

**YEARBOOK**

**13 / 14**





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## Message from the President



*Gunnar Kahlmeter*  
ESCMID President  
gunnar.kahlmeter@escmid.org

With the closure of ECCMID 2014, my two year period as the president of ESCMID is over. They have been two very busy years and I do not think my family, or my laboratory or EUCAST colleagues would have looked kindly at a longer term!

The ESCMID Executive Committee, both regular and *ad hoc* members (see pages 4 and 5), is a boisterous crowd of scientists and CM and ID specialists. They all have lots of ideas about how to improve ESCMID and ECCMID, as well as the everyday work situation for colleagues in CM and ID, cooperation with other societies, return on investments (financial and otherwise), IT-support, communication and much more. It has been a pleasure and an honour, not to mention a challenge (!), to lead them during this period.

Together we have organised two successful ECCMIDs: Berlin 2013 with Congrex as our congress provider, and Barcelona 2014 together with Kenes. We continue to make ECCMID grow and each new ECCMID seems to break the record of previous years, both in the number of submitted abstracts and in attendance. This year the number of abstracts exceeded 4'500. Only a few years ago the record was 2'900. ECCMID also seems to attract more and more people. In Berlin there were almost 10'000 of us and, at the time of writing, two months before ECCMID in Barcelona, the numbers are looking even better. It has become a truly international meeting, with attendees from all over the world; but despite its size it retains the qualities of a 'workshop'. It is the natural host of many satellite meetings, both large and small, covering research planning, Study Group meetings, committee meetings (like those of EUCAST, reporting on the last 12 months and plans for the next 12), meetings to write grant applications, to plan Postgraduate Courses or to arrange Observerships and much, much more. These 'meetings within the meeting' are the nerve and soul of ESCMID and ECCMID, and I am sure that is why we are successful. Do you feel, as I do, the constructive, friendly atmosphere among colleagues and friends in CM and ID? Do you find, as I do, many friends in 'unlikely places'? Do you enjoy, as I do, making our youngest colleagues feel wanted and welcome? Do you thrive on this, as indeed I do?

Together with successful ECCMIDs, we have been able to offer you medical guidelines, Postgraduate Courses, Summer Schools, scientific support in Study Groups (now almost 30 strong), research grants and awards, the now very popular ESCMID Observerships (some dedicated to public health

through our cooperation with WHO Europe and ECDC), and the ESCMID Online Lecture Library where almost all ECCMID and many other lectures are available. Together with ECDC and EMA we also continue to give you harmonised antimicrobial breakpoints through EUCAST (the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing) and a standardised European disk diffusion test, which is constantly under development.

The ESCMID Executive Committee will, when I hand over to Murat Akova, consist of four male colleagues, Murat Akova (ID, Turkey), Mario Poljak (CM, Slovenia), Jesús Rodríguez-Baño (ID, Spain) and myself for another two years as the Past President (CM, Sweden); and three female colleagues (Evelina Tacconelli (ID, Germany), Cornelia Lass-Flörl (CM, Austria) and Annelies Zinkernagel (ID, Switzerland). Our Programme Director for several years, Jordi Vila (CM, Spain) will hand over to Winfried Kern, (ID, Germany). This means that a clear bias towards CM over the past few years will now be turned into an ID dominance with a good gender balance. Some of you may think that this influences everyday committee work and decisions but I can tell you that we only rarely take a stand as CM or ID specialists and we all try to make sure that ESCMID and ECCMID are balanced in every possible way; CM and ID, north and south, west and east, male and female. It is often difficult and sometimes not achieved but this is our aim.

Although this is a handover to Murat Akova in the fine tradition of ESCMID, I shall continue to work for ESCMID and, above all, on behalf of all ESCMID members and ECCMID attendees hoping for even better ECCMIDs, more Postgraduate Courses and Observerships, more attendance and research grants and more learning opportunities followed by job opportunities. Finally, I shall continue my endeavours to provide even more support for all of you from EUCAST.

## Message from the Incoming President



*Murat Akova*  
ESCMID Scientific Affairs Officer,  
President-elect & Secretary General  
murat.akova@escmid.org

When I joined the ESCMID Executive Committee in 2007, Giuseppe Cornaglia, then the Incoming President, asked in his article in an ESCMID Newsletter 'What will ESCMID look like in a couple of years' time?' Now, after almost seven years, one can frankly answer this question by saying '*the Society looks great!*' As Gunnar Kahlmeter explains clearly in his column opposite, this is not simply because ESCMID now organises the world's most successful congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. ESCMID also gathers the best scientists from Europe and elsewhere to work with the Society, embraces young physicians and scientists and offers them many educational activities, and gives them opportunities to express their ideas and influence the future of our profession. ESCMID provides them with grants to maintain their research and attend ECCMIDs, courses and Summer Schools.

Now, it is my turn to ask the very same question: What future awaits ESCMID in the coming years? Considering the challenges we currently face, there is no easy answer. However, I suggest that three terms stand out as our priorities: *networking*, *encouragement* and *synergy*.

In ESCMID, networking has always been of major importance. To maintain the Society's attractiveness, networking should be even more extensive. Observerships, introduced a few years ago, have been a huge success because they foster understanding between countries. I hope to extend this part of our activity beyond Europe and beyond everyday working practice to include science and research.

ESCMID's future lies in the hands and brains of our young colleagues. Thus, we have to encourage them, allow them to take active roles and continue to provide them with every opportunity not only for their own research and education but also for their ideas and feedback to benefit the Society.

