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Summarising the activities that ESCMID develops in one year is far from easy. As an ESCMID member, I am proud to see that our Society continues growing in size, activities and influence, furthering its mission both in Europe and abroad. As my presidency draws to a close, I am also proud of the great work carried out by the members, staff and collaborators.

Continued success at home and abroad
ESCMID has an international outreach, with further initiatives being implemented to welcome members from across the globe. The recent implementation of the low-income country membership initiative and grants to attend ECCMID has helped many new members to join ESCMID and spread the knowledge that they will gain from their active involvement in the Society. The outreach of ESCMID to middle and low-income countries will continue with the collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in projects such as Central Asian and Eastern European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (CAESAR).

Recent ESCMID involvement abroad includes contribution to educational and scientific activities in Brazil, Colombia, Japan, Korea and USA, as well as organisation of educational and scientific activities in Panama and Singapore.

ESCMID partners
The work of ESCMID’s two major committees, the European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC) and the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) shapes the practices of medical professionals across Europe and beyond. We are proud that the first cohort of students of the EUCIC European Certificate in Infection Prevention and Control will graduate in 2020. EUCAST worldwide influence keeps growing due to its activity central to regulatory agencies, professionals and patients.

Collaborations with our ESCMID Affiliated Societies have led to the organisation of several conferences, educational courses and workshops, as well as the collection of many ideas aimed at improving the Society during the ESCMID Council Meeting at ECCMID.

Successful events
2019 saw another record-breaking ECCMID in Amsterdam (Netherlands), with more delegates and submitted abstracts than ever before. ESCMID organised additional successful conferences in Europe, including the “5th ESCMID Conference on Vaccines” in Bilbao (Spain) and the “12th International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers (IMMEM-XII)” in Dubrovnik (Croatia). Intercontinentally, the ever-popular “ESCMID/ASM Conference on New Drugs Development” in Boston (USA) and the conference “Antimicrobial Resistance in the 21st Century: a Global Threat” in Panama City (Panama) were very well-attended and highly rated by participants.

Smaller-scale educational activities included 12 Postgraduate Courses and Workshops, taking place in various locations within Europe and abroad. The “18th ESCMID Summer School” took place in Liverpool (United Kingdom) and was held in the typical ESCMID fashion including hard work, learning and networking in a friendly atmosphere. This year, 78 young scientists gathered for a week of learning from a faculty of international experts.

Advocacy and parity
ESCMID worked significantly to improve gender and geographical parity in the organization, and we put a lot of effort in this crucial matter. All previous marks were broken at ECCMID 2019, with 48% of the invited faculty being women. More grant initiatives facilitating attendance to ECCMID have been established, namely the Programme Book grants, allowing even more colleagues from lower-income countries to present their work on the world stage and connect with international colleagues. Adding to the increase in regular travel grants for ESCMID Young Scientist members, ESCMID is very proud of the efforts to support researchers to attend events such as ECCMID, as well as other ESCMID conferences, courses and workshops.

“I am proud to see that our Society continues growing in size, activities and influence, furthering its mission both in Europe and abroad”

Jesús Rodríguez-Baño
ESCMID President
jesus.rodriguez-bano@escmid.org
Learning from colleagues and promoting science

2019 saw an increase in funding for the ESCMID Observership Programme, with a more than 25% increase in the total amount of observers: 124 ESCMID members were supported by the Society to travel internationally and intercontinentally to observe clinical and laboratory practice in other institutions and start collaborations. We also re-launched the ESCMID Mentorship Programme, connecting young scientists with experienced mentors to help further their careers in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases. In addition, we continued with our research grants for members and Study Groups. Moreover, our journal *Clinical Microbiology and Infection (CMI)* increased its impact factor to 6.425 – another great achievement!

ESCMID has seen great leaps forward in the field of medical guidelines. Our very innovative new procedure for the development of guidelines will facilitate the transparency and participation of our members in the selection of topics and panels. We do hope we can produce really useful recommendations and contribute to the improvement of the outcome of patients with infections. We are also working with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), WHO and the European Commission to promote science in the fields of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases and to help implement better practices worldwide.

Time to say thanks and look ahead for the future

Serving ESCMID as President has been an honour. It has been a wonderful experience, complex, intense and difficult, but rewarding. I have been very lucky to work hand in hand with the Executive Committee members and our Office staff (the best teams possible). I finish my term with a clear feeling: for sure I could have done better but could not have done more. In this moment, the word that comes first to my mind is “thank you”. I cannot emphasize enough my gratitude to all members for allowing me to be a leader among peers, to all those volunteering their time for ESCMID, to our staff, and of course to my team in Sevilla, and to my family for their support and understanding.

Immediate Past President and Publications Officer Mario Poljak and Guidelines Officer Evelina Tacconelli will complete their terms in the ESCMID Executive Committee at ECCMID 2020. I have learned so much working with them, and counting them among my friends is a privilege. ESCMID owes much of its current success to their talent and tireless efforts over the last years. My congratulations to the newly-elected members of the ESCMID Executive Committee, Jon Friedland and Robert Skov, who will surely contribute to further achievements of our Society.

“Managing infections, promoting science” is ESCMID motto. Four simple words, but so much behind them. Let’s keep doing it together, more and better every year.
Message from the Incoming President

“The ultimate goal of ESCMID efforts will be to strengthen the role of clinical microbiologists and infectious disease specialists at the European level. Now, we are at a crossroads in the history of medicine, where the proliferation of old and new infections supported also by the emergence of multidrug-resistant microorganisms requires urgent solutions, which can only originate from increasingly skilled professionals.”

Maurizio Sanguinetti
ESCMID President-elect and Secretary General
maurizio.sanguinetti@escmid.org

At this year’s ECCMID, I will be assuming the role of President, taking over from my colleague and friend Jesús Rodríguez-Baño. I am aware of the onerous task I am going to face, but at the same time, I am aware of the priceless work done so far by my predecessors, which I hope to continue with dignity. As Jesús Rodríguez-Baño has said, the responsibilities, as well as the management complexity of the President are ever increasing. Fortunately, the President is not alone, but can count on an excellent ESCMID team, which combines the efforts of the ESCMID Executive Committee and the staff working at our headquarters in Basel (Switzerland). Therefore, I am awaiting with anticipation, as well as with a confident spirit, the undertaking of this honourable task.

Extending the international cooperation
The strength of ESCMID resides in a collaborative network between scientific societies for clinical microbiology and infectious diseases from different nations within and outside of Europe. This continuously growing network aims to increase awareness of infectious diseases, including those emerging and neglected, and to develop methods to prevent, diagnose and treat such diseases. Ultimately, we have to think beyond frontiers and beyond professions to win the fight against antimicrobial resistance. My thought is that only through such a network of different realities we can compare and be stimulated to share daily experiences in the long-standing — not yet won-battle — against microbial infections. Therefore, under my leadership, we will strengthen the collaboration with scientific societies from developing regions, such as Latin America and Africa, to increase the dissemination of knowledge in the clinical microbiology and infectious disease fields.

Promoting education and training
Closely connected with strengthening of international collaborations is the promotion of high-level educational activities. An ESCMID tradition is to promote educational programmes through its postgraduate courses and workshops. These programmes address several general or specific issues, such as infectious diseases diagnostics and treatment, or the antimicrobial resistance problem and its related consequences. In the last Executive Committee meeting alone, 21 courses were approved for 2020, of which one will take place outside Europe, and are expected to have a high rate of participants.

Another consolidated initiative within the educational programme is the annual Summer School, which offers an arena for young specialists to interact with each other on relevant aspects of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases accompanied by experts and Executive Committee members. Having taken part in Summer Schools over the years, both as a teacher and as an Executive Committee member, I can testify as to the enthusiasm of the young participants in sharing aspects of their personal experiences in microbiology laboratories or on infectious disease wards. As with the Summer School, we are spending a lot of energy on the Observership programme. After the relaunch of the platform in 2018, we had a great number of applicants in 2019. The programme is growing year by year, from which especially younger scientists can benefit. A strong selection process guarantees both high quality of the ESCMID Collaborative Centres (ECCs) as well as the selected observers who benefit from this wonderful programme.

In late 2019, we re-opened the platform for applications for the mentorship programme, and applications are still undergoing. The ultimate goal of these ESCMID efforts will be to strengthen the role of clinical microbiologists and infectious disease specialists at the European level. In my opinion, we are at a crossroad in the history of medicine, where the proliferation of infections supported by the emergence of multidrug-resistant microorganisms requires urgent solutions, which can only originate from increasingly skilled professionals.

Qualifying clinical microbiology and infectious disease specialists
As of now, the qualification of specialists in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases, two “sibling” or “sister” disciplines, is country specific, which complicates to use their title easily in dif-
different European countries. We will work towards defining, piloting and releasing the internationally accepted requisites to achieve a certificate to qualify specialists in clinical microbiology or infectious diseases. We will take advantage of our collaborations with other important European entities, such as the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), devoted to addressing these issues through the harmonisation of medical specialists’ qualifications.

Thanks
I fully agree with my admired colleagues Jesús Rodríguez-Baño and (before him) Mario Poljak on the fact that that ESCMID is based on teamwork. Of course, I want to take this opportunity to thank all more than 200 colleagues who dedicate time and talent to help ESCMID achieve its mission. Among them, all Executive Committee and ad-hoc members, chairs and members of our committees (EUCAST and EUCIC) and subcommittees [Education, Scientific Affairs, Publication, Professional Affairs, International Affairs, Guidelines], the Parity Commission, the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE), Emerging Infections Task Force (EItaF), Study Groups, ECCMID Programme Committee, and the Clinical Microbiology and Infection (CMI) Editorial Board, merit my sincere gratitude. Above all, I want to thank Jesús Rodríguez-Baño for the plentiful energy and the amazing commitment he devoted to the Society during his term. I consider it a privilege to succeed him, and I will proudly build on his invaluable work towards our common goals.

ESCMID members 2019

9,913
Changes to the ESCMID Executive Committee

At the end of 2019, elections were held among the ESCMID members to fill three positions on the ESCMID Executive Committee, one representing Infectious Diseases and two representing Clinical Microbiology. The new members duly elected were Jon S. Friedland, infectious diseases specialist from St. George's, University of London (United Kingdom), and Robert Skov, clinical microbiologist from Statens Serum Institut in Copenhagen (Denmark).

Jon and Robert will join the ESCMID Executive Committee in May 2020. Treasurer Alexander Friedrich, clinical microbiologist from University Medical Centre Groningen (Netherlands), was successfully re-elected for a second term.

We congratulate the new and re-elected officers and look forwards to their contributions to the Society.

New EC members

Jon S. Friedland

Jon is a clinical academic in infectious disease, whose research focuses on the understanding of innate immune responses in tuberculosis, with a view to develop new host directed therapies, as well as investigate migrant health and infectious diseases, with research collaborations across five continents, particularly in Peru.

He served as President of the British Infection Society from 2007 to 2009. He was a founding member of the ESCMID Mycobacterial (ESGMYC) and Migrant Health (ESGITM) Study Groups, and with ESGMYC he organised the "Postgraduate Education Course on Tuberculosis and Mycobacterial Infections" in Singapore in 2019, together with The Singapore Infectious Disease Society. He served in the ECCMID Programme Committee from 2015 to 2019, and was named one of the first "ESCMID fellows" in 2017, a testament to his continuous commitment to the Society as a whole.

Jon is keen in developing careers and involving trainees in the infection research field, as well as increasing the international reach of ESCMID and fostering collaborations across Europe.

Jon S. Friedland
Deputy Principal (Research & Enterprise)
St. George’s, University of London, UK

Robert Skov

Robert has been an ESCMID member for two decades. During this time, he has been member of ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (ESGARS), ESCMID Study Group for Epidemiological Markers (ESGEM), ESCMID Study Group for Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Diseases (ESGS) and European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST), serving as member of the ESGARS Executive Committee, member of the EUCAST Steering Committee and as the Danish representative of the EUCAST General Committee. He has also been involved in the organisation of several ESCMID Postgraduate Educational Courses.

Robert has also represented ESCMID interests as member of the Steering Committee for the Central Asian and Eastern European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (CAESAR) network, a joint initiative between the World Health Organization, the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and ESCMID.

Having worked for most of his career in the area of antimicrobial resistance in public health, he believes that antimicrobial resistance is a major threat not only to the treatment and prophylaxis of infections in individual patients, but also to modern medicine in general, and that a holistic "One Health" approach, involving human and veterinary medicine to combat the overuse and abuse of antimicrobial agents and the spread of resistant bacteria, is of highest priority.

Robert Leo Skov
Senior Consultant, National AMR coordinator
Division of Infectious Disease Preparedness,
Statens Serum Institut,
Copenhagen, Denmark
Message of appreciation

Mario Poljak

In May 2020, Publications Officer and Immediate Past President Mario Poljak will complete his term on the ESCMID Executive Committee (EC). We pass on our heartfelt thanks for all that he has contributed to the Society so far, and have no doubt that he will continue to remain closely connected to ESCMID.

Long-term involvement

Mario first attended ECCMID in 1995, and joined ESCMID as a member in 1997. He presented his keynote lecture on HPV vaccines in 2006 at the 16th ECCMID in Nice (France). Mario joined ESCMID at an organisational level in 2007 as a member of the first Professional Affairs Subcommittee, where he served until 2011. During this time, he was also integral in the establishment of the ESCMID Parity Commission in 2010 (where he served 2 years as the first ESCMID Advocate for Geographic Balance), as well as the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE), where he was part of the inaugural TAE Advisory Board.

Getting members involved

Mario joined the ESCMID EC in 2012 as Professional Affairs Officer, and during his time in this role he was instrumental in the renovation of several existing initiatives, as well as the creation of several new ones. Together with Evelina Taccioni, he led the complete rejuvenation of the ESCMID Observership programme, better involving the ESCMID Collaborative Centres (ECCs) and garnering increased financial support to enable far more ESCMID members to visit institutions across Europe and worldwide. In addition, the Observership programme was expanded to include specific visits to the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen (Denmark), and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm (Sweden). ECCs were further involved, with the establishment of the ECCMID Networking Corner under Evelina and Mario’s guidance.

Eventful times

Mario was the organiser of the 3rd ESCMID Workshop on Professional Affairs in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases “The Future of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Europe”, held in Ljubljana (Slovenia) in 2014. Conference wise, he was the responsible EC member for the International Meetings on Microbial Epidemiological Markers (IMMEM) in 2016 and 2019, as well as being responsible for the ESCMID Conferences on Vaccines in 2015, 2017 and 2019. He also oversaw ECCMIDs in 2017, 2018, and 2019. He served in the ECCMID Programme Committee for 11 years (2010–2020).

A legacy in print

The positive impact of Mario on the ESCMID publication portfolio cannot be understated. He was integral in the negotiation of a publishing agreement between the Society’s journal, Clinical Microbiology and Infection (CMI) and Elsevier Limited, first for the period 2015–2019, and again recently for the period 2020–2024. During his term as Publications Officer, the CMI impact factor reached its highest level of 6.425. Moreover, the journal underwent a renewal of its printed and online formats. Mario was also the Co-Editor of the book “ESCMID – the first 35 years”, as well as the ESCMID Yearbooks for the years 2018–2019 and 2019–2020.

A period of growth

During his time as ESCMID President from 2016 to 2018, Mario led a complete reorganisation of the ESCMID Office in Basel (Switzerland), and oversaw the expansion of the ESCMID membership to more than 8000 members, as well as the affiliation of a significant amount of new ESCMID-affiliated societies. Other records were broken, with the highest number of ECCMID attendees (>12,000) and the highest numbers of submitted ECCMID abstracts (>5000) occurring during this period. During his term, Memorandums of Understanding were signed with several large national and international societies, including but not limited to the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada (AMMI Canada) and the Korean Society of Laboratory Medicine (KSLM).

Mario always emphasised that a unique European approach to bring together clinical microbiologists and infectious disease specialists in one Society, and a joint annual congress are the foundation of ESCMID and ECCMID success and continued prosperity. We are sure that we will continue to see Mario at ECCMID and other ESCMID events, and look forward to the further great things he will contribute to the Society.
Evelina Tacconelli
Guidelines Officer Evelina Tacconelli will complete her term in the ESCMID Executive Committee (EC) in May 2020. We highly appreciate the hard work she has done so far, and we are sure that she will continue having a great positive impact on ESCMID activities.

Involved from early on
Evelina joined the ESCMID organisation in 2010 as Professional Affairs Officer, and she was instrumental in the establishment of the ESCMID Parity Commission, a group that continues advocating for the equal inclusion of scientists in the ESCMID activities regardless of gender, location or economic status.

Getting members involved
Together with Mario Poljak, she led the complete rejuvenation of the ESCMID Observership Programme, better involving the ESCMID Collaborative Centres (ECCs) and garnering increased financial support to enable more ESCMID members to visit institutions across Europe and worldwide. In addition, the Observership Programme was expanded to include specific visits to the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen (Denmark) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm (Sweden). ECCs were further involved with the establishment of the ECCMID Networking Corner under Evelina and Mario’s guidance.

An educational legacy
Evelina assumed the role of Education Officer in 2016, and during the 2-year term she successfully implemented the European Certificate in Infection Control and Prevention, a two-year training programme in Infection Control practices, which had been in the planning stages since 2013, and included the formation of a new ESCMID entity, the European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC). Serving as chairperson for EUCIC, she oversaw the complete planning and implementation of the training programme, incorporating a mixture of various modules taking place across a variety of European universities. The participants of the programme were supposed to be awarded with their certification during ECCMID 2020, with the second cohort starting the programme thereafter. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak both the awarding ceremony and the start of the new programme had to be postponed. Evelina will continue serving as chairperson for EUCIC after concluding her mandate in the ESCMID Executive Committee.

Ensuring quality practice
In 2018, Evelina was appointed Guidelines Officer. Under her guidance, and in collaboration with Luigia Scudeller, the organisation of the ESCMID Guidelines has been improved. The new structure launched in 2019 is based on rigorous methodology, efficient control of conflict of interest, and transparent and meritocratic selection of guidelines’ panel members. Ten guidelines on a variety of topics from Candida to Clostridium have been published, and more are in the pipeline. In addition, the first ever ESCMID Guidelines training for evidence assessment was organised in October 2019. With a strong history of contribution to meta-analyses on highly important topics, she will continue leading the ESCMID Guidelines Subcommittee in the future.

Final words
Evelina is a highly skilled scientist and fervent investigator, and her presence in the ESCMID Executive Committee will be missed. We are looking forward to seeing what fantastic initiatives she will bring in her future roles within ESCMID, and we thank her for all the work she has done so far to further the Society’s mission.
CMI
Clinical Microbiology and Infection

Editor-in-Chief: Leonard Leibovici

*Clinical Microbiology and Infection (CMI)* is a monthly publication of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and publishes peer-reviewed papers that present basic and applied research relevant to therapy and diagnostics in the fields of microbiology, infectious diseases, virology, parasitology, immunology and epidemiology.

