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Message from the President

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Message from the incoming President

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After (almost) a decade on the executive committee, of which the last two years were at the helm of our society, I will address you for the last time in this form before I hand over to my valued colleague, President-elect Mario Poljak. It is the moment to review my presidency and the achievements of our society. I am privileged to have been part of a team which has helped advance ESCMID on its path to becoming the most influential society in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases. With almost 7,000 members and 57 affiliated societies worldwide we are already a truly international organisation, defining and advocating health policies in Europe and beyond.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has remained at the forefront of ESCMID’s many activities, including those of its study groups, committees and in cooperation with partner such as WHO and ECCMID. AMR is the main area of research of our top-performing study group, ESCMID Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST), we more recently established the ESCMID Programme, which gives members the opportunity to benefit from being mentored by experts and benefit from clinical microbiology and infectious disease group on the level of research at hospitals and institutes, for educational events, conferences and at ESCMID. Ideas also include EUCAST becoming an ESCMID Collaborative Centre, the joint application for EU funding and the development of a unified vision for infection by 2025.

I also want to share my thoughts on the 26th ECCMID, which is being held in Amsterdam from 9 – 12 April 2016. Originally, we planned to organize the congress in Istanbul, in my home country, also because of its position on the Bosphorus, the gateway to Asia. However, for the first time in ECCMID’s history, we had to relocate the congress when the situation in Turkey and the surrounding region became increasingly unstable. It is sad that we could not organize ECCMID in Istanbul but I am convinced that our congress in Amsterdam will be another very successful meeting.

After eight years as Editor-in-Chief of ESCMID’s journal Clinical Microbiology and Infection, Didier Raoult has decided to step down. The society appreciates and thanks him for his service during his term. We are happy to have found an experienced replacement: Leonard Lebovici from the Ramón Medical Center in Tel Aviv, Israel, will take over at ECCMID 2016. We welcome him and wish him all the best in his new position.

Finally, also at this year’s congress, Past-President Gunnar Kahlmeter and Treasurer Cornelia Lass-Floerl will complete their terms on the executive committee. We thank both members for their valuable work for the society and hope they will continue to support ESCMID in other functions. I want to congratulate Alex W. Friedrich from the University Medical Centre Göttingen in the Netherlands and Maurizio Sangiorgi from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome, Italy, who will join the ESCMID executive committee in April 2016 as representatives of clinical microbiology. I welcome them onto the executive committee and look forward to working with them more closely.

I hope you enjoy reading about our society’s activities over the past year and if there is anything you feel we should improve, please reach out to us. We will do our best to incorporate your feedback so we can better serve the needs of our members.

At this year’s ECCMID I will be taking over the presidency of ESCMID from my valued colleague Murat Akova. I am looking forward to fulfilling this challenging role and to serving our members’ needs. I am convinced that my presidential role in a society like ESCMID should strictly follow the principle primus inter pares. As such I will lead the society with pride and a clear vision but I will not be the sole driving force to develop and implement its strategy. I will mainly count on my colleagues on the ESCMID Executive Committee to continue our work together as one family, as we have done over the years. The Executive Committee will jointly lead the society on its growth path, develop new activities, projects and initiatives that help our members advance their professional careers and thus fulfil our mission to improve diagnosis, prevention and treatment of infection-related diseases.

ESCMID has continued to evolve since I joined the Executive Committee in 2012. Although our mission has not changed, the tasks to fulfil these goals have become more challenging and complex over recent years. Striving to meet new requirements and respond to new crisis situations, ESCMID has grown into a truly international society that promotes and supports research and training and improves medical practice throughout its network around the world. This is not only reflected in ESCMID’s new collaborative centres, present on all continents, but also in its membership, our partnerships and affiliations, as well as the locations of our educational events, which have now taken place in China, India and South Africa. And ESCMID, of course, is today the leading congress combining clinical microbiology and infectious diseases, a hub for cutting edge science and policy making with experts from all over the world.

Because of the nature of infectious diseases – which do not respect political or geographical borders – the extension of our network will remain one of our top priorities over the coming years. Our efforts have been networking through our study groups and at our events: educational workshops, courses, conferences and of course ECCMID. While international collaborations extend our activity outside Europe, we also increasingly work with specialists in adjacent disciplines or areas of research because we realize that we need a much more comprehensive one-health approach to tackle the challenges we are facing. Over many years our society, our congress and our study groups are testimony to very successful interdisciplinary scientific cooperation between clinical microbiologists, infectious diseases and infection control specialists for the benefit of public health. As past ESCMID Professional Affairs Officer I am also looking forward to further fostering ties between ESCMID and the UEMS Sections for Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

We are well aware that ESCMID’s future lies in the hands of our younger colleagues so we will do our utmost to encourage them in their work. We will continue to provide them with feedback on their research and professional development and will offer them the opportunity to take active roles. The society offers young physicians and scientists observerships, mentorships, educational activities (including workshops and summer school) and gives them the opportunity to actively participate in its study groups and Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE). They may also apply for awards and numerous grants to fund training, research projects and conference attendance.

Given the international nature of our society and as a founding member of the ESCMID Parity Commission and past ESCMID Advocate for Geographic Balance, I am personally committed to achieving a balance of gender and country of origin at any ESCMID related educational, professional and scientific activity. As the first ESCMID President from Central/Eastern Europe I will make an extra effort so that we seek out the best specialists from currently underrepresented European and non-European countries for all ESCMID activities, with a preference for younger scientists and women.

With the support of study groups and numerous other ESCMID committees and subcommittees, the office in Basel and all our ESCMID members, the Executive Committee will further build on existing scientific, educational and professional initiatives. We will do our utmost to ensure that ESCMID remains one of the leading societies in its field – a reference point with the credibility, the expertise and the standing to address important questions, not only within the scientific and professional community but also on a much broader scale.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the former ESCMID presidents and Executive Committee members for their support and their trust. ESCMID’s current success would not have been possible without the vision, commitment and inexhaustible energy of all the superb leaders the society has seen over the years – with some of whom I have had the privilege to work. Above all, I want to thank Murat Akova for all his dedication and hard work. It has been a true pleasure for me to lead the society for the next two years. We are looking forward to working with you towards our common goals and will do our very best not to disappoint the trust you have placed in us.
Changes to the ESCMID Executive Committee

At this year’s ECCMID in April 2016, Past-President Gunnar Kahlmeter and Treasurer Cornelia Lass-Flörl complete their terms on the ESCMID Executive Committee. We thank both of them for their much appreciated accomplishments and hard work as officers and there is no doubt that they will continue to stay closely connected to the society.

At the end of 2015 ESCMID held elections to fill those two clinical microbiology positions. Alex W. Friedrich from the University Medical Centre Groningen in the Netherlands and Maurizio Sanguinetti from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome, Italy, were duly elected. They will join the ESCMID Executive Committee in April 2016. Professional Affairs Officer, Evelina Tacconelli, stood for re-election after completing her first term. Evelina, from the University Hospital Tübingen, Germany, was successfully re-elected for a second term representing infectious diseases. We congratulate the newly and re-elected officers and are looking forward to their contributions to the society.

New EC members

Alexander Friedrich

Alex has been actively implementing multidisciplinary and cross-border collaborations to better fight healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) caused by antimicrobial resistance. He strongly believes clinical microbiologists should work hand in hand with infectious disease physicians and infection control practitioners to improve antimicrobial, infection prevention and diagnostic stewardships. He wants to promote open communication, training and collaboration across the major specialties involved in the prevention, diagnosis and therapy of infectious diseases. Another focus will be the promotion of international research activities in clinical microbiology, in particular encouraging younger generations of microbiologists to further develop the specialty and improve stewardship.

Maurizio Sanguinetti

Maurizio wants to strengthen working relationships between the various European academic institutions to better promote initiatives aimed at improving knowledge in microbiology, with particular emphasis on medical mycology. He is committed to supporting translational research projects with his expertise and experience, so that basic research can be better adapted to the real needs of public health, in terms of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious diseases. He particularly wants to support clinical microbiology projects in the laboratory which aim to validate new diagnostic methods, especially those designed to detect antimicrobial-resistant bacterial and fungal infections.

Gunnar Kahlmeter

Gunnar has been a member of the executive committee since 2007. Since then he has contributed significantly to the society’s successful development. He has helped shape ESCMID with his expertise and experience in clinical microbiology and his initiative and commitment for the European Committee for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST), serving as Chair from 2001–12. As ESCMID President, he oversaw the organization of two highly successful ECCMIDs, 2012 in Berlin and 2014 in Barcelona, the latter for the first time surpassing the 10,000 participant mark. He was responsible for a closer collaboration with WHO, Europe and ECDC through a joint observship programme, allowing ESCMID members a glimpse into the workings within these renowned agencies. Together with ECDC and EMA, he has been pushing for the harmonization of antimicrobial breakpoints through EUCAST and developed a standardized European disk diffusion test. His strong commitment to EUCAST over recent years has led to a host of scientific and educational activities, both within ESCMID and externally. He has presided over the summer school and is regularly a member of the faculty. More recently, as communications and publications officer and Past-President, he shared his expertise and experience to run the society’s two journals, produce high-quality medical guidelines and help raise the society’s profile through all forms of electronic and print communications. We are sure that we will continue to see Gunnar at every EUCAST event, which he will support with his wisdom, skills and his hands-on, enthusiastic and tireless personality.

Cornelia Lass-Flörl

Conny has given her valuable input in many fungal infection activities within the society and its many educational events, including ECCMID, the summer school, courses and conferences. Her commitment was crucial to the initiation of the ESCMID conference series on invasive fungal infections, which first took place in February 2010, then in January 2013 in Rome. As a member of the organizing committee, Conny decisively contributed to the success of each conference. For several years her extensive experience in fungal infections has made her a valuable expert on both the ECCMID Programme Committee and EUCAST’s Subcommittee on Antifungal Susceptibility Testing (since 2003). As ESCMID Treasurer she has helped build a stable financial basis for the society with solid long-term prospects and ample financial reserves. We will miss her energy, passion and cheerful demeanour!

EC members stepping down

Gunnar Kahlmeter

Member ESCMID Executive Committee 2007 – 2016
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Message from the Executive Director

Much has changed in the society and at its Executive Office in Basel since I took over on 1 November 2014. We are currently laying the foundations to allow the society to grow and increase the size of its congress over the coming years. This will allow us to fulfil the visions defined by the ESCMID Executive Committee in October 2014 and implement the measures developed during a workshop in July 2015. In a bid to become more self-sufficient and decrease our dependence on third-party service providers, and accumulate more knowhow in-house, we will continue to reinforce the office in Basel.

In a first step it was decided to run the entire abstract-handling process ourselves, which allows more direct contact with the authors and better service. Carla Seiler joined the team as Scientific Programme Coordinator for ECCMID. Carla, who is also responsible for membership, was immediately welcomed by the rest of the team. She put in several night shifts and thereby processed a record number of abstracts for ECCMID 2016.

The plan is to bring additional ECCMID-related tasks in-house over the coming years in areas where the society will benefit. We aim to be self-sufficient already for ECCMID 2017.

Since the beginning of the year, staff at the ESCMID Executive Office is no longer employed through a third-party provider but directly by the society. One of the main tasks of the office team over the coming months is to define our standard operating procedures (SOPs), allowing the society to standardize processes on an operational and strategic level.

Membership

I’m pleased to report that ESCMID membership has continued to grow – to 6,860 by the end of February 2016 from 6,385 a year earlier. The structure of ESCMID’s membership reflects the society’s efforts to target scientists at the beginning of their career. The share of younger scientists below the age of 36 has increased; they now make up for about a third of ESCMID’s membership. Figures 1 – 3 illustrate our membership structure.
FINANCES

ESCMI can look back on 2015 as another successful financial year. Expenses for key activities increased by EUR 250,000 or 12%, the highest increase seen in Communications (+53%) and Publications (+38%), reflecting the fact that the implementation of new strategies to reinforce these areas required the employment of additional staff and services. Education spending (+11%) involved a similar number of courses and workshops and we are preparing to launch a new e-learning platform, which we expect will keep expenses at a moderate level. The expenses for Scientific Affairs (+8%) and Professional Affairs (+3%) remained stable, despite higher spending to introduce the new Mentorship Programme. We set aside EUR 400,000 in 2015 to cover exceptional charges due to the relocation of ECCMID 2016 from Istanbul to Amsterdam.

The 2016 budget foresees expenditures of approximately EUR 3.7 million, mostly in the areas of Scientific Affairs, Professional Affairs, Education and Events. Spending on the annual congress ECCMID and other ESCMID conferences will from now on be shown separately and transparently in the “Events” portfolio as ESCMID is increasing its in-house know-how and competence for ECCMID. After the successful integration of abstract handling, ESCMID plans to bring more components of congress organization in-house over the coming years. In Education the focus is on e-learning, where a task force is developing a range of customized modules. These initiatives demonstrate how ESCMID is embracing the challenges of a rapidly changing world whilst remaining within the approved financial limitations.

Awards & Grants 2016

We are pleased to announce the recipients of awards and grants for the year 2016. Again, ESCMID increased its support of the award and grant programmes, exemplified by the spending of EUR 330,000 for the 15 newly instituted ESCMID research grants. Together with our generous allocation of funds for ECCMID travel and attendance subsidies for courses, conferences and other scientific events, this year we are investing around EUR 550,000 into scientific advancement and continued learning and exchange.

Robert Bonomo (Cleveland, OH, United States) has been selected to receive the ESCMID Excellence Award for 2016. He has an outstanding record of research productivity and his work has greatly influenced the field of antibiotic resistance. He is a highly collaborative scientist, who has coupled his clinical knowledge in the area of infectious disease with expertise in molecular biology and biochemistry to produce a number of outstanding papers. He has made contributions in a wide range of areas related to antibiotics, including molecular diagnostics, resistance enzyme structure-function, enzyme inhibitor mechanisms of action and drug discovery. His productivity is evidenced by more than 300 publications to date. In addition to his outstanding research, his service to the scientific community includes being an editor for leading publications in his discipline, such as Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy and the Journal of Biological Chemistry as well as being very active in the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). He is also an outstanding teacher, who has trained a long list of scientists and clinicians. The award page tribute to him more than 30 years of accomplishments in the field.

As was the case last year, the large number of excellent Young Investigator applications led us to choose three recipients for 2016: Sanne Jespersen (Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark), Robert P Ryan (Division of Molecular Microbiology, University of Dundee, United Kingdom) and Timothy M Walker (University of Oxford, United Kingdom). Sanne Jespersen’s work in various countries in the world exemplifies how to apply the latest findings on optimal treatment in extremely resource-poor and politically unstable settings. Robert Ryan has received several awards and fellowships which have allowed him to gain insights into the complex field of antimicrobial infections. Tim Walker’s work on tuberculosis outbreaks and how genomic mutations can predict phenotypic drug susceptibility contributed to England’s investment in routine whole-genome sequencing for mycobacterial infections.

The winners of this year’s TAE Awards for Training Achievements are Clodonna Ni Bhuachalla from the Adelaide and Meath Hospital in Dublin, Ireland, as well as Luis Filipe Gomes Malheiro from the Centro Hospitalar de São João in Porto, Portugal.