ESCMID must stimulate synergy. We have been very successful in showing that a laboratory discipline (microbiology) can complementarily join forces with a clinical speciality (infectious diseases). We have also managed to bring about very successful cooperation between our Study Groups working on diverse subjects. It should be possible to increase our work with numerous specialities, ranging from the main sciences to clinical medicine. In that sense, ESCMID should continue to foster its good working relationships with other global and local organisations, including WHO and ECDC, for the benefit of public health and attempt to create a system for a prompt, coordinated

response to infectious diseases-related crises occurring anywhere in the world.












Obviously, to achieve all these ambitious desires requires teamwork. My teammates, who are magnificent scientists and hardworking professionals, include the Executive Committee and our Executive Office in Basel as well as those who take responsibility on various committees and subcommittees. But it also requires financial resources, which, historically, are sometimes more and sometimes less abundant. Our management of these resources will be crucial for our future success.

ESCMID's current success would not have been possible without the vision and inexhaustible energy of all the superb presidents of the Society, some of whom I have had the privilege to serve during the past seven years. Their passion and wisdom, while transforming ESCMID from a local organisation in its early days to a global society, inspire me to take on such a challenge for the next two years. What does the future hold for ESCMID? More networking, more encouragement and more synergy and, together with appropriate financial resources, more success!

Organisational Chart











Executive Committee

Standing Members

						
<b>Gunnar Kahlmeter</b> Växjö, SE	<b>Murat Akova</b> Ankara, TR	<b>Cornelia Lass-Flörl</b> Innsbruck, AT	<b>Jesús Rodríguez-Baño</b> Seville, ES	<b>Mario Poljak</b> Ljubljana, SI	<b>Evelina Tacconelli</b> Tübingen, DE	<b>Giuseppe Cornaglia</b> Verona, IT
President	Scientific Affairs Officer, Secretary General & President-elect	Treasurer	Education Officer	Professional Affairs Officer CM	Professional Affairs Officer ID	Past President & Communications Officer (until May 2014)
General Affairs	Science	Finance	Education	Professional Affairs, CM	Professional Affairs, ID	Communication, Publications and Awards
<div>European Council</div> <div>Scientific Affairs Subcommittee Murat Akova (Ankara, TR), Chair</div> <div>Maiken Cavling Arendrup (Copenhagen, DK) Hanan Balkhy (Riyadh, SA) Rosemary Barnes (Cardiff, UK) Germán Bou Arevalo (La Coruña, ES) Birgitta Evengård (Umeå, SE) Marek Gniadkowski (Warsaw, PL) Hakan Leblebicioglu (Samsun, TR) Hervé Pelloux (Grenoble, FR) Paul Savelkoul (Maastricht, NL)</div> <div>Study Groups</div>						
<div>Education Subcommittee Jesús Rodríguez-Baño (Seville, ES), Chair</div> <div>Emmi Andersson (Stockholm, SE) Sibel Ascioğlu (Ankara, TR) Kanita Dedic (Bihac, BA, Ad-hoc member) Maria Souli (Athens, GR) Alejandro Martin-Quiros (Madrid, ES, Ad-hoc member) Dorothea Orth (Innsbruck, AT) Tibor Pál (Al Ain, AE) Eskild Petersen (Aarhus, DK) Céline Pulcini (Nice, FR) Bernd Salzberger (Regensburg, DE) Maurizio Sanguinetti (Rome, IT)</div>						
<div>Professional Affairs Subcommittee Mario Poljak (Ljubljana, SI), Co-Chair Evelina Tacconelli (Tübingen, DE), Co-Chair</div> <div>ID members Nicholas J. Beeching (Liverpool, UK) Maria Adriana Cataldo (Rome, IT) Khetam Hussein (Haifa, IL) Endre Ludwig (Budapest, HU) Mario U. Mondelli (Pavia, IT) Leonardo Pagni (Bolzano, IT) Pilar Retamar (Seville, ES) Andrej Trampuz (Berlin, DE) Andrew J. Ullmann (Würzburg, DE)</div> <div>CM members Guido Antonelli (Rome, IT) Petra Apfalter (Linz, AT) Bridget Atkins (Oxford, UK) Hilary Humphreys (Dublin, IE) Ulrik Stenz Justesen (Odense, DK) Piotr Kochan (Cracow, PL) Truls M. Leegaard (Lørenskog, NO) Hilpi Rautelin (Uppsala, SE) Katja Seme (Ljubljana, SI)</div> <div>Parity Commission Mario Poljak (Ljubljana, SI), Co-Chair Evelina Tacconelli (Tübingen, DE), Co-Chair</div> <div>Nur Benzonana (Istanbul, TR) Titia M. Kortbeek (Bilthoven, NL) Dan Otelea (Bucharest, RO)</div>						
						
<b>Judith Zimmermann</b> Finance & Administration Manager, Secretary to the Board	<b>Henri Saenz</b> Science Manager	<b>Thomas Greif</b> Education Manager	<b>Karin Werner</b> Professional Affairs Manager			