READ THE LATEST ARTICLES ONLINE

Top 5 most cited articles:

1. A 5-day course of oral antibiotics followed by faecal transplantation to eradicate carriage of multidrug-resistant Enterobacteriaceae: a randomized clinical trial
2. Hantavirus infections
3. The epidemiology and clinical manifestations of mucormycosis: a systematic review and meta-analysis of case reports
4. ESCMID-EUCIC clinical guidelines on decolonization of multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria carriers
5. The vaginal microbiota and its association with human papillomavirus, Chlamydia trachomatis, Neisseria gonorrhoeae and Mycoplasma genitalium infections: a systematic review and meta-analysis

ESCMID Guidelines and Consensus Statements

1. ESCMID-ECMM guideline: diagnosis and management of invasive aspergillosis in neonates and children
2. ESCMID generic competencies in antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship: towards a European consensus
4. Developing core elements and checklist items for global hospital antimicrobial stewardship programmes: a consensus approach
5. ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Compromised Hosts (ESGICH) Consensus Document on the safety of targeted and biological therapies: an infectious diseases perspective (Agents targeting lymphoid or myeloid cells surface antigens [I]: CD22, CD30, CD33, CD38, CD40, SLAMF-7 and CCR4)

Stay up to date on outbreak news and visit the ESCMID Emerging Infections Task Force (EITaF) at escmid.org/research_projects/emerging_infections_task_force
Organisational chart

Executive Committee (EC) members

Current members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jesús Rodríguez Baño</td>
<td>Seville, ES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maurizio Sanguinetti</td>
<td>Rome, IT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex W. Friedrich</td>
<td>Groningen, NL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annelies Zinkernagel</td>
<td>Zurich, CH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Önder Ergönül</td>
<td>Istanbul, TR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmanuelle Cambau</td>
<td>Paris, FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mario Poljak</td>
<td>Ljubljana, SI</td>
</tr>
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Members as of 5 May 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, Country</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maurizio Sanguinetti</td>
<td>Rome, IT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annelies Zinkernagel</td>
<td>Zurich, CH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex W. Friedrich</td>
<td>Groningen, NL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Friedland</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert L. Skov</td>
<td>Copenhagen, DNK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmanuelle Cambau</td>
<td>Paris, FR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Önder Ergönül</td>
<td>Istanbul, TR</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Executive Office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simone Brüderli</td>
<td>Chief Operating Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carla Seller</td>
<td>Event Coordination Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniele Roppolo</td>
<td>Science Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luigi Maddaluno</td>
<td>Science Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Caddy</td>
<td>Education Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Schirra</td>
<td>Professional Affairs &amp; Event Support Coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ad hoc EC members

Evelina Tacconelli
Tübingen, DE
Verona, IT
EUCIC
Chairperson

Winfried V. Kern
Freiburg, DE

Leonard Leibovici
Tel Aviv, IL

Luigia Scudeller
Milano, IT

Christian Giske
Stockholm, SE

Jesús Rodríguez Baño
Seville, ES
(Immediate past President)

Jacob Moran-Gilad
Beer Sheva, Israel

Leonard Leibovici
Tel Aviv, IL

Luigia Scudeller
Milano, IT

Christian Giske
Stockholm, SE

Evelina Tacconelli
Tübingen, DE
Verona, IT

Chiara Speziale
Guidelines Manager

Guidelines
Guidelines Officer

ECCMID
Programme Committee

ECCMID Programme Committee

Guidelines
Subcommittee

ECCMID
Programme Director

CMI
Editor-in-Chief

Guidelines
Director

EUCAST
Chairperson

EUCIC
Chairperson
ESCMID Research Grants: good news!
Starting from this year, we have introduced important changes in the management and evaluation process of our research grants. With the great support of our Executive Office, we designed a new information technology (IT) tool to manage all received applications in a faster and more effective way. Furthermore, we decided to assign a maximum of three submitted projects per reviewer, thus significantly decreasing the workload of our fantastic reviewers. The new adopted solution lead to enthusiastic comments and resulted in a very efficient and linear evaluation process: at the agreed deadline, about 80% of the selected reviewers completed the assigned task and the missing evaluations were received just a week later! These data represent a great success for us and testify the effort of ESCMID in meeting the needs of its precious collaborators. Hence, I would like to give special thanks to all experts and reviewers (see page 86) who have done a terrific job evaluating the large number of received proposals. It is also my pleasure to communicate that, for the first time, we have allocated additional funds to ESCMID research grants. As you can appreciate reading pages 78, 79 and 80 this decision resulted in a much higher number of granted proposals: 25 funded research projects, almost 70% more than the previous call! Improving the funding instruments, represents the concrete efforts of our society to further promote scientific research in the fields of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases.

Scientific Affairs Subcommittee and Study Groups: happy together
What a team! Together with the Scientific Affairs Subcommittee (SAS) and many collaborators within the society, we have been working hard on improving transparency and quality of our activities. I would like to acknowledge the continuous and excellent support of the Executive Office, who made all this work possible. Together, it is fun to keep things moving forward! Many thanks!

I would like to thank the SAS for their dedication in reviewing applications of new Study Groups and in annually assessing Study Group activities. Following suggestions by SAS members, we have developed and introduced a new procedure to collect and evaluate the annual Study Group scientific reports in a more transparent, clearer and faster way. This achievement was possible through a strong cooperation among the SAS, the Study Group Executive Committees and our Executive Office: well done! I am also very happy to acknowledge the SAS members for their commitment in the first step of the evaluation process of Study Group research applications. In 2019, we received 27 submissions for the ESCMID Study Group research grants, a new all-time record in the history of ESCMID. Hence, our Study Groups, the main driving force within ESCMID, are showing a continuous growth in establishing new and valid scientific projects. We were also pleased to notice that many of the submitted research projects were the result of a close collaboration between two Study Groups, thus underling the great job performed by the ESCMID Science Managers in facilitating the cooperation among Study Groups.

I welcome the members of the Study Group Executive Committees elected in 2019: thank you for your commitment and for engaging in driving collaborations across Europe and beyond. In particular, and on behalf of the ESCMID Executive Committee, I want to acknowledge all Study Groups that have prepared transparent procedures for the election of their Executive Committee and the management of their activities: 21 Study Groups have now written bylaws that clarify the composition of the Executive Committee and their functioning. Discrepancies between Study Groups have been eliminated, still taking into account the specificities of each of them. These bylaws have been approved by the Study Group members and serve as basis for the elections of the Executive Committees. In 2019, members of eleven Study Groups had the chance to stand for elections, and I am very pleased to see that many new faces have been elected. The remaining Study Groups will have elections in 2020, so that all Study Groups will have renewed the composition of their Executive Committee. A big thank to the leaving members: new ideas will build up on the solid foundation and on all the work you have done so far!

Once again, I say thank you to all the members of SAS, to all Study Group members and to the staff of the ESCMID Office: only their constant commitment, collaboration and involvement allow our Society and the whole scientific community to advance.

"Many thanks to the productive, interactive and innovative ESCMID scientific community driving knowledge, cutting edge diagnostics and therapeutics forward. The essence for managing infections and promoting science"

Annelies Zinkernagel
ESCMID Scientific Affairs Officer
annelies.zinkernagel@escmid.org
SAS and Study Group meeting at ECCMID 2019 (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Every year, SAS members and all Study Group Chairs come together to discuss important aspects from individual projects to the future of science.

Scientific Affairs Subcommittee

- Bacteria & Bacterial Diseases [Holger Rohde, Hamburg, Germany]
- Fungi & Fungal Diseases [Carolina Garcia Vidal, Barcelona, Spain]
- Parasites & Parasitic Diseases [Zeno Bisoffi, Verona, Italy]
- Viruses & Viral Diseases [Mary Horgan, Cork, Ireland]
- Pathogenesis & Immunology [Mona Johannessen, Tromsø, Norway]
- Epidemiology, Public Health & Vaccinology [Oliver Dyar, Stockholm, Sweden]
- Clinics & Therapeutics [Souha Kanj, Beirut, Lebanon]
- Diagnostics [Kate Templeton, Edinburgh, United Kingdom]
- Antimicrobial Resistance & Susceptibility Testing [Frédéric Laurent, Lyon, France]

For more information visit www.escmid.org/science
Study Groups

www.escmid.org/studygroups

Here we look back over the many activities performed by our study groups in the calendar year 2019. 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 organise the majority of courses/workshops for the ESCMID education programme [see page 46 Education] and publish a number of scientific articles in ESCMID’s name [see page 36 Publications].

EFISG

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

Figure legend: Aspergillus terreus ss, Sabouraud Agar, 48h/37°C

• Publication of the article “Perspectives on Scedosporium species and Lomentospora prolificans in lung transplantation: Results of an international practice survey from ESCMID fungal infection study group and study group for infections in compromised hosts, and European Confederation of Medical Mycology”, Rammaert et al., Transpl Infect Dis, 2019
• Lass-Flörl participated as EFISG chair for the Medical Mycology Course, Institute Pasteur, Paris, 18/3 – 12/4/2019
• Support to the publication “Invasive pulmonary aspergillosis treatment duration in haematology patients in Europe: an EFISG, IDWP-EBMT, EORTC-IDG, SEIFEM survey. Lanternier et al., Mycoses, 2020

EFWISG

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

Figure legend: 7th International Giardia and Cryptosporidium Conference (IGCC) held at Rouen University, 23 – 26/06/2019, Normandy, France.

• Co-organiser of the ”7th International Giardia and Cryptosporidium Conference (IGCC)”, 23 – 26/6/2019, Normandy, France
• Supporter to the ”ICOHAR International Conference on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance”, 16 – 18/4/2019, Utrecht, Netherlands
• Collaboration on ”The 12th International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers, IMMEM-XII”, 18 – 21/9/2019, Dubrovnik, Croatia. Session titled ”Translation into practice-genome based pathogen surveillance: hype or real benefit?”

EPASG

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

Figure legend: Hollow Fiber infection model, which is used to study PK/PD associations in vitro. Photo: Christer Malmberg

• Organisation of the postgraduate course ”Optimised dosing of antibiotics – understanding PK/PD, clinical breakpoints and therapeutic drug monitoring”, 11 – 12/4/2019, Rotterdam, Netherlands
• Collaboration on ”ICOHAR International Conference on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance”, 16 – 18/4/2019, Utrecht, Netherlands. Session titled ”New approaches for precision antimicrobial therapy”
• Strong contribution to the ECCMID 2020 scientific programme with the organisation of 5 sessions
• Publication of the article “Antimicrobial susceptibility profiles of anaerobic bacteria, isolated from human clinical specimens, within different European and surrounding countries. A joint ESGAI study”, Veloo et al., Anaerobe, 2019
• Support to the publication of the article “High prevalence of division II (cfa positive) isolates among blood stream Bacteroides fragilis in Slovenia as determined by MALDI-TOF MS”, Jeverica et al., Anaerobe, 2019
• Strong contribution to the ECCMID 2020 scientific programme by proposing 5 sessions

Figure legend: Confocal laser scanning microscopy picture of a multisppecies biofilm containing GFP-producing Pseudomonas aeruginosa, treated with the antibiotic ciprofloxacin (by Eva Vandeplassche)

• Organisation of the scientific conference “Eurobiofilms 2019”, 3–6/9/2019, Glasgow, United Kingdom
• Organisation of the “2019 Biofilm Bash”, 7–9/5/2019 Leavenworth WA, United States: An international brainstorming session on the future of the biofilm field
• Support to the publication “Candida albicans enhances initial biofilm growth of Cutibacterium acnes under aerobic conditions”, Bernard et al., Biofouling, 2019
Publications of several large practice-changing clinical studies in cooperation with INCREMENT and BICHROME collaboratives
• Publication of the “Handbook of Sepsis”, Wiersinga et al.
• Theme issue of Clin Microbiol Infect with five articles on bacterial bloodstream infection.
• Publication of the “Microbiological diagnostics of bloodstream infections in Europe-an ESGBIES survey”, Idelevich et al., Clin Microbiol Infect, 2019

Figure legend: EU/EEA countries participating in the ECDC CDI incidence surveillance, 2016—2018

The 2020 update of the ECDC protocol for European surveillance of CDI includes several structure and process indicators of CDI prevention and control in accordance with the ESGCD Guidance document for prevention of CDI in acute healthcare settings
• A recommendation for the investigation of C. difficile outbreaks by molecular methods has been proposed (Krutova M et al., Clin Microbiol Infect, 2019)
• Participation in educational activities, including ICOHAR-International conference on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance (16–18/4/2019), ClostPath-International Conference on the Molecular Biology and Pathogenesis of the Clostridia (19–22/8/2019), and the International Conference on Prevention and Infection Control (ICPIC) (10–13/9/2019)
• Published article “Imported malaria in semi-immune and non-immune travelers in non-malaria-endemic countries”, J. Mischinger et al., Clin Microbiol Rev, 2019
• Submission of the article “Toxoplasma gondii-specific IgG avidity testing in pregnant women: what, why and how?”, Garnaud et al., Clin Microbiol Infect, 2019
• Strong contribution to the ECCMID 2020 scientific programme by proposing 7 sessions

Publication of the article “Epidemic of carbapenem-resistant Klebsiella pneumoniae in Europe is driven by nosocomial spread”, David et al., Nat Microbiol, 2019
• Publication of the article “Genomic analysis of carbapenemase-encoding plasmids from Klebsiella pneumoniae across Europe highlights three major patterns of dissemination” David et al., bioRxiv, 2019
• Organisation of the International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers, IMMEM-XII; “Moving towards genome-based pathogen surveillance – lessons learnt and challenges ahead”, 18–21/9/2019, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Co-organisation of scientific conferences and technical workshops:
• “ICOHAR International Conference on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance”, 16–18/4/2019, Utrecht, Netherlands
• “Clostpath 11”, 19–22/8/2019, Leiden, Netherlands

Took part in the “Rome II FMT Consensus Conference: Stool Banks for FMT in Clinical Practice”, 22/6/2019, Rome, Italy

Figure legend: International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers, IMMEM-XII, 18–21/9/2019, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Figure legend: 1: A. Fernández-Rodríguez, Chair of ESGFOR at the session “Security aspects for autopsies”. Co-organised by ESGFOR at the ECP 2019 (European Congress of Pathology) 2: President Report by Dina Tiniakos of the European Society of Pathology, mentioning partnership of ESCMID by a collaboration with the ESGFOR

Board of scientific conferences and technical workshops:
• Publication of the review “Post-mortem microbiology sampling following death in hospital: an ESGFOR task force consensus statement”, Burton et al., J Clin Pathol, 2019
• Co-organisation of the technical session “Security aspects for autopsies”, at the European Congress of Pathology, 7–11/9/2019, Nice, France
• Continuation of the ESCMID Study Group research grant funded project “Targeted 16S-23S rDNA Next Generation Sequencing: is it a complementary technique in identifying an infectious cause of death”

Co-organisation of scientific conferences and technical workshops:
• “ICOHAR International Conference on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance”, 16–18/4/2019, Utrecht, Netherlands
• “Clostpath 11”, 19–22/8/2019, Leiden, Netherlands

Co-organisation of scientific conferences and technical workshops:
• “ICOHAR International Conference on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance”, 16–18/4/2019, Utrecht, Netherlands
• “Clostpath 11”, 19–22/8/2019, Leiden, Netherlands

Took part in the “Rome II FMT Consensus Conference: Stool Banks for FMT in Clinical Practice”, 22/6/2019, Rome, Italy
• Publication of review “Antimicrobial consumption and impact of antimicrobial stewardship programmes in long-term care facilities”, Falcone et al., Clin Microbiol Infect, 2019
• Publication of article “Accuracy of comprehensive PCR analysis of nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs for CT-scan confirmed pneumonia in elderly patients: a prospective cohort study”, Prendki et al., Clin Microbiol Infect, 2019
• Organisation of the technical workshop “Study Group for Infections in the Elderly”, 26–27/9/2019, Rome, Italy

Publication of the articles:
• “Timing of implant-removal in late acute periprosthetic joint infection: A multicenter observational study”, Wouthuyzen-Bakker et al., J Infection, 2019
• “Clinical outcome and risk factors for failure in late acute prosthetic joint infections treated with debridement and implant retention”, Wouthuyzen-Bakker et al., J Infection, 2019
• “Combining ceftriaxone with doxycycline and daptomycin reduces mortality, neuroinflammation, brain damage, and hearing loss in infant rat pneumococcal meningitis”, Muri et al., Antimicrob Agents Chemother, 2019
• Organisation of the ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course / Technical Workshop “3rd Course on Encephalitis” 26–28/6/2019, Grenoble, France
• Publication of the article “Prediction of unfavorable outcomes in West Nile virus neuroinvasive infection - Result of a multinational ID-IRI study”, Popescu et al., J Clin Virol, 2019
• An ESGIB officially endorsed clinical trial on the early use of antibiotics in brain abscesses (ORAL trial) led by Henrik Nielsen and Jacob Bodilsen has now been funded
• Organisation of the post-graduate course “Update on Diagnostic and Clinical Management of Complex Foreign Body Infections”, 12–14/6/2019, Groningen, Netherlands

• Organised the “ESGICH and ICHS Course on Infectious complications in Haematology Patients, including Stem Cell Transplant Recipients”, 20–21/6/2019, Genoa, Italy
• Publication of the article “Perspectives on Scedosporium species and Lomentospora prolificans in lung transplantation: Results of an international practice survey from ESCMID fungal infection study group and study group for infections in compromised hosts, and European Confederation of Medical Mycology”, Rammaert et al., Transpl Infect Dis, 2019
• Participation in the American Transplant Congress 2019 with organisation of the Joint American Society of Transplantation (AST)-ESCMID Session “Personalized Immunosuppression and Infectious Risk”, 2/6/2019, Boston, USA

• Publication of review “Antimicrobial consumption and impact of antimicrobial stewardship programmes in long-term care facilities”, Falcone et al., Clin Microbiol Infect, 2019
• Publication of article “Accuracy of comprehensive PCR analysis of nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs for CT-scan confirmed pneumonia in elderly patients: a prospective cohort study”, Prendki et al., Clin Microbiol Infect, 2019
• Organisation of the technical workshop “Study Group for Infections in the Elderly”, 26–27/9/2019, Rome, Italy

Figure legend: Meningeal vessel staining in early experimental meningitis
**Figure legend:** How can we improve the vaccination of underimmunized migrants in Europe? Hargreaves et al., WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2019

- Publication of the review "Occupational health outcomes among international migrant workers: a systematic review and meta-analysis", Hargreaves et al., Lancet Glob Health, 2019. This work was co-funded with an ESGITM Study Group research grant
- Co-organisation of the post-graduate workshop "Strengthening preparedness for (re-) emerging arbovirus infections: symptoms, diagnostics, clinical management and outbreak control", 19–21/3/2019, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Publication of article "National approaches to the vaccination of recently arrived migrants in Europe: A comparative policy analysis across 32 European countries", Ravensbergen et al., Travel Med Infect Dis, 2019. This work was co-funded with an ESGITM Study Group research grant