There were 130 applications for ESCMID Research Grants 2016. Fifteen colleagues with basic or applied research projects were chosen. There were several procedural improvements this year. These are described in the Scientific Affairs article (page 18). Special thanks to all the experts and reviewers (listed on pages 66,67), who did a tremendous job evaluating all these submissions. As happens every year, one of the Research Grant recipients is also awarded the ESCMID/FEMS Fellowship and this year it goes to Juan Manuel Pericas, Spain.

In addition, ESCMID supports young colleagues with merit-based travel grants and free registration to enable them to attend ECCMID. We are giving 101 young scientists travel grants and free registration for ECCMID Amsterdam 2016, where they will present the results of their work. ESCMID also supports its members early in their careers with attendance grants for other ESCMID conferences, the Summer School, post-graduate educational courses and other educational and/or scientific events.

You can find details of all recipients of awards and research grants for 2016 on the following pages.

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Figure 1. Actual expenses 2015 for key activities versus budget 2015 (EUR)
- Budget 2015
- Expenses 2015

Figure 2. Comparison of expenses for key activities in 2014/15 (EUR)
- 2014
- 2015

Figure 3. Budgeted expenses by category for the year 2016
- Scientific Affairs
- Mgt/Finance/HR/Admin
- Professional Affairs
- Executive Committee
- Education
- Events
- Communications
- Membership Services
- Publishing
Robert A. Bonomo

Robert A. Bonomo (Cleveland, OH, USA) has been awarded the ESCMID Excellence Award for 2016. This is the latest acknowledgement of his outstanding achievements in medicine and biomedical research, which began with his first award in 1983 for excellence in Cardiovascular Medicine. Having begun his career in internal medicine and infectious diseases, he added geriatrics and within a decade, he was Chairman of the Infection Control Committee for a retirement community in Ohio while an Assistant Professor in Geriatrics at Case Western Reserve University. After this start, he transitioned to study infectious diseases in the elderly and the emergence of antibiotic resistant pathogens in vulnerable populations. He was awarded tenure at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in 2002 and began adding other specialties to his teaching commitments, including Pharmacology, Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Biochemistry, Proteomics and Bioinformatics.

For more than 30 years, Robert has distinguished himself as a clinician, through his research, teaching, mentoring and well over 340 publications, all of which have contributed greatly to science, particularly in the field of antibiotic resistance. Several of his awards were for excellence in teaching and two were for mentoring, something very dear to his heart. Currently, Robert holds the post of Chief of Medical Service at the Cleveland Veteran Affairs Medical Center, which involves overseeing the activities of 10 major clinical sections delivering care to Veterans in northern Ohio, as well as ensuring there is a robust academic environment for medical students, residents and fellows. In the last eight years, he has also been appointed Director of the Geriatric Research Education & Clinical Center of the Veterans Integrated Service Network, co-Chair of the Gram-Negative Committee of the Antibiotic Resistance Leadership Group and Vice Chairman of Veterans Affairs of University Hospitals Case Medical Center.

As well as publishing his own research papers, his service to the scientific community currently includes being on the editorial board of eight journals and a peer reviewer for many more. Between 2002 and 2011, he served on the editorial board of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology’s Journal of Biological Chemistry. Since 2002, he has been a member of the Editorial Board for the journal Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. These are the leading journals of his speciality. Since 2004, he has been on the programme committee of the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICMAC). Furthermore, Robert sits on numerous committees and has been responsible for convening many slide sessions and symposia. He is also in demand, both nationally and internationally, as a speaker and gave his first ESMID keynote speech in 2010. He served the National Institute of Heath as a member of different study sections for more than eight years.

Robert’s career path involves administrative responsibilities together with the need to find large sums to fund research. His success can also be measured by the huge financial support he has secured from major pharmaceutical companies. It comes as no surprise that he’s very active in the American Society of Microbiologists and was elected President of Division A (Antimicrobial Chemotherapy) of the ASM, serving a three-year term from 2008 to 2011.

One of the factors which make him such an outstanding scientist is his ability to collaborate at the cutting edge. He has coupled his clinical knowledge in the area of infectious disease with expertise in molecular biology and biochemistry to produce a number of exceptional papers. Following the advice of Karen Bush, Robert began a research programme dedicated to the study of SHV beta-lactamase. In a combined effort with James Knox and Michioshi Nukaga, Robert’s laboratory helped reveal the atomic structure of SHV-1 and the first reported extended spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL), SHV-2. Together with Focco van den Akker of Case Western Reserve University, the structure of KFC-2 carbapenemase was determined in Cleveland. He also worked with Focco and John Bugnack on characterizing the activity and elucidating the structure of penicillin sulphone BLIs. Moreover, Robert’s lab helped establish that mass spectrometry was an effective way to study the inhibition of beta-lactamases by novel inhibitors. In collaboration with Krzysztona Papp-Wallace of the Cleveland VA and Case Western Reserve University, the mechanistic details of KPC activity were systematically elucidated as this beta-lactamase emerged as a significant threat. With Rachel Powers and Brad Walter the chromosomal beta-lactamase, Acinetobacter derived cephalosporinase (ADC-7), was determined in complex with a novel boric acid transition state inhibitor designed by Fabio Prati and Emilia Caselli. These studies laid the groundwork for the deeper understanding of new compounds.

Robert and his team have participated in the evaluation of many preclinical and clinical candidates, including the testing of 4 novel antimicrobial agents which progressed to Phase III clinical trials (all now FDA approved) as well as over 100 other investigational beta-lactamase inhibitors. This means his laboratory is at the forefront of studying beta-lactams and beta-lactamase inhibitors against clinically relevant and emerging MDR Gram-negative pathogens.

Of Robert’s major contributions to science, important milestones stand out. Robert’s primary research efforts focus on structure-function relationships of clinically important beta-lactamases using microbiological and biochemical testing, medicinal chemistry, structural biology, pharmacological analyses, genetics and molecular epidemiology. His work helped establish the foundations by which novel beta-lactam therapies can be designed. Robert’s most recent studies are of metallo-beta-lactamases with Alejandro Va of Rosario, Argentina and Jim Spencer of Bristol, England. With Graciela Mahler of Uruguay, Alejandro, Jim and Robert have studied novel class C inhibitors of metallo-beta-lactamases. Robert has also worked extensively with industry and academia to develop the best ways to determine beta-lactamase resistance and to detect the presence of pathogens when cultures are negative (developing the concept of “salvage microbiology” with John Farrell and Ranga Sampath).

Having studied Acinetobacter baumannii with Mark Adams for more than ten years, Robert helped understand the biology of resistance in MDR A. baumannii and, in collaboration with other researchers, he elucidated its clinical and complex genetic background. With Brad Spellberg he has also studied the pathobiology and immunology of MDR A. baumannii. Klebsiella pneumoniae has also been studied at his lab since 2007 and it was extremely important to Robert to help form a consortium with David van Duin focusing on the clinical and molecular analysis of KPC-producing K. pneumoniae, first in the Great Lakes region and then throughout the United States. Robert believes the consortium is on the brink of understanding why people with this particular infection have such poor outcomes. Working with Barry Kreiswirth and Liang Chen, Robert has examined the importance of plasmid structure on this epidemic. In Robert’s lab, Andrea Endemann and Federico Torrealba studied the molecular epidemiology of MDR pathogens and helped map novel genetic constructs.

Finally we come to molecular diagnostics. As a clinician and as a member of the Antibacterial Resistance Leadership Group, Robert feels it is important to appraise the molecular diagnostic platforms currently being developed. As a successful Principal Investigator for almost 20 years, he has guided a concerted research effort that attempts to understand the molecular basis of how Gram-negative bacteria develop the MDR phenotype.

The ESCMID Award pays tribute to his exceptional accomplishments and contributions to his field and to a distinguished career of more than 30 years.

Robert Bonomo will be presented his award at the 26th ECCMID in Amsterdam by Murat Akova, ESCMID President on Sunday, 10 April 2016 from 14:30 – 15:30 in Hall A. During this ceremony he will give his recipient’s lecture: ‘The renaissance of the beta-lactamase inhibitors’.
ESCMID Young Investigator Awards for Research in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2016

Sanne Jespersen
Sanne graduated from Aarhus University where she received her PhD in 2015. Currently she is undertaking her infectious disease training at Aarhus University Hospital and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Motivated by her special interest in HIV, tropical diseases and global health, she has worked in various places, including Lesotho, Ireland, Guinea-Bissau and Greenland. Recently, she has been working with Médecins Sans Frontières, treating Ebola patients in Sierra Leone.

During her PhD studies, she investigated HIV treatment in Guinea-Bissau based on data from the Bissau HIV Cohort, which is the largest single centre cohort of HIV-2 infected individuals. Sanne Jespersen has published several articles describing the specific challenges of delivering antiretroviral treatment in sub-Saharan Africa. Her work represents an important contribution to optimal HIV treatment in extremely resource-poor and politically unstable countries and applying the tools of science under difficult circumstances.

Sanne will receive her award during the ESCMID Young Investigator Awards Session at ECCMID on 11 April 2016 from 14.30 – 15.30 in Hall K. During the session, she will give her presentation: ‘The missing link in HIV treatment delivery in Africa illustrated by the Bissau HIV Cohort’

Robert P. Ryan
Robert is Principal Investigator in the Division of Molecular Microbiology at the University of Dundee. In 2005 he gained a PhD in molecular microbiology and took up a postdoc position at University College Cork. Later, under the auspices of EMBO, HFSP, SFI and Royal Irish Academy fellowships, he worked in laboratories at the Karolinska Institute, Universidade de São Paulo, University of Copenhagen and Dartmouth Medical School. In 2010 he was awarded a Science Foundation Ireland Starting Investigator award to set up his own group at University College Cork and in 2013 he moved to Dundee, having gained a Wellcome Trust Senior Fellowship. In 2015 he was awarded the Lister Institute Research Prize Fellowship award, which seeks to help support and nurture future leaders in biosciences and genetics. His current work centres on understanding the role that interspecies signalling plays in influencing both bacterial virulence and response to therapy in various polymicrobial infections.

Robert will be presented with his award during the ESCMID Young Investigator Awards Session at ECCMID on 11 April 2016 from 14.30 – 15.30 in Hall K. During the session, he will present some of his research under the title: ‘Disrupting the infectious conversation: understanding polymicrobial infections as a route towards combating antibiotic resistance’

Timothy M. Walker
Tim first studied politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford before taking the unusual step of retraining in clinical medicine. After qualifying in London he obtained a specialist training position in microbiology and infectious diseases in Oxford where he subsequently took time out to pursue a DPhil within the Modernising Medical Microbiology (MMM) research group as a Medical Research Council training fellow. His current position is NIHR Academic Clinical Lecturer at the University of Oxford where he divides his time between clinical training and further pursuing his research interests within MMM as part of a large multi-disciplinary network of investigators.

His research focuses on how whole-genome sequencing of Mycobacterium tuberculosis can better guide public health investigations into tuberculosis outbreaks, and how genomic mutations can predict phenotypic drug susceptibility. This work has influenced the UK government’s decision to invest in routine whole-genome sequencing for mycobacterial infections in England from 2016 onwards.

Tim will receive his award during the ESCMID Young Investigator Awards Session at ECCMID on 11 April 2016 from 14.30 – 15.30 in Hall K. During the session, he will give his presentation: ‘How can whole-genome sequencing help eradicate tuberculosis?’

ESCMID TAE Awards for Training Achievements 2016

Clíodhna Ní Bhuaichíla
The Adelaide and Meath Hospital, Dublin, Ireland

Luís Filipe Gomes Melheiro
Hospital São João, Porto, Portugal
ESCMID Research Grants 2016

The following ESCMID members have received a Research Grant in 2016 for the indicated project.

**Francesca Borgo**
Università degli Studi di Milano, Health Sciences, Milan, Italy
*Project:* Little foot/ not sterile or not sterile?

**Arélie Cribbé**
Ghent University, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ghent, Belgium
*Project:* Unraveling the role of the host microenvironment on the efficacy of antimicrobial agents

**Eric Durand**
CNRS – LMB/INRA/ INRA, Nantes, France
*Project:* Structure and biogenesis of the type VI secretion system (T6SS) toward the identification of virulence inhibitors

**Valentina Lanza**
Instituto Ramon y Cajal de Investigacion Sanitaria, Microbiology, Madrid, Spain
*Project:* Deciphering the nosocomial resistome using metagenomic targeted capture platforms towards metagenomic epidemiology in public health

**Rachel Floyd**
University of Liverpool, Cellular and Molecular Pathology, Liverpool, United Kingdom
*Project:* Elucidating the role of hormone-mediated bacterial adaptation in urinary tract infections

**Claire Smith**
UCL, RCCA/ Institute of Child Health, London, United Kingdom
*Project:* Do viruses have a role in antibiotic susceptibility?

**ESCMID Fellows**

**Francesca Borgo**
Università degli Studi di Milano, Health Sciences, Milan, Italy
*Project:* Experimental and clinical study of the relationship between vancomycin MR in methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and the progression of left-sided MSa infective endocarditis

**Valentina Lanza**
Instituto Ramon y Cajal de Investigacion Sanitaria, Microbiology, Madrid, Spain
*Project:* Decrypting the nosocomial resistome using metagenomic targeted capture platforms towards metagenomic epidemiology in public health

**ESCMID / FEMS Fellows**

**Irina Franco**
UCBB – Requie, Department of Life Sciences, Caparica, Portugal
*Project:* Identification of new virulence mechanisms of a *Legionella pneumophila* strain recently isolated from a major outbreak in Portugal

**Martin Girardot**
Faculty of Medicine Pharmacy, Laboratory of Ecology and Biology of the Infections UMR CNRS 7267, Poitiers, France
*Project:* Candida albicans-Propionibacterium acnes mixed biofilm: in vitro development, characterization and potential treatment by focusing on raspberry wood

**Marina Ivan Larb**
Ospehale San Fatihite, Infectious and Tropical Medicine Unit, Milan, Italy
*Project:* Tracking down the host immunological and genetic determinants influencing the severity of Pseudomonas aeruginosa pneumonia

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**Eric Martinez**
CPBS FRE 3699 CNRS/UM, Cell Biology of Bacterial Infections, Montpellier, France
*Project:* Deciphering the macrophage response to *Coxiella* invenas OmpA

**John Penders**
Maastricht University Medical Centre, Medical Microbiology, Maastricht, Netherlands
*Project:* Impact of travel to resource-limited destinations on the gastrointestinal resistome

**Francesca Borgo**
Università degli Studi di Milano, Health Sciences, Milan, Italy
*Project:* Experimental and clinical study of the relationship between vancomycin MR in methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and the progression of left-sided MSa infective endocarditis

**Valentina Lanza**
Instituto Ramon y Cajal de Investigacion Sanitaria, Microbiology, Madrid, Spain
*Project:* Decrypting the nosocomial resistome using metagenomic targeted capture platforms towards metagenomic epidemiology in public health

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A year passes quickly
The time has flown by working on science and research, a central focus of the society. Everything is moving forward quickly and I am happy to have the Scientific Affairs Subcommittee (SAS) and many helpers within the society and the executive office, whose constant support I would like to acknowledge here. Together with all of you, it is fun to get things moving! Many thanks!