new EC Member

Ad hoc Members

							
<b>Annelies Zinkernagel</b> Zürich, CH	<b>Jordi Vila</b> Barcelona, ES	<b>Winfried V. Kern</b> Freiburg, DE	<b>Didier Raoult</b> Marseille, FR	<b>Michel Drancourt</b> Marseille, FR	<b>Roger Finch</b> Hognaston, UK	<b>William W. Hope</b> Liverpool, UK	<b>Rafael Canton</b> Madrid, ES
(as of May 2014)	ECCMID Pro-gramme Director (until May 2014)	ECCMID Pro-gramme Director (as of May 2014)	Editor-in-Chief, <i>CMi</i>	Editor-in-Chief, <i>NMNI</i>	Medical Guidelines Director (until May 2014)	Medical Guidelines Director (as of May 2014)	EUCAST Chairperson
	ECCMID	ECCMID	<i>CMi</i>	<i>NMNI</i>	Medical Guidelines	Medical Guidelines	EUCAST
<div>Publication Subcommittee Giuseppe Cornaglia (Verona, IT), Chair</div> <div>Rupert Cousens (Oxford, UK) Michel Drancourt (Marseille, FR) Didier Raoult (Marseille, FR)</div> <div>Programme Committee ECCMID 2014 Jordi Vila (Barcelona, ES), Programme Director</div> <div>Winfried Kern (Freiburg, DE), Deputy Programme Director</div> <div>Murat Akova (Ankara, TK) Emmi Andersson (Stockholm, SE) Jordi Carratala (Barcelona, ES) Elisa Cordero Matias (Seville, ES) Giuseppe Cornaglia (Verona, IT) Carmen-Michaela Cretu (Bucharest, RO) Alexander W. Friedrich (Groningen, NL) Johan Giesecke (Stockholm, SE) Gilbert Greub (Lausanne, CH) Hans H. Hirsch (Basel, CH) Po-Ren Hsueh (Taipei, TW) Gunnar Kahlmeter (Växjö, SE) Cornelia Lass-Flörl (Innsbruck, AT) Marc Lecuit (Paris, FR) Rogelio López-Vélez (Madrid, ES) Alasdair MacGowan (Bristol, UK) Surbhi Malhotra-Kumar (Antwerpen, BE) Luis Martínez-Martine (Santander, ES) Patricia Muñoz Garcia (Madrid, ES) Alvaro Pascual Hernandez (Sevilla, ES) Mical Paul (Petah-Tiqva, IL) Nicola Petrosillo (Rome, IT) Mario Poljak (Ljubljana, SI) Didier Raoult (Marseille, FR) Guénaél Rodier (Geneva, CH) Jesús Rodríguez-Baño (Seville, ES) Alex Soriano (Barcelona, ES) Mark Struelens (Stockholm, SE) Evelina Tacconelli (Tübingen, DE) Andrew J. Ullmann (Würzburg, DE) Nienke van de Sande-Bruinsma (Copenhagen, DK) Maria Virginia Villegas (Cali, CO) Annelies Zinkernagel (Zürich, CH)</div>							
							
<b>Dianne White</b> Membership Manager	<b>Nora Nedkov</b> Project Manager Events						



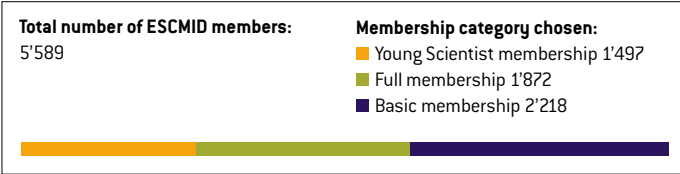
# ESCMID – about the Society



Gunnar Kahlmeter  
ESCMID President  
gunnar.kahlmeter@escmid.org

**ESCMID – reaching out to the world from its Swiss hub**  
Since May 2011 ESCMID has been based in Switzerland and continues to provide services and activities that longstanding members have come to appreciate. We are pleased to report that the Society has now grown to more members than ever – 5’587 – an increase of over 15% compared to 2013! From this year everyone with an ESCMID login or membership may use this to register for ECCMID. We believe this has made the process more user-friendly and it’s easier for participants to save on registration fees by purchasing a membership beforehand. As seen in Figure 1, the largest portion of our membership is in Europe, yet some of our top 40 countries are in North America, Asia and Africa (Figure 2), and we have members from 109 countries worldwide, proving that we are not just attractive to European professionals.

The annual congress, ECCMID, is the Society’s biggest annual event. It is now the largest congress of its kind in the fields of CM and ID. However, the Society has much more to offer than the annual meeting!



Key membership statistics as of 12th March 2014

To facilitate the professional life and careers of our young colleagues, we offer a variety of programmes that especially target members still at an early stage in their careers including:

- ESCMID Observerships, including special Observerships with ECDC and WHO
- Travel Grants for the annual congress – ECCMID
- Travel Grants for ESCMID courses, workshops and conferences
- ESCMID Online Lecture Library (OLL)
- Option to participate in the Trainees Association of ESCMID (TAE)
- ESCMID Research Grants
- ESCMID Summer School

Other core benefits of ESCMID membership include:

- ESCMID Collaborative Centre programme – to host Observers
- Post-graduate courses – continuing education
- Scientific conferences on special topics
- The Society’s Journals – CMI and NMNI
- ESCMID guidelines – medical and laboratory
- European projects – e.g. EUCAST
- Study Groups – expert groups on specific topics

One of the Society’s main strengths is its facilitation of networking inside Europe. ESCMID has over 50 Affiliated Societies that provide input into our activities and whose members we regularly contact. Collaboration with ECDC and WHO has strengthened – both actively participate in ESCMID and ECCMID activities. To reach out beyond Europe, ESCMID delegations regularly travel to conferences and meetings all over the world, as far afield as Russia, India, China and Brazil.

We invite you to visit our website and explore our many resources.