**Figure legend:** Legionella

- Publication of the article "A real-time PCR for specific detection of the Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 ST1 complex", Ginevra et al., Clin Microbial Infect, 2019
- Organisation of the "6th Meeting of the ESCMID Study Group for Legionella Infections", 10–12/9/2019, Athens, Greece
- Launching a SG Research grant awarded project "Evaluation of 16 assays for the qualitative detection of Legionella pneumophila antigen in urine samples from patients with pneumonia"

**Figure legend:** Triaging infections using diagnostic testing, van Belkum et al., Nat Rev Microbiol, 2019.

- Co-organisation of the post-graduate workshop “Emerging infections for clinicians and the WHO Emerging Diseases Assessment and Response Network”, 13–15/5/2019, Florence, Italy

Publication of the reviews:
- "Developmental roadmap for antimicrobial susceptibility testing systems", van Belkum et al., Nature Rev Microbiol, 2019
- "The successful uptake and sustainability of rapid infectious disease and antimicrobial resistance point-of-care testing requires a complex "mix-and-match" implementation package", Hays et al., Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis, 2019

**Figure legend:** Legionella

- Publication of the article "A real-time PCR for specific detection of the Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 ST1 complex", Ginevra et al., Clin Microbial Infect, 2019
- Organisation of the "6th Meeting of the ESCMID Study Group for Legionella Infections", 10–12/9/2019, Athens, Greece
- Launching a SG Research grant awarded project "Evaluation of 16 assays for the qualitative detection of Legionella pneumophila antigen in urine samples from patients with pneumonia"
• Recipients of an ESCMID research grant for the project “Evaluation of policy, practice, and treatment outcomes in latent tuberculosis screening programmes targeting migrant populations in Europe”
• Co-organisation of the post-graduate course “Tuberculosis and Mycobacterial Infections: An Update in Singapore”, 26–28/9/2019, Singapore
• Co-organisation of the post-graduate technical workshop “Emerging infections for clinicians and the WHO Emerging Diseases Clinical Assessment and Response Network”, 13–15/5/2019, Florence, Italy
• Support to the “National Tuberculosis Elimination Workshop in low incidence countries”, 5–7/9/2019, Muscat, Oman

• Publication of the article “Analysis of the challenges in implementing guidelines to prevent the spread of multidrug-resistant Gram-negatives in Europe”, Tacconelli et al., Br Med J open, 2019
• Support to the “EUCIC advanced course: Infection Prevention and Control”, 27–28/9/2019, Vienna, Austria
• Organising the postgraduate workshop “Technical hospital hygiene - Tricks of the trade”, to take place on 6–8/2/2020, Vienna, Austria

• Co-organisation of the post-graduate workshop “Emerging infections for clinicians and the WHO Emerging Diseases Clinical Assessment and Response Network”, 13–15/5/2019, Florence, Italy
• Support to the “National Tuberculosis Elimination Workshop in low incidence countries”, 5–7/9/2019, Muscat, Oman

• Launch of the “Survey on Point of Care testing [POCT] for seasonal influenza and other respiratory viruses”. This survey aims to capture the current status of use of POCT in the ESCMID community and to highlight areas of best practice and areas where further work is required
• Collaboration on the “Second course on Precision Medicine”, 26–28/9/2019, Rome, Italy. Organised the session titled “Viral respiratory infections in vulnerable populations”
• Guidelines project “Influenza Management and Treatment” submitted by Barbara Rath, Berlin, Germany, with ESGREV-ESGIE selected for funding by ESCMID
Figure legend: Immunofluorescence analysis of Staphylococcus aureus infected murine alveolar macrophages. Credits: Alicia Lacoma, Hospital Universitari Germans Trias i Pujol

- Publication of the article “Implications of identifying the recently defined members of the S. aureus complex, S. argenteus and S. schweitzeri: Guidance for microbiological diagnostics and infection prevention and control measures. A position paper of members of the ESCMID Study Group for Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Diseases (ESGS)”, Becker et al., Clin Microbiol Infect, 2019

Supported the conferences:
- “ICOHAR International Conference on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance”, 16–18/4/2019, Utrecht, Netherlands
- “The 12th International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers, IMMEM-XII”, 18–21/9/2019, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Figure legend: April 18th, 2019: Round table discussion with John Turtridge (EUCAST secretary), Peter Damborg (VetCAST chair), Hilde Moeyaert (AnimalHealthEurope/Zoetis), Jordi Torren Edo (EMA), and Sakurako Marchand (bioMerieux) led by Luca Guardabassi (Science Officer ESGVM) 

- Collaboration with VetCAST and others on the COST action project “European network for Optimization of Veterinary Antimicrobial Treatment [ENDVAT]”. This work will aim to optimize veterinary antimicrobial use by developing antimicrobial treatment guidelines and refining microbiological diagnostic procedures
- Organisation of the “ ICOHAR International Conference on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance”, 16–18/4/2019, Utrecht, Netherlands
- Publication of the article “Specific staphylococcal cassette chromosome mec [SCCmec] types and clonal complexes are associated with low-level amoxicillin/clavulanic acid and cefalotin resistance in methicillin-resistant S. pseudintermedius”, Wegener et al., J Antimicrob Chemother, 2019

Figure legend: ESCMID Postgraduate educational course “Elimination of Viral Hepatitis: Are We Ready?” in Ljubljana, Slovenia 27–28 September 2019

- Publication of the review “Hepatitis C: Is eradication possible?”, Lombardi et al., Liver Int, 2019
- Collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on the joint study “Hepatitis E virus and hepatitis A virus in people having high risk sexual practices: a multi-centre international study”
- Co-organisation of the post-graduate course “Elimination of Viral Hepatitis: Are We Ready?”, 27–28/9/2019, Ljubljana, Slovenia

- Publication of the consensus document “Pertussis prevention: reasons for resurgence, and differences in the current acellular pertussis vaccines”, Esposito et al., Front Immunol, 2019
- Supported the organisation of the “5th ESCMID Conference on Vaccines: Vaccines against respiratory infections: new insights and new vaccines”, 6–8/9/2019, Bilbao, Spain
- Strong contribution to the ECCMID 2020 scientific programme by proposing 7 sessions
EUCAST provides breakpoints and antimicrobial susceptibility testing methods on a global scale. ESCMID is the administrative, financial and scientific framework for EUCAST. ESCMID (www.escmid.org), the ESCMID Förderverein (www.escmid-fv.org) and the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC; www.ecdc.europa.eu) supported EUCAST financially in 2019. ESCMID also supports the development of the EUCAST disk diffusion method, and the EUCAST microdilution methods for fungi, veterinary pathogens and mycobacteria. EUCAST has an agreement with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to develop breakpoint proposals for newly registered agents.

EUCAST Steering Committee
The Steering Committee met five times during 2019 and dealt with many aspects of breakpoints and antimicrobial susceptibility testing. “Visiting” General Committee members, representatives and/or ECDC representatives attended several meetings. Groups from eight pharmaceutical companies presented to the committee; all but one provided data on a new agent.

In 2019, Christian Giske was the Chairman, John Turnidge the Scientific Secretary, Rafael Cantón the Clinical Data Coordinator, and Gunnar Kahlmeter the Technical Data Coordinator. Regular Steering Committee members are Alasdair MacGowan (UK), Gerard Lina (France), Sören Gatermann (Germany), Christoffer Lindemann (Norway), and Johan Mouton (The Netherlands, until July 2019).

Sadly, Joahn Mouton, one of the longest-standing Committee members, passed away in July 2019. It is impossible to underestimate the contribution that he made to EUCAST, and members deeply appreciated his enthusiastic and persistent dedication over the years.

Two new members with expertise in pharmacokinetics-pharmacodynamics were recruited during 2019: Shampa Das (UK) and Joseph Meletiadis (Greece). Both bring extensive experience in the contribution of pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic (PK-PD) from the drug development and academic/antifungal spheres.

“\nIn 2020 the new definition of “susceptible increased exposure” was fully implemented in the breakpoint table, resulting in some species such as Pseudomonas now being reported as “I” for most antimicrobial agents, reflecting that high exposure is needed for treatment.”

Christian Giske
EUCAST Chairman
christian.giske@escmid.org

Joseph Meletiadis
Shampa Das
EUCAST General Committee
The annual open meeting for national representatives of the General Committee was held during ECCMID 2019, where the preceding year’s activities and future plans were reviewed. The General Committee representatives of the Steering Committee were Cidalia Pina Vaz (Portugal) and Efi Petinaki (Greece).

National Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) Committees (NACs)
Nearly all European countries have established NACs. Further efforts on recruiting the remaining EU/EEC member countries are ongoing. Interest in EUCAST from countries outside the European Union continued to increase. Several countries are in the process of developing NACs with the European Union and beyond. A NAC was established in Albania in 2019. NACs provide national input to all aspects of EUCAST, promote national strategies for susceptibility testing and help implement EUCAST breakpoints and methods.

Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee (AFST)
AFST was chaired by Maiken C. Arendrup (Denmark); Jesús Guinée-Ortega (Spain) was the Scientific Secretary. The AFST continued with their work on breakpoints and methods for antifungal agents. All rationale documents on antifungal compounds underwent review and were updated, incorporating the revised definition of the “I” category (intermediate changed to susceptible, increased exposure) and added “Areas of Technical Uncertainty” when appropriate. Separate documents for amphotericin B against Candida and Aspergillus were combined into a single document. An overview table combining all revised breakpoints and epidemiological cut-off values (ECOFFs) was prepared.

The AFST is undertaking the following activities:
• Conducting a multi-centre study for validation of a method for susceptibility testing of dermatophytes
• Examining different plastic plates types and brands used for broth microdilution susceptibility testing (potential for drug adherence)
• Working on alternative methods for echinocandin testing
• Determining in vitro PK/PD breakpoints for azoles and non-albicans Candida spp.

Veterinary Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee (VetCAST)
VetCAST was chaired by Peter Damborg (Denmark), and Gudrun Overesch (Switzerland) became the new Scientific Secretary. VetCAST undertook the following activities during the report period:
• Completed a rationale document summarizing the scientific basis of clinical breakpoints for florfenicol against Mannheimia haemolytica and Pasteurella multocida in cattle
• Received and organise raw PK data – mainly on tetracyclines in animals - from three companies representing the pharmaceutical industry
• Completed an international workshop on PK/PD principles in veterinary medicine, held at the Royal Veterinary College, London, United Kingdom, 2–4/6/2019
• Prepared Working Groups and tasks for the upcoming COST Action "European Network for Optimization of Veterinary Antimicrobial Treatment"
• Set up a Working Group that will define and distribute best practices for antimicrobial susceptibility testing for veterinary pathogens, with focus on breakpoints.

Antimycobacterial Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee (AMST)
AMST was chaired by Emmanuelle Cambau (France), Thomas Schön (Sweden) was the Scientific Secretary. Significant progress has been made in multi-lab pilot testing of a reference method and we hope that a tentative reference method will be announced soon.

Subcommittee on antimicrobial susceptibility testing by whole genome sequencing (WGS)
Following the successful first edition of the role of WGS in susceptibility testing, a Subcommittee was reconvened under the leadership of Matthew Ellington (UK). An update nearing completion is to be published in 2020.

Subcommittee on antimicrobial susceptibility testing of anaerobes
EUCAST has reconvened this Subcommittee under the leadership of Robin Howe (UK) to undertake the development of a reference method and conduct a full review of all breakpoints. Work has progressed considerably, and Fastidious Anaerobe Agar (FAA) medium was chosen as the reference test medium.
The EUCAST Development Laboratory had a very active year. Apart from the ongoing work on 20 new agents in pre-clinical or clinical development, work on the selection of disk contents for disk diffusion and the development of zone diameter breakpoints to correlate with clinical minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) breakpoints and ECOFFs, other significant activities included:

- MIC and zone diameter breakpoints for Burkholderia pseudomallei
- Disk diffusion for Nocardia spp.
- Disk diffusion for anaerobes
- Screening algorithm for beta-lactam resistance in Haemophilus influenzae
- The development of RAST breakpoints for Acinetobacter baumannii and on more agents for Enterobacterales and Pseudomonas aeruginosa
- Evaluation of available gradient tests for benzylpenicillin against Streptococcus pneumoniae
- Re-evaluation of “Areas of Technical Uncertainty” for piperacillin-tazobactam and ciprofloxacin, and beta-lactam agents on H. influenzae
- Temocillin MIC and zone diameter distributions and zone diameter correlates to the EUCAST clinical temocillin breakpoint.
- Development of disk contents and zone diameter breakpoints for new agents
- Development of SOPs, instruction videos, scientific articles, tutorial programmes

EUCAST network laboratories
The work on developing the structure of “EUCAST Network Laboratories” continued in 2019. These labs have specific expertise and training in EUCAST Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) for bacteria and EUCAST Antifungal Susceptibility Testing (AFST) methods, respectively. EUCAST Network Laboratories are committed to help develop, validate and troubleshoot EUCAST AST/AFST methods and/or to help train and educate other laboratories in EUCAST methods. They also play an important role in improving methods and/or assisting clinical breakpoint development by providing species-specific MIC datasets. For more information and for laboratories interested in participating, please visit The EUCAST AST Network Laboratories on www.eucast.org.

Currently, 16 bacterial and 14 mycology laboratories have been integrated into the networks.

EUCAST breakpoints
Version 10.0 of the MIC and zone diameter breakpoint tables for bacteria and quality control (QC) tables were published on www.eucast.org in January 2020.

Breakpoints for new agents are set by EUCAST as part of the marketing authorisation process by the EMA. In the past year, breakpoints were proposed for delafloxacin, omadacycline, plazomicin imipenem-relebactam and ceftolozane-tazobactam. The breakpoints for several other new agents are in the process of being evaluated.

In 2019, new definitions of the susceptibility categories S, I and R were implemented. The major change was in the definition of “I”, which is now defined “Susceptible increased exposure”. The definition of the S and R categories remain unchanged. This is now being implemented by EUCAST users and it is expected that it will be fully implemented by the end of 2020.

EUCAST website
The website (www.eucast.org) and its contents are continuously updated. All significant changes are highlighted in the “News” section on the homepage and a list of all changes is available via this link http://www.eucast.org/website_changes/. Documents updated this year include breakpoint tables, QC tables, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), files listing calibration and validation of disk diffusion testing vs. MIC, reading guides and method descriptions, frequently asked questions, compliance of manufacturers and validation documents for MIC and inhibition zone diameter correlations.

Problems with AST procedures and material are published here http://www.eucast.org/ast_of_bacteria/warnings/

EUCAST consultations
Many of the EUCAST documents on the website were updated in 2019 and this is an ongoing process. Rationale documents, giving background data and providing the rationale for EUCAST breakpoints continue to be developed. EUCAST Expert Rules and Intrin-

The VetCAST Subcommittee and meeting attendees, April 2019
sic Resistance tables were updated by the Steering Committee. A review of the EUCAST discussion document on the role of Whole Genome Sequencing has commenced.

A summary of consultations can be found on the website: http://www.eucast.org/documents/consultations/.

All EUCAST documents are freely available on the EUCAST website.

**Publications in 2019**

EUCAST published or contributed eight publications in 2019. The most important publications include one on the problems of testing colistin, and one on the patient safety issues arising from the lack of standardised codes for antimicrobials disks.


European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC)

Infection prevention & control: an ESCMID priority!
www.escmid.org/eucic

“In infection control the collaboration among stakeholders and countries and effective education are essential for success. EUCIC is proudly contributing to the education of a new generation of infection control specialists with global knowledge and expertise.”

Evelina Tacconelli, EUCIC Chair
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Nico T. Mutters, EUCIC Scientific Coordinator
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Alex W. Friedrich, EUCIC Clinical Coordinator
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EUCIC training
We are pleased to announce that the European Certification in Infection Control organised by EUCIC will complete its first training period! The EUCIC course, which started in 2018, is a unique opportunity to train in evidence-based knowledge and practical skills in infection prevention and control (IPC), applying a collaborative meta-competence approach with the final goal to strengthen European competence in infection prevention and control.

Unfortunately, the awarding ceremony for the 30 EUCIC graduates (2018–2020) planned at ECCMID 2020, had to be postponed due to the current COVID-19 outbreak. The EUCIC training program comprises basic/advanced and local courses at 22 different training centres all over Europe. All courses are given by renowned scientists in the field of IPC and clinical management of healthcare associated infections. Thanks to their enthusiastic and expert contribution, the EUCIC training has been extremely successful! New centres wishing to become a EUCIC training centre and provide a local course in their field of expertise are always very welcome to apply here: https://www.escmid.org/eucic/eucictraining programme/

The new EUCIC training programme 2020–2022, should have started in March 2020; however the courses had to be postponed and the new dates will be advertised on the ESCMID website as soon as they will be available: https://www.escmid.org/eucic/eucictraining programme/

ESCMID guidelines
The ESCMID-EUCIC clinical guideline on decolonisation of multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria carriers was published in Clinical Microbiology and Infection [CMI]: https://www.escmid.org/fileadmin/src/media/PDFs/EUCIC/Guideline.pdf

EUCIC will be leading the development of a clinical guideline on surgical prophylaxis of patients colonised by multidrug-resistant bacteria before surgery. The final panel was selected in March 2020.

EUCIC and UEMS
Since the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS) council approved the implementation of a multidisciplinary joint committee on infection control (MJC IC), on the initiative of EUCIC, UEMS section in Infectious Diseases and UEMS section in Medical Microbiology, the MJC IC and EUCIC were collaborating in increasing the awareness in infection prevention and control (IPC) at European level and in the application for the Council for European Specialists Medical Assessment (CESMA) European board certification for the EUCIC training programme.

EUCIC and WHO
EUCIC and WHO continued their collaboration, in particular in the dissemination of IPC contents. The WHO Global Infection Prevention and Control Network (GIPCN) is mapping the infection prevention and control courses throughout the world (https://www.who.int/infection-prevention/about/GIPCN_Training-Courses/en/). The EUCIC training programme is one of the largest training programmes available so far!

EUCIC and ECDC
EUCIC and ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial stewardship [ESGAP] were collaborating to an ECDC-funded survey [developed by Public Health England] to assess healthcare workers knowledge and attitudes about antibiotics and antibiotic resistance. The aim was to reach more than 10,000+ responses across the European Union/European Economic Area member states, and this goal has been reached thanks to the EUCIC members too!

Other EUCIC projects 2019
• EUCIC conducted a survey on the opinions of IPC team members on influenza vaccination. Thus far, roughly 900 infection control team members have participated and filled in the survey, which was translated into 11 languages. Results are currently under analyses and will be soon ready for publication.
EUCIC local module, Heraklion, Greece, 2019

EUCIC advanced module, Freiburg, Germany, 2019

EUCIC advanced module, Vienna, Austria, 2019
• EUCIC contributed to the EU Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI) survey to identify the research priorities of infection prevention and control. The aim of this survey was to develop an IPC research agenda that can inform research funders of the pressing research needs of IPC. Out of the 15 research priorities in the draft agenda, three were identified as high priority areas (research on barriers and facilitators for IPC programmes implementation, research on the impact of overcrowding, research on the impact of infrastructural changes at facility level).