Research Grants – an ongoing success story
Last year, I reported on the improvements introduced to render the application and reviewing process more transparent and clearer, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of submissions and reviews. This year we introduced the annual alternation of grant submission topics. So in 2016 the projects only dealt with bacterial infections and diseases, resulting in a noticeable reduction in submissions [from 169 last year to 130 now] allowing us to increase the acceptance rate from 8% to 12%. For 2017 we are looking forward to focusing project submissions focusing on fungal, viral and parasitic infections and diseases. These two project areas will alternate every year. Along with the slightly reduced number of expert reviews required – three independently for each proposal – we were able to avoid the workload for each individual reviewer becoming too much. I would like to give special thanks to all experts and reviewers [listed on pages 66, 67], who have done a tremendous job evaluating the large number of proposals.

Also for the first time, we have allocated some additional funds to one or two excellent projects for which “the reviewers see a great potential and are of the opinion that they merit additional funds to take the topic further” [as stated on our website, www.escmid.org/researchgrants]. Juan Manuel Pericas from Spain submitted the highest scoring project and received a total of EUR 8,000, which was later increased to EUR 10,000. This sums up the topic: “Multidrug-resistant enteric pathogens: genomics and resistance mechanisms” by Dr. Pericas. The reviewers see “a great potential and believe the project is highly active in a field which needs bright people and strong collaboration.”

We will continue to monitor and promote the outcomes of our grant schemes as they strongly motivate us to invest in our young researchers.

Study Groups highly productive – again
As reported last year for 2014 activity, our 28 ESCMID Study Groups (SGs) have continued to be extremely active over the past year [see a list of their main activities on page 21 – 25]. Congratulations to all our groups – again! This year, I would like to highlight in particular our Antibiotic Policies Group, ESGAP. It is highly active in a field which needs bright people and strong collaboration. I highly recommend you read their interesting article about their past, present and future on page 20.

In order to illustrate the success of the funded research projects, we have started to list their published outcomes on our website. In 2015 11 articles supported by ESCMID grants were published. Of these, two especially deserve highlighting. The work by Rasmus Hare Hansen, Copenhagen, Denmark, co-funded by an ESCMID Research Grant in 2013, examines mutations in Candida albicans and its adaptation to antifungal exposure [1]. They describe their findings as the “first example of multidrug-resistance emerging in vivo in C. albicans” and concluded that “C. albicans demonstrates a diverse capacity to adapt to antifungal exposure. Potentially novel resistance-inducing mutations in TAC1, ERG11 and ERG2 require independent validation.” Despite the limitations stated in the article, the authors followed the stepwise emergence of multidrug-resistance by analysing Candida in a patient over time and scrutinized the observed changes by susceptibility testing, MLST, gene expression analysis and virulence determination in an insect model. Their novel hypothesis findings are an interesting basis for further studies.

The other article, co-funded by an ESCMID Research Grant 2011 to Thamarai Schneiders, Belfast, UK, describes microbial immune evasion strategies contributing to the development and persistence of antimicrobial resistance [2]. Thamarai Schneiders was previously awarded the New Investigator Research Award from the Medical Research Council to support her research into the intrinsically drug resistant regulator RamA in K. pneumoniae. She has now shown that RamA plays a role in both protection against antibiotic challenge and also against the innate host immune response thus resulting in Klebsiella that are less susceptible to antibiotics and simultaneously more virulent.” After transcriptional profiling, a number of genetic and regulator binding experiments were done (EMSA & IVT, mutant analyses) plus phenotypic microarray tests for antimicrobial susceptibility. In addition, host-pathogen interactions were studied in vitro (macrophages) and in vivo (mice). This sound investigation has revealed new aspects for further studies.

For more information see: www.escmid.org/science.

References

ESGAP, the ESMID study group on Antibiotic Policies, was formed in 1999 at ECCMID in Berlin. The link between antibiotic use and resistance is clear. Consequently, concerns about inappropriate antibiotic prescribing have never been greater. The reversal of resistance problems is often feasible by changing patterns of antibiotic use. Audits repeatedly show tremendous variations in standards for antibiotic prescription, but the common topic is one of unnecessary use. The group promotes educational and research activities on antimicrobial stewardship, and aims to involve ESGAP members and all other colleagues who feel responsible for the prudent use of antimicrobial agents, within the ESCMID Sections and Themes as well as their activities online at www.escmid.org/studygroups.

ESGAP provides a common forum for scientists and healthcare professionals involved in antimicrobial stewardship at local, national and international levels. It stimulates cooperation between other existing programmes and initiatives concerned with antibiotic resistance.

Postgraduate educational courses on various aspects of antimicrobial stewardship, traditionally organized just before ECCMID, are among the most visible ESGAP educational activities. Attendance of these courses has been growing in recent years, partly because of recognition of the course but also because of the increasing necessity for education in antibiotic stewardship. In addition, ESGAP has organized many workshops in different parts of Europe together with national professional societies, and provided faculty for various international conferences and educational events, including the South-East European Conference on Chemotherapy and Infection, Eurasia Congress of Infectious Diseases and ABS International, which helped bringing knowledge of antibiotic stewardship to various parts of Europe and beyond. ESGAP speakers regularly present at ICAAC. There is an ESGAP symposium included at 16th ASM Microbe conference this year.

Research activities focus on various aspects of antimicrobial stewardship. One of the achievements in the past was the ABC calculator for the measurement of antibiotic use in hospitals. The issue of forgotten antibiotics was addressed in 2011 and again in 2015. There have been a number of projects published: 2012 global survey on antimicrobial stewardship activities with ISC, an analysis of cefotin dosing with EPASG in 2014 and a survey on antibiotic treatment of endocarditis in 2015. In recent years ESGAP has focused on the education of medical students and trainees. A multi-centre study of European medical students’ knowledge, attitudes and practices of antibiotic prescribing and associated resistance was published in 2014, and in 2015 a large study that included more than 10,000 medical students across Europe was completed. Another survey looked at antimicrobial stewardship in the curricula of European medical schools. A more recent survey focused on the educational needs of young doctors in training. The ESGAP open virtual learning community (OVLC, at http://esgap.escmid.org) provides an excellent platform for communication among all professionals interested in antimicrobial stewardship. The platform provides information on all important achievements in this field, including guidelines, initiatives and interesting papers, and leaves space for discussion. For the last European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) the OVLC enabled the valuable exchange of specialists’ experiences across several countries.

The ESGAP newsletter regularly brings newsflashes on the most important topics such as educational or research activities, a special issue was published for the 2015 EADA together with EUCID. At the moment ESGAP has 93 members from 31 countries and all continents except Central and South America. The new executive committee of 15 members was formed in 2015 and consists of mostly young, enthusiastic scientists. We are very excited about our new research projects and educational activities for 2016 in which we would like to involve ESGAP members and all other colleagues who feel responsible for the prudent use of antimicrobial drugs. You are welcome to join us!

Being an ESGAP member will give you the following advantages:
- You will automatically receive ESGAP newsletters
- You will automatically be invited to subscribe to the ESGAP open virtual Learning Community (OVLC) so you can write and receive posts and participate in the forum.
- You can suggest research projects to the ESGAP Executive Committee.
- You may be invited to participate in ESGAP research projects.

News from our study groups

This yearbook looks back over the many activities performed by our study groups in the calendar year 2015. In general, the groups have
- contributed to the organization of 25 symposia, 17 educational workshops and 12 meet-the-expert sessions at ECCMID 2015 in Copenhagen
- organized 15 ESCMID Postgraduate Education Courses / Technical Workshops all over the world (see pages 36, 37).

Here is a selection of major achievements of the individual study groups in addition to the courses and ECCMID sessions mentioned above.

**ESGAI**
**European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases**

- Published three articles in Anaerobe on Bacteroides (ESGAI acknowledged).
- Runs the study group research project ‘Investigation of antimicrobial susceptibility patterns of Prevotella isolates in European countries’, study coordinator Nurver Uğur Toprak, Turkey. The study is almost finished.
- Runs the research project ‘Isolation and analysis of Bacteroides strains from faecal samples’. The study is financed by ESGAI resources.
- Runs ENRA (European network for rapid identification of anaerobes), a joint initiative of seven expert laboratories, supported by ESGAI and ESSEM.
- Developed the novel surveillance system for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, CAESAR, in collaboration with WHO Europe and RVIM, which published its first annual report in 2015. The system is compatible with EARS-Net, and focuses on isolates in only. ESGAI contributes with microbiological capacity building as well as methodology for surveillance and interpretation of data.
- Organized a multi-country workshop on AMR in Copenhagen in February 2015.
- Organized national workshops in Montenegro, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Armenia, Albania, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- Published the ESGM 2014 Guideline for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Bacterial Infections. CMI 2015; 21 (Suppl. 1), coordinated by ESGAI, supported by EPISG.
- Runs an annual online course on biolims, autumn 2015.

**EFISG**
**European Fungal Infection Study Group**

- Close to publishing the ESCMID guidelines for the diagnosis and management of Aspergillosis diseases in collaboration with ESGIC, ECMM, ERS.
- Collaborated with the ESCMID Biofilm Study Group on the biofilm guideline (completed and published 2015).
- Co-organized the 7th Trends in Medical Mycology (TMM), 9 – 12 October 2015, Lisbon, Portugal.

**EFWSIG**
**European Society for Clinical Mycology and Infectious Diseases**

- Published the article ‘Spectrum of enteropathogens detected by the FilmArrayGI Panel in a multi-centre study of community-acquired gastroenteritis’. A Spina, KG Kerr, M Cormican; F Barbuto, A Eigentler, L Zerva, P Tassios, GA Pospescu, A Ralha, E Erenola, J Batista, M Maass, R Aschbacher, KEP Olsen, F Allerberger. CMI 2015; 8:219 – 28. (EFWSIG acknowledged)
- Runs the European multicentre prospective quarterly point prevalence study of community-acquired diarrhea (EUCLID), study coordinator Franz Allerberger, Austria.
- Runs the study group research project ‘Discrimination of Salmonella non-typhoid high-risk clones by high-throughput spectroscopic techniques (MALDI-TOF and FTIR-ATR)’, study coordinator Maria V Pires, Portugal.

**EPASG**
**European Society of Clinical Mycology and Infectious Diseases**

- Collaborates with ESCOP on a survey of current practice of nebulizing antibiotics in mechanically ventilated patients, corresponding to the evidence-based guideline project (ESGCP).
- Distributes a study grant of EUR 1,000 annually to foster collaboration between laboratories and help mentor young investigators.
- Runs a project ESGAI NO4ABBI programme (OPHAB [re-investment in R&D and responsible antibiotic use]), study coordinator Ursula Theuretzbacher.
• Runs study group research project ‘Exploring the genomics tool for clinical microbiology and infection control (especially with biobanks)’, a joint initiative of seven expert laboratories, supported by ESGITM.

ESGROR
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Collaborated with UEMS ID to publish Ebola guidance on websites of European countries (published online January 2015)

• Contributed ESGITM sessions to the 7th Eurasia Congress of Infectious Diseases (EACID), 30 September – 3 October 2015, Tbilisi, Georgia

ESGIL
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Published two articles on Legionella detection in J Infect Clin Microbial Infect Dis

• Organized the ESGIL MEETING, London, UK, 16 – 17 September 2015

• Runs project to improve MALDI-TOF MS databases by two major manufacturers bioMérieux and Bruker

ESGIP
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Organized the satellite postgraduate technical workshop ‘Modem management of cystic and alveolar echinococcosis and other cestoda infections’ at the 26th World Congress on Echino- coccossis, Bucharest, Romania, 3 – 4 Oct 2015

• Runs the study group research project ‘Improving and harmonizing Leishmania molecular diagnostics in Europe’, study coordinator Peter Chiodini, United Kingdom

ESGIV
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Runs the study group research project ‘Reviewing prevention measures and evaluating the burden of toxoplasmosis in transplant patients in European countries’ [in collaboration with ESGICH], study coordinator Florence Robert-Gangneux, France

ESGMO
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Runs the study group research project ‘Epigenetic control of meningococcal pathogenicity of Listeria monocytogenes’, study coordinator Marco Rinaldo Oggioni, UK

• Runs guidelines project for diagnosis and treatment of bacterial meningitis, publication ongoing

ESGBIS
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Runs two study group research projects in collaboration with ESGI (one on Staphylococcus capitis and one on intra-cardiac device infections)

• Coordinates two large clinical studies on bloodstream infections. INCREMENT and BICROME

• Received a Marie Curie International Training Grant (MC ITN) for the European Sepsis Academy, an international training network for PhD students in the field of bloodstream infections and sepsis studies, study coordinator Joost Wiersinga, Netherlands

• Supports the International Staphylococcus aureus collaboration (ISAC) trials initiative

ESGBOR
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• ESGBOR/ESCMD expert Franc Strle, Slovenia, contributes to IDSA’s Lyme borreliosis medical guideline project

• Runs study group research project ‘Exploring the genomics tool box for tick-borne bacterial pathogens of the Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato species complex’, study coordinator Gabriele Margos, Germany

• Runs EU-wide external quality assessment study on the sensitivity and specificity of different DNA amplification protocols for detection of Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato, study coordinator Volker Fingerle, Germany

• Co-organized the International Conference on Lyme Borreliosis and other tick-borne diseases / ICLB2015, Vienna, Austria, 27 – 30 Sep 2015

ESGCH
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Published the article ‘Current preventive strategies and management of Epstein-Barr virus related post-transplant lymphoproliferative disease in solid organ transplantation in Europe. Results of the ESGICH Questionnaire-based Cross-sectional Survey’, CMI 2015; 21 (5): e43–e44

• Runs three multicentre studies on prosthetic joint infections [resistant Gram-negatives, streptococci and suppressive antibiotic therapy]

ESGCT
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases


ESGDO
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Published two articles on bacitracin resistance in enterobacteria in J Infect Dis 2015; 21 (5): e43–e44

• Runs study group research project ‘Epigenetic control of meningococcal pathogenicity of Listeria monocytogenes’, study coordinator Marco Rinaldo Oggioni, UK

• Runs guidelines project for diagnosis and treatment of bacterial meningitis, publication ongoing

ESGEC
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Organized the satellite postgraduate technical workshop ‘Modem management of cystic and alveolar echinococcosis and other cestoda infections’ at the 26th World Congress on Echinococciosis, Bucharest, Romania, 3 – 4 Oct 2015

• Runs the study group research project ‘Improving and harmonizing Leishmania molecular diagnostics in Europe’, study coordinator Peter Chiodini, United Kingdom

ESGEM
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Co-organized the capacity-building workshop ‘Next-gen technology for clinical microbiology and infection control [especially typing of S. aureus and MRSA]’, March 2015, Münster, Germany

• Co-organized the capacity-building workshop ‘Next-gen technology for clinical microbiology and infection control [especially typing of CRE]’, October 2015, Groningen, Netherlands

• Runs ENRIA (European network for rapid identification of anater- obes), a joint initiative of seven expert laboratories, supported by ESGAI and ESGEM

ESGFI
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Published article with ESGFIR acknowledgment on ‘Detection of alpha human papillomaviruses in archival formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue specimens’. Kocjan BJ, Hodnjak L, Poljak M. J Clin Viral 2015

• Runs press release jointly with ESGOM. ESGM launches study groups to create networks for forensic and veterinarian microbiology