Figure 1. ESCMID Members according to continent



The ESCMID Executive Committee 2013–14

(l. to r.) Gunnar Kahlmeter, Sweden  
Giuseppe Cornaglia, Italy  
Cornelia Lass-Flörl, Austria  
Mario Poljak, Slovenia  
Evelina Tacconelli, Germany  
Murat Akova, Turkey  
Jesús Rodríguez-Baño, Spain



ESCMID Executive Office staff, Basel, Switzerland



ECCMID attendees moving through 'ESCMID World' 2013



Vote at Assembly of members 2013

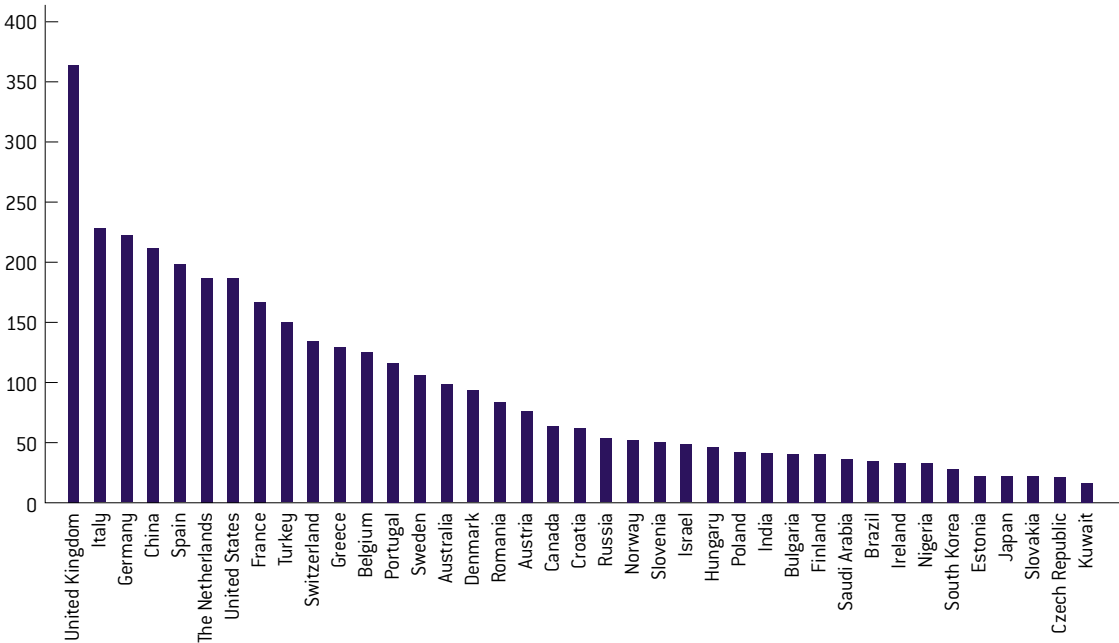


Figure 2. Countries with the most ESCMID members

Join us today –  
our commitment  
is infectious!

– Become an  
ESCMID member

– Then sign-up for  
Study Groups

VISIT US!  
IN THE ESCMID WORLD  
AT ECCMID BARCELONA

**Good reasons for membership:**

- Society's journals: *CMI*, *NMNI*
- Registration discounts for events
- Participation in Study Groups
- ESCMID Newsletter and Yearbook
- Discounts to other journals
- Access to the Online Lecture Library and Membership Directory
- Eligibility for ESCMID Awards, Research Grants and Observerships
- Right to vote and participate in ESCMID

**Apply for Membership**

Visit our website and join us now!

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

## ESCMID Executive Committee Elections Held in 2013

An election to fill the vacancy on the ESCMID Executive Committee was held from 25 November to 16 December 2013 via a web-based platform. Selection of candidates had been based on professional and geographical criteria to ensure a wide choice and a well-balanced and competent Executive Committee.

The new Executive Committee Member will be inaugurated at the Assembly of Members held during the 24th ECCMID in Barcelona.

The newly elected member of the ESCMID Executive Committee is:



*Annelies Zinkernagel*  
[annelies.zinkernagel@escmid.org](mailto:annelies.zinkernagel@escmid.org)

I am very pleased to be elected as a member of the ESCMID Executive Committee. As a physician/scientist I strive to combine basic research with patient care. I am highly motivated to expand this work. Together with the other members of the Executive Committee and ESCMID members I shall strive to further evolve and consolidate basic as well as clinical research. Further, my involvement with ESCMID will be to enhance educational, professional and scientific activity in order to solidify ESCMID as 'the' scientific and clinical organisation for all issues related to infectious diseases.

**Position and affiliation**

Senior Physician in Infectious Diseases, Laboratory Group Leader, University Hospital Zurich, Division of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology

# Finances 2013



Cornelia Lass-Flörl  
Treasurer  
cornelia.lass-flörl@escmid.org

ESCMID had a successful 2013, having been through a period of profound transformation, both organisationally and financially, in 2011 and 2012. In 2013, with our seat in Switzerland well-established, we spent EUR 0.5 million more on key activities than in 2012 (see graph). This applies especially to the Scientific Affairs sector, where we doubled our expenses, since this field encompasses our core competencies and is essential to the future of the Society.

The 2014 budget foresees expenditures of approximately EUR 3.4 million, mostly concentrated in the areas of Science, Professional Affairs and Education (Figure 1). ESCMID is proud to keep supporting previously successful projects and is committed to funding new scientific and educational activities, including Study Groups, conferences and workshops, medical guidelines, awards and grants.