• The ESGAP-EUCIC-TAE Working Group conducted a study to map organisation and training possibilities at national level of antimicrobial stewardship and infection control activities in Europe. The publication can be found here: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10096-019-03648-2

• EUCIC members were actively involved in providing proposals for ECCMID 2020. Infection control education workshops and symposia have been highlighted in the ECCMID programme!

Lastly, we announce that Elisabeth Presterl (Austria) and Anders Johansson (Sweden) left the EUCIC Steering Committee at the end of their terms. They were replaced by elected members Athanasios Tsakris (Greece) and Akif Gurbanov (Azerbaijan). We would like thank both Elisabeth and Anders for their tremendous help and support of EUCIC during their term. Thank you!

We thank the following colleagues and friends for having supported all the EUCIC training activities:

EUCIC Training Programme Certification
Anders Johansson (Sweden), Constantinos Tsioutis (Cyprus), Davorka Dusek (Croatia), Dorairajan Sureshkumar (India), Elisabeth Presterl (Austria), Hilary Humphreys (Ireland), Nicola Petrosillo (Italy), Walter Zingg (Switzerland).

EUCIC Certification Validation Committee:
Mohamed Abbas (Switzerland), Julia Ebner (Austria), Vanessa Eichel (Germany), Birgitty Lytsg (Sweden), Nico Meessen (The Netherlands) Jon Otter (Sweden), Alessia Savoldi (Italy).

EUCIC Module Organisers:
Michael Borg (Malta), Rok Civljak (Croatia), Dragos Florea (Romania), Achilleas Gikas (Greece), Hajo Grundmann (Germany), Juan P. Horcajada (Spain), Jan Kluytmans (Netherlands), Tatjana Lejko Zupanc (Slovenia), Frauke Mattner (Germany), Isabel Neves (Portugal), Carlos Palos (Portugal), David Peres (Portugal), Elisabeth Presterl (Austria), Didier Pittet (Switzerland), Alejandro Quiros (Spain), Annibale Raglio (Italy), Sandra Reuter (Germany), Nuno Rocha-Pereira (Portugal), Dana Sandulescu (Romania), Wulf Schneider (Germany), Athanasissios Tsakris (Greece), Constantinios Tsiositis (Cyprus), Walter Zingg (Switzerland).

Our thanks also go to our Communication Officers Constantinos Tsioutis (Cyprus) and Gabriel Birgand (United Kingdom), who are constantly working to increase EUCIC Internet and social media presence as well as to provide reviews on infection control conferences and papers with important updates on epidemiology, microbiology and prevention.

A special thanks to William Caddy and Simone Brüderli from the ESCMID Office, and Henna Holband from the EUCIC Office, who have helped significantly with all EUCIC activities.
ESCMID eLibrary

View all ECCMID abstracts, posters, presentations, webcasts...

Explore all ESCMID’s educational events, conferences and its congress ECCMID.
www.escmid.org/eLibrary
In 2019, the activities of the ESCMID Emerging Infections Task Force (EITaF) focused on the workshop “Emerging infections for clinicians and the WHO Emerging Diseases Clinical Assessment and Response Network” held on 13 – 15/9/2019, Florence, Italy. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the University of Florence [Alessandro Bartoloni], the World Health Organization [WHO] [Janet Diaz], the Erasmus Medical Center Rotterdam [Marion Koopmans] and the FIND - Foundation For Innovative New Diagnostics [Sabine Dittrich]. Twenty-four people attended and actively participated in each session. A special session was devoted to a report from the WHO program to control Ebola virus disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with Janet Diaz being on-line from the DRC via a weblink.

During the year, EITaF posted relevant news on disease outbreaks worldwide, drawing on sources like the WHO, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases (ProMED). EITaF is still working on the possibility for ESCMID members to sign up for the news to be sent via e-mail, a tool hopefully available in 2020.

EITaF has begun the process to issue a consensus paper on “Infection prevention in voluntary health workers in emergency situations”, in collaboration with TAE, ESGITM and others, that will be probably published in 2020.

In 2019, EITaF was mentioned in four publications


EITaF at ECCMID 2019
Left to right: Nicholas John Beeching [member of the EITaF expert panel], Eskild Petersen [EITaF Chair], Önder Ergönül [ESCMID Education Officer], Antonino Di Caro [member of the EITaF expert panel], Nenad Pandak [ESCMID member], Ronen Ben-Arni [ESCMID member]

EITaF’s Expert Panel
Nicholas John Beeching, United Kingdom
Antonino Di Caro, Italy
Effrossyni Gkrania-Klotsas, United Kingdom
Anu Kantele, Finland
Rebekka Kohlmann, Germany
Marion Koopmans, Netherlands
Poh Lian Lim, Singapore
Rogelio López-Vélez, Spain
Alemka Markotic, Croatia
Laurent Poirel, Switzerland
John W. A. Rossen, Netherlands
Ymkje Stienstra, Netherlands
Merete Storgaard, Denmark
“Thanks to the Society prestigious journal Clinical Microbiology and Infection (CMI) and our robust guidelines portfolio, ESCMID is well underway to extend its reach in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases across Europe and beyond”

Mario Poljak
ESCMID Publications Officer
mario.poljak@escmid.org

With the increasing success of the Society journal Clinical Microbiology and Infection (CMI) and the productive guidelines programme, we keep extending the reach of ESCMID knowledge and best clinical practice in Europe and worldwide. These efforts enable ESCMID to favourably affect preventive, diagnostic and treatment decisions and positively impact patients’ lives.

CMI: the Society journal
In September 2019, ESCMID signed the second five-year Journal Publishing Agreement with our publisher (Elsevier Limited).

Between two ECCMIDs, the hard work of CMI Editor-in-Chief Leonard Leibovici and his Editorial team resulted in a further increase in the journal's impact factor (from 5.394 (2017) to 6.425 (2018)). Furthermore, CMI continues improving its timelines and attractiveness, with the extensive and generous support from authors and reviewers. The majority of CMI publications are extensively promoted through social media and some of them received dedicated press release.

All relevant figures concerning CMI can be found in the message from the Editor-in-Chief at page 34 of this Yearbook.

ESCMID guidelines portfolio
Over the past year, several guidance documents were published, some in collaboration with sister societies, reflecting the excellent work of ESCMID members lead by the ESCMID Guidelines Director, Luigia Scudeller, and the ESCMID Guidelines Officer, Evelina Tacconelli. More details on the status of ongoing ESCMID guidelines projects can be found in the guidelines contribution section at page 42.

ESCMID publications
Members of the ESCMID Study Groups and committees, as well as recipients of ESCMID research grants, continue to be prolific researchers, as our growing list of peer-reviewed publications attests: we recorded more than 100 publications in ESCMID’s name over the past year!

You can help us be more efficient in tracking these publications by clearly acknowledging ESCMID role and by informing the ESCMID Office when your ESCMID supported manuscript is published. As such, your work will receive more visibility as it will be extensively promoted through all ESCMID publication and social channels.
Clinical Microbiology and Infection (CMI) publishes original research and review articles to assist physicians and microbiologists in the management of patients and prevention of infectious diseases, thereby supporting the achievement of ESCMID goals. CMI promotes the use of optimal methods in basic and clinical research and aims at publishing high quality and thought-provoking studies with the potential to change clinical practice. The CMI Editorial Board applies and encourages high standards of scientific reporting and publication, and extensively supports authors and peer reviewers (Clin Microbiol Infect. 2018; 24:1225-1226. doi: 10.1016/j.cmi.2018.11.001.).

Time to decision
The mean time from submission to “first decision on revision” and “rejection after peer-review” is of 26 days and 24 days, respectively.

Impact factor
CMI 2018 impact factor is 6.425 compared to 5.394 in 2017.

Reviews
At CMI, we encourage proposals for “How to...” articles, an in-depth explanation of procedures, including new techniques for the clinical or research laboratory, new programmes [e.g., how to establish an antibiotic stewardship effort in a hospital] or new data analyses [e.g., how to use interrupted time-series analysis].

Similarly, we are glad to receive suggestions from candidate “Guest Editors” on a specific thematic issue [contact me at leibovic@post.tau.ac.il]; please submit an outline of the proposed reviews, including the names of suggested authors. Thematic issues consist of 3 – 5 narrative reviews addressing different aspects of the very same topic.

New editors
We had an open call for an editor in clinical research. Among the applications received, all of them worthy, we chose two editors to join our Editorial Board: Julia Bielicki and Luigia Scudeller.

Julia Bielicki completed her medical degree at the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) in 2004 and obtained a Masters of Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2007 where she obtained board accreditations in paediatrics in 2009 and in paediatric infectious diseases in 2017. Since 2015, Julia Bielicki has held a joint appointment as consultant in paediatric infectious diseases and senior researcher in paediatric pharmacology at the University of Basel Children’s Hospital (Switzerland) and as Senior Lecturer with the Paediatric Infectious Diseases Research Group at St George’s University of London (United Kingdom).

Luigia Scudeller holds a specialization in Medical Statistics from the University of Pavia (Italy) and an MSc in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (United Kingdom). Currently, she works as clinical epidemiologist at the Scientific Direction of IRCCS Ca’ Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico di Milano (Italy). Previously, she worked for 10 years at IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo of Pavia in a similar position. Before that, she worked as an infectious diseases physician at the Hospital of Udine (Italy).

Website
In February 2018, the redesigned CMI website https://www.clinicalmicrobiologyandinfection.com/ went live. The new, user-friendly design improves navigation and the authors and readers experience. Articles are categorized by subject (see “Collections” in the top menu). Users can subscribe for updates on new online publications or new articles on the topics of their choice.

We have recently generated a heatmap to observe how our users are utilizing the various links on the website. The main points of interest to the readers are found to be the “Editor’s Choice” carousel, the “Most Read” articles, and the Pictures of pathogens. Under the “Collections” tab, the article types with the highest number of visits are the Guidelines, Position, and Consensus Papers, Editorial Policies, and How to...

We welcome feedback from readers, authors, reviewers and ESCMID members, with the goal to further improve the quality of our journal. Please contact our editorial office manager, Julia Friedman [jubom2@gmail.com] for comments and queries.

I would like to conclude by thanking all members of the Editorial Board and the numerous reviewers and authors that together make CMI a reference journal in the field of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases.

“In 2019 the number of submissions increased, the time to decision decreased and we reached an impact factor of 6.425. CMI ranks 6th among the infectious diseases journals. We hope this encouraging trend will continue in the coming years”

Leonard Leibovici
CMI Editor-in-Chief
leonard.leibovici@escmid.org
**CMI Editorial Board**

**Editor-in-Chief**
Leonard Leibovici, Israel

**Associate Editor-in-Chief**
Gilbert Greub, Switzerland

**Associate Editors**
Franz Allerberger, Austria
Guido Antonelli, Italy
Julia Bielicki, United Kingdom
Emmanuel Bottieau, Belgium
Muge Cevik, United Kingdom
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Laurent Kaiser, Switzerland
Andre Kalil, United States
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Gerard Lina, France
Surbhi Malhotra-Kumar, Belgium
Mical Paul, Israel
Jesús Rodriguez-Baño, Spain
Emmanuel Roliides, Greece
Luigia Scudeller, Italy
Panayotis Tassios, Greece

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**Impact factor**

6.425

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**Manuscript submissions in 2019**

2,341

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**Full-text downloads 2019**

3,302,876

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### CMI monthly editions 2019

**January 2019**
How to: evaluate a diagnostic test

**February 2019**
Theme issue editor: Guido Antonelli – Virology: a scientific discipline facing new challenges

**March 2019**
Rapid diagnosis of parasitic diseases

**April 2019**
Theme issue editors: Manuel Schibler and Laurent Kaiser – Encephalitis and Meningoencephalitis: identifying the culprit

**May 2019**
Antimicrobial consumption and impact of antimicrobial stewardship programmes in long-term care facilities

**June 2019**
Rapid diagnostic tests for determining dengue serostatus: a systematic review

**July 2019**
Theme issue editor: Emmanuel Roliides – Acquired resistance in fungi: how large is the problem

**August 2019**
Theme issue editor: Mical Paul – Advances in the treatment of MDR infections

**September 2019**
Theme issue editor: Gerard Lina – New insights into coagulase-negative staphylococci

**October 2019**
Theme issue editor: Andre Kalil – Controversies in hospital-acquired pneumonia

**November 2019**
How to accelerate antimicrobial susceptibility testing

**December 2019**
Theme issue editor: Inge Gyssens – Trained Immunity and protection against Infection
ESCMID publications

April 2019–April 2020

ESCMID publications

Genomic characterization of four novel Staphylococcus myoviruses.

Prevalence and antibiotic resistance of Stenotrophomonas maltophilia in respiratory tract samples: a 10-year epidemiological snapshot.

A European ECMM-ESCMID survey on goals and practices for mycobacteria characterization using Next Generation Sequencing.

Medical guidelines and other guidance documents

Clinical practice guideline for the management of asymptomatic bacteriuria: 2019 update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (with ESCMID endorsement).

ESCMID-ECMM guideline: diagnosis and management of invasive aspergillosis in neonates and children.

EHRA international consensus document on how to prevent, diagnose, and treat cardiac implantable electronic device infections-endorsed by HRS, APHRS, LAHRS, ISCVID and ESCMID in collaboration with EACTS.

Consensus document for the diagnosis of prosthetic joint infections: a joint paper by the EANM, EBJS, and ESR (with ESCMID endorsement).

Correction to: Consensus document for the diagnosis of prosthetic joint infections: a joint paper by the EANM, EBJS, and ESR (with ESCMID endorsement).

International consensus guidelines for the optimal use of the polyoxymixins: endorsed by ACCP, ESCMID, IDSA, ISAP, SCCM, and SIDP.

ESCM/ESCMID task force on practical management of invasive candidiasis in critically ill patients.

Joint EANM/ESNR and ESCMID-endorsed consensus document for the diagnosis of spine infection (spondylodiscitis) in adults.

Publications from Study Groups

EFISG

Invasive pulmonary aspergillosis treatment duration in haematology patients in Europe: an EFISG, IDWP-EBMT, EORTC-IDG, SEIFEM survey.

EFWISG

Food-to-humans bacterial transmission.

ESGAI

Antimicrobial susceptibility profiles of anaerobic bacteria, isolated from human clinical specimens, within different European and surrounding countries. A joint ESGAI study.

Comparing identification of clinically relevant Prevotella species by VITEK MS and MALDI biotyper.

ESGAP

Practices, organisation, and regulatory aspects in advising on antibiotic prescription: the international ESCMID AntibioLegalMap survey.

Comparison of antibiotic treatment guidelines for urinary tract infections in 15 European countries - results of an online survey.

Comparison of antimicrobial stewardship programs in acute care hospitals in four European countries: a cross-sectional survey.

Essential and forgotten antibiotics: an inventory in low- and middle-income countries.
Impact of the French Infectious Diseases Society’s [SPILF] proposals for shorter antibiotic therapies.

Rapid analysis of diagnostic and antimicrobial patterns in R [Radar]: Interactive open-source software app for infection management and antimicrobial stewardship.

ESGB
Candida albicans enhances initial biofilm growth of Cutibacterium acnes under aerobic conditions.

Minimum information guideline for spectrophotometric and fluorometric methods to assess biofilm formation in microplates

The future of biofilm research — Report on the "2019 Biofilm Bash"

ESGBIES
Microbiological diagnostics of bloodstream infections in Europe — An ESGBIES survey

External validation of the INCREMENT-CPE mortality score in a carbapenem-resistant Klebsiella pneumoniae bacteraemia cohort: the prognostic significance of colistin resistance.

Bloodstream infections — Standard and progress in pathogen diagnostics.

Bacterial bloodstream infection

Burden of bacterial bloodstream infection — A brief update on epidemiology and significance of multidrug-resistant pathogens.

ESGBOR
Inflammatory immune responses in the pathogenesis of tick-borne encephalitis.

Ticks and tick-borne diseases.

Unconventional diagnostic tests for Lyme borreliosis: a systematic review.

ESGCD
A two-step approach for the investigation of a Clostridium difficile outbreak by molecular methods.

The emergence of Clostridium difficile ribotypes 027 and 176 with a predominance of the Clostridium difficile ribotype 001 recognized in Slovakia following the European standardized Clostridium difficile infection surveillance of 2016.

Five-year Pan-European, longitudinal surveillance of Clostridium difficile ribotype prevalence and antimicrobial resistance: the extended CloSER study.

The emergence of metronidazole and vancomycin reduced susceptibility in Clostridium difficile isolates in Iran.

ESGCP
Influenza and associated co-infections in critically ill immunosuppressed patients.

Factors associated with ventilator-associated events: an international multicenter prospective cohort study.

Incidence and outcome of invasive candidiasis in intensive care units (ICUs) in Europe: results of the EUCANDICU project.

Rapid microbiological tests for bloodstream infections due to multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria: therapeutic implications.

Antimicrobial de-escalation in critically ill patients: a position statement from a task force of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) and European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) Critically Ill Patients Study Group (ESGCP).
**ESGCP**
Child health, parasites and lower socioeconomic status: Outcomes of a long-term screening, intervention and training study by health volunteers in rural Nepal.

**ESGEM**
Epidemic of carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in Europe is driven by nosocomial spread.

**ESGFOR**
Mortality due to *Cryptococcus neoformans* and *Cryptococcus gattii* in low-income settings: an autopsy study.

**ESGIAI**
Suppressive antibiotic therapy in prosthetic joint infections: a multicentre cohort study.

**ESGI**

**ESGICH**
Re: “ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Compromised Hosts (ESGICH) Consensus Document on the safety of targeted and biological therapies” by Mikulska et al.

**ESGIE**
Accuracy of comprehensive PCR analysis of nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs for CT scan-confirmed pneumonia in elderly patients: a prospective cohort study.

**ESGIEC**
Antimicrobial consumption and impact of antimicrobial stewardship programmes in long-term care facilities.

**ESGI**
Herpes simplex virus encephalitis update.

**ESGIB**
Understanding central nervous system efficacy of antimicrobials.

**ESGI**

**ESGI**
Metformin mediates neuroprotection and attenuates hearing loss in experimental pneumococcal meningitis.

**ESGIF**
Sex-based differences in the response to dexamethasone in bacterial meningitis: Analysis of the European dexamethasone in adulthood bacterial meningitis study.

**ESGIP**
Impact of pre-hospital antibiotic therapy on mortality in invasive meningococcal disease: a propensity score study.

Combining ceftriaxone with doxycycline and daptomycin reduces mortality, neuroinflammation, brain damage, and hearing loss in infant rat pneumococcal meningitis.

**ESGIP**
Prediction of unfavorable outcomes in West Nile virus neuroinvasive infection - Result of a multinational ID-IRI study.

Long-term mortality and epilepsy in patients after brain abscess: A nationwide population-based matched cohort study.

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Long-term mortality and epilepsy in patients after brain abscess: A nationwide population-based matched cohort study.
Pneumonia prevention in the elderly patients: the other sides. 

ESGMT
Proportion of asylum seekers carrying multi-drug resistant microorganisms is persistently increased after arrival in the Netherlands. 

Asylum seekers’ perspectives on vaccination and screening policies after their arrival in Greece and the Netherlands. 

Occupational health outcomes among international migrant workers: a systematic review and meta-analysis. 