• Prepares the launch of an intersociety task force in postmortem microbiology with the European Society of Pathology

ESGFR
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Published a series of reviews authored by ESGFE members in the CMI thematic section entitled ‘Infections in the elderly’, addressing antibiotic prescribing, polypharmacy, antibiotic stewardship and ethical considerations in the elderly. CMI 2015 Jan;21(1)

• Runs the Study Group Research Grant project ‘The participation of the elderly in randomized controlled trials of antibiotic treat- ment’, study coordinator Mical Paul, Israel

• Collaborated with ESGAP and ESGNI on a b-DMIC survey on staffing status and needs

• Published three articles with ESGIB acknowledgement in BMC In- fection Diseases, BMC Genomics, Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis

• Runs study group research project ‘Epigenetic control of meningococcal pathogenicity of Listeria monocytogenes’, study coordinator Marco Rinaldo Oggioni, UK

• Runs guidelines project for diagnosis and treatment of bacterial meningitis, publication ongoing

ESGIB
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Published three articles with ESGIB acknowledgement in BMC Infections Diseases, BMC Genomics, Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis

• Runs study group research project ‘Epigenetic control of meningococcal pathogenicity of Listeria monocytogenes’, study coordinator Marco Rinaldo Oggioni, UK

• Runs guidelines project for diagnosis and treatment of bacterial meningitis, publication ongoing

ESGIP
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• University of Tübingen/University of Freiburg: two-year Research Training Group ‘Infectious Diseases in the Elderly’ study coordinator Patricia Imhof, Germany

• Runs the study group research project ‘Improving and harmonizing Leishmania molecular diagnostics in Europe’, study coordinator Peter Chiodini, United Kingdom

• Runs the study group research project ‘Reviewing prevention measures and evaluating the burden of toxoplasmosis in transplant patients in European countries’ [in collaboration with ESGICH], study coordinator Florence Robert-Gangneux, France

ESGJ
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Organized the satellite postgraduate technical workshop ‘Modem management of cystic and alveolar echinococcosis and other cestoda infections’ at the 26th World Congress on Echinococciosis, Bucharest, Romania, 3 – 4 Oct 2015

• Runs the study group research project ‘Improving and harmonizing Leishmania molecular diagnostics in Europe’, study coordinator Peter Chiodini, United Kingdom

• Runs the study group research project ‘Reviewing prevention measures and evaluating the burden of toxoplasmosis in transplant patients in European countries’ [in collaboration with ESGICH], study coordinator Florence Robert-Gangneux, France

ESGK
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

• Published the article ‘Preventive and therapeutic strategies in Clostridium difficile infection of the incidence of Clostridium difficile infection in patients with nosocomial diarrhea’ [EUCLID, Astellas-sponsored point prevalence study coordinated by Mark Wilcox]
ESGMD European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Co-organized the 9th European Meeting on Molecular Diagnostics (EMMD), Huis ter Duin, Noordwijk, Netherlands, 14 – 16 October 2015 (Paul Savelkoul, Marijke Raymaekers) and the 18th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Virology (ESCV), Edinburgh, UK, 9 – 12 September 2015 (Kate Templeton).
- Runs study group research project ‘Pilot study on the microbiome of the appendix and gut in acute appendicitis’, study coordinator Inge Gyssens, Netherlands.

ESGMYC European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Published the article ‘Multidrug-resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis of the Latin American Mediterranean lineage wrongly identified as Mycobacterium pinnipedii (ST863) causing active tuberculosis in south Brazil’. Dalila Costa ER et al. J Clin Microbiol. 2015 (ESGMYC acknowledged).
- Collaborates with the ERLTB-Net group of ECCM for recommendations on antibiotic susceptibility testing on mycobacteria and participating in the EUCAST subgroup on mycobacteria.
- Runs medical guidelines project ‘Guidelines for non-tuberculous mycobacteria’ jointly with European Respiratory Society, American Thoracic Society and ISCA, study coordinator Emmanuelle Cambau, France.

ESGNI European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Coordinates together with ESGAP the project ‘ESCMID Study Groups’ competencies in antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship (ESCAPS) to explore a consensus for antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship competences with contributions from a number of other study groups.
- Collaborates with ESGAP and ESSIE on a 1D-EM-IC survey on staffing status and needs.
- Participates in the European Network in Infection Control and EUCIC, liaison Barry Cookson, United Kingdom.

ESGMI European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Runs collaborative multi-centre evaluation of quantitative PCR assays to detect Mycoplasma pneumoniae involving several members of ESGMI from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Sweden, UK and US.

ESGS European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Runs two study group research projects in collaboration with ESGBS [one on Staphylococcus capitis and one on intracardiac device infections].
- Organized external quality control (EGC, Olivier Denis and Anne Deplan), both from Belgium for Staphylococcus aureus identification, typing and resistance with 11 laboratories volunteering.
- Runs a project to study CA-MRSA prevalence in skin and soft tissue infections with the aim of setting up a prospective multicentre study involving patients presenting to emergency departments with SSTIs in several European countries, to identify the role and the respective contribution of MSSA, MRSA and PVL producing S. aureus strains as causative agents of SSTIs.

ESGVH European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Published four articles with ESGVH acknowledgement, two on therapy in HIV/HCV co-infected patients in Liver Int and J Hepatol, on acute hepatitis C in CMI, on chronic hepatitis B in CMI.
- Runs and funds the project ‘Low HRV-Replication in Adherent TDF/FTV treated patients, magnitude and determinants, the LoHRA study, a European surveillance network’, study coordinator Karine Lacombe, France.

ESGV European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Organized the 1st International Conference on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance (ICOHAR), Copenhagen, September 30 – October 4 2015.
- Published press release jointly with ESGFOR: ESCMID launches study groups to create networks for forensic and veterinary microbiology.

ESGVH European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Runs and funds the project ‘Low HBV-Replication in Adherent TDF/FTV-treated patients, magnitude and determinants, the LoHRA study, a European surveillance network’, study coordinator Karine Lacombe, France.

EVASG European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Co-organized the 9th European Meeting on Molecular Diagnostics (EMMD), Huis ter Duin, Noordwijk, Netherlands, 14 – 16 October 2015 (Paul Savelkoul, Marijke Raymaekers) and the 18th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Virology (ESCV), Edinburgh, UK, 9 – 12 September 2015 (Kate Templeton).
- Runs study group research project ‘Pilot study on the microbiome of the appendix and gut in acute appendicitis’, study coordinator Inge Gyssens, Netherlands.
ESCIMD Medical Guidelines

www.escmid.org/guidelines

ESCIMD actively supports the publication of high-quality, evidence-based guidance to support best medical practice in the diagnosis and management of infectious diseases.

A major change compared with recent years is the shift from accepting medical guidelines written by our study groups towards a regularly updated core set that can be used to improve patient care. To ensure a high level of consistency among all guidelines, we have been working intensively on the operating procedures [see www.escmid.org/eop for the current version]. ESCIMD will require the guideline drafting groups to comply with the set procedures, especially the usage of GRADE and the publication in the Society’s journal Clinical Microbiology and Infection (CMI).

The past year, we also have set up a process for consistent internal reviewing and public consultation for all our guidelines. This process has been successfully implemented for two guidelines: “Diagnosis of Clostridium difficile – update” and “Diagnosis and treatment of bacterial meningitis”. In both cases, a large number of comments have been submitted. The authors were grateful to receive feedback and diligently replied and included suggestions in the final documents. For the sake of transparency, the comments and authors’ replies will be published on the ESCIMD website along with the final version of the guidelines.

Individual study groups are free to produce position papers and systematic reviews. Such activity will be taken into account in the study group evaluation, but will not require approval by the ESCIMD Executive Committee.

The Central Asian and Eastern European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (CAESAR) network is a joint initiative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe), the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and ESCIMD. CAESAR was established to build and strengthen antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance systems in those European countries that do not belong to EARSS-Net, the European Union’s AMR surveillance network, coordinated by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). The objectives of the AMR focal points appointed in each country, territory or area are to promote national coordination and systematic reviews. Such activity will be taken into account in the study group evaluation, but will not require approval by the ESCIMD Executive Committee.

Asymptomatic bacteriuria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guideline</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chronic pulmonary aspergillosis</td>
<td>ERS/ESCIMD</td>
<td>Published 2016 (ERJ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment of biofilm infections</td>
<td>ESCIMD (ESGB)</td>
<td>Published 2015 (CMI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The diagnosis and management of vertebral osteomyelitis</td>
<td>IDSA (ESCMId endorsed)</td>
<td>Published 2015 (CID)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infection control measures for MDR Gram-negative bacteria in the healthcare setting</td>
<td>ESCIMD</td>
<td>Published 2014 (CMI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnosis and treatment of emerging fungal diseases</td>
<td>ESCIMD/ECMM (EFISG)</td>
<td>Published 2014 (CMI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment of Clostridium difficile – update</td>
<td>ESCIMD (ESSCD)</td>
<td>Published 2014 (CMI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnosis of Clostridium difficile – update</td>
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<td>Publication planned in 2016 (in CMF review)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment of Clostridium difficile – update</td>
<td>ESCIMD (ESSCD)</td>
<td>Publication planned in 2016 (in CMF review)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis and treatment of bacterial meningitis</td>
<td>ESCIMD (ESGB)</td>
<td>Publication planned in 2016 (in CMF review)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis and treatment of Aspergillus diseases</td>
<td>ESCIMD/ECMM/ERS (EFISG)</td>
<td>Publication planned in 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</td>
<td>ERS/ESCMID/ESCMID</td>
<td>Publication planned in 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical practice guidelines on leishmaniasis</td>
<td>IDSA/ESCMID/ASTMH</td>
<td>Publication planned in 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asymptomatic bacteriuria</td>
<td>IDSA/ESCMID</td>
<td>Started 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clostridium difficile infection control – update</td>
<td>ESCMID (ESSCD)</td>
<td>Started 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intra-abdominal infections</td>
<td>IDSA/ESCMID</td>
<td>Started 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wound-related infections</td>
<td>IDSA/ESCMID</td>
<td>Started 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventilator-associated pneumonia</td>
<td>IDSA/ESCMID</td>
<td>Started 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymec bactereiosis</td>
<td>IDSA/ANDACR (ESCMID endorsement)</td>
<td>Started 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surviving sepsis campaign – revision 2016</td>
<td>ISF/ESCMID</td>
<td>Started 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nontuberculous mycobacteria</td>
<td>IDSA/ATC/ERS/ESCMID</td>
<td>Started 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In July 2015 a Proof of Principle (PoP) pilot study to promote good sampling habits, diagnostics and antibiotic stewardship started in Tbilisi, Georgia. The first results were presented by the national coordinator of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health at a training course on antimicrobial resistance surveillance and stewardship in Istanbul, Turkey, in November 2015. The PoP study was designed to address the underutilization of microbiological diagnostics by stimulating the appropriate collection of clinical samples (blood samples) at the hospital level, and routine surveillance of micro-organisms causing bloodstream infections at the local and central laboratory levels.

In 2016/17 CAESAR will continue to support countries in setting up national AMR surveillance networks, implementing ECAST guidelines for antimicrobial susceptibility testing. CAESAR will promote laboratory quality management systems based on international quality standards and provide training to expand its pool of experts. It will initiate PoP studies in at least two additional countries to improve blood sampling habits and routine diagnostics for patient treatment and local and national surveillance purposes. The network also plans to publish a second annual report, covering 2 years of surveillance data, during World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW/EAAD) in November 2016, and will conduct a fourth External Quality Assessment (EQA) in collaboration with ECDC and NEQAS.

The first annual CAESAR report, published in 2015 listing results for 2013, provides background information on the national AMR surveillance networks as well as the antimicrobial susceptibility testing results on invasive isolates reported from Belarus, Serbia, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. It is available at http://bit.ly/1jW4Y. It also reports the results of EQAs for antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST). The vast majority of CAESAR countries participate in the annual CAE-

In 2015, WHO/Europe, RIVM and ESCIMD organized a number of workshops and meetings focusing on AMR surveillance, antibiotic stewardship and laboratory quality management. This included a CAESAR network meeting as well as national and multi-country workshops on AMR. CAESAR has also developed a training module to expand and train its pool of experts. Last year WHO/Europe provided grants to CAESAR countries to hold national AMR surveillance network meetings, which were held in Serbia, Belarus, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro in November and December 2015.

Most CAESAR countries have now had their primary country situation analysis. The most recent were performed by WHO/Europe together with RIVM and ESCIMD in Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan. In 2015, National workshops, meetings and additional consultation visits to set up national AMR surveillance networks, susceptibility testing, quality assessment (QA) as well as data collection and analysis were performed in the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Armenia, Albania, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.
The 25th edition of the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (ECCMID) was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 25–28 April 2015. Taking over as ECCMID Programme Director from Jordi Vila, who achieved a record result with his last congress in Barcelona a year earlier, I knew I had big shoes to fill.

I was happy and am even prouder that the Copenhagen first time in ECCMID’s history, the largest number of delegates came to the congress has established itself well beyond its tries – almost matching the 2014 ECCMID record (Table 1). For the Director from Jordi Vila, who achieved a record result with his last Kingdom, Germany, France and Spain (Figure 2). This is testimony to fact that the congress has established itself well beyond its original European base. It has, in fact, become the largest of its kind, bringing together clinicians, scientists, public health experts and delegates from diagnostic and drug companies and other experts in infection and microbiology from across the globe.

The ECCMID Programme Committee wanted the scientific programme to be balanced and attractive for all attendees, with presentations on diagnostics, prevention and treatment in bacteriology, virology, mycology and parasitology as well as infection control. We had to reject almost a quarter of the more than 4,000 abstracts submitted – a healthy ratio in my view that serves to maintain the top-level quality of the presentations. We used a new, advanced scoring system to evaluate the scientific proposals, which allowed committee members to make even more objective and transparent decisions. The congress attendees were obviously happy with the range and choice of presentations. More than 3,000 abstracts were presented, including 2,500 as printed or electronic posters.

The speakers and chairs came from 45 countries (Figure 3). They delivered more than 200 workshops, sessions and lectures, all geared towards participants with different levels of experience and expertise. The programme included 25 educational workshops, 11 keynote lectures, 18 meet-the-expert sessions, 59 symposia, 39 oral sessions and 24 industry-sponsored symposia. The exhibition was large, featuring 162 companies which complemented the scientific programme with their new products and product developments. Between sessions and exploring the exhibition, attendees increasingly use the vibrant platform at ECCMID to network with colleagues across all disciplines. A major innovation was that a EUCAST session was broadcast live to China.

The most popular sessions included a keynote lecture on antibiotic use in intensive care by Marc Bonten, a well-known specialist in clinical and molecular infection epidemiology at the UMC in Utrecht, Netherlands, who was presented with the ESCMID Award for Excellence. Other presentations that drew large crowds were pro-con debates, the year-in-review sessions as well as a talk by a representative of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), who was honoured with the special excellence award in recognition of the charity’s work fighting infectious disease outbreaks such as the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. There were many other superb meetings and several times I was unhappy to have missed some for reasons of time and commitments elsewhere.