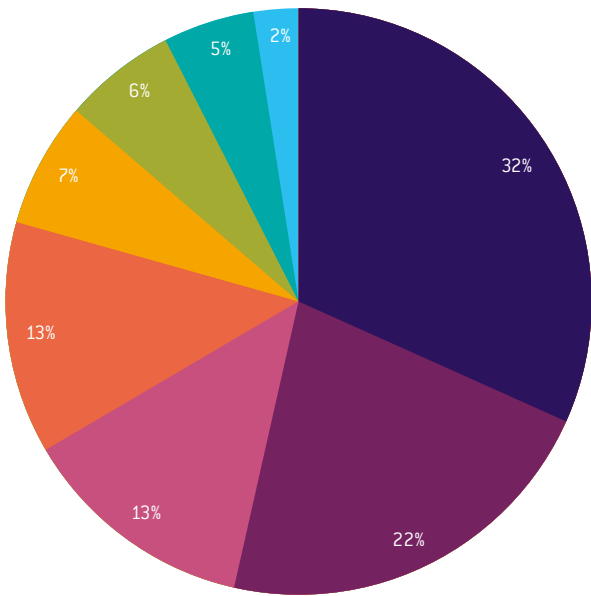
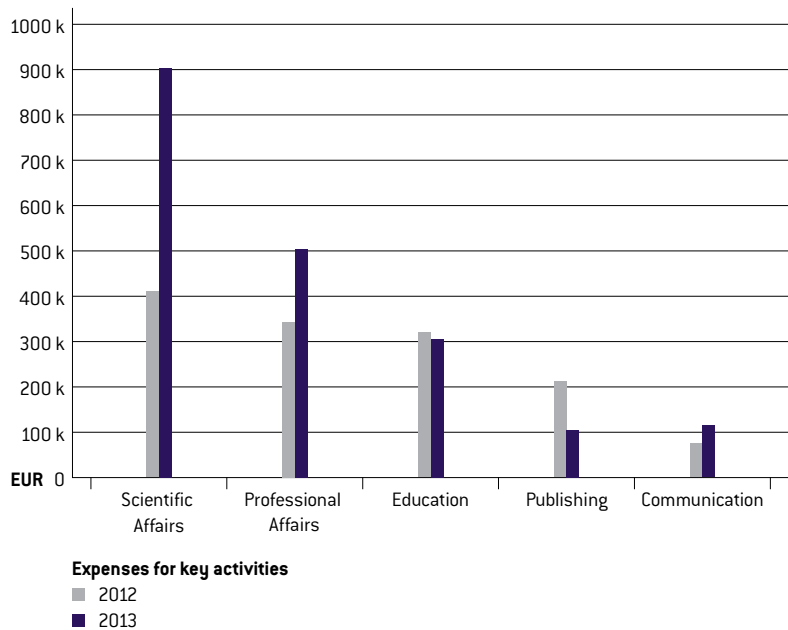


Figure 1. Budgeted expenses 2014

- Scientific Affairs
- Professional Affairs
- Executive Committee
- Education
- Membership Services
- Communication
- Administration, Finances, Office
- Publishing



# Awards and Grants 2014

ESCMID Award for Excellence in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2014

ESCMID Young Investigator Awards for Research in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2014

ESCMID Research Grants 2014

ESCMID TAE Awards for Training Achievements 2014

ISF Sepsis Award 2013

Murat Akova  
ESCMID Scientific Affairs Officer  
murat.akova@escmid.org

We are pleased to present the recipients of awards and grants for the year 2014. ESCMID continues its strong commitment to the grant programmes, as evidenced by our support of 13 individuals for an ESCMID Research Grant as well as our generous allocation of funds for ECCMID travel grants. In 2013 attendance grant funding for courses and conferences increased by some 60%, demonstrating our commitment to continuous learning and exchange.

Ilaria Capua (Padua, Italy) is the ESCMID Excellence awardee for 2014. In addition to the publication of more than 200 scientific papers, many of which were published in leading international peer-reviewed journals, she has also played a key role in launching global initiatives, served on international committees and received numerous accolades. Her lifetime achievements and contribution to research, particularly in the management of avian influenza viruses and other animal viruses, have significantly influenced recent intervention strategies developed for animal and, consequently, human health issues.

The Young Investigator Awardees for 2014 are Michael Ramharter (Vienna, Austria) and Joost Wiersinga (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). Michael Ramharter has been pivotal in the pre-clinical and clinical development of anti-malarial drugs, with a focus on Central Africa and paediatric patients. Joost Wiersinga's field of interest is sepsis, and he has an excellent track record for the interplay between severe infections and host response, combining experimental animal studies, laboratory investigations and clinical studies.

The recipients of the 2014 Trainee Association of ESCMID Awards for Training Achievements are Liliana Praticò in Infec-

tious Diseases (Pavia, Italy), Neven Papić in Infectious Diseases (Zagreb, Croatia) and Yusuf Erlangga in Clinical Microbiology (Brussels, Belgium).

The International Sepsis Forum (ISF) Award recipient for 2014 is Jacqueline M. Lankelma (Amsterdam, The Netherlands).

Thirteen young colleagues received an ESCMID Research Grant in 2014 to work on their proposed basic or applied research projects. The choice was exceptionally difficult this year as we received a record number of 145 research grant applications of high-quality. Every year one of those receiving a grant is also awarded the ESCMID/FEMS fellowship and this year it goes to two recipients. We are truly thankful to the large number of Research Grant Reviewers who dedicated their time and energy to evaluate all these applications thoroughly. We proudly acknowledge our Reviewers by name on page 61.

In addition, ESCMID supports young colleagues with merit-based travel grants and free registration to enable them to attend ECCMID. We gave more than 100 young scientists travel grants and free registration for ECCMID Barcelona, where they will present the results of their work. ESCMID also supports its young members with attendance grants for ESCMID conferences, the Summer School, post-graduate educational courses and other educational and/or scientific events. In 2013 ESCMID spent 60% more on these activities compared to 2012.