Parasitic skin infections: neglected diseases or just challenging for diagnosis? 

ESGLI
A real-time PCR for specific detection of the Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 ST1 complex. 

ESGMD
How do advanced diagnostics support public health policy development? 

Operational models and criteria for incorporating microbial whole genome sequencing in hospital microbiology - A systematic literature review. 

ESCMID/ESGMD postgraduate technical workshop on diagnostic microbiology. 

The successful uptake and sustainability of rapid infectious disease and antimicrobial resistance point-of-care testing requires a complex “mix-and-match” implementation package. 

Core/whole genome multilocus sequence typing and core genome SNP-based typing of OXA-48-producing Klebsiella pneumoniae clinical isolates from Spain. 

ESGNI
Prion disease and recommended procedures for flexible endoscope reprocessing - review of policies worldwide and proposal for a simplified approach. 

ESGPHM
NGS-based phylogeny of diphtheria-related pathogenicity factors in different Corynebacterium spp. implies species-specific virulence transmission. 

Tox-positive Corynebacterium ulcerans in hedgehogs, Germany. 

Acute flaccid myelitis caused by enterovirus D68: Case definitions for use in clinical practice. 

ESGS
Implications of identifying the recently defined members of the S. aureus complex, S. argenteus and S. schweitzeri: A position paper of the ESCMID Study Group for Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Diseases (ESGS). 

ESGVH
Elimination of hepatitis C in Europe: can WHO targets be achieved? 

ESGVV
Specific staphylococcal cassette chromosome mec (SCCmec) types and clonal complexes are associated with low-level amoxicillin/clavulanic acid and cefalotin resistance in methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus pseudintermedius. 

EVAS
Pertussis prevention: reasons for resurgence, and differences in the current acellular pertussis vaccines. 

ESGICH & ESGBIES & ESGARS
Predictors of mortality in solid organ transplant recipients with bloodstream infections due to carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriales: The impact of cytomegalovirus disease and lymphopenia. 
Perspectives on Scedosporium species and Lomentospora prolificans in lung transplantation: results of an international practice survey from ESCMID Fungal Infection Study Group and Study Group for Infections in Compromised Hosts, and European Confederation of Medical Mycology.

A clinical predictive model of multidrug resistance in neutropenic cancer patients with bloodstream infection due to Pseudomonas aeruginosa (IRONIC study).

Tools to implement the WHO End TB Strategy: Addressing common challenges in high and low endemic countries.

Analysis of the challenges in implementing guidelines to prevent the spread of multidrug-resistant Gram-negatives in Europe.

Organization and training at national level of antimicrobial stewardship and infection control activities in Europe: an ESCMID cross-sectional survey.

Risk perception of the antimicrobial resistance by infection control specialists in Europe: a case-vignette study.

The proposed Drug Resistance Index (DRI) is not a good measure of antibiotic effectiveness in relation to drug resistance.

VetCAST method for determination of the pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic cut-off values of a long-acting formulation of florfenicol to support clinical breakpoints for florfenicol antimicrobial susceptibility testing in cattle.

Semi-mechanistic modeling of florfenicol time-kill curves and in silico dose fractionation for calf respiratory pathogens.

Evaluation of 21 brands of Mueller-Hinton dehydrated media for disk diffusion testing.

Point-counterpoint: Differences between the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing and Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute recommendations for reporting antimicrobial susceptibility results.

EUCAST disc diffusion criteria for the detection of meCA-Mediated β-lactam resistance in Staphylococcus pseudintemedius: oxacillin versus cefoxitin.

Standards for MIC testing that apply to the majority of bacterial pathogens should also be enforced for Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex.

The EUCAST rapid disc diffusion method for antimicrobial susceptibility testing directly from positive blood culture bottles.

Reply from Kahlmeter and Giske to Brecher, “EUCAST and CLSI point-counterpoint on susceptibility breakpoints: Do two “I agree”s miss the point?”

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) and European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) position statements on polymyxin B and colistin clinical breakpoints.

A multiplex fluidic chip for rapid phenotypic antibiotic susceptibility testing.
Monkeypox - Enhancing public health preparedness for an emerging lethal human zoonotic epidemic threat in the wake of the smallpox post-eradication era.

MDR/XDR-TB management of patients and contacts: challenges facing the new decade. The 2020 clinical update by the Global Tuberculosis Network.

2019-novel Coronavirus severe adult respiratory distress syndrome in two cases in Italy: An uncommon radiological presentation.

Host metabolites stimulate the bacterial proton motive force to enhance the activity of aminoglycoside antibiotics.

Elevated risk of invasive group A streptococcal disease and host genetic variation in the human leucocyte antigen locus.

Association of leukotriene A4 hydrolase with tuberculosis susceptibility using genomic data in Portugal.

Voriconazole efficacy against Candida glabrata and Candida krusei: preclinical data using a validated in vitro pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic model.

Usefulness of guideline recommendations for prognosis in patients with candidemia.

Predictors of mortality in solid organ transplant recipients with bloodstream infections due to carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriales: The impact of cytomegalovirus disease and lymphopenia.

Publications from participants (*) of ESCMID Mentorship programme

High prevalence of division II (cfaI positive) isolates among bloodstream Bacteroides fragilis in Slovenia as determined by MALDI-TOF MS.
In 2019, the ESCMID programme on clinical practice guidelines was substantially implemented. Thanks to the efforts and dedication of the ESCMID Guidelines Subcommittee, the new structure is taking shape. Specifically, the following steps have been taken:

• First survey among ESCMID Study Groups and global stakeholders to identify and prioritize topics where guidance is lacking, with more than 160 topics received, from 31 ESCMID Study Groups and 128 international stakeholders
• Online course on the GRADE approach, with agreement from the GRADE Working Group of McMaster University, which all drafting group members are required to complete
• First call for guidelines projects
• Publication of the ESCMID manual for guidelines
• First training course on ESCMID Clinical Practice Guidelines, involving 21 young members: the first core of the ESCMID Evidence Review Group.

The 2019 key output was the approval of funding for three new guidelines projects:

• Antibiotic surgical prophylaxis regimens among patients colonised with MDR-GNB and MDR-GBP
• Antimicrobial stewardship in the “Emergency” department
• Influenza management and treatment.

We issued the first open call to become part of drafting groups of ESCMID guidelines projects, to ensure broader participation and independent perspective.

Besides, several projects are ongoing [Table]. As a token of the central role of ESCMID, various scientific societies have approached us to start collaborations such as the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), the European Respiratory Society (ERS), the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), the United European Gastroenterology (UEG), the European Sepsis Alliance (ES), and the European Hematology Association (EHA).

Looking forward to 2020
Many activities are planned as follows: we will oversee and monitor the progress of the funded projects; we will issue a new survey for guideline topics, a new call for proposals, and a new edition of the training course; and we will build a pool of advisors to support the ESCMID Guidelines Subcommittee.

Guided by our vision
We are working hard to pursue our ultimate goal: to develop rigorous, trustworthy and clinically useful guidance, on cutting-edge topics, with a global perspective, while ensuring broader participation of ESCMID members and sustainability of the model. Thanks to the cooperation of all members, ESCMID is becoming a reference society for scientific and clinical guidance.

A special thanks to the Guideline Subcommittee for their precious work.

As always, we are open to comments, suggestions and new ideas: please feel free to reach out at guidancedocuments@escmid.org.

**Guidelines Subcommittee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lorenzo Guglielmetti</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>[until end of 2019]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Khetam Hussein</td>
<td>Israel</td>
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<td>Amel Letaiaf</td>
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<td>Sarah Tschudin Sutter</td>
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<td>François Vandenesch</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean-Paul Stahl</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>[from March 2020]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effrossyni Gkrania-Klotsas</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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**While 2018 was a time of planning, 2019 has been a year of implementation: first steps of the new ESCMID programme for guidelines**

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Overview of Guidelines published in 2019 – 2020 and currently under development
The ESCMID education programme in 2019 again offered many high-quality courses and other highlights in the field of infectious diseases, clinical microbiology and infection control. ESCMID is proud of having delivered courses involving experts from multiple countries and backgrounds. We would like to thank the ESCMID Study Groups and ESCMID members who contributed to the great programme we were able to offer our members in 2019!

The number of participants varies depending on the type and format of the course. Most educational courses attract between 30 and 80 participants, whereas the attendance numbers for technical workshops were deliberately a little smaller, to guarantee close interaction during practical sessions.

The 11 courses and workshops in 2019 were rated 3.52/4.00 on average, confirming the high-quality educational content of ESCMID educational events in the past year.

The year started with the course “Strengthening preparedness for (re-)emerging arbovirus infections: symptoms, diagnostics, clinical management and outbreak control” in Ljubljana (Slovenia). The course is an integral part of the Platform for European Preparedness Against (Re-)emerging Epidemics (PREPARE), an EU-funded partnership aimed at strengthening European preparedness for (re)emerging infectious disease outbreaks.

The significant subject of emerging infections was covered by the course “Emerging infections for clinicians and the WHO Emerging Diseases Clinical Assessment and Response Network (EDCARN)” held in Florence [Italy]. This workshop incorporated a day of hands-on activities with the WHO EDCARN team, an invaluable experience to learn from leading experts in outbreak response.

Optimisation of drug treatment to avoid antimicrobial resistance was covered in the pre-ECCMID course “Optimised dosing of antibiotics – understanding PK/PD, clinical breakpoints and therapeutic drug monitoring” in Rotterdam [Netherlands], which brought together an expert faculty from as far as Australia and the United States to discuss this most important aspect of drug treatment. The struggle of extreme antimicrobial resistance was also addressed in “Phenotypic and Molecular approaches for Detection and Control of Carbapenem- and Colistin-resistant Gram-negative”, taking place in Volos [Greece].

Specific and difficult-to-manage infections were covered in the “3rd course on Encephalitis” Grenoble [France], and the course “Update on diagnostic and clinical management of complex foreign body infections” Groningen [Netherlands]. Specific patient groups were the focus of the courses “Infectious complications in Haematology Patients, including Stem Cell Transplant Recipients” [held in Genoa, Italy in conjunction with the International Immunocompromised Host Society - ICHS], as well as the course “Elimination of Viral Hepatitis: Are We Ready?” in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

In 2019, the first collaboration between ESCMID and the Singapore Infectious Diseases Society (SIDS) was performed, co-organising the course “Tuberculosis and Mycobacterial Infections: An Educational Update”, the first time that ESCMID has run an educational event in Singapore. This course was attended by over 100 participants, spending a fantastic 3 days enjoying a comprehensive look at mycobacterial infections, specifically focusing on the South-East Asian experience.

New technologies and approaches in clinical microbiology were covered during the technical workshop “Clinical bioinformatics for microbial genomics and metagenomics”, in Lausanne [Switzerland]. With the increasingly widespread use of next-generation sequencing in clinical microbiology, we are proud to be able offer educational events focussing on this rapidly-evolving area of medical technology.

Our congratulations and thanks go to the efforts of the local organisers of these courses and workshop, the invaluable source of our educational programme — these events are not possible without them!

18th ESCMID Summer School — an ESCMID educational staple!

The 18th Summer School took place in Liverpool [United Kingdom], 29 June – 6 July 2019. The event covered a broad range of topics in clinical microbiology and infection diseases and attracted 78 participants from 29 countries all over the world! The Summer School programme included lectures by international experts on a diverse range of highly relevant topics, workshops and student presentations, all in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. The participants not only had the opportunity to attend the state-of-the-art lectures by experts in these fields and network with renowned specialists but also enjoyed the sunny surroundings of the culturally-rich city of Liverpool.

I am very pleased to announce that the next Summer School will be held in Carcavelos (Portugal), 3 – 10 July 2021. Registration will open in early 2021, and details can be found online at www.escmid.org/education.
ESCMID supports young scientist members
We believe that appropriate education of young members is essential to improve the quality of health services and scientific studies. ESCMID’s educational events implement a translational and multi-faceted approach to education. This year, ESCMID once again provided numerous grants for junior colleagues to attend courses and workshops. We value their participation, and for this reason, ESCMID is glad to provide funding for these educational events. The education programme provides excellent opportunities for young members to extend their training and interact with international experts. While attending courses and workshops in person is the most beneficial, all members have access to the ESCMID eLibrary, which includes presentations of all educational activities and is available at www.escmid.org/elibrary.

Outlook for 2020
Once again, the education programme looks very exciting for, with 21 different courses planned.
Of course the COVID-19 Pandemic (and associated restrictions on travel and gatherings) has forced the postponement of several of the planned courses. Postponed courses will be held either in late 2020 or early 2021.

In the meantime, ESCMID is working hard to implement online learning options, to continue delivering educational content without the need for in-person meetings.

We have already contacted all the Study Groups and Affiliated Societies to ask for their ideas for the latter 2021 programme. The call has been circulated earlier than ever before, to allow more time for the compilation of exceptional course programmes. Individual ESCMID members are welcome to contact us with their own ideas for future courses and workshops.

I would like to end by thanking all members of the Education Subcommittee for their work and help in building the ESCMID education programme.

Education Subcommittee
Önder Ergönül, Turkey, Chair
Muge Cevik, United Kingdom
Esmita Charani, United Kingdom
Cansu Çimen, Turkey
Giovanni Delogu, Italy
Kaisu Hellevi Rantakokko-Jalava, Finland
Gülsen Özkaya Sahin, Sweden
Katja Seme, Slovenia
Agnes Maria Sonnevend, United Arab Emirates
Snježana Židovec Lepej, Croatia

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Education Subcommittee
[from left to right] Gülsen Özkaya Sahin, Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava, Agnes Sonnevend, Snjezana Židovec-Lepej, William Caddy (ESCMID Education Manager), Katja Seme, Önder Ergönül (Chair), Cansu Çimen, Muge Cevik.
ESCMID Courses and Workshops
April 2019 – April 2020

Emerging infections for clinicians and the WHO Emerging Diseases Clinical Assessment and Response Network
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
13 – 15 May 2019, Florence, Italy
Organised by the ESCMID Emerging Infections Task Force (EITaF), ESCMID Study Group for Genomic and Molecular Diagnostics (ESGMD), ESCMID Study Group for Mycobacterial Infections (ESGMYC), ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Travellers and Migrants (ESGITM), ESCMID Study Group for Public Health Microbiology (ESGPHM), ProMED, GeoSentinel, Arbovirus study group, Rotterdam and the WHO Emerging Diseases Clinical Assessment and Response Network (EDCARN).

Phenotypic and Molecular approaches for Detection and Control of Carbapenem- and Colistin-resistant Gram-negatives
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
23 – 24 May 2019, Volos, Greece
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (ESGARS) and the ESCMID Study Group for Genomic and Molecular Diagnostics (ESGMD).

Update on diagnostic and clinical management of complex foreign body infections
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
12 – 14 June 2019, Groningen, Netherlands
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Implant-Associated Infections (ESGIAI) and the University Medical Centre, Groningen.

ESGICH and ICHS Course on Infectious complications in Haematology Patients, including Stem Cell Transplant Recipients
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
20 – 21 June 2019, Genoa, Italy
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Compromised Hosts (ESGICH) and the International Immunocompromised Host Society (ICHS).

3rd course on Encephalitis
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
26 – 28 June 2019, Grenoble, France
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Infectious Diseases of the Brain (ESGIB), Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE), University of Grenoble Alpes and Société de pathologie infectieuse de langue française (SPIF).

Clinical bioinformatics for microbial genomics and metagenomics
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
9 – 12 September 2019, Lausanne, Switzerland
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Genomic and Molecular Diagnostics (ESGMD), Institute of Microbiology, CHUV University Hospital of Lausanne and the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics (SIB).

Groningen, Netherlands
Liverpool, United Kingdom
Tuberculosis and other Mycobacterial Infections: An Update in Singapore
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
26–28 September 2019, Singapore, Singapore
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Mycobacterial Infections (ESGMYC) and the Society of Infectious Disease (Singapore).

Second ESCMID Course on Precision Medicine
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
26–28 September 2019, Rome, Italy
Organised by the ESCMID Parity Commission

Elimination of Viral Hepatitis: Are We Ready?
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
27–28 September 2019, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Viral Hepatitis (ESGVH), Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE), Slovenian Society for Infectious Diseases (SZIB, SZD), Slovenian Society for Clinical Microbiology and Hospital Infections (SKMBO, SZD), Société de pathologie infectieuse de langue française (SPIFLF), Italian Society for Infectious and Tropical Diseases (SIMIT), University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, and the WHO regional office for Slovenia.

Technical hospital hygiene – Tricks of the trade
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
6–8 February 2020, Vienna, Austria
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Nosocomial Infections (ESGNi) and the European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC).

Antimicrobial Stewardship: a hands-on course and workshop
Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this course was unfortunately cancelled.
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
16–17 April 2020, Paris, France
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial stewardship (ESGAP) and Société de pathologie infectieuse de langue française (SPIFLF).
19th ESCMID Summer School
Carcavelos, Portugal
3 – 10 July 2021

A one-week course dedicated to postgraduate and continuing medical education. The programme covers a broad range of topics in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases and will interest young MDs at the end of their specialty training as well as biologists, pharmacists, PhD students and postdoctoral fellows working in the infection field.

Registration will open in early 2021
Learn more at www.escmid.org/education.

Organised by the ESCMID Education Subcommittee
The ESCMID Summer School moved away from continental Europe to the UK in 2019, in Liverpool for the 18th edition of ESCMID’s flagship residential postgraduate education event.

Seventy-eight participants from 29 countries gathered in the course location, just adjacent to Liverpool’s historic Philharmonic Hall. Among the participants were young doctors undertaking or considering an infectious disease specialty, clinical microbologists, pharmacists, and PhD students. Joining them was a faculty of 41 local and international specialists, who presented lectures and workshops on a variety of hot topics in infectious diseases and clinical microbiology across the week.

A diverse array of topics ranged from diagnosis, management and prevention of bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic infections to more practical aspects like career development, journal publishing, and a hands-on demonstration of garbing for treatment of isolated patients.

As always, a highlight of the Summer School is represented by the chance given to students to become teachers. Each participant presented a clinical case or a summary of their research work to their colleagues, and many fruitful discussions [and maybe a few collaborations] were started following the presentations.

In addition to the academic programme, the City of Liverpool provided the perfect backdrop for the participants to interact on a social level, with the Liverpudlian participants taking the lead in sharing some of the hidden gems and cultural sites of the Merseyside coast. The social programme also encompassed visits to the historic Liverpool Medical Institute, as well as the Tate Gallery Liverpool.

Special thanks must go to the ESCMID Educational Subcommittee and the ESCMID Executive Committee for their invaluable help in organising the academic programme. Several members of the ESCMID Executive Committee participated as lecturers and moderators of the presentations, and contributed to the discussion with their expertise. We are also very grateful to all speakers, who kindly accepted to dedicate part of their time to prepare and give excellent lectures during this Summer School, and to Jacky Crowley for her tireless efforts with local organisation in Liverpool.

