Becoming a member of ESCMID Study Group for Genomic and Molecular Diagnostics

(ESGMD) - What’s in it for you?

ESGMD Mission
Molecular diagnostics (MDx) has become an essential component of clinical and public health microbiology. Recent advances in MDx (such as qPCR, multiplexing) allow the speedy detection and quantification of microbial nucleic acid targets with greater than ever accuracy. Integration of in house and commercial molecular assays in laboratory workflows, together with other new technologies (such as MALDI-TOF) complement and occasionally replace traditional methods. The increasing accessibility to next-generation sequencing is further transforming microbiology and genomic-based diagnostics are being developed and implemented via whole genome sequencing of microbes as well as metagenomics approaches. ESGMD is a cross-cutting SG under ESCMID that is dedicated to genomic and molecular diagnostics in clinical microbiology. As such it is envisaged to serve as the focus of expertise for molecular and genomic microbiology and as a hub for all professionals working in this field.

The current ESGMD board is diverse and consists of ten members, including a Chairperson, Scientific Secretary and Treasurer (the Executive Committee). More information on the board members and their areas of responsibility within ESGMD can be found at the ESCMID website: https://www.escmid.org/fileadmin/src/media/PDFs/3Research_Projects/ESGMD/ESGMD_EC_responsibilities.pdf

ESGMD Key objectives:
(1) Study all aspects of the use of molecular and genomic techniques underpinning the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control of infectious diseases; (2) Lead the development, appraisal and implementation of new diagnostic strategies; (3) Initiate and coordinate international research projects to inform improved infectious disease diagnosis; (4) Train and educate professionals engaged in new diagnostics and support building of diagnostic capacity; (5) Develop guidance and policy on the development, integration and interpretation of genomic and molecular diagnostics; (6) Collaborate with a range of stakeholders in the field of clinical microbiology internally (other SGs) and externally; (7) Promote a growing international community dedicated to genomic and molecular diagnostics.

ESGMD welcomes new members from various disciplines (e.g. microbiology, infectious disease, public health, bioinformatics) across different sectors (e.g. clinical, veterinary, environmental) interested in supporting and benefitting from its wide range of activities.

How do I join?
Please go to the ESGMD website and log in with your ESCMID membership details: https://www.escmid.org/research_projects/study_groups/molecular_diagnostics/esgmd_membership_application/; you will then be asked to state your key motivation for joining and upload a CV or biosketch. The Study Group’s Executive Committee will review and confirm your request and you’re all set! If you experience any difficulties, please contact our scientific secretary Dr. John Rossen (j.w.a.rossen@rug.nl)
Does membership involve any costs?
Joining ESGMD is completely free of charge for everyone registered as an active ESCMID member.

Do I have to be a microbiologist to join ESGMD?
ESGMD is interested to bring together all professionals interested in molecular and genomic diagnostics for infectious disease. Any ESCMID member interested in this topic is welcome to apply for membership.

I am a member of another ESCMID Study Group. Am I eligible to apply?
Yes. ESCMID members are allowed to become members of more than one Study Group.

What’s in it for me?
ESGMD membership offers the following benefits:
• Becoming a part of a growing community of scientists and physicians interested in genomic and molecular diagnostics for infectious diseases
• Ability to share relevant information, communicate with peers and establish new collaborations
• Receiving periodic updates concerning Study Group activities and scientific materials of interest
• Opportunity to propose scientific sessions for ECCMID
• Opportunity to propose ideas for ESCMID courses and workshops
• Eligibility for developing a research grant proposal for ESCMID funding of Study Group research
• Mentorship opportunities for young members
• Propose any additional activities that could benefit the ESGMD community