You can find details of all recipients of awards and research/travel grants for 2014 on the following pages.



## ESCMID Award for Excellence in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2014



### Ilaria Capua

Ilaria Capua is currently a Member of the Italian Parliament and Vice-President of the 7th Parliamentary Commission for Culture, Science and Education. Therefore, she has taken a leave of absence from her position as Director of the Division of Comparative Biomedical Sciences at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Legnaro (Padua), Italy; her division hosts the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Reference Laboratories for animal and avian influenzas and Newcastle disease, rabies and the OIE Collaborating Centre for Diseases at the Human-Animal Interface. She is also a visiting professor at the Centre for Virus Research at the University of Glasgow. Her group in Legnaro of over 70 staff provides diagnostic expertise globally and conducts cutting-edge research on influenza viruses and viral zoonoses.

She has extensive experience in coordinating international research projects funded by the European Commission, and has also worked closely with FAO, managing Technical Cooperation Projects covering 40 countries, and with OIE in international activities and twinning projects. She is author or co-author of over 200 publications in peer-reviewed journals as well as editor of scientific books and of books and articles for the general public. In 2006 she ignited an international debate on enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration to foster transparency of genetic data of influenza viruses, which has promoted a review of international health policies on data sharing to improve pandemic preparedness.

In 2007 she was among the winners of the Scientific American 50 Award and, in 2008, was included among Seed Magazine's Revolutionary Minds for leadership in science policy. She is the first female recipient of the Penn Vet World Lead-

ership in Animal Health Award, the most prestigious award in veterinary medicine (2011). In 2012 she became a *Grande Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana*, the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic awarded by the Italian President.

### Research interests

Her areas of research include viral diseases of birds, mammals and fish, with particular reference to zoonotic viral infections. Her group is actively involved in the epidemiology, evolution and phylogeny of avian influenza viruses and in the development of novel vaccines for influenza infections. In addition, studies on interspecies transmission mechanisms and on the metabolic consequences of influenza infection have become core parts of her research activities. The group also functions as an international reference laboratory for rabies and lyssaviruses, which is involved in molecular evolution studies and the development of novel control and prevention strategies. Other areas of interest include diagnosis and control of Newcastle disease and coronavirus infections in poultry, pathogenesis and vaccine development for viral diseases of fish and poultry and research on selected viral zoonotic agents, including astroviruses, West Nile virus and related flaviviruses. The application and integration of advanced tools in molecular genetics and bioinformatics for research focusing on infectious diseases at the animal-human interface is also a key activity of her group.

Ilaria Capua will be presented with her award during the ESCMID Excellence Award ceremony by Gunnar Kahlmeter, ESCMID President, and Giuseppe Cornaglia, ESCMID Past President, on Monday, 12 May 2014, 14.30–15.30 in Hall C. During this ceremony she will give her recipient's lecture: *'Close encounters of the third kind – pathogens and globalisation'*.

## ESCMID Young Investigator Awards for Research in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2014



### Michael Ramharter

He is Associate Professor at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria, and leader of the Infectious Disease Control Group – a scientific working group co-affiliated to the Institut für Tropenmedizin, Universität Tübingen, and the Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné in the Central African country of Gabon. Early in his career he worked under the guidance of Walther H. Wernsdorfer on the preclinical development of anti-malarials in the Thai-Myanmar border region – an experience which sparked an ever-increasing interest in the clinical investigation of infectious diseases in the tropics. He shifted the focus of his work to Central Africa when he joined Professor Peter G. Kremsner's team at the Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné, at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Gabon. He has held postdoctoral positions at the Institut für Tropenmedizin, Universität Tübingen, and the Institut Pasteur, Université de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France. He currently works as a specialist in Internal Medicine and consultant in Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine at the Division of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine headed by Professor Wolfgang Graninger.

### Research Interests

Starting from the preclinical evaluation of antimalarial drugs, he developed a strong interest in the clinical development of antimalarial combination therapies. He has led a series of clinical trials investigating novel drugs and drug combinations for the treatment and prevention of malaria in children and pregnant women – two of the most vulnerable patient populations in sub-Saharan Africa. Besides malaria, his main research activities focus on the epidemiology and management of neglected tropical diseases including schistosomiasis and echinococcosis and other infectious diseases occurring in the tropics.

Michael Ramharter will be presented with his award during the ESCMID Young Investigator Awards Session on 13 May 2014 at 11.30–12.30 in Hall E. During the session, he will present his work: *'Development of antimalarial drugs in Lambaréné, Gabon'*.



### Joost Wiersinga

He received his medical training at the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands) with additional courses at the Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH, Bethesda, MD). He achieved his PhD on the topic 'On Toll-like receptors and the innate immune response in sepsis caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei* (melioidosis)', cum laude under the guidance of Professor Tom van der Poll (University of Amsterdam) and Professor Sharon Peacock (University of Oxford); during this period he worked in Thailand at the Wellcome Trust South-East Asia Major Overseas Programme in Bangkok. Previous awards won by him are the O'Callaghan PhD Award, the Andreas Bonn Medallion and the GSK ICAAC Award. At the moment, he divides his time between patient care at the Department of Medicine (sub-specialty Infectious Diseases), teaching and research in the Center for Experimental Molecular Medicine (CEMM) and the Center for Infection and Immunity (CINIMA), all at the Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

### Research Interests














He investigates innate immune responses in sepsis, with a special interest in sepsis caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Burkholderia pseudomallei* and *Salmonella typhi*. Recent interests include the role of gut microbiota during severe bacterial infections and optimisation of antibiotic therapy for – among others – cellulitis/erysipelas. He currently steers the European Sepsis Academy grant initiative and the European Melioidosis Network. His work has been published in *Nat Rev Microbiol*, *PLoS Pathog*, *PLoS Medicine*, *N Engl J Med* and other journals.