The 19th edition of the ESCMID Summer School will be held in 2021 in Carcavelos, Portugal, from the 3rd until the 10th of July.
A lack of evidence-based information among healthcare workers and the lay public may threaten the efficacy of already established and well-functioning immunisation programs, as well as future vaccination campaigns. Hence, as part of a multidisciplinary approach to improve the knowledge on vaccine preventable infections and diseases, ESCMID organises a biyearly conference on vaccines to bring together leading experts to share and discuss the most recent data, aimed at optimizing vaccine use in the healthcare setting. In 2019, the conference was successfully attended by 1 7 4 participants.

Day 1
The 5th ESCMID Conference on vaccines was held in Bilbao, the largest city in the province of Biscay, Spain. ESCMID collaborated with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and World Health Organisation (WHO) Europe in creating a multidimensional look at some of the most pertinent problems and current and future potential solution related to prevention of respiratory infections through vaccination. This three-day conference was opened by the Chair of the organising committee, Ron Dagan, and was followed by a lecture on ESCMID by the Immediate Past President Mario Poljak.

The first session focused on the global impact of vaccine-preventable respiratory infections. The importance of vaccination to reduce global pneumonia mortality in infants was addressed by Keith Klugman, followed by Marc Bonten, who critically assessed the progress in reducing respiratory tract infections (RTIs) following influenza and pneumococcal vaccination in the elderly. The progress, opportunities and challenges surrounding RTIs in Europe were explained in an engaging presentation by Mike Catchpole, before Adam Finn closed the session discussing respiratory viral vaccines as tools for the prevention of bacterial infections.

The panel discussion "Enforcing implementation of vaccines against respiratory infections", sparked an interesting and very insightful discussion by a group of experts, including Daniel Levy Bruhl, Terry Nolan, Robb Butler and Hanna Nohynek, brilliantly moderated by Pierre Van Damme.

In the afternoon, Clarissa Simas presented the main issues related to vaccine hesitancy among those who should be most supportive of vaccination from an anthropological point of view.

To conclude the day, discussion moved to measles elimination. It was opened by Patrick O’Connor, who presented a comprehensive review on the measles and rubella vaccination status in the WHO European regions, showing increasing numbers of measles cases, with the highest reported incidence in the last decade. Takis Panagiotopoulos and Helen Johnson discussed the available evidence on transmission patterns of measles and age of vaccination. Michael Mina closed the section with a thrilling lecture on long-lasting effects of measles infection on other infections, focusing on the indirect benefit of measles vaccination.

Day 2
The second day started with a discussion of the progress in knowledge of influenza virus infections. Emily Erbelding presented the approaches for the development of a universal influenza vaccine and discussed its caveats. Detailed elaboration of another provocative finding - the problem of response blunting due to repeated influenza vaccination – was presented by Arnold S. Moto. Talks from Pasi Penttinen and Jill Ferdinands focused on prospects for routine childhood influenza vaccination in Europe that would enable...
protection of most vulnerable populations (e.g. older people) and newer and extended influenza vaccines, which could overcome immunosenescence and blunting, while enhancing protection against influenza.

Progress in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines was then addressed, with Tracy Ruckwardt presenting on structure-based vaccine design for RSV and Renato Stein emphasizing the importance of disease phenotypes and the impact of RSV vaccines on early life wheezing. Fernando Polack talked about the past, present and future of RSV vaccine and concluded this session with a presentation on novel experimental RSV vaccines.

The crucial topic of vaccination during pregnancy was then addressed, with Claire-Anne Siegrist discussing immunological aspects of maternal immunization conferring protection in the offspring. Shabir Madhi then presented the results of a recent multicentre Pneumonia Etiology Research for Child Health (PERCH) study and showed that maternal influenza vaccination and RSV F protein vaccine (ResVax®) could possibly prevent bacterial pneumonia. Finally, Gayatri Amirthalingam discussed the successes and challenges of implementing and sustaining pertussis vaccination for pregnant women.

Stanley Plotkin gave the final talk on the problem of pertussis disease/vaccine, including replacement of the whole cell vaccine with the acellular pertussis vaccine, which eliminated serious reactions, but were associated with a resurgence of the disease in many countries.

Day 3

This day started with a focus on pneumococcal vaccines. Daniela Ferreira presented the results of human studies on pneumococcal vaccination, immune response and nasopharyngeal carriage. Rana Haijeh discussed closing the gaps in pneumococcal and Hib vaccination for the developing world, and Stephen Bentley gave his talk on the Global Pneumococcal Sequencing Project.

In the second session, Dan Weinberger’s presentation gave a wonderful insight into trial designs and highlighted the importance of choosing the appropriate endpoints in respiratory tract infection vaccine trials.

The final session of the conference was dedicated to varicella zoster virus (VZV) vaccines. In their presentations, Rafael Harpaz and Paolo Bonanni concluded that available vaccines are efficacious, effective and safe.

Half an hour each day was allocated to poster viewing, where attendees could meet poster presenters and discuss their findings. A total of 14 posters from various countries were presented.

All discussions were lively and extremely insightful. This conference is a “must attend” event for those who are interested in vaccines, as it attracts the most influential and renowned experts in the field, guaranteeing first-rate discussions and witty remarks.
Since the mid-1980s, the ESCMID Study Group has organised a tri-annual conference called International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers (IMMEM). The 12th edition took place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, 18–21 September 2019. Altogether, 275 participants from 35 countries from all continents gathered to discuss and exchange ideas on various aspects of microbial strain typing and characterization. Overall, 158 abstracts were submitted and 25 were selected for an oral presentation. ESCMID granted free attendance to 10 scientists from all over the world. The application of next generation and whole genome sequencing to answer various research, public and veterinary health questions was central to most of the conference topics.

Day 1
The introductory session, organised in collaboration with ESCMID Study Group for Genomic and Molecular Diagnostics (ESGMD), focussed on the advantages and limitations of alternatives for microbial strain typing, including metagenomics approaches and proteomic-based methods such as MALDI TOF mass spectrometry and Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) applications. The session included keynote talks by Adrian Egli and Luisa Peixe, followed by two oral presentations on practical applications of FTIR typing and metagenomic sequencing for Antimicrobial resistant (AMR) genes. Session II, co-organised with ESGS, discussed classical and novel tools for bacterial genome-wide association studies (GWAS) and was introduced by two keynote talks by Jukka Corander and Laurent Jacob. The opening ceremony started with some introductory words by the chair of ESGEM, Guido Werner, and the ESCMID Immediate Past President Mario Poljak. Three scientific presentations followed, introducing the work of the European Committee of Infection Control (EUCIC) by Alexander W. Friedrich. The second keynote talk was given by Ben Krause-Kyora about "Ancient microbiology and genomics - new insights into the past of mankind", and the final keynote talk was given by Nick J. Loman about "Applications for field diagnostics and culture-independent approaches using long-read sequencing technologies and metagenomics".

Day 2
An entire session was dedicated to the analysis of mobile genetic elements including plasmids and integrative and conjugative elements (ICE). Two keynote talks given by Eduardo Rocha on population-based analyses of mobile genetic elements (MGE) and Anna Sheppard on technical aspects of plasmid reconstructions based on short- and long-read sequencing data. In collaboration with the new ESCMID Study Group for Public Health Microbiology (ESGPHM) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) a session called “Multi level genomic surveillance” was held, introducing two keynote talks the nation-wide transfer from band-based to genome-based typing in the US and the ECDC strategic framework for genome-based surveillance by Eric Stevens and Marc Struelens, respectively. Sophia David presented results of the ESGEM supported and ECDC co-funded EuSCAPE project describing the geo-temporal spread of carbapenemase-producing K. pneumoniae isolates in Europe [1]. The afternoon session discussed aspects of classification of types and clones in the keynote given by Eduardo Taboada. Population-based analysis of K. pneumoniae and how to link genomics with pathogenicity was introduced by Kathryn Holt.

Day 3
Practical applications of the implementation of Whole Genome Sequence (WGS)-based analysis into infection control and prevention activities were addressed in a session co-organised by ESCMID Food- and Water-borne Infections Study Group (EFWISG). A keynote talk was given by Beatriz Guerra describing activities of European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to implement genome-based pathogen surveillance to increase food safety and for faster identification of foodborne related outbreaks and corresponding sources at the EU level. In the second keynote talk, Amy Mathers described practical applications of WGS-based approaches to analyse multi-species
hospital outbreaks ("plasmid outbreaks"). In the afternoon, a pro/con session on clinical metagenomics for diagnostics and typing was co-organised by ESGMD and explicitly well-received by the audience. In two keynotes, the experts Etienne Ruppé and Jacob Moran-Gilad were asked to present opposite views on this subject, followed by a lively discussion with all participants. This format was clearly popular, and will be considered for forthcoming IMMEM conferences.

**Day 4**

The last day of the conference started with an interdisciplinary session on One Health and AMR co-organised by ESCMID Study Group for Veterinary Microbiology (ESGVM). The first talk was given by Yang Wang about selection and spread of gene-based resistances to last resort antibiotics for human health in animal farming in China. Second keynote by Samuel Sheppard introduced aspects of niche adaptation, source attribution and resistance progression in Campylobacter spp. The last session was dedicated to novel tools for genome data analysis, addressed in two keynote talks by Alison Mather and Torsten Seeman.

**The morning workshops**

There was a huge audience attention to the early bird workshops on days 2 and 3. Workshop I, given by Richard Goering, João A. Carriço and Eduardo Taboada, discussed issues of harmonization and standardization of genome-based typing. Workshop II, co-organised by ESGMD and given by Nick Loman, Sally Partridge and John W. Rossen, introduced technical, infrastructural and bioinformatics aspects of AMR prediction out of genome data. This format was well-received by a broad audience and will be given more space at forthcoming IMMEM conferences.

**Poster sessions**

Altogether, 115 posters were presented and grouped into different poster categories. The poster discussions were scheduled for two 90–120 min afternoon sessions, leaving sufficient time to attendants to present their work. The ESGEM Executive Committee awarded five posters with a Poster Prize.

**Organising committee**

This IMMEM-XII conference was co-organised by several ESCMID Study Groups as a collaborative effort of ESGEM and ESGMD, EFWiSG, ESGPHM, ESCMID Study Group for Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Diseases (ESGS), and ESGVM. Representatives of European agencies such as EFSA and ECDC actively participated in establishing the scientific programme and performing abstract evaluation.

Special thanks go to all former and present members of the ESGEM Executive Committee (Hajo Grundmann, Frederic Laurent, Ana Budimir, Natacha Couto, Ed Feil, João A. Carriço, Guido Werner) and the ESGEM Conference Coordinator (Sandra Reuter), to Carla Seiler from the ESCMID Office for the excellent organisational support, and to Mario Poljak for ESCMID and local support.

**References**


12th International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers

Luisa Maria Vieira Peixe, Porto, Portugal
Antimicrobial Resistance in the 21st Century: A Global Threat
Panama, Panama City, 28–29 November 2019

The conference “Antimicrobial Resistance in the 21st Century: A Global Threat” was held in Panama City (Panama), 28–29 November 2019. This academic event was co-organised by ESCMID, the Pan-American Association of Infectious Diseases (API), the Spanish Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology (SEIMC), and The Lancet Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology and Infection (CMI) journals.

Twelve members of the organizing committee prepared an outstanding scientific agenda: Jesus Rodriguez-Baño, Mario Poljak and Rafael Canton (ESCMID/EUCAST), Maria Virginia Villegas, Silvio Vega, German Esparza and Maria Eugenia Gutierrez (API), Jordi Vila, Juan Pablo Horcajada (SEIMC), and John McConnell, Luisa Peixe and Susan Hopkins (The Lancet Infectious Diseases).

Over 100 participants from 16 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, and Venezuela) enjoyed the two-day programme centred around the most relevant aspects of antimicrobial resistance. Twenty sessions, including symposia and keynote lectures, covered the following topics:

• Origins and threat of antimicrobial resistance
• Antimicrobial resistance in bacteria: an epidemiologic overview
• Molecular epidemiology of the mechanisms of resistance: the big beasts
• Antimicrobial susceptibility testing in the era of resistance
• Treatment of XDR pathogens: new options and strategies
• The fight against antimicrobial resistance: new approaches, infection control and antimicrobial stewardship
• Antibiogram interpretation: the basics
• The diagnosis of infectious diseases in the XXI century
• Update on diagnostic tools for antimicrobial resistant pathogens.

This conference gave the participants the great opportunity to share experiences with geographically distant people, and to learn how to deal with antimicrobial resistance and its many aspects.
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COVID-19: An unexpected pandemic challenge to unprepared health care systems

ESCMI. eLearning, J. Rodriguez Bano, M. Sanguinetti, N. Petrosillo, O. Ergonul, E. Petersen, M. Koopmans, J. Vila, B. Allegranzi & M. Antonelli . 04/10/20; 291571

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https://www.escmid.org/fileadmin/src/media/pictures/content/pictures/Yearbook/ESCMID_TheFirst35Years_300dpi.pdf
Once again, we were overwhelmed with the results: ECCMID 2019 was a huge success!

Almost 14,000 participants attended the 29th edition of the world leading meeting in clinical microbiology and infection diseases that took place in Amsterdam (Netherlands).

From 13 to 16 April, participants from 130 countries gathered at the RAI Congress Centre to deepen their knowledge in different infection sub-disciplines, exchange with colleagues and make new friends. We were pleased to have 62 registered journalists, resulting in 24 press releases and several TV announcements.

Attendees
ECCMID keeps growing, and we welcomed even more participants than the previous year. Delegates came from all over the world. The top 10 countries were: United States of America, United Kingdom, Netherlands, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, and China. Delegates came also from Cuba, Curacao, French Polynesia, Netherland Antilles, New Zealand, Samoa, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, to name only a few!

Scientific Programme
The scientific programme included, as usual, different session types: invited symposia, keynote lectures, “meet-the-expert” sessions, oral sessions from submitted abstracts, and educational workshops. For the invited programme, we selected 132 sessions out of 384 proposals – among them 39 2-hour and 34 1-hour invited symposia, 24 educational workshops, and 24 “meet-the-expert” sessions.

This year, for the second time, we had the “Open Forum” sessions with 5 different topics and slots. The “Pipeline Corner” included 2 sessions: the well-known “Therapeutics Pipeline Corner” and the new “Diagnostics Pipeline Corner”.

The Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) organised their traditional session, which attracted many participants and helped young scientists to interact with well-known experts and members of the ESCMID Executive Committee.

The 8 keynotes were a highlight. In particular, the lecture “What ancient DNA studies tell us about human infection?” from Eske Willerslev gave participants the possibility to see the world of infectious diseases from another angle.

A total of 29 so-called integrated symposia and “Meet-the-Expert” seminaries were arranged with the industry.

Abstracts
Out of more than 5,500 abstracts submitted, the Programme Committee selected 3,562 for oral or poster presentations. Sixty-six percent of the regular and 30% of the late-breaker abstracts were accepted after a thorough blinded review by at least 3 colleagues. We very much appreciate the time and efforts of our reviewers to evaluate and score so many abstracts – many thanks! The 2,476 selected paper poster abstracts were presented in 163 paper poster sessions. Perhaps you remember the intensive many discussions (and traffic!) during the official presentation times.

Highlights
Apart from the keynote lectures, highlights were the EUCAST workshop, seven sessions about antibacterial resistance, the integrated symposium on vaccines, the symposia on infection and climate change, management of Staphylococcus aureus bloodstream infection, antimicrobial stewardship, and sexually transmitted infections, and the workshops on nontuberculous mycobacteria and endocarditis. Extremely well attended and valued were the “Year in ...” sessions and the traditional “clinical grand round”; and this list is definitely not comprehensive. We are sure you will remember many more highlights!

Outlook
The 30th ECCMID in 2020 was scheduled to be held for the first time in Paris, France.

Unfortunately, in early 2020 the world was forever changed with the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 causing a global pandemic of COVID-19. After much careful deliberation, the decision was made to cancel ECCMID 2020 in Paris. This decision was made in light of travel and public gathering restrictions, as well as concern for the wellbeing of our ECCMID delegates.

Myself and deputy director Jacob Moran-Gilad are very grateful for the superb support by the ESCMID Office Team, in particular Daniele Roppolo and Carla Seiler, the wonderful cooperation with all members of the ECCMID Programme Committee, and your excellent contributions to science and education in the field of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases.
Year Congress Location
1983 1st ECCM Bologna
1985 2nd ECCM Brighton
1987 3rd ECCM The Hague
1989 4th ECCM Nice
1991 5th ECCMID Oslo
1993 6th ECCMID Seville
1995 7th ECCMID Vienna
1997 8th ECCMID Lausanne
1999 9th ECCMID Berlin
2000 10th ECCMID Stockholm
2001 11th ECCMID Istanbul
2002 12th ECCMID Milan
2003 13th ECCMID Glasgow
2004 14th ECCMID Prague
2005 15th ECCMID Copenhagen
2006 16th ECCMID Nice
2007 17th ECCMID Munich
2008 18th ECCMID Barcelona
2009 19th ECCMID Helsinki
2010 20th ECCMID Vienna
2011 21st ECCMID Milan
2012 22nd ECCMID London
2013 23rd ECCMID Berlin
2014 24th ECCMID Barcelona
2015 25th ECCMID Copenhagen
2016 26th ECCMID Amsterdam
2017 27th ECCMID Vienna
2018 28th ECCMID Madrid
2019 29th ECCMID Amsterdam
2020 30th ECCMID Paris [Cancelled]
2021 31st ECCMID Vienna
2022 32nd ECCMID Lisbon

Countries of origin of speakers & chairs

130

Participants

13,787

Number of abstracts submitted

5,453
2020 saw infectious disease coming to the forefront of not only academic circles, but the world’s consciousness as a whole. COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, spread throughout the world and affected all levels of human activity.

ESCMID and ECCMID were not immune to this, and the difficult decision was made in March of 2020 to cancel the 30th ECCMID in Paris. This was a decision that was not taken lightly, and all possible options were considered before final cancellation. At first, the intention was to organise a completely online delivery, however, after taking feedback from participants, faculty members, suppliers and sponsors, the decision was taken to completely cancel all ECCMID 2020 activities.

The ECCMID 2020 Programme Committee worked tirelessly to create a programme of cutting-edge content in the fields of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases. Their meetings in June 2019 and January 2020 were successful in bringing together experts from across the globe to assess and discuss contributions to the ECCMID scientific programme, and we thank them deeply for their contributions.

In the first ECCMID 2020 Programme Committee meeting in June 2019, the whole invited scientific programme was generated. Between this and further finetuning, the final ECCMID 2020 invited programme consisted of 9 keynote lectures, 34 1-hour Symposia and 40 2-hour Symposia, 24 Meet-the-Expert and 24 Educational Workshops, 25 1-hour oral sessions and 31 2-hour oral sessions, 6 Open Forums and 2 Pipeline corners. The invited programme was set to be the most comprehensive in ECCMID history, with an equal distribution of male and female speakers.

It was again another record-breaking year for the submission of ECCMID abstracts, with 6,890 abstracts being submitted from 118 countries. A big thank you to all submitters for being part of this record-breaking year! The abstracts were subject to a stringent review process, with each submission being reviewed by at least three members from the pool of 553 trusted ECCMID abstract reviewers from 52 countries. We thank them all for their outstanding and essential work in the abstract rating process. Sixty-seven percent of submitted abstracts (4,616) were accepted. The top ten countries for abstract submission in 2020 were: Spain, France, United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Brazil, Turkey, China and the Netherlands.