During a session dedicated to late-breaking abstracts, researchers presented brand-new data, including studies on the efficacy of a new herpes zoster vaccine and studies with new therapeutic compounds. The ECCMID Programme Committee in 2015 received a record number of 181 late-breaking abstract submissions compared with 36 a year earlier. In addition to this attractive format, a dozen small and medium-sized pharmaceutical companies took the opportunity to showcase their products in early stages of development in the new pipeline corner.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everybody who made ECCMID 2015 such a success. My thanks in particular go to my friends and colleagues on the programme committee who spent considerable time and effort to develop such an attractive programme, to all the dedicated reviewers who helped assess the submitted abstracts, and to the people in the ESCMID executive office, whom I kept busy all the time and who solved every problem in a highly professional manner. Looking back on Copenhagen, I have a good feeling for what is coming next: ECCMID 2016 in Amsterdam, where we should strive and work together to achieve another exceptional meeting.

Table 1. Key ECCMID figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abstracts</th>
<th>Scientific programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submitted abstracts</td>
<td>4,363 (including LB 101)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>295 (280 + LB 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster</td>
<td>1,491 (1,464 + LB 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ePoster Oral</td>
<td>241 (239 + LB 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ePoster Poster</td>
<td>1,315 (1,293 + LB 22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report</td>
<td>96 (89 + LB 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sessions

Educational workshops 20
IDF Transavia Day 1
Meet-the-Expert 18
Keynote 13
Symposia (2 hours) 39
Symposia (1 hour) 20
ePoster Oral 24
Oral Session (2 hours) 18
Oral Session (1 hour) 21
Integrated Symposium 27

Sponsorship & Exhibition

Sponsors 34
Exhibition Sq. M 4,555

Press

Registered journalists 60
Press releases 8

Top 10 countries

1. USA 6. Italy
2. United Kingdom 7. Denmark
3. Germany 8. Netherlands
4. France 9. Switzerland
5. Spain 10. Sweden

Key ECCMID figures

- Active participants 9,002 (from 112 countries)
- Total attendance 10,677
- Top 10 countries
  - 1. USA
  - 2. United Kingdom
  - 3. Germany
  - 4. France
  - 5. Spain
  - 6. Italy
  - 7. Denmark
  - 8. Netherlands
  - 9. Switzerland
  - 10. Sweden

Figure 1. Number of delegates and abstracts received for ECCMID since 1983 (no abstracts Figure for 1985)

Figure 2. Geographical analysis of participants
- Europe 72%
- North America 4%
- Asia 6%
- South & Central America 5%
- Middle East & North Africa 4%
- Australasia & New Zealand 2%
- Africa 29%

Figure 3. Country of origin of Speakers and Chairs
- 45 countries
- 362 speakers and chairs

25th ECCMID 2015 Copenhagen, DK

Winfried V. Kern
ECCMID 2015 Programme Director

winfried.kern@escmid.org
It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 26th ECCMID, which is being held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, from 9 – 12 April 2016. This year’s ECCMID had already suffered an unfortunate start, before we even started assessing abstracts and developing the final programme. For the first time in ECCMID’s history, the organizers decided to relocate the congress to another, probably safer location if at all possible. Amsterdam came in as a potential solution. Lucky enough to have identified that option and at the same time extremely sad to have to give up Istanbul, Turkey – our current president’s home country and – because of its position on the Bosphorus literally and symbolically the gateway to Asia. We wanted to demonstrate that we are willing and ready to open up to regions beyond Europe, including in particular, but not only, the Middle East and Asia. Unexpectedly the situation seemed to become rather unstable with political unrest in the whole region and unprecedented flows of refugees. In view of the Ankara attack last October, we suddenly had to decide whether it was in the interest of ECCMID attendees and all stakeholders to relocate the congress to another, probably safer location if at all possible. Amsterdam came in as a potential solution. Luckily enough to have identified that option and at the same time extremely sad to have to give up Istanbul, Turkey, we felt forced to take that decision. Be assured, the spirit of the planned Istanbul ECCMID will be taken to Amsterdam. Our partners from Turkey and its surrounding regions and all other attendees will experience an ECCMID without borders from East to West, they will send our message of commitment to mutual respect, understanding, cooperation and support far and wide.

As in previous years, the most popular sessions will include the keynote lectures and presentations from Young Investigator Awardees as well as oral presentations on ground-breaking research approaches and findings. The keynote speeches will include presentations of innovative approaches to vaccines, the microbiome, tuberculosis therapies, ecological and economic aspects of antimicrobial resistance. This year’s late-breaking abstracts have been accepted for all topics but we particularly want to provide a platform for early-stage antimicrobial therapies to a wider audience. For the second time, ECCMID will feature a pipeline corner where innovative drug companies will be offered a platform to present their research findings into diagnostic tools, medicines, guidelines, policies and education. The Clinical Grand Rounds, chaired by international experts, will feature several multifaceted cases and, in meet-the-expert sessions, young professionals will have the opportunity to discuss their ideas and projects with renowned experts during round table discussions. The ECCMID workshops, organized by ESCMID’s study groups, the trainee association TAE and EUCAST, will offer superb networking opportunities in addition to their educational value.

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The ECCMID programme committee has once again prepared a series of about 150 top-notch presentations, including keynote lectures, symposia, oral sessions, educational workshops and meet-the-experts sessions as well as more than 2,000 poster presentations. We have made the presentations even more interactive than in previous years, allowing participants to be actively involved and get the optimal benefit from the sessions. At the 2016 congress, leaders and specialists from all disciplines in the fields of microbiology and infectious diseases will be discussing the latest developments and hot topics. Scientists will present findings, recommendations and award-winning research projects and will respond to the most pressing scientific questions in infection diagnosis, prevention and clinical care and management.

We expect around 10,000 participants who are keen to learn about the latest research, therapeutic approaches and strategies in the battle against infectious diseases. Microbiologists, clinicians, public health and infection control experts will have the opportunity to exchange opinions and ideas on how to translate research findings into diagnostic tools, medicines, guidelines, policies and education. The Clinical Grand Rounds, chaired by international experts, will feature several multifaceted cases and, in meet-the-expert sessions, young professionals will have the opportunity to discuss their ideas and projects with renowned experts during round table discussions. The ECCMID workshops, organized by ESCMID’s study groups, the trainee association TAE and EUCAST, will offer superb networking opportunities in addition to their educational value.

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ESCMID/ASM Conference on Drug Development to Meet the Challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance

Vienna, Austria
21 – 23 September 2016

Organizing Committee
David Hooper, Boston, USA
William Hope, Liverpool, UK
Gunnar Kahlmeter, Växjö, SE
Ursula Theuretzbacher, Vienna, AT

Programme Committee
William Hope, Liverpool, UK
Gunnar Kahlmeter, Växjö, SE
Jason Roberts, Brisbane, AU
Keith Rodvold, Chicago, USA
Ursula Theuretzbacher, Vienna, AT

Contact: vienna2016@escmid.org
Find more information and registration information on our website www.escmid.org/Vienna2016

• Discovery efforts in the face of AMR
• Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics
• Update on Regulatory Processes by EMA and FDA
• Breakpoints for new agents
• Clinical trial design for AMR
• Development of new drugs for special populations
• Setting AMR research funded
• Interactive sessions: bring your drug development problem and ask!

ESCMID Educational Activities

Review of the educational activities 2015

ESCMID is becoming more and more global – this underlying trend is also recognizable from the recent Education Programme. Out of 21 competitive course proposals, the Education Subcommittee chose and organized a series of educational events consisting of 11 educational courses and 5 technical workshops. Three were held outside Europe [Tunis, Delhi and Beijing] which clearly underlines ESCMID’s aspiration to become a global player. For the first time in ESCMID’s history, two courses took place on Asian ground. Both courses were very well received [over 120 highly content participating participants in Delhi, nearly 100 participants in Beijing] proving that ESCMID has trodden the right path. The other courses were held, following a long standing tradition, in cities across Europe such as Kayseri, Maribor, Warsaw, Barcelona and Copenhagen.

The number of participants varied depending on the type and format of the course. Most of the educational courses attracted between 30 and 40 participants, whereas the attendance numbers for technical workshops were a bit smaller in order to guarantee close interaction during practical sessions.

The 14th Summer School took place in Istanbul during 4 to 11 July 2015. ESCMID has achieved a new all-time record with 69 participants from all over the world. As usual the Summer School programme included lectures by international experts on diverse, highly interesting topics in infectious diseases and clinical microbiology, workshops and student presentations, all in a friendly atmosphere. The participants not only had the opportunity to attend the state-of-the-art lectures by experts in the fields of CM and ID and network with renowned specialists, but also enjoyed the social activities in such a vibrant city [sightseeing, Bosphorus boat ride, etc.].

ESCMID helps junior members to attend courses and workshops by offering them grants. Some of our colleagues early in their careers struggle financially, especially when practising in countries with a much lower cost of living than those where the courses are held. The course organizers, with the help of the ESCMID Executive Office, select the grant recipients. The Education Programme provides excellent opportunities for these members to develop professionally so please encourage your less well-off and inexperienced colleagues to apply for courses and, where necessary, funding. While attending courses and workshops in person brings the most benefit, all members have access to the Online Lecture Library (OLL), which includes presentations of all our educational activities and is available to ESCMID members at www.escmid.org/OLL.

Outlook for 2016

ESCMID’s aim is to strengthen its international network by organizing more courses outside Europe. Among the 20 events planned for 2016, for the first time there will be a course in Cape Town, South Africa, and also one in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. The rest of the courses will be held in cities all over Europe.

Another novelty will be introduced in 2016: for the first time, the newly formed study groups for veterinary microbiology [ESGVM] and forensic and post-mortem microbiology [ESGFOR] will contribute to the 2016 Education Programme by organizing a course on “Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterinary Medicine” [Gothenburg] and “Application of Molecular Diagnostics in Forensic Microbiology” [Leuven] respectively.

Once again the programme looks very exciting... See the calendar section on the society’s website for details of the courses.

Another goal for 2016 is to launch our E-Learning portal where our members can engage in interactive learning modules. Full details will be announced shortly.

I am very happy to announce that the next Summer School will be held in my home city, Seville, Spain, from 2 to 9 July 2016. Registration is open and details can be found online at www.escmid.org/summerschool16.

We have already contacted all Study Groups and Affiliated Societies to ask for their ideas for the 2017 programme to be submitted by the end of May 2016 so we can meet our mid-July deadline for the full programme. Members are welcome to contact us with ideas for future courses and workshops, of course, we highly recommend taking part in this year’s programme.

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

**Indigenous Parasitic Diseases in Europe**
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop 6 – 8 May 2015, Pavia, Italy
Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP), University of Pavia, WHO Collaborating Centre for Clinical Management of Cystic Echinococcosis, Hospital for Tropical Diseases London and UK National External Quality Assessment Service for Parasitology

**Management of Infections in Critically Ill Patients: a Hands-on Course on Current Challenges and Future Directions**
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course 8 – 9 May 2015, Grado, Italy
Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Critically Ill Patients (ESGDCIP) and Società italiana di terapia Antinfettiva, Antibatterica, Antivirale, Antifungina (SITA)

**Educational Programme on Transplant Virology**
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course 11 – 12 June 2015, Lausanne, Switzerland
Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Compromised Hosts (ESGGCH) and the ESCMID Study Group for Viral Hepatitis (ESGVH)

**Clostridium Difficile: Practical Aspects of Diagnostics, Typing and Comparative Genomics**
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop 2 – 4 September 2015, Maribor, Slovenia
Organized by the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), Vienna, Austria, Faculty of Medicine, University of Maribor, Slovenia, National Laboratory for Health, Environment and Food (NLZKI), Maribor, Slovenia, and the ESCMID Study Group for Clostridium difficile (ESGCD)

**Improving Patient Safety: the Neglected Impact of Age and Gender**
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop 2 – 4 September 2015, Barcelona, Spain
Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP), Maastricht University Medical Centre, Health Laboratory Services, South Africa and the ESCMID Study Group for Mycobacterial Infections (ESGMYC)

**Carbapenemases in Enterobacteriaceae: Challenges and Preparedness**
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course 24 – 25 September 2015, Verona, Italy
Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (ESGRAS), European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC) and the Italian Society for Microbiology

**Capacity-building Workshop: Rapid NGS for Characterization and Typing of Resistant Gram-Negative Bacilli**
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop 2 – 4 September 2015, Groningen, Netherlands
Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Epidemiological Markers (ESGEM), ESCMID Study Group for Molecular Diagnostics (ESGMD), University Medical Center Groningen, Department of Medical Microbiology and EurSafeHealth.Net

**Moving Antimicrobial Stewardship Forward in Special Population Settings**
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course 5 – 6 November 2015, Ferney-Voltaire, France
Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in the Elderly (ESGIE), ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies (ESGAP), ESCMID PK/PD of Anti-Infectives Study Group (EPASG), Anemcy-Genevos Hospital Centre (CHANGE) and Société de Pathologie Infectieuse de Langue Française (SPLIF)

**Improving the Dosage of Old Antibiotics**
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course 19 – 21 November 2015, Warsaw, Poland
Organized by the ESCMID PK/PD of Anti-Infectives Study Group (EPASG) and AIDA (EU FP7 funded project)

**Microbiology for Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases: ABC and XYZ**
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course 20 – 21 November 2015, Beijing, China
Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP), Chinese Medical Association (CMA), branch of Microbiology and Immunology, Beijing Medical Doctor Association (BMDA) and The Hong Kong Society for Infectious Diseases (HKSID)

**Preparation and Research in Enterococci**
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop 7 – 8 April 2016, Ijmuiden Aan Zee, Netherlands
Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies (ESGAP) and the Dutch Working Party on Antibiotic Policy (SWAB) and ESCMID Study Group for Nosocomial Infections (ESGNI)

**Antimicrobial Stewardship: a Practical and Integrated Approach**
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course 7 – 8 April 2016, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates
Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies (ESGAP) and the Dutch Working Party on Antibiotic Policy (SWAB) and ESCMID Study Group for Nosocomial Infections (ESGNI)

**Parasitic Infections of the Arabian Peninsula – a Theoretical and Practical Update**
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop 17 – 19 March 2016, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates
Organized by the Immunoregulation and Infection Research Priority Group, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, United Arab Emirates University and the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP)

**Diagnosis and Management of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis**
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop 18 – 19 January 2016, Cape Town, South Africa
Organized by the University of Cape Town, South Africa, National Health Laboratory Services, South Africa and the ESCMID Study Group for Mycobacterial Infections (ESGMYC)

**2nd Course on Principles of Molecular Microbiological Diagnostics**
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course 20 – 22 January 2016, Maastricht, Netherlands
Organized by the ESCMID Study Group for Molecular Diagnostics (ESGMD), ESCMID Study Group for Epidemiological Markers (ESGEM) and Maastricht University Medical Centre
Sibel Ascioglu
14th ESCMID Summer School Co-Director,
Ankara, Turkey
ascioglu@hacettepe.edu.tr

The 14th ESCMID Summer School took place in Istanbul 4–11 July, 2015. Acibadem University campus on the Anatolian side of Istanbul welcomed students from widely distant parts of the world; including but not limited to Nigeria, China, Iraq, India, Australia and Europe. A comfortable dormitory of the housing institution accommodated both the students and the faculty. A total of 69 students from 25 countries attended this year’s edition, and ESCMID financed 10 of them with an attendance grant, in addition to 21 students supported by different Turkish professional societies.