Joost Wiersinga will be presented with his award during the ESCMID Young Investigator Awards Session on 13 May 2014 at 11.30–12.30 in Hall E. During the session, he will present his work: *'Gut-lung axis: the intestinal microbiota in pneumonia'*.



ESCMID Research Grants 2014

The following ESCMID members have received a Research Grant in 2014 for the indicated project.

				
<p><b>Paula Espinal</b> Microbiology, Centre Esther Koplowitz, Barcelona, Spain</p> <p><b>Project:</b> Relationship between resistance mechanisms and potential virulence in <i>Acinetobacter</i> spp. strains using the <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i> model</p>	<p><b>Ana Sofia Ferreira</b> BSRG, Institute for Biotechnology and Bioengineering (IBB)/Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Lisbon, Portugal</p> <p><b>Project:</b> How do bacterial phosphotyrosine phosphatase proteins modulate host-pathogen interactions?</p>	<p><b>Gabriela Flores-Ramirez</b> Department of Rickettsiology, Institute of Virology, Bratislava, Slovakia</p> <p><b>Project:</b> Profile of the protein response in the process to tetracycline resistance by <i>Coxiella burnetii</i></p>	<p><b>Mateja Jelen</b> Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, Ljubljana, Slovenia</p> <p><b>Project:</b> Genome sequencing analysis of more than 2'000 vaccine-relevant, globally circulating, human papillomavirus HPV-6 and HPV-11 isolates</p>	<p><b>Boštjan J. Kocjan</b> Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, Ljubljana, Slovenia</p> <p><b>Project:</b> Determination of molecular mechanisms of low-risk HPV-mediated carcinogenesis</p>
			 <div>ESCMID / FEMS Fellow 2014</div>	
<p><b>Anália Lourenço</b> University of Vigo, Ourense, Spain</p> <p><b>Project:</b> Reconstruction of polymicrobial interactions in infections: the case of <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> and <i>Candida albicans</i> cross talk in ventilator-associated pneumonia</p>	<p><b>Michael McConnell</b> Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, Biomedical Institute of Seville, Seville, Spain</p> <p><b>Project:</b> Identification of novel antibiotic targets for <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> through the characterization of metabolic genes required for biofilm formation, virulence and infection</p>	<p><b>Jana Basas Satorras</b> Infectious Diseases, Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona, Spain</p> <p><b>Project:</b> PLGA nanoparticles as specific carriers for nebulized drug delivery of antibiotic combinations against respiratory infections caused by high-risk clones of <i>P. aeruginosa</i> in the murine model</p>	<p><b>Cynthia Mira Sharma</b> Institute for Molecular Infection Biology (IMIB)/ Research Center for Infectious Diseases (ZINF), University of Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany</p> <p><b>Project:</b> New 3D-infection models based on tissue-engineering to study pathogenicity of <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> and <i>Campylobacter jejuni</i></p>	<p><b>Isabel Soares Silva</b> Serviço de Nefrologia, Hospital de S. João, Porto, Portugal</p> <p><b>Project:</b> Establishment of an <i>in vitro</i> model system for the study of biofilm formation in haemodialysis tunneled catheters</p>
		 <div>ESCMID / FEMS Fellow 2014</div>		
<p><b>Sandra Sousa</b> Infection and Immunity, Group of Molecular Microbiology, IBMC, Porto, Portugal</p> <p><b>Project:</b> Novel interfaces during host responses to pore forming toxins: crosstalk between ER chaperones and cytoskeletal proteins</p>	<p><b>Debby van Riel</b> Viroscience, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands</p> <p><b>Project:</b> Cell-to-cell transmission of influenza viruses along the olfactory route</p>	<p><b>M. Isabel Veiga</b> Life and Health Sciences Research Institute (ICVS), University of Minho, Braga, Portugal</p> <p><b>Project:</b> The ATP-binding cassette transporters <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> multidrug resistance proteins (pfMRPs) and their relevance in antimalarial drug resistance</p>		

# ESCMID TAE Awards for Training Achievements 2014



**Neven Papic**  
University Hospital for  
Infectious Diseases,  
Zagreb, Croatia

Infectious Diseases



**Liliana Praticò**  
Fondazione IRCCS  
Policlinico San Matteo,  
Pavia, Italy

Infectious Diseases



**Erlangga Yusuf**  
University Hospital Brussels,  
Brussels, Belgium

Medical Microbiology

# ISF Sepsis Award 2014

Jacqueline Lankelma will give a short presentation about her project in the ISF session on Saturday, 10 May 2014 from 13.30 – 15.30 h in Hall K.



**Jacqueline M. Lankelma**  
Academic Medical Center,  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Project:** Protective role of  
the gut microbiota in pneumonia-  
derived sepsis

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- **ESCMID Guidelines for the Management of the Infection Control Measures to Reduce Transmission of Multidrug-resistant Gram-negative Bacteria in Hospitalised Patients**
- **ESCMID Update of the Treatment Guidance Document for Clostridium difficile Infection**
- **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines**



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# Scientific Affairs

www.escmid.org/science



Murat Akova  
ESCMID Scientific Affairs Officer,  
President-elect & Secretary General  
murat.akova@escmid.org

### The basis is growing

The main driving force within ESCMID is its large number of highly active Study Groups (SGs). Every year some new networks of experts focusing on a topic apply for SG status. Over the last year three groups from the diverse fields of mycoplasma and staphylococcal diseases and vaccines became SGs. Their planned activities are described on page 19.