The second ECCMID Programme Committee Meeting in January 2020 was dedicated to the selection of the accepted abstracts, as well as placing them into sessions and allocating chairpersons to these sessions. The final session makeup was 25 1-hour oral sessions, 28 2-hour oral sessions, 16 Mini-Oral Flash Sessions, 33 Mini Oral ePoster sessions and 176 Paper Poster sessions.

In February 2020, latebreaker abstract submission was opened, with 181 abstracts submitted, of which 65 (36%) were accepted, 36 for poster sessions, and 29 for oral presentations.

The accepted abstracts have been compiled and published in an Abstract Book.

New formats and initiatives were also set to be held in 2020. The 30 under 30 list was created to highlight 30 young scientists aged 30 or younger. Ninety-five submissions were made for the list, and a final list of 30 exceptional young ESCMID Members was assembled, and we have used the ESCMID social media channels to highlight their fantastic contributions to the scientific community. In addition, the small-group ESCMID Fireplace sessions were planned as an adjunct to the Keynote lecture sessions. The Fireplace sessions will be included in the ECCMID 2021 programme.

ECCMID 2020 was also set to host the largest ever exhibition in the event’s history. Alongside the exhibition, a record number of integrated symposia [27] were planned. Sponsors are essential to the success of events like ECCMID, and we are looking forward to having them join us in Vienna for the 31st ECCMID in 2021.

We are most thankful to our ECCMID registrants, especially those ESCMID members that regularly support our annual highlight. We regret that we will not be able to see you in 2020, however we look forward with great anticipation to having you join us for ECCMID 2021 in Vienna.

Finally, 2020 concludes my tenure as the ECCMID Programme Director, and although it is with sadness that this final year will not have a physical ECCMID, however we can look back with pride at the fantastic efforts that went into its planning. The future of ECCMID is in safe hands, and I wish every success to Jacob Moran-Gilad in his role as Programme Director from 2021 onwards.
ECCMID 2020 Programme Committee

George Akpede, Ekpoma, Nigeria
Joana Azeredo, Braga, Portugal
Debby Bogaert, Sheffield, United Kingdom
Emmanuelle Cambau, Paris, France
Jordi Carratala, Barcelona, Spain
Joao Andre Carrico, Lisboa, Portugal
Day Jeremy, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Daniela Maria Cirillo, Milan, Italy
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Önder Ergönül, Istanbul, Turkey
Thea Kelsen, Fischer, Copenhagen, Denmark
David Fisman, Toronto, Canada
Robert Flisiak, Bialystok, Poland
Alexander W. Friedrich, Groningen, Netherlands
Ana Gales, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Christian Giske, Stockholm, Sweden
Meintjes Graeme, Cape Town, South Africa
Benoit Guerry, Lausanne, Switzerland
Susanne Haeussler, Braunschweig, Germany
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Margaret Ip, Hong Kong, Hong Kong
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Jaime Labarca, Santiago, Chile
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Jacob Moran-Gilad, Beer Sheva, Israel
Cristiana Oprea, Bucharest, Romania
Mario Poljak, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Spyros Pournaras, Athens, Greece
Camilla Rodrigues, Mumbai, India
Jesús Rodríguez-Baño, Seville, Spain
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Katja Seme, Ljubljana, Slovenia
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Sebastian Wicha, Hamburg, Germany
Dafna Yahav, Petah-Tikva, Israel
Annelies Zinkernagel, Zurich, Switzerland
ESCMID Observerships

Update and improve your clinical and laboratory skills!

The ESCMID Observership programme is an opportunity for ESCMID Full or Young Scientist Members (YSM) to visit an ESCMID Collaborative Centre (ECC) to observe good clinical and laboratory practice. We have two types of ESCMID Observerships:

ESCMID Funded Observerships
Apply during the call for one of the valuable funded observerships. There are two calls per year, with 50 places available per call for ESCMID Young Scientist Members only. More information is available at the ESCMID website. Important dates and deadlines will be announced via our newsletters as well as the ESCMID social media channels.

ESCMID Unfunded Observerships
Apply anytime throughout the year for a visit in another country lasting between one day and one month. This observership type is open for all Full/YSM ESCMID members and more information is available at the website below.

www.escmid.org/observerships
Professional Affairs Overview

“Supporting the educational and career development of our members, and creating a platform for them to connect with experienced professionals in their field and establish strong ties, continues to be the driving force of our activities”

Emmanuelle Cambau
ESCMID Professional Affairs Officer
emmanuelle.cambau@escmid.org

The 2019 goals were achieved with the help of ESCMID members of the Professional Affairs Subcommittee and the ESCMID Office.

During the last year, we have been striving to optimise the application process of our precious observership programme, which allows infectious disease specialists and clinical microbiologists to visit centres of excellence. In 2019, we received 289 applications for all observership programmes, a number higher than in 2018. The high demand for observerships shows that ESCMID is on the right path to help ESCMID members, especially the youngest ones. The new platform created in 2018 allowed an equal selection of participants, ensuring that observerships are granted based on medical and scientific achievements and the mutual interest of the attendee and the chosen ESCMID collaborative centre (ECC).

A total of 100 traditional ESCMID funded observerships (equally distributed in spring and autumn calls) were attributed to young scientist members who travelled within Europe or came from countries outside Europe to expand their knowledge and expertise in the ECCs.

In addition, ECCs received 17 unfunded observerships, for those who did not comply with the criteria for funded observerships but could benefit from the expertise of the ECCs.

ESCMID members were also attracted by observerships at European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC, Stockholm), WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe, Copenhagen) and Mayo Clinic (Rochester, USA), ECCs that welcome a limited number of observerships once a year.

Detailed figures of the observership programme can be found on the next pages. All 2020 calls will be presented on the dedicated website and advertised in the weekly ESCMID newsletter.

In late 2019, we were able to re-open the platform for applications for the mentorship programme. Mentorships are intended to provide young or less experienced ESCMID members with the opportunity to receive guidance for research and career development from a senior ESCMID member, for a two-year period. This programme, available for young scientist and full members (no age restriction) of ESCMID, adds to all other attractive programmes within our portfolio.

Throughout the year, I had the pleasure to meet with the steering committee of the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) on several occasions. This group has been enlarged by four new young members. TAE is very active in projects aimed at widening career opportunities for trainees and young scientists. TAE has contributed to create a community within ESCMID young trainee members via the newly designed regular newsletter and an increased social media presence. Moreover, they are working to reach trainees from other medical societies and get them interested in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases. The “TAE Day” at ECCMID is a great opportunity to share and promote ESCMID activities. At ECCMID 2019, we received very positive feedback from participants and moderators.

Among our activities, I would like to mention our continuous cooperation with organisations leading medical training in Europe such as Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS), both sections of Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology. Furthermore, we are among those societies participating in workshops on continuous medical education programmes and organisation (CME-CPD council) and on granting European fellowships.

In 2021, we will have the chance to organise the 4th Professional Affairs Workshop “Being ID or CM: challenges and opportunities” held in Bologna, Italy. Dates will be announced soon.

For the year to come, my wish is to attract more and more members by tailoring the collaborations on the expertise and skills they need to acquire or refine, based on their background, career and age. We will work closer to our ESCMID collaborative centres to design the programme. In this regard, I take the opportunity to thank our members and the ECCs for their precious support and contribution to the growth and success of our observership programme. Their feedback and recommendations are welcome and highly appreciated.

The following pages contain further details about ESCMID professional affairs activities, as does our website (https://www.escmid.org/).
In 2019, we had for the first time the entire year funded/unfunded Observerships after the relaunch in 2018. The numerous applications (289 applications overall) received throughout the year prove the success of the ESCMID Observership Programme. In particular, the two calls for 50 ESCMID funded Observerships (only for Young Scientist Members) were very well received. We can see that more and more young scientists are applying; for full details about the eligibility criteria, please visit the dedicated page on our website: escmid.org/observerships.

In addition, the ESCMID Funded Observerships at special institutions such as ECDC, WHO, and Mayo Clinic have received more competitive applications through their calls, which made the selection process even tougher.

The 2018 newly introduced unfunded Observerships (for Full Members and with no age limit for applicants) round up the programme for continental/intercontinental knowledge exchange.

We have good news also concerning the Collaborative Centres (ECCs): we welcomed three new ECCs from Australia, Slovenia and United Kingdom. The approval process for new ECCs has been conducted very carefully to ensure a high-quality exchange for the future. I would like to thank our ECCs for their continued support. ESCMID appreciates the time and resources each ECC spends in the visits and is grateful for each collaboration.

Unfunded Observerships
After a good start in 2018, the unfunded Observerships continued to grow in 2019. In total, twice as much unfunded Observerships took place compared to 2018. Despite receiving less applications than in 2018, this increase is impressive. We look forward to confirming this success for the current year and recommend these Observerships to all ESCMID Full Members who do not have the Young Scientists status anymore. They may take advantage of such a great opportunity to visit an ECC in another country or continent.

Funded Observerships
The funded Observerships are still the driving force of the ESCMID Observership Programme, representing more than 85% of the overall Observership applications. We have received very positive feedback from all participants in 2019.
Where ESCMID observers come from …

... and where they go!
The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) hosted a group of fifteen ESCMID members for the ECDC/ESCMID observership initiative, 2 – 6 September 2019, at the ECDC headquarters in Solna, Stockholm (Sweden). Ten ESCMID members came from Europe, two from Bangladesh and one each from Nepal, Canada and Brazil respectively.

The fifteen ESCMID observers were joined by observers from the European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC) as well as the European Society for Clinical Virology (ESCV) for a five-day orientation programme designed to introduce the ECDC activities, role and mandate in supporting public health actions to control and prevent infectious disease in the EU and globally.

The 2019 observership aimed at giving participants an overview of the ECDC and its activities. Sessions included presentations on ECDC core activities, such as communicable disease surveillance, microbiology support, production of scientific advice and epidemic intelligence to detect emerging communicable disease threats to the EU. Observers also attended presentations on the work of specific programmes at the Centre, addressing issues including emerging and vector borne diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and tuberculosis. In addition to formal presentations, the programme included several hands-on exercises. The presentations and hands-on exercises facilitated interaction between ECDC experts and observers, who gained practical experience in creating rapid risk assessments, interpreting and integrating typing data in European-level surveillance, and applying evidence-based methods for the production of content for public-health decision making.

This is the seventh ESCMID-ECDC funded observership initiative and, once more, we have received positive feedback from both ECDC staff and ESCMID observers.

The visit reports and more detailed information can be found on the ESCMID website.

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**ESCMID-ECDC Observerships**

**Visit ECDC and find out about the organization!**

A group of 15 observers (ESCMID members) will participate in a five-day programme at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Solna, Sweden.

The application period for this five-day visit will be announced via the ESCMID website as well as the ESCMID social media channels.

[www.escmid.org/ECDC_Observer](http://www.escmid.org/ECDC_Observer)

[www.ecdc.europa.eu](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu)
Ten ESCMID observers (seven ESCMID members from Europe and one from India, USA and Kenya, respectively) spent two days at the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases (DEC) in Copenhagen (Denmark), 4–5 December 2019. The visit allowed them to gain insights into the operations of the organisation through informative sessions focusing on the special interests and key areas of work of the WHO Regional Office for Europe. It also provided an invaluable networking opportunity.

On the first day, WHO staff presented their activities, focusing on the work of DEC, including interactive lectures about antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and emergency preparedness for emerging infectious diseases. In the afternoon, they delved deeper into more specific topics, such as tuberculosis, malaria and other vector-borne parasitic diseases, as well as vaccine preventable infections.

On the second day, viral hepatitis, HIV and international health regulations were discussed. Furthermore, the observers had the opportunity to give a short presentation about their backgrounds and the context of their work, their perception of WHO before and after the visit, and to discuss potential future collaborations.

All reports from the observers are very positive and highlight the value of the WHO/ESCMID funded observership programme. They can be found on our website at the profile of the ECC.
Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) is a group of trainees and specialists from different European countries that aims at improving training in clinical microbiology (CM) and infectious diseases (ID). TAE supports and guides trainees to prepare them to "their next career step", but also represents the interests of young medical specialists, who have recently finished their training, medical students, PhD students and other young researchers within ESCMID, the next generation of researchers in CM and ID. Representatives of both specialties are recruited from all European countries to create a large network of young enthusiastic scientists motivated to organise activities for the very same group, under the wings of ESCMID. As of 2020, TAE counts approximately 3,400 ESCMID young scientist members.

Over the past year, TAE Steering Committee (SC) members have represented the interests of trainees at several important meetings such as ECCMID (including the meetings of ESCMID Educational and Professional Affairs subcommittees), ESCMID postgraduate courses, and annual meetings of the European Union of Medical Specialists - Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Sections.

At ECCMID 2019, TAE organised the TAE Day, successfully attended by roughly 150 participants. During this event, the "TAE Award for Training Achievement" was announced and one award winner (Maria João Lopez) presented her research results. Moreover, TAE launched a survey on research activities and approached young scientists during the congress. The TAE Day offers great chances for young scientists to learn about different professional options, and to get inspiration from experts who were once in the same position, at the crossroads of their career path. At the same time, it is a perfect opportunity to build stronger connections between senior experts and future professionals. The central and most popular part of the session is the "round tables", which gives younger professionals the chance to talk to experts in an informal setting. Participants can sign up for the expert table of their choice to discuss about their career and can submit optional questions to the moderator before the session.

In 2019, two TAE SC representatives attended the ESCMID Summer School in Liverpool [United Kingdom] to inform participants about all TAE activities. Furthermore, TAE was the co-organiser of a few sessions during ECCMID 2019 in Amsterdam, while two proposals for ESCMID postgraduate courses for 2020 have been submitted and accepted. The courses will take place in Belgrade (Serbia).

TAE has significantly increased the use of social media to share relevant updates and news within the field of CM, ID and other topics of interest for young professionals and to support an active interaction among trainees. By the end of 2019, TAE reached over 1,500 followers on Twitter and over 700 followers on Facebook. TAE and ESCMID activities aimed at trainees and other young professionals are regularly promoted through these channels. Communication of updates to the TAE network has been standardised with quarterly TAE newsletters.

To learn more about TAE and its wide range of activities, we invite you to visit our website (www.escmid.org/tae) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@TAEscmid).

We sincerely thank all our colleagues for their continuous feedback and support. Together, we can improve our training and increase the participation of young professionals in international activities.

"We aim to create a large network of young professionals to facilitate and promote international collaboration and effective use of resources in training of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases."

Aleksandra Barać, President of the TAE
aleksandrabarac85@gmail.com

TAE Steering Committee
Aleksandra Barać, President, Serbia
Muge Cevik, United Kingdom
Valentijn Schweitzer, The Netherlands
Sarah Delihere, France
Anja Šterbenc, Slovenia
Ivana Antal, Croatia
Maria Joao Lopes, Portugal
Katharina Last, Germany
TAE Day at 29th ECCMID Amsterdam Netherlands

(left to right) Emmanuelle Cambau, Aleksandra Barač, Maria João Lopes, Caroline Rönnberg

Group picture – TAE Day 2019
The main goal of the Parity Commission (PC) is to promote fairness in the working environment of clinical microbiology (CM) and infectious disease (ID) specialists. It conducts its own research programs and examines the research of others to identify potential problems, raises awareness, develops strategies to tackle parity issues and encourage change, diversity and meritocracy.

In 2019, the PC experienced some changes in its composition: Chrysanthi Skevaki and Angela Huttner ended their term while two new members joined us, Giulia De Angelis and Onya Opota. We would like to thank Chrysanthi Skevaki and Angela Huttner for the commitment and enthusiasm they put in implementing two important projects during their mandate: a study on the mobility of CM and ID physicians across Europe, and a survey about career breaks in medical academic settings. The results of these studies are in press and will be published in the near future.

We would also like to welcome Giulia De Angelis and Onya Opota. Giulia De Angelis is a specialist in infectious diseases, and a microbiologist at the Universita’ Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Rome (Italy). Onya Opota is a clinical microbiologist at the Lausanne University Hospital (Switzerland).

In September 2019, the PC organised the second course on individual medicine in Rome (Italy). Individual medicine, also known as precision medicine, is a concept first developed for non-transmissible diseases. With the increase in antimicrobial resistance, new diagnostics tools, and emerging knowledge on genetic risk factors for infections, precision medicine has now reached the field of infectious diseases. During the three-day course, attendees and speakers from 17 countries debated about the various aspects of individual medicine and infectious diseases, including healthcare and ethics, clinical trials design, public health vs. individual medicine, etc.

In 2019, the PC prepared a survey on the expectations of the ESCMID members on parity and equity within the society and their professional environment. The survey was launched in January 2020. This important survey aims at increasing awareness about the PC among ESCMID members, encouraging them to bring forward all issues they would like to see addressed in the future. Moreover, the survey aims at gathering some information on the participation of CM and ID specialists in all ESCMID activities, especially ECCMID and ESCMID post-graduate courses. Thanks to the data collected, we will be able to adjust all activities to increase the participation of ESCMID members and to favour the involvement of the under-represented countries.

For further information about all PC activities, please visit the ESCMID website www.escmid.org/parity
The ESCMID International Affairs Subcommittee (EIAS) has been established to reinforce and promote ESCMID activities and partnerships beyond Europe. The EIAS covers strategic areas including Central-South America, Africa, Middle East, Asia and Australia. General mission and strategy of EIAS include:

- Promotion of ESCMID mission and initiatives by the members in their region, including informative talks during congresses of national societies when possible
- Organization or co-organization of scientific, educational or professional activities with a strategic view. These initiatives are designed to be strategically relevant for the dissemination of ESCMID activities and values
- Identification of relevant national infection diseases/clinical microbiology (ID/CM) societies in the area of reference.
- Establishment of solid relationship with international societies/associations involved in the field of Infectious Diseases, Medical Microbiology, Infection Prevention and Control, Tropical Medicine, Virology, Parasitology, etc.
- Increase of collaborative relationships to strengthen practice, education and advocacy of science by developing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ID/CM international societies
- Inviting institutions to join the ESCMID Observership Programme, and assisting countries to set up national surveillance networks and guidelines
- Connecting with other ESCMID Subcommittees and Study Groups, and representing an advisory board on international affairs for the Executive Committee
- Mapping relevant initiatives on ID/CM for ESCMID in each region of interest.

EIAS activities in 2019 include:

- Participation to the Brazilian Infectious Diseases Congress, Belem do Para, Brazil, 10 September 2019
- Participation to the Laboratory Medicine Congress and Exhibition & KSLM 60th Annual Meeting, Busan, South Korea, 10 September 2019
- Organization of the conference “Antimicrobial Resistance in the 21st Century: A Global Threat”, Panama City, Panama, 28–29 November 2019. This event was organized in collaboration with the Pan-American Association for Infectiology, the Spanish Society for Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology, Clinical Microbiology and Infection and The Lancet Infectious Diseases journals

More activities were planned for 2020, such as participation in the Conference of the International Society for Infectious Diseases, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the organization of the 11th International Congress of SPIC-EGYPT “Hospital Bugs Management for Patients and Environment”, in collaboration with the International Federation for Infection Control, Cairo, Egypt. Unfortunately, those had to be postponed due to the current COVID-19 outbreak.