Sibel Ascioglu (Ankara) and Tanıl Kocagöz (Istanbul) directed this year’s summer school. The programme was, as always, comprehensive and covered a wide range of topics from clinical microbiology and infectious diseases, as well as offering lectures on research methodology and statistics. The target audience of the ESCMID Summer Schools is early-career MDs at the end of their specialty training as well as biologists, pharmacists, PhD students and postdoctoral fellows working in the fields of infectious diseases and clinical microbiology. Renowned faculty members from 12 countries were invited to share their expert knowledge and interact with these future specialists in the field. Both the current and future presidents of ESCMID and members of the ESCMID education committee gave lectures during the course. We had formal lectures and student presentations in the mornings. Afternoons were devoted to small-group tutorials and wet laboratory sessions. During the small-group tutorials, students discussed difficult cases and solved the puzzling case of an outbreak of MDR bacteria in a hospital. During wet lab sessions students had the opportunity of hands-on learning of state-of-the-art tuberculosis diagnostics and real-time PCR. In addition to great learning opportunities, the ESCMID Summer School provides unique networking possibilities for junior and senior colleagues from all over the world and this is one of its most appreciated benefits.

Every student attending the ESCMID Summer School is expected to make a presentation to fellow students and the faculty. This year our students gave very stimulating presentations, either on cases from their clinical experience or on research they were involved in. Presentations led to lively discussions involving both fellow students and the faculty. This was a great opportunity for students to practise professional presentation skills in English, and to receive feedback on both those and the subject matter.

After each hard day’s work, we also enjoyed the good weather in Istanbul, dining outside in local restaurants, visiting historic places and we even took a boat trip on the Bosphorus, which involved a lot of dancing! After an intense, inspiring and fun week with peers from all over the world, we had all made new friends and acquired new perspectives to take home.

This year’s summer school will take place in Seville, Spain, from 2 – 9 July 2016. The programme is thought-provoking, covering the most challenging and current subjects in infectious diseases and microbiology. So do not hesitate, apply for the ESCMID Summer School or send your junior colleagues to learn and be inspired in the spirit of ESCMID!
We thank all our reviewers for their work in 2015. The current editorial team will cease operations in April 2016. In 2008 the team from Marseille assumed its editorial functions for the journal Clinical Microbiology and Infection (CMI). The work was undertaken voluntarily by many collaborators – editors-in-chief, associate editors and, of course, reviewers. This significant work contributed to creating a high-level academic journal.

Initially there were some setbacks as a result of the need to change the proportion of texts in CMI to increase the number of publications in infectious disease, virology and parasitology, as shown in (Fig. 1) and (Table 1). There were also technical difficulties in publishing a monthly themed issue, with a defection rate of approximately 10% and delays, especially at the start, requiring the use of rapidly mobilized teams, particularly in Marseille, to ensure publication of the themed issues. The purpose of the themed issues is to draw attention to the less familiar emerging fields. We believe this to be academically of the highest importance, as CMI plays a role in training and providing a source of information on emerging fields.

CMI’s editorial policy was reflected in its growing success, which resulted in a significant increase in the number of submitted original papers and reviews. These increased from 908 submissions in 2008 to 1,535 submissions in 2015. In parallel, the impact factor, which was below 3 in the first year, has increased to 5.768 in 2015. This success did not come without hard work and obstacles to overcome, the first being the decrease in the percentage of accepted papers, which currently stands at 17% (Table 2). This increase in CMI’s quality not only came with an increase in the number of items – we published twice as many articles and twice as many pages in 2014 than in 2008 – but also with a considerable increase in quality.

The journal’s organizational changes led us to publish part of the journal online only. This version has grown significantly and, over the last two years, the acceptance of letters has helped push the number of articles published online from 326 to 431 without the burden inherent to a print publication. However, keeping a journal in print preserves its educational value, particularly for the themed issues, and we have remained attached to this form.

The processing time for manuscripts has been reduced continually since 2009 (Table 3). This is broken down into five days for immediate rejection and 27 days for a decision of acceptance, revision, or rejection after peer review, which, at present, appears reasonable. In 2015 it averaged 16 days.

The ambition of CMI is to reflect ESCMID’s academic activities and, more generally, the world of infectious diseases and clinical microbiology, as well as to attract the best publications and reviews within the field. It also aims to draw attention to emerging fields and to questions raised by the themed issues.
Message from the incoming
CMI Editor-in-Chief

Leonard Leibovici
Incoming CMI Editor-in-Chief
leibovic@post.tau.ac.il

CMI aims to publish original research and reviews that will assist physicians and clinical microbiologists in their management of patients and in the prevention of infectious diseases; and to help researchers communicate as well as further their research. We aim to promote good methods in basic and clinical research, clear reporting, and to publish interesting and thought-provoking material. CMI is committed to ESCMID’s vision “…to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infection-related diseases. This is achieved by promoting and supporting research, education, training and good medical practice.”

We look for reports from the laboratory that will allow us a better understanding of host-pathogen interactions and the mechanisms that pathogens are using to evade our treatments.

From clinical research, we welcome randomized controlled trials (RCTs). Well-planned RCTs are the best research design to avoid bias in clinical studies, and the foundation of evidence-based medicine. Reporting of RCTs according to the CONSORT guidelines adds clarity to the report and to the information we can glean from the study.

We also welcome systematic reviews, whether accompanied by meta-analyses or not. A systematic review starts with a clear question and employs explicit definitions of the population, the intervention (or test) and outcomes.

We will continue to publish ‘Hot Topic’ short notes on recent and rapidly evolving threats to global health e.g. new epidemics or new resistant pathogens. In the six years that Didier Raoult was Editor-in-Chief of CMI, and with the support of an outstanding group of editors, the impact factor of the journal rose from less than 3 to 5.8; the number of downloaded papers in the last year was in excess of 1,800,000. The number of submitted manuscripts increased every year. Most important, the content was interesting and relevant, and the quality of the publications excellent.

I hope CMI will continue these trends. To be able to maintain this level of excellence, we need your help. We would like to hear what ESCMID members expect from CMI, what topics are of interest to you, the contributions to theme issues or reviews that you could make. Please send any new ideas you would care to share with us to: leibovic@post.tau.ac.il.

Message from the
NMNI Editor-in-Chief

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

New Microbes and New Infections has now been serving the field for over two years as a peer-reviewed, open access journal for the rapid dissemination of the latest research, with a particular focus on new genomes of new microbes (a section added in 2015), and new technology applied to the diagnosis of infectious/tropical diseases. As Editor-in-Chief, I am pleased to report that New Microbes and New Infections is now indexed in PubMed Central, increasing the visibility of the contributions (graph). The first impact factor will be available in the near future.

Article categories include any country’s first description of a microbe, first noted resistance or first case reports, new technologies for diagnosis and taxonomics. The journal welcomes mini-reviews as well as full-length original articles. NMNI offers clinicians and researchers a rapid route to publication and the opportunity to circulate their work in a highly visible global forum.

Scientists and medical practitioners in emerging countries have a great deal to contribute, and NMNI is at the forefront to address the ongoing imbalance regarding papers from these countries. One key characteristic of this relatively new digital journal is to break language barriers by being multilingual. Authors may submit manuscripts not only in English but also in one of six other languages.

Papers will be handled by the most appropriate member of the editorial board, taking language into consideration. Its members are Fahar Kernif (Arabic), Jônatas Santos Abrahão (Portuguese), Wanderley de Sousa (Portuguese), Rui Ku Yang (Chinese), Xavier de Lamballerie (French), Ogbara Doumbou (French), Oleg Mediannikov (Russian) and Miriam-José Alvarez Martinez (Spanish). Accordingly some dual language papers have now been published.

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

New Microbes and New Infections – the title says it all and, to ensure the information is absolutely up-to-date, the editors strive for a one-month review period. NMNI – new knowledge, new solutions!

Annually, for the past six years, we have collected the number of submissions and the number of computers running in each country in a global forum.

Cumulative number of NMNI publications per calendar month (pcm)

N. m.

Cumulative number of NMNI publications per calendar month (pcm)
NMNI
NEW MICROBES AND NEW INFECTIONS

Editor-in-Chief: Michel Drancourt
Published for the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) by Elsevier, New Microbes and New Infections (NMNI) is a peer-reviewed, open access journal for rapid dissemination of the latest research, with a particular focus on new genomes, new microbes and new technology applied to the diagnosis of infectious/tropical diseases.

New Microbes and New Infections is a fully open access journal.

Go to www.newmicrobesnewinfections.com to access all issues.
• A selection of recently published articles includes:
  - Serological and molecular survey for hepatitis E virus in wild boar, in Central Italy
  - Fecal Escherichia coli isolates show potential to cause endogenous infection in patients admitted to ICU in a Tertiary Care Hospital
  - International Mycoplasma pneumoniae typing study: the interpretation of Mycoplasma pneumoniae multilocus variable-number tandem-repeat analysis
  - Sphingobacterium multivorum: a case report and literature review

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4. Official publication of ESCMID means that your article will be read by the global community
5. Immediate, free and permanent access to your paper on ScienceDirect and the journal dedicated website
6. Detailed individual feedback on how many times your paper has been read and which countries the readership comes from

Professional Affairs Overview

First I would like to thank the ESCMID members for re-electing me for a second term on the Executive Committee and giving me a great opportunity to continue working on current projects and launching new ones in the professional affairs portfolio.

ESCMID is increasingly becoming a networking hub for CM and ID specialists and the PA projects, including the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE), the Observership and Mentorship programmes and EUCIC, which are contributing substantially. TAE further expanded the network of young specialists [within three years of qualifying], and conducted a survey of training conditions across Europe. The group organizes several events at every ECCMID and last year changed the format of the Trainee Day to reflect changes in technology and the modern approach of today’s young professionals. See page 51 for their report and the webpages at www.escmid.org/tae for full details of their activities.

We’ve welcomed seven more collaborative centres (ECCs) into the very popular Observership programme since March 2015, bringing the total number of active centres of excellence to 88 in 30 different countries on all continents. We shall soon break the 500 barrier for Observership visits. Now that this initiative is well established, ESCMID regularly brings together specialists from all over the world, facilitating a synergy, which might not otherwise take place, further demonstrating ESCMID’s pivotal role within the profession. The success of visits to the headquarters of WHO-Europe and EECMC mean they will likely continue, offering up to 10 Observers the opportunity to find out how these institutions operate. No matter where Observers choose to visit, close to home or far away, they report substantial benefits. The European Network Corner at ECCMID is where ECCs showcase their activities and connect with potential Observers. This is the best place to find the right Observership opportunity for your interests, so do take the time to stop by.

The Mentorship Programme was launched on 1 September 2014 and the first seven mentees have already registered. Currently there are 23 Mentorship Centres and selection of new ESCMID Mentorship Centres is a top priority. Go to page 49 for more information.

The PA Subcommittee also contributed to the creation of EUCIC, the second standing committee of ESCMID. The EUCIC Network now includes 25 countries and over 120 representatives and is running 3 major projects. A major short term target is the definition of the European Infection Control Certification, which will certainly help to co-ordinate the international strategy against healthcare associated infections. For more information go to page 53.

Likewise there is a close and productive collaboration between the Professional Affairs Subcommittee and the Union of European Medical Scientists, UEMS, whose aim is to harmonise and improve the quality of training and practice of medical specializations throughout Europe.

The qualitative study produced by the ESCMID Parity Commission (EPC) in 2015 has yet to be published but details about the insights gained can be found in the Parity Commission report on page 50. Essentially the difficulties we face in our efforts to achieve appropriate representation of women in positions of power and increase opportunities for minorities are complex and nebulous. They need to be tackled by analysing why access to the available professional assets is impeded or denied; whether favouritism or biased opinions are influencing the assignment of tasks and roles and whether merit is taking a back seat to other, irrelevant, factors. The blog, launched in January at http://profession-issues.escmid.org/, deals extensively with these issues and provides an opportunity for comments. We look forward to receiving constructive feedback, whether critical or complimentary.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to our EU Partner Search Platform and encourage you to make full use of it to find international research partners for your projects. The Jobs Platform on the ESCMID website regularly features new positions and potential employees in CM & ID.

www.escmid.org/profession_career/eu_partner_search
The EU Partner Search Platform is useful for finding new collaboration opportunities among European Research Centres.

www.escmid.org/profession_career/jobs_in_cm_id
The Jobs Platform is an easy way to find your next job or to fill an open position in CM and ID.

The following pages describe the current Professional Affairs’ activities in detail.
ESCMID Collaborative Centres and Observerships

Evelina Tacconelli
Professional Affairs Officer for Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases
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The ESCMID Collaborative Centres (ECCs) and Observership Programme continue to go from strength to strength. Since March 2015 we’ve welcomed 7 more centres of excellence into the programme, bringing the total number of active centres to 88 in 30 different countries on all continents. The purpose of these collaborative centres is to welcome ESCMID members from other countries to learn about diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and the local organization of services, as well as to establish new contacts and foster international exchange. It’s exciting to see that Observers from all over the world are now taking advantage of this professional development programme. The 112 Observers in 2015 came from 51 different countries on 5 continents, from as far away as Australia and New Zealand, 4 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, 5 African and 14 countries across Asia. Of these, Turkey sent the largest number of Observers, 7, followed by Brazil with 4.

In Europe, Italian CM/ID specialists took most advantage of the programme with 13 Observers, followed by Slovenia (7) and the UK (5). According to the reviews, benefits to Observers and staff at ECCs are mutual as there is much to learn from each other’s experience.

By 1 January 2016 more than 470 Observership visits had taken place since the programme began back in 2009 and feedback is consistently excellent. Our Observership initiatives with ECDC and WHO were originally conceived for five Observers each. As the first visits were so successful, this was increased to 10. Details of calls for applications in 2016 are available on page 62.

Our Observership initiatives with ECDC and WHO were originally conceived for five Observers each. As the first visits were so successful, this was increased to 10. Details of calls for applications in 2016 are available on page 62.

The ESCMID Collaborative Centre and Observership Programme at a glance

European Network Corner at ECCMID
Visit the European Network Corner at ECCMID, where ECCs showcase their activities and connect with potential Observers. This is the best place to find the right Observership opportunity for your interests.

www.escmid.org/observerships

Where ESCMID observers come from ...

... and where they go!

Figure 1. Distribution of the ECCs throughout Europe and beyond, (status: 31 January 2016) For a list of ECCs, please visit the website: www.escmid.org/profession_career/collaborative_centres_observerships

ECC activity in 2015
In the past year, ESCMID approved 7 new institutions as Collaborative Centres, increasing the number of operating ECCs to 88, excluding the WHO and ECDC centres. They are located in 30 countries worldwide, 9 outside Europe. The huge number of countries involved offer Observers a chance to gain clinical and diagnostic experience of infections they are unlikely to see at home as well as high risk populations (e.g. refugees).

Observer visits in 2015
Observer visits increased by 14 % in 2014 and by 29 %, to 112 Observers, in 2015 – a great endorsement of the programme. A quarter preferred the duration to be a month, while two thirds went for 12 days or fewer. Observers came from all over the world: 69 from various European countries and 43 from further afield (including Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania). For more details, see Figures 1 – 5.

