive Committee: Dr Chrysanthi Skevaki (Germany): chair; Prof. Sotirios Tsiodras (Greece): secretary; Dr Stefan Paul Kuster (Switzerland): treasurer; additional members: Prof. Barbara Rath (Germany), Kate Templeton (United Kingdom)
• Preparation of the Study Group bylaws and promotion of the ESGREV membership [27 members by the end of the year]
• Co-organisation of three sessions at ECCMB 2019

• Publication of the article "Variability in contact precautions to control the nosocomial spread of multi-drug resistant organisms in the endemic setting: a multinational cross-sectional survey", Vuichard Gysin et al., Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control, 2018
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