Other events and educational activities were also ongoing with Argentina, Japan, Korea, and Paraguay.

Finally, significant efforts have been made to strengthen collaborations with medical societies and institutions from China.
ESCMID Award for Excellence in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2020

The ESCMID Award for Excellence in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases is our most prestigious award. For 2020, the ESCMID Executive Committee selected Herman Goossens as the recipient.

Herman Goossens
University of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium

Professional biography
Herman Goossens obtained both his medical degree and PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) (Belgium). He has been full professor of Medical Microbiology at the University of Antwerp (Belgium) and director of the laboratory of Clinical Microbiology at the University Hospital Antwerp since 1992 and director of Laboratory Medicine of the University Hospital Antwerp since 1997. He founded the research Laboratory of Medical Microbiology at the University of Antwerp in 1994. He was part-time professor at the University of Leiden (Netherlands) from 2000 to 2008. Since 2017, he has held a part-time position at the University Medical Centre Utrecht (Netherlands).

Herman Goossens has coordinated several large EU funded projects and is the founder of the annual European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD).

He is a popular resource person and opinion leader, much sought after by local and international media for views on matters related to public health and infectious diseases.

Research interests
Currently, Herman Goossens research focuses on five areas: [i] to detect genetic mechanisms involved in the emergence and evolution of antibiotic resistance and virulence in bacteria and the epidemiological and ecological bases and implications, [ii] to study antimicrobial use in hospitals, the community and long-term care facilities, to develop indicators of the use and quality of prescriptions, initially in Europe then globally, focusing on low and middle income countries, [iii] to promote an active collaboration between basic and clinical research on lower respiratory tract infections, in primary health care and hospital medical practices across Europe, [iv] to prepare Europe to face emerging infectious diseases and pandemics, [v] to build a network of more than 800 diagnostic laboratories in more than 40 European countries to support clinical trials on the utility of new antimicrobial strategies and diagnostics.

Scientific output and awards
Herman Goossens has authored more than 600 papers (cited about 25,000 times) and 20 book chapters. He has supervised close to thirty PhDs; he has been invited as speaker at more than 400 international events.

He received several honors and awards, including the Solvay Award in 1983, the Horlait-Dapsens Award in 1987, the Vesalius Award in 1987, the Golslings Price of the Dutch-Flemish Society of Infectious Diseases in 1991, the Eugène Youassowsky Price of the Belgian Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in 2001, 2002 and 2006, the Leadership Award by the American Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA) in 2006, and the Medical Sciences Award of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine in 2017. In 2008, Herman Goossens obtained the prestigious status of Methusalem top-scientist from the Flemish government.

Herman Goossens will receive his award at ECCMID 2021
ESCMID Young Investigator Awards for Research in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2020

Every year, ESCMID offers up to three Young Investigator Awards for Research in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases to recognize outstanding research by younger colleagues in these fields. We congratulate the 2020 winners and look forward to their valuable support and contribution to the society in the coming years.

Norbert Pardi
Philadelphia, United States
Norbert Pardi obtained his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Genetics from the University of Szeged (Hungary). After receiving his Ph.D. in 2011, he joined Drew Weissman’s laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania (USA), where he worked on the development of a novel, versatile vaccine delivery platform using nucleoside-modified mRNA encapsulated in lipid nanoparticles. He played an instrumental role in the development of potent new generation mRNA-based vaccines against various important pathogens, including HSV-2, Zika and influenza viruses. Additionally, Norbert Pardi studies significantly contributed to the understanding of the mechanism of action of this novel vaccine type. Currently, Norbert Pardi is Assistant Professor at the School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania and has been working on the development of universal influenza vaccines using his mRNA-based vaccine platform. Norbert Pardi has built up an extensive collaborative network including more than 20 laboratories in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Niccolò Buetti
Bern, Switzerland
Niccolò Buetti studied medicine at the University of Zurich (Switzerland). In 2013, he started his career in infectious diseases as a resident at the Bern University Hospital (Switzerland). He subsequently worked as a consultant at the Bern University Hospital and was Deputy-Head of research and development of the National Center for Infection Control Switzerland (Swissnoso). In 2019, he obtained a MSc in clinical epidemiology and healthcare research from the Sorbonne University of Paris (France). He is currently working at the Infection Antimicrobials Modelling Evolution (IAME) laboratory, team “Decision science in infectious disease, prevention, control and care”. Niccolò Buetti research interests lie primarily in the epidemiology of community-acquired and hospital-acquired bloodstream infections, as well as in the development of preventive measures and management strategies for intravascular catheter-related infections and multi-drug resistant microorganisms (e.g. vancomycin-resistant enterococci).

Paolo Miotto
Milan, Italy
Paolo Miotto holds an MSc in Molecular biology of the Cell from the University of Milano (Italy) and a Ph.D. in Medical Biotechnology from the University of Siena (Italy). Currently, he is a Research Associate at the IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele in Milano, working on tuberculosis. Paolo Miotto interest in biological sciences motivated his decision to move the first steps in the field of research and join the scientific community. After working on drug resistance mechanisms and diagnosis in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the challenge to better understand the biological reasons behind the success of this pathogen lead him to approach host-pathogen interaction studies. Despite the different themes considered in the field, the shared motif underlining his research interests is the attempt to translate basic research findings into clinically useful data.

Paolo Miotto will receive his award at ECCMID 2021

Norbert Pardi will receive his award at ECCMID 2021

Niccolò Buetti will receive his award at ECCMID 2021
ESCMID Research Grants 2020

The following ESCMID members have received a research grant in 2020 for the indicated project.

Maxime Pichon
Hopitaux de Poitiers
Poitiers, France

Project: Gastric cartography of Helicobacter pylori resistome and virulome in association with therapeutic failure in humans

Pilar Domingo-Calap
Institute for Integrative Systems Biology, University of Valencia
Valencia, Spain

Project: Isolation and characterisation of novel Klebsiella pneumoniae phages as a tool for phage therapy against resistant strains

Rémi Planes
Institute of Pharmacology & Structural Biology (IPBS)
Toulouse, France

Project: Deciphering how ferroptosis drives Pseudomonas exotoxin U-dependent pathology

Joanne Karen Hobbs (ESCMID / FEMS Fellow)
University of Victoria
Victoria, Canada

Project: The prevalence and burden of antibiotic tolerance among Staphylococcus aureus clinical isolates associated with persistent infections

Bieke Tack
Institute of Tropical Medicine
Antwerpen, Belgium

Project: Towards evidence-based treatment of children with non-typhoidal Salmonella bloodstream infection in sub-Saharan Africa

Angharad Green
University of Liverpool
Liverpool, United Kingdom

Project: Understanding the differential metabolic requirements of Streptococcus pneumoniae for nasopharyngeal colonisation versus lung and systemic disease

Paula Jorge
University of Minho Centre of Biological Engineering
Braga, Portugal

Project: Tailored therapy for COPD polymicrobial pneumonia: nano-based multi-drug particles validated in a “quasi-vivo” air-liquid interface 3D model

Michael Beeton
Cardiff Metropolitan University
Cardiff, United Kingdom

Project: A novel “Trojan horse” approach to delivering antimicrobial peptide nucleic acids to Mycoplasma genitalium
Ciaran Kelly
Northumbria University
Newcastle, United Kingdom
Project: The use of synthetic small bacterial RNA mimics to tackle antibiotic resistance

Luke Allsopp
Imperial College London
London, United Kingdom
Project: Competitive dominance of Pseudomonas aeruginosa in clinical strains

Amelieke Johanna Hendrina Cremers
Radboud University Medical Center
Nijmegen, Netherlands
Project: Genomic epistasis of invasive Streptococcus pneumoniae

Delaney Burnard
University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research
Herston, Australia
Project: Exploring the epidemiology and variation of the virulence factor BimA 1004 and antimicrobial resistance within Burkholderia pseudomallei in Australia

Mathieu Blot
François Mitterrand University Hospital
Dijon, France
Project: Impact of Sirt-1 on mitochondrial recovery, innate immune response and outcome during pneumonia

Maria Letizia Di Martino
Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden
Project: Revealing the Shigella flexneri epithelial invasome in a human enteroid infection model

Alejandro Couce
Technical University of Madrid
Madrid, Spain
Project: Understanding the evolvability of drug-resistance enzymes under strong mutational biases

Aneesh Thakur
University of Copenhagen
Copenhagen, Denmark
Project: Designing a self-admiministrable and thermostable dry powder tuberculosis subunit vaccine for inhalation: optimizing adjuvant and pulmonary administration

Pedro Tiago Cardoso Curto
Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal
Project: Deciphering the Rickettsia toolbox to hijack the host
Laura Judith Marcos Zambrano
Madrid Institute for Advanced Studies in Food
Madrid, Spain

Project: Profiling host-microbiome interactions in non-responding Celiac Disease symptoms persistence

Aurélie Crabbé
Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium

Project: Exploring the potential of personalized metabolic profiling to evaluate and boost antibiotic activity

Kathy Raven
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, United Kingdom

Project: Would routine clinical Enterococcus faecium sequencing be a useful adjunct to current infection control procedures?

Hugo Oliveira
University of Minho
Braga, Portugal

Project: Viral-Based Bioconjugation Platform (ViBBiP) for vaccines development against bacterial pathogens

Ana P. Tedim
Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Salamanca
Valladolid, Spain

Project: Improving detection of Blood Stream Infections and antibiotic resistance genes by next generation PCR

Lonneke Alette van Vught
Academic Medical Center
Amsterdam
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Project: PREMISE: Precision medicine in sepsis

Marte Singsås Dragset
Germans Trias i Pujol Research Institute
Barcelona, Spain

Project: Genome-wide identification of mycobacterial host pathway-specific virulence genes using Drosophila melanogaster

Nadine Bayer
Medical University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria

Project: Mapping microbiome dynamics for early risk stratification of GVHD development after allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation
ESCMID TAE Outstanding Trainee Award 2020

The TAE Outstanding Trainee Award is intended to recognize and reward multi-skilled trainees with extracurricular activities in teaching, networking and collaboration for trainees in clinical microbiology (CM) and infectious diseases (ID).

The winners of the 2020 TAE Outstanding Trainee Award are Parul Kodan (India) and Carlos L. Correa-Martínez (Germany).

Parul Kodan
Delhi, India

Carlos L. Correa-Martínez
Münster, Germany

ISF-ESCMID Sepsis Award 2020

The International Sepsis Forum (ISF) is a non-profit public charity from United States with the mission to improve outcomes for patients with sepsis. Its award gives the recipient USD 500 and the opportunity to present their work during a session jointly organised by ISF and ESCMID.

Aislinn Cook
London, United Kingdom

This year’s winner is Aislinn Cook, a research fellow in the Paediatric Infectious Diseases Research Group at St. George’s University of London, London (UK). Aislinn works on clinical presentation, treatment, and outcomes of neonatal sepsis, as well as paediatric bloodstream infections.

She was awarded the prize for her abstract on the NeoAMR Global Neonatal Sepsis Observational Study (NeoOBS).

NeoOBS was launched in July 2018 by the Global Antibiotic R&D Partnership in collaboration with St George’s University of London; Penta Foundation; University of Antwerp; Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit, University College of London; 19 hospitals in 11 predominantly low income and middle income countries. The primary objective of NeoOBS is to assess mortality rates of hospitalised infants being treated with significant sepsis; secondary objectives include describing clinical presentation and recovery, sepsis management and microbiological epidemiology. This involved the collection of routine clinical, laboratory and antimicrobial therapy data from approximately 3,000 neonates <60 days old, with clinically diagnosed sepsis; patients were followed for 28 days. This global multi-centre prospective study completed recruitment in February 2020, with each site recruiting up to 200 neonates. Data from the study will be used for the design of future antibiotic treatment trials for neonatal sepsis.
ESCMID can look back on a successful year

ESCMID excellent research and education activities depend on the financial support we can give. Today, we are therefore proud to look back on an excellent financial year. After another positive result of ECCMID, as well as the continuation of an efficient and prudent management, ESCMID recorded a surplus of kEUR 1,520. Of course, this is a great result and will help stabilize the needed financial reserves of the Society in times of increasing uncertainties. We are able to maintain such a surplus whilst also increasing our investments back into the core activities of our Society. This result is indicative for our sound finance strategy based on a mid- and long-term financial programme.

Fantastic financial result due to ECCMID and other key-activities

Building on the successes of the past years, ECCMID 2019 attracted not only a record number of attendees but also a record number of sponsoring entities ensuring a sustainable income. Together with our efficient financial management of expenditures, we again were able to make ECCMID an extremely positive event, scientifically as well as financially.

Sustainable financial management

Building on a solid base of prudent management from previous years, administrative costs have been further reduced compared to 2018 and therefore we were able to reduce the proportion of the administrative costs on the total revenue by 0.5% to 3.9%. Due to this and the sustained profits from ECCMID, an increased investment of total kEUR 1,874 into ESCMID key activities was possible with respect to the previous years (e.g. 2018: kEUR 1,839). With the implementation of different new financial IT tools in the year 2018, control of invoices has been substantially improved, with the increase of inning of accounts receivable by 3.2% (2018: 3.6%; 2019: 0.4%) respectively from kEUR 416 in 2018 to kEUR 39 in 2019. In 2019, a large proportion of the budget was allocated to promoting and further fostering research in the fields of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases. More financial resources have been reinvested in supporting our members through the individual and institutional research grants, summing up to kEUR 399 in 2019, compared to kEUR 350 in 2018. In addition, the Observership programme was broadly expanded, with a total of kEUR 241, compared to kEUR 95 in 2018.

We also were able to invest in more educational activities, with kEUR 612 being invested into this portfolio, in comparison to kEUR 485 in 2018.

Looking towards 2020 and beyond

The cancellation of ECCMID 2020, and of all events scheduled until autumn due to the COVID-19 pandemic has had a financial impact on ESCMID and no significant income is expected in 2020. In order to reduce our costs and sustain ESCMID’s liquidity, several actions have been taken. Chief among these is a review of all spending, the reduction of costs from third party suppliers, and the introduction of shortened work hours for ESCMID staff in the Basel office from 1 April 2020. Furthermore, non-vital projects have been put on hold. The prognosis for ESCMID to overcome this crisis is good, as we have been able to build up substantial societal assets in the past years due to careful cost management.

ESCMID is highly committed to efficient and sustainable financial practice, now more than ever in. We will continue to work to return positive financial results to the members and to continue investing in key initiatives to help ESCMID accomplish its mission.

“As ESCMID Treasurer and Financial Support Officer, I am happy to announce a fantastic financial result for 2019. This will allow us to support even more all ESCMID key activities. In line with my main goal, we are today able to foster research, training and education activities organised by our members, and to strengthen the collaboration with our major stakeholders in the fields of clinical microbiology and infectious disease in Europe and beyond”

Alex W. Friedrich
ESCMID Treasurer & Financial Support Officer
alex.friedrich@escmid.org
Figure 1.
Comparison of expenses for key activities in 2018 and 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications &amp; Medical Guidelines</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Affairs</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Affairs</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2.
Budgeted expenses by key activities for 2019 and 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications &amp; Medical Guidelines</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Affairs</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Affairs</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend
Communications (i.e. Graphic, Press release, Proofreading costs)
Publications and Medical Guidelines (i.e. CMI Editorial Office costs and Journal expenses, costs for Guidelines development)
Conferences (i.e. IMMEM, Vaccines)
Education (i.e. Educational courses, EUCIC)
Professional Affairs (i.e. Observerships, Parity Commission, EITaE, UEMS)
Scientific Affairs (i.e. ESCMID Awards, ESCMID Grants, ESCMID Study Groups, EUCAST)
31st ECCMID
VIENNA, AUSTRIA
10 – 13 April 2021
Reed Messe Vienna

32nd ECCMID
LISBON, PORTUGAL
23 – 26 April 2022
Altice Arena Lisbon / FIL Lisbon
A big Thank you to all our dedicated reviewers!

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Foster, Timothy, Ireland
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Fratini, Patrice, Switzerland
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Giemn, Peter, United States
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Giammattei, Helen, Greece
Gianotti, Libero, Italy
Gikas, Achilles, Greece
Giske, Christian, Sweden
Glock, Eric, Germany
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Golotti, Delio, Italy
Gonzalez-Casiles, Fernando, Spain
Gopalakrishnan, Ramachandran, India
Gottlieb, Thomas, Australia
Gould, Kate, United Kingdom
Graeb, Gilbert, Switzerland
Grot, Andreas H., Germany
Grossi, Paola, Italy
Grundmann, Hajo, Germany
Guardabassi, Luca, Denmark
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Gutiérrez-Gutiérrez, Bego, Spain
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Hansen, Sonja, Germany
Hanssen, Anne Merethe, Norway
Harbarth, Stephan, Jungen, Switzerland
Harris, Potocki, Australia
Haug, Jon Birger, Norway
Hedjazi, Mohammad Taghi, Iran
Hell, Markus, Austria
Henriques, Mariana, Portugal
Herrmann, Jean Louis, France
Hery-Aurny, Genevieve, Switzerland
Higgins, Paul G, Germany
Hirsch, Hans H, Switzerland
Hocquet, Didier, France
Hobby, Niels, Denmark
Holmes, Mark, United Kingdom
Hooper, David C, United States
Horcagada, Juan P, Spain
Horgan, Mary, Ireland
Hrabak, Jaroslav, Czech Republic
Hseuh, Po Ren, Taiwan
Humphys, Hilary, Ireland
Hunfeld, Klaus Peter, Germany
Huerviro, Petoni, Finland
Hussein, Khetan, Israel
Huttner, Benedict, Switzerland
Ieven, Margareta, Belgium
Imbert, Christine, France
Irving, William, United Kingdom
Jans, Michael G, United States
Izopet, Jacques, France
Jankovic Makek, Mateja, Croatia
Jansen, Raud, Netherlands
Jansson, Mikael, Sweden
Jarlier, Vincent Pascal, France
Jauhac, Benoit, France
Jensen, Jorgen Skov, Denmark
Johannson, Helge Krogh, Denmark
Johansson, Anders, Sweden
Johiczyk-Matylak, Ewa, Poland
Jones, Ronald N, United States
Junie, Lia Monica, Romania
Justesen, Ulrik Stenz, Denmark
Kasch, Achim, Germany
Kahl, Barbara C, Germany
Kahlmetz, Gunnar, Sweden
Kaku, Norihiro, Japan
Karadzov, Nabil, Sweden
Karhava, Ondrej, United States
Karczewski, Daniel, Germany
Karvouniaris, Marios, Greece
Katragkou, Assopia, United States
Keller, Nathan, Israel
Kern, Winfried V, Germany
Kernif, Tahar, Algeria
Klany, Badredine, Tunisia
Klimke, Nikolai, Russian Federation
Klingeberg, Lena, Sweden
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Lebeaux, David, France
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