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

Do you have a question about ESCMID Observerships? Consult our FAQ: www.escmid.org/observerships
The three-day observership at the WHO regional office for Europe, held from three years in a row, allowed nine specialists the opportunity to discover for themselves how this UN organization functions. Observers were hosted by Nenke van de Sande-Bruinisma, Technical Officer AMR and Danilo Lo Fo Wong, Programme Manager Control of AMR, Division of Communicable Diseases and Health Security (DCH), WHO Regional Office for Europe. The nine ESCMID-supported observers to WHO in 2015 were from Russia, New Zealand, South Africa, Germany, Nigeria, Latvia, Portugal and Italy (see below). Their visits are available online: ECDC has an ESCMID Collaborative Centre. This is the third year of the ESCMID ECDC Observership initiative and the feedback from both ECDC staff and ESCMID Observers continues to be positive. It is therefore planned that the ECDC Observership programme is repeated again in 2016.

ESCMID and ESCV support 12 observers to visit the ECDC for five days

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) hosted a group of ESCMID members for the ESCMID ECDC Observership initiative 7–11 September at ECDC’s headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden. The nine ESCMID Observers were joined by three Observers from the European Society for Clinical Virology (ESCV) for a five-day orientation programme designed to offer participants an overview of ECDC’s activities and its role in supporting public health actions to control and prevent infectious disease in the EU and globally. The 2015 programme covered a variety of topics including preparedness, surveillance and epidemic intelligence, antimicrobial resistance, vaccine-preventable diseases and sexually transmitted infections. In addition to formal presentations, the programme included several “hands-on” exercises, including producing a rapid risk assessment on an infectious disease threat, analyzing EU molecular surveillance data and developing public health guidance using evidence-based approaches. The Observers saw ECDC’s role in supporting public health actions on the ground, both on a personal and institutional level.

There are several reasons for wanting to be mentored. Getting career advice and acquiring specific expertise from a well-established specialist are two of the main ones. Any ESCMID member who is still at an early career stage has the opportunity to be mentored for a maximum of two years by a senior ESCMID member, an expert at one of the newly established ESCMID Mentorship Centres (EMCs).

Up to EUR 3,000 will be reimbursed against original receipts for costs incurred over the maximum two year period, including telephone bills, telephone conference invoices and travel costs (train, air ticket).

There are currently 23 EMCs (ESCMID Mentorship Centres), mainly departments of Infectious Diseases and/or Clinical Microbiology, 18 in Europe, one in Central America and four in Asia. Mentorships are organized according to mentee needs and may be arranged as face-to-face meetings, an exchange of emails, telephone calls or internet video conversations. For example, a junior mentee with a strong interest in tropical medicine and drug resistance, developing links with the institution in El Salvador over the next year is not only the best way to work in an experienced centre but also to receive guidance from a senior colleague whose interests exactly coincide with his own.

Increasing the selection of ESCMID Mentorship Centres is a top priority. If your centre has experience in mentoring or is a centre of excellence in a specific area of infectious diseases, clinical microbiology or infection control, please apply to be recognized as an ESCMID Mentorship Centre and contribute to the research and career development of up-and-coming scientists. Applications are easily submitted online at www.escmid.org/mentorship.
Professional assets are defined as any tangible or intangible resource which is considered important or indispensable to pursue professional objectives and career advancement. Discrimination occurs when access to them is hindered or denied based on biased opinions rather than merit. The Parity Commission strives to increase equal opportunities in research and the careers of CM/ID professionals, regardless of where they work, throughout Europe.

A 2011 online EPC quantitative survey of discrimination in the CM/ID fields reported that 68% of respondents believed that discrimination is present in their sector, and more than 26% had personally experienced or witnessed discriminatory behaviour, mostly based on gender or geographical factors (Tacconelli et al. BMJ Open 2014). To integrate the survey data, a qualitative study was carried out last year, exploring more deeply the social, cultural, psychological and organizational factors associated with inequality in CM/ID fields, as well as the perceptions and coping strategies employed by those affected. The results showed that currently a complex blend of organizational, social, cultural and psychological factors contribute to the occurrence of widespread discrimination. The cumulative impact affected all the institutions in the study, even though with an intensity and form that largely varies according to the cultural and organizational context. Examination of reported micro-inequities revealed widespread unacceptable attitudes and behavioural patterns in professional settings, reflecting the current cultural mind set towards diversity in general and women in particular.

In close collaboration with the ESCMID Scientific Officer and the Trainee Association of ESCMID, we contributed to further increase the quality of ESCMID educational events, ensuring balance in gender and countries of origin of teachers and course participants. The EPC has been also involved in the organization of ECCMID and proudly contributed to greater gender balance, increased participation of younger investigators and a wider range of countries involved. We also gathered statistical data, ran different research projects and contributed to the development of guidelines to reduce discrimination in the work place for CM and ID.

In order to encourage more open discussion we launched a blog in January at http://professionals-issues.escmid.org where we are elaborating on these subjects with editorials, testimonies and critical and constructive viewpoints. Initially, the blog is focusing entirely on parity issues but, subject to feedback, this will be extended to other professional affairs topics later in the year. We encourage all members to follow the blog and contribute to making the CM/ID working environment fairer.

For further information about our work in general, the blog and the studies we have undertaken, please visit the Parity Commission webpages on the ESCMID website.

**Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE)**

Joana Cortez
TAE President
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Education, communication and activities in the service of trainees

Seven years after its foundation, the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) is well established and continues to break new ground. It represents trainees and specialists who finished their training within the previous three years and is actively engaged in creating supportive networks of professionals early in their career and improving specialist education and training. The TAE has a Steering Committee (SC) consisting of six elected members, half are clinical microbiologists (CM) and half are infectious disease (ID) specialists. Focusing on better communication between our peers in ID and CM, TAE tackles concerns and new challenges among young clinical microbiologists and infectious diseases specialists and trainees all over Europe.

At ECCMID 2015 in Copenhagen, TAE presented a completely innovative format for Trainees Day: “Everything you always wanted to discuss directly with a senior” with round tables and recognized experts in ID and CM as discussion leaders. It was a real success. Attendees were very satisfied and completed evaluation forms giving high scores! This new format will be repeated, expanded and improved for ECCMID 2016.

Also during ECCMID 2015, TAE was actively involved in three educational workshops. There were several online quizzes and new ones are being tailored to the new requirements in both the clinical and laboratory settings.

Soon we hope to publish data from the survey on training conditions in Europe on the ESCMID webpage. This interesting information will enable us to shape the curriculum of our beloved specialties.

TAE has now set its sights on undergraduate students. Innovative communication and participatory activities are being explored with the International Federation of Medical Students Association.

At the 12th TAE SC Meeting, held in Madrid in December 2015, we welcomed two new TAE SC members and prepared for future activities. These included not only the ECCMID sessions we organize but also the data processing of the survey on training conditions in Europe, maintaining a good working relationship with both the Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases sections of UEMS, and the TAE Awards for Training Achievements. TAE Awards are presented annually and this year we have two outstanding awardees, from Ireland and Portugal, who have set excellent standards in their training (page 15).

We believe that a solid and efficient network of CM and ID trainee representatives from all European countries and beyond will be the driving force of TAE in the years ahead. Together we can improve communication, cooperation and participation among early-career ESCMID members and encourage trainees to get involved in the numerous ESCMID activities, to share their knowledge with their peers, and to participate in the development of our specialties.
European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC)

www.escmid.org/eucic

Evelina Tacconelli, EUCIC Chair
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Nico T. Mutters, EUCIC Scientific Coordinator
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We are pleased to announce that the European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC) has made substantial progress over the past year by further extending and implementing the European network, which now includes 25 European countries and more than 170 members on the different EUCIC boards, see map.

EUCIC is the second standing committee initiated by ESCMID after EUCAST. It consists of experts in the field of infection control from several European countries. The steering committee was formed at the end of 2014 after recognizing the need to standardize and harmonize infection prevention and control measures (IPCM) across Europe. To achieve its goals, EUCIC is developing new educational and training tools and promoting guidelines to meet the demands in Europe. Cooperation with related ESCMID study groups and major European stakeholders and societies is crucial to its success. The EUCIC Stakeholders Board currently consists of representatives from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC, D. Monnet, A.-P. Magiorakos), the World Health Organization (WHO, B. Allegranzi, A.P. Cousthlne-Rehse), the European Network to promote infection prevention for patient safety (EUNETIPS, S. Brusaferro), the Healthcare Infection Society (HIS, L. Ridgway), the International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC, B. Ross) and the ESCMID Study Groups for nosocomial infections (ESGNI, B. Cookson) and antibiotic policies (ESGAP, C. Pulcini). For a complete list of the members of national advisory boards and committees please see www.escmid.org/eucic.

Three major EUCIC projects required the setting up of working groups (WG). The first concerns the availability and limits of implementation of current IPCM required to fight the spread of multidrug-resistant Gram-negatives. The major goal of this project is to determine the current availability of IPCMs in European hospitals to reduce the spread of MDR-Gram negative bacteria. Through a gap analysis, major limitations in implementation as well as corrective measures for each European country will be analysed in collaboration with the national advisory board members and committees. The WG will prepare the first draft of a document to be discussed during the EUCIC advisory board meeting at ECCMID in Amsterdam.

The second important and timely initiative is to establish European Certification in Infection Control (IC). The certification WG will set up and organise the 1st European Certification in IC at selected European universities.

Lastly, a WG has been tasked with defining the necessary steps to set up a section for Infection Control within the European Union of Medical Specialists, to create a UEMS accreditation of infection control.

Among other highlights during 2015, the December issue of Clinical Microbiology and Infection was dedicated to the theme of infection control in Europe. A questionnaire survey was launched in collaboration with EUCAST and ESGAP on the selective reporting of antibiotic susceptibility testing, completed earlier this year. EUCIC also made a significant contribution to this year’s ECCMID by organizing educational workshops and several symposia.

There is plenty to do and we look forward to making further progress against infection in 2016 with all our partners. If you have questions and/or suggestions feel free to contact us at any time: eucic@escmid.org.

Countries represented on EUCIC Advisory Board (March 2016)

Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Ireland, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom
EUCAST provides breakpoints and antimicrobial susceptibility testing methods. ESCMID (www.escmid.org), the ESCMID Föderverein (www.escfv.org) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC, www.ecdc.europa.eu) supported EUCAST financially in 2015. ESCMID supports the development of the EUCAST disk diffusion method.

EUCAST Steering Committee

The Steering Committee met five times during 2015 and dealt with many aspects of breakpoints and antimicrobial susceptibility testing ("testing" General Committee members, European Medicines Agency (EMA) representatives and/or ECDC representatives attended most meetings. Five groups from pharmaceutical companies presented data on new agents.

EUCAST General Committee

The annual open meeting for national representatives on the General Committee was held during ECCMID and the preceding year’s activity and future plans were reviewed.

National Antimicrobial susceptibility testing Committees (NACs)

Most European countries now have established NACs and interest in EUCAST in countries outside Europe continues to increase. NACs provide national input to all aspects of EUCAST, promote national strategies for susceptibility testing and help to implement EUCAST breakpoints and methods.

EUCAST Network Laboratories

EUCAST has two loosely constructed networks of microbiology laboratories with particular expertise and training in EUCAST antimicrobial susceptibility testing for bacteria and fungi respectively. EUCAST Network Laboratories, listed on the EUCAST website, are committed to help develop, validate and troubleshoot EUCAST methods and to help train and educate other laboratories in EUCAST methods. These laboratories also play an important role in the development of improved methods and/or assist clinical breakpoint development by providing MIC datasets.

EUCAST breakpoints

Version 6.0 of the MIC and zone diameter breakpoint tables for bacteria, and QC tables were published on the EUCAST website in January 2016.

Breakpoints for new agents are set by EUCAST as part of the marketing authorisation process by the EMA. In the past year breakpoints have been set for ceftezoline-tazobactam and several other agents are in process.

Breakpoints are being developed for some less commonly isolated organisms, including Aerococcus spp. and Kingella kingae, and work on Aeromonas spp. and Plesiomonas spp. has recently started. Among older agents, nitroxoline breakpoints have been set for Enterobacteriaceae and temocillin breakpoints are currently under discussion. Colistin breakpoints and susceptibility testing methods are being reviewed in collaboration with CLSI. Established breakpoints for carbapenems, fluoroquinolones and aminoglycosides, and tigecycline breakpoints for Enterobacteriaceae are also under review.

EUCAST disk diffusion method

Studies are undertaken at the EUCAST Development Laboratory (Växjö, Sweden) in collaboration with EUCAST Network Laboratories to develop EUCAST susceptibility testing methods. Ongoing projects include disk diffusion methods and zone diameter breakpoints for new agents and for organisms currently without recommendations. In addition, work on problem areas such as fosfomycin susceptibility tests is in progress. QC ranges are established for new agents and organisms and older QC ranges may be revised if required.

EUCAST website

There were approximately 58,000 visitors per month in 2015. There is a continuous process of update of website documents. All significant changes are highlighted in the "News" section on the homepage and a list of all changes is available via the "Website changes" link below the contents list. Documents updated this year include breakpoint tables, QC tables, regional guides and method descriptions, frequently asked questions, compliance of manufacturers and validation documents for MIC and inhibition zone diameter correlations.

EUCAST MIC and zone diameter website

Additional MIC and zone diameter distributions and MIC zone diameter correlations are frequently added and epidemiological cut-off values (ECOFFs) may be revised in the light of new data. The distributions allow laboratories to compare their in vitro susceptibility data with the compiled data used for the ECOFF and breakpoint setting.

EUCAST documents

Many of the EUCAST documents on the website have been updated in the past year and this is an ongoing process. Rationale documents giving background data and the rationale for EUCAST breakpoints continue to be developed. EUCAST expert rules are being updated by the Steering Committee. Proposed changes to intrinsic resistance tables have been subject to wide consultation and proposed changes to expert rules will follow in 2016. Review of the EUCAST guidelines on detection of resistance mechanisms has also started. All EUCAST documents are freely available from the EUCAST website.

Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee (AFST)

The AFST, chaired by Maiken Cavling Arendrup, is continuing its work on breakpoints and methods for antifungal agents. The AFST General Committee met once, during ECCMID, and the AFST Steering Committee met three times.

Over the past year, isavuconazole breakpoints for Aspergillus spp. have been determined. Additional MIC quality control (QC) ranges for micafungin, isavuconazole and anidulafungin have been established and included in a new document "The European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing, Routine and extended internal quality control for antifungal susceptibility testing as recommended by EUCAST Version 1.0". This document avoids the need for updating of method documents whenever a new QC range is established. The definitive method documents for susceptibility testing of moulds and yeasts have both been updated.

All AFST documents are accessible from the EUCAST website under the "AST of fungi" heading in the contents list. A technical note on isavuconazole against Aspergillus, racoconazole against Candida, the QC document and susceptibility testing method updates have been accepted for publication in CMI www.clinicalmicrobiologyandinfection.com/article/S1199-743X(16)00077-X/abstract.

Veterinary subcommittee on antimicrobial susceptibility testing (VetCAST)

The subcommittee, chaired by Dirk Mevius, was established at ECCMID in 2015 and is a standing committee which will deal with all aspects of breakpoint setting and antimicrobial susceptibility testing related to veterinary use of antimicrobial agents.

Subcommittee on antimicrobial susceptibility testing by whole genome sequencing (WGS)

The subcommittee, chaired by Neil Woodford, was established following ECCMID in 2015. A document is being prepared covering the role of WGS in antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacteria, the sensitivity and specificity of WGS compared with standard phenotypic methods, how WGS may be applied in clinical microbiology laboratories, the implications for phenotypic and other genotypic methods in current use, the presentation and clinical implications of WGS, the epidemiological implications of using WGS and the drivers and barriers to routine use of WGS.

Subcommittee on anti-mycobacterial agents

The subcommittee, chaired by Emmanuelle Cambau, was established early in 2016 with the objectives to develop reference susceptibility testing method guidelines, to interact with the EUCAST Steering Committee in the setting of breakpoints for antifungal agents and to define the relevance of molecular testing.

Subcommittee on wild type MIC distributions and epidemiological cut-off values (ECOFFs)

The subcommittee, chaired by Gunnar Kalmeter, was established early in 2016 with the remit to define standards for MIC distributions required for ECOFF calculation, to define the methods used to set ECOFFs and to define the conditions for revision of ECOFFs.
Report of the 7th International Day for Fighting Infection

The seventh International Day for Fighting Infection, organized by ESCMID, was particularly special in 2015 because the date coincided both with ECCMID in Copenhagen and with the conclusion of the World Health Organization’s “World Immunization Week”. It seemed very fitting to both ESCMID and the WHO Regional Office for Europe to organize a joint meeting highlighting current hot topics in vaccination and stressing the many similarities of their respective missions.

The half-day symposium, entitled “Learning from the Past for Shaping a Better Future” was held on the impressive WHO premises in UN City, Copenhagen, and was well attended by participants from all over the world.

Scientific Programme

Chairpersons
Giuseppe Cornaglia, ESCMID International Affairs Director
Robb Butler, WHO Regional Office for Europe

- Welcome
Zsuzsanna Jakab, Regional Director WHO Europe
Murat Akova, ESCMID President, Ankara, Turkey

- Looking back on the history and progress of polio eradication
Robb Butler, WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark

- Clinical management of patients with Ebola viral disease
Dina Pfeifer, WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark

- Are vaccines the solution to tackle antimicrobial resistance? The Pneumococcal Paradigm
Ron Dagan, Beer Sheva, Israel

- Research and innovation to prevent and control M/XDR-TB
Calleen Acosta, WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark

Webcasts and presentations of the 7th International Day for Fighting Infection are available in the ESCMID Online Lecture Library www.escmid.org/oll
11th International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers (IMMEM XI)

Estoril, Portugal
9 – 12 March 2016
ESCMID International Affairs

Giuseppe Cornaglia
ESCMID International Affairs Director
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ESCMID’s International Affairs Subcommittee, currently led by International Affairs Director Giuseppe Cornaglia, has been active for a year. Its objective is to strengthen ESCMID’s representation and promote its activities beyond Europe, to the mutual benefit of the regions and ESCMID. The activities include describing ESCMID’s mission at meetings, organizing joint conferences, committees and educational events, negotiating with institutions to join ESCMID’s Observation Programme and last but not by means least, assisting countries to set up national surveillance networks and guidelines. Networking and speaking at conferences is only a small part of the job. Meeting partners face to face is far more productive and has been on the Far East, and Latin America followed by the Former USSR Euro-Asian Republics

International Affairs Director Giuseppe Cornaglia

China

China – meeting of minds

At a meeting between representatives of the Chinese Medical Association (CMA) and ESCMID executives during ECCMID 2015, the two organizations discussed how to further develop their close cooperation. A highlight of ECCMID 2015 was the very successful EUCAST hybrid session, which for the first time was streamed live to China with simultaneous interpreting. It was a triumph for international relations and communication, rewarding ESCMID’s extensive preparation efforts. It triggered the exploration of the feasibility of cooperation on ESCMID sessions focusing on other regions. At ECCMID 2016 three sessions will be broadcast to China. Other cooperation efforts with China include establishing a national antimicrobial susceptibility testing committee in China as well as the translation of ESCMID medical guidelines into Chinese and co-organisation of conferences.

Chinese delegates and ESCMID executives meet at ECCMID 2015

Russia

Russian Federation

Meeting representatives of the Russian Federation for Infectious Diseases (ISID), The Lancet Infectious Diseases (LID) and the Chinese Medical Association (CMA), Convenor: Haibo Qiu. There will be several representatives from each organization and between 30% and 50% from CMA.

Korea

Korea – Seoul

Giuseppe Cornaglia gave a lecture at the annual meeting of the Korean Society of Clinical Microbiology on 12 February 2016 and met with members of that Society’s board.

Japan

Japan – Kobe

Giuseppe Cornaglia gave a lecture at the annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Chemotherapy and to meet with members of that Society’s board.

Ecuador – Quito

Jordi Vila gave a presentation about ESCMID at the XVIII Congress Panamericano de Infectología (Best of ECCMID) in May 2015, while Rafael Canton presented EUCAST at the same congress chaired by Luis Bavestrello and subcommittee member Maria Virgina Villegas.

Argentina, Buenos Aires

Georgios Daikos and Anatarria Mazzarol gave lectures at a symposium held during the Secondo Congreso Argentino de Infectologia (SADI) Congress, 28 – 30 May 2015.

Cuba

Giuseppe Cornaglia gave a lecture at the AntiMicrobial Resistance (AMR) Symposium 4 – 6 November 2015.

Brazil

Brazil, Gramado – Luis Martinez and Jordi Vila held talks at another symposium from 26 – 29 August 2015 during the Brazilian Congress of Infectious Diseases.

Brazil, Santos

24 – 27 August 2016 Giuseppe Cornaglia, Jesús Rodríguez Baía and Petra Sastmeier plan to attend the Brazilian Congress of Infectious Diseases, where they will hold lectures and meet local opinion leaders.

Russia

Moscow – ESCMID participated in The International Association for Clinical Microbiology and Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (IACMAC) 2015. The society was represented by Nienke Van De Sande on behalf of the CAESAR project, Tjalling Leerstra as

Summary of conferences attended in 2015 and scheduled for 2016

- Taiwan, Taipei – Giuseppe Cornaglia and Ursula Theuretzbacher each gave a lecture as part of the symposium Epidemiology: Asia vs. Europe, which was co-organized by ESCMID at the Asia Pacific Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (APCCMI) from 26 – 29 March 2015.
- China, Yantai – Giuseppe Cornaglia gave a lecture on EUCAST during the Peking Union Medical College (PUMC) Congress at the end of May 2015, and visited Shanghai, Nanjing and Beijing with the intention of laying the groundwork for November’s joint conference (see below).
- China, Nanjing – co-organized by ESCMID, International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID), The Lancet Infectious Diseases (LID) and the Chinese Medical Association (CMA) Conference, 18 – 19 November 2016, Convenor: Haibo Qiu. There will be several representatives from each organization and between 30% and 50% from CMA.
- Korea, Seoul – Giuseppe Cornaglia gave a lecture at the annual meeting of the Korean Society of Clinical Microbiology on 12 February 2016 and met with members of that Society’s board.
- Japan, Kobe – 9 – 11 June 2016, Giuseppe Cornaglia to give a lecture at the annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Chemotherapy and to meet with members of that Society’s board.
- Ecuador, Quito – Jordi Vila a presentation about ESCMID the XVIII Congress Panamericano de Infectología (Best of ECCMID) in May 2015, while Rafael Canton presented EUCAST at the same congress chaired by Luis Bavestrello and subcommittee member Maria Virginia Villegas.
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Latin America – strengthening ties

ESCMID also strengthened ties with institutions in Latin America. Several hospitals have been visited to foster cooperation for observatories and lay the groundwork for educational events and conferences:

- Dr. Salvador B. Gautier Hospital, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- Hospital Infantil Robert Reid Cabral, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- Centro Gorgas, Panama
- Complejo Hospitalario Metropolitano, Panama
- Inst. Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutricion, Mexico

The Complete Hospitalario Metropolitano in Panama City is the latest addition to ESCMID’s list of collaborative centres, offering observatories to ESCMID members from all over the world. The hospital has specialists in bacteriology, mycology, mycobacteriology, HIV, TB, histoplasmosis and invasive fungal infections. The Mexican hospital is following the same path.

ESCMID Study Group ESGMYC has fully endorsed the discussions and finances his trip. For the first time, the MoH explicitly talked about taking measures to tackle HIV and hepatitis, possibly, but not exclusively, bundled with TB.

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Chinese delegates and ESCMID executives meet at ECCMID 2015

Many planned activities resulted from meetings in the Russian Federation states. The goal is to promote networking, exchanges, study tours and collaboration also through the ESCMID Observer-ship Programme. A post-graduate course on the diagnosis and management of TB drug resistance is planned. An ECC application from the Institute of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (IAC), Smolensk State Medical University (SSMU), has recently been approved by the executive committee, representing the first Russian addition to the ESCMID list of collaborative centres.

ESCMID International Affairs subcommittee

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<th>Geographic Region</th>
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<td>Marc Mendelson, Capetown, South Africa</td>
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<td>The Americas</td>
<td>Maria Virgina Villegas, Cali, Columbia</td>
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<td>Australia, New Zealand</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
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<td>Adalat Abdililuev, Baku, Azerbaijan</td>
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<td>South East Asia</td>
<td>Po-Ren Hsieh, Taipei, Taiwan</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>Kazuhiro Tateda, Tokyo, Japan</td>
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Giuseppe Cornaglia with Dr. Silvio Vega and his team

Giuseppe Cornaglia with Prof. Ying-Chun Xiu and his team
ESCMID cooperates with Médecins Sans Frontières

At last year’s ECCMID in Copenhagen, the ESCMID Executive Committee bestowed Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)’s 30,000 employees with a special excellence award for outstanding achievements, in special recognition of the charity’s contribution to global health and its effort in fighting Ebola across Africa. During a special ceremony, MSF doctor Hilde de Clerck received the award on behalf of all the charity’s physicians, nurses and other professional staff who over the last 40 years have put their lives at risk all around the world.

With this award, ESCMID wanted to honour an organization which has broken new ground in international humanitarian work by taking a selfless and uncompromising approach. MSF often acts without governmental support, delivering aid where it is most urgently needed. Since its inception in 1971, MSF has treated more than a hundred million patients – with 8.3 million outpatient consultations carried out in 2012 alone. The charity’s work was exemplified during the Ebola epidemics in West Africa, where it employed nearly 3,000 staff. Since the outbreak began, MSF has shipped more than 1,400 tonnes of supplies and admitted more than 8,000 patients to Ebola management centres.

At the time of the congress, ESCMID pledged to provide its support, assistance and on-going commitment to help the charity in any of its projects moving forward. In March 2016, two MSF representatives met with executives from ESCMID, the European Committee for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) and the European Committee for Infection Control (EUCIC) to explore options for further cooperation.

ESCMID is looking forward to a fruitful collaboration!

ESCMID-ECDC Observerships in 2016

Visit ECDC and find out about the organization!

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

5 – 9 September 2016

Applications accepted from: 2 May 2016, 12:00 CET

Applicants should be active in the infectious disease and public health fields beyond a regional level.

To apply, visit the ESCMID website.

Deadline for applications: 2 May – 2 June 2016, 12:00 noon

www.escmid.org/ECDC_Observer

www.ecdc.europa.eu

CAESAR partner as well as representing the Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheden Milieu (RIVM), Giuseppe Cornaglia on behalf of ESGARS and Arjana Tambić for EUCAST.

• Uzbekistan, Tashkent – as a representative of the former USSR Euro-Asian Republics, subcommittee member Adalat Abdulajev attended the Second Congress of ID Specialists, 6 – 7 November 2015, and gave the plenary lecture on ESCMID.

• India, Varanasi – later in the summer, at the invitation of Camilla Rodriguez, the subcommittee member representing India, two ESCMID speakers will attend the pre-conference workshop for the next National Conference of the Clinical Infectious Diseases Society (GCDSION) on 26 August 2016.

• United Arab Emirates, Dubai – Murat Akova, Giuseppe Cornaglia and Ursula Theuretzbacher plan to attend the 1st Gulf Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (GCCMID) in Dubai from 4 – 7 May 2016. ESCMID will also have a booth at this congress.

• Lebanon, Beirut – in March 2017 ESCMID is planning a regional conference partnering with Fondation Mérieux (FMx), the Lebanese Society for Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology (LSSCD), Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), and The Lancet Infectious Diseases (TLD).
Forthcoming Events

**Postgraduate Education Courses and Workshops**

- Population Modelling and Dose Optimization with Pmetrics and BestDose: Antimicrobial Applications
  - Lyon, France
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
  - 13 – 15 Apr

- Infection Prevention and Control: Let’s Get Practical!
  - Groningen, Netherlands
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
  - 29 May – 1 Jun

- Application of Molecular Diagnostics in Forensic Microbiology
  - Leuven, Belgium
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
  - 2 – 3 Jun

- Individualized Medicine in Infectious Diseases: a Practical Approach
  - Tübingen, Germany
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
  - 3 – 4 Jun

- Virulence and Resistance in Staphylococcus aureus: 2016 State of the Art
  - Lyon, France
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
  - 28 Jun – 1 Jul

- Medical Biofilm Techniques 2016
  - Lyngby, Denmark
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
  - 22 – 25 Aug

- Status Quo of Brain Infections 2016
  - Izmir, Turkey
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
  - 4 – 7 Sep

- Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterinary Medicine
  - Gothenburg, Sweden
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
  - 10 – 11 Sep

- Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing and Surveillance: from Laboratory to Clinic. A EUCAST, ESGARS and EPASG Perspective
  - Bochum, Germany
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
  - 20 – 23 Sep

- Management of Infections in Septic Shock Patients
  - Istanbul, Turkey
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
  - 22 – 23 Sep

- Infectious Diseases in Pregnant Women, Fetuses and Newborns
  - Bertinoro, Italy
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
  - 25 – 29 Sep

- Anaerobic Bacteria: Next Generation Technology Meets Anaerobic Diagnostics
  - Groningen, Netherlands
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
  - 26 – 28 Sep

- Difficult-to-Treat Mycobacterial Infections
  - Brac, Croatia
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
  - 21 – 24 Apr 2017

- Challenges in the Management of Viral Hepatitis
  - Cavtat, Croatia
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
  - 14 – 15 Oct

- Better Methods for Clinical Studies in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology: a Hands-on Workshop
  - Seville, Spain
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
  - 26 – 28 Oct

- ESCMID Summer School
  - An intense one-week course covering diverse topics in the infection field. The high faculty-student ratio and the high level of interactivity make it so popular.
  - 25 – 29 Sep

- ESCMID Conferences
  - Get the latest news about your field of work delivered from selected experts. Exchange ideas with your colleagues on hot topics.
  - 26 – 28 Sep

- Infectious Diseases in Pregnant Women, Fetuses and Newborns
  - Bertinoro, Italy
  - ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
  - 21 – 23 Sep

- Conference on Drug Development to Meet the Challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance
  - Vienna, Austria
  - ESCMID-ASM Conference
  - 27th ECCMID

**Future Congresses**

- 27th ECCMID
  - Vienna, Austria
  - 22 – 25 April 2017

- 28th ECCMID
  - Madrid, Spain
  - 21 – 24 April 2018