### Collaboration is key

Since SGs have to apply for ESCMID funding for their various projects, competition is increasing with the growing number of SGs. We counter unnecessary competition by stimulating SGs to collaborate on proposals for research projects when applying for SG Research Grant funding, when submitting suggestions for ECCMID sessions, or when proposing free-standing courses as part of the annual Education Programme. A good example is the Education Programme 2014 in which 9 of the 17 Postgraduate Education Courses accepted were proposed and are organised by two or more SGs (see forthcoming events, page 59).

A paradigm of internal collaboration within an SG is the new Open Virtual Learning Community (<http://esgap.escmid.org>), a new knowledge and networking resource on antimicrobial stewardship by our Antibiotic Policies group (ESGAP). Building this resource involved an intensive time of close collaboration of many experts to gather and combine the information. Now the scientific community can both profit from and contribute to it, openly and freely, focusing on the exchange of experiences and comments.

**ESCMID Sections (and responsible Section Leader)**

- Bacteria & Bacterial Diseases (Marek Gniadkowski, Warsaw, PL)
- Fungi & Fungal Diseases (Maiken Cavling Arendrup, Copenhagen, DK)
- Parasites & Parasitic Diseases (Birgitta Evengård, Umeå, SE)
- Viruses & Viral Diseases (Hakan Leblebicioglu, Samsun, TR)

**ESCMID Themes (and responsible Theme Leader)**

- Pathogenesis & Immunology (Hervé Pelloux, Grenoble, FR)
- Epidemiology, Public Health & Vaccinology (Rosemary Barnes, Cardiff, UK)
- Clinics & Therapeutics (Hanan Balkhy, Riyadh, SA)
- Diagnostics (Paul Savelkoul, Amsterdam, NL)
- Antimicrobial Resistance & Susceptibility Testing (Germán Bou, La Coruña, ES)

For more information see [www.escmid.org/science](http://www.escmid.org/science).

Another good example of collaboration on different levels is the topic ‘New Life for Old Antibiotics’. Our PK/PD of Anti-Infectives group (EPASG) and ESGAP received an SG Research Grant to create an inventory of dosing regimens for old antibiotics that need updating to optimise and preserve their efficacy. With the help of the ESCMID office, the information was published on a dedicated website (<http://epasg.escmid.org>) now allowing for comment and information exchange. When the principle investigator, Dr Ursula Theuretzbacher, came up with the idea of holding a conference on this topic, the ESCMID Executive Committee decided to make it an official ESCMID Conference ([www.escmid.org/Vienna2014](http://www.escmid.org/Vienna2014)), and to fund it completely.



Scientific Affairs Subcommittee meeting in 2013  
(l. to r.) Hanan Balkhy, Marek Gniadkowski, Hakan Leblebicioglu, Henri Saenz, Hervé Pelloux, Birgitta Evengård, Maiken Cavling Arendrup, Rosemary Barnes, Murat Akova, Paul Savelkoul, Germán Bou

The main task of the Scientific Affairs Subcommittee (SAS) is to have a close eye on the activity of all SGs. This implies a monitoring function but, in reality, it usually means working together with SGs with the aim of creating new projects, new initiatives or even new roles for SGs. An example from 2013 is when SAS asked SGs to offer their expertise and to contribute as reviewers to evaluate the many Research Grant applications. This worked fine and I heartily thank all reviewers and the related SGs for undertaking this new activity (see page 61). Every year in the Scientific Affairs Meeting (see picture of the 2013 meeting), SAS and all SGs come together to discuss everything, from individual projects to the future of science.

### New SAS tasks

As science is constantly developing, the tasks of SAS change slightly from time to time. This year SAS acquired the new task as advisory board for the Medical Guidelines Director, to use their expertise to help assess the diverse guideline and consensus statement proposals. I look forward to this new opportunity for fruitful collaboration.

To close the circle, I would like to say a special thank you to all the members of SAS and all active SG members; only their constant commitment and involvement enables our Society and the whole scientific community to advance.

# Study Group News

www.escmid.org/studygroups

ESCMID Study Groups are expert circles with a common, focused interest. You can find an overview of Study Groups, their positioning within the ESCMID Sections and Themes as well as their activities online at [www.escmid.org/studygroups](http://www.escmid.org/studygroups).

### New Study Groups

**ESGMI**  
ESCMID STUDY GROUP  
FOR MYCOPLASMA INFECTIONS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

The ESCMID Study Group for *Mycoplasma* infections (ESGMI) is a group of scientists who aim to study and improve the diagnosis, treatment, control and prevention of *Mycoplasma* and *Ureaplasma* spp. infections in humans.

The main objective of the coming year is to finish the collaborative study (begun in 2013) on the establishment of an MLVA international typing database for *M. pneumoniae* in clinical samples, with inclusion of P1 adhesin typing and resistance data. To that end, an international collaborative group, co-ordinated by V. Chalker, and including researchers from UK, France, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark and others, has recently been formed and would welcome other European SG members. According to the data obtained, guidelines will be written for improving MLVA typing for *M. pneumoniae*.



Mycoplasma conference 2013 in Dubrovnik

**ESGS**  
ESCMID STUDY GROUP  
FOR STAPHYLOCOCCI AND  
STAPHYLOCOCCAL DISEASES  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

The newly formed ESCMID Study Group for Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Diseases started its activities in 2013.

### Planned activities

- Organise sessions at ECCMID 2015, especially joint ones with other Study Groups
- Participate and assist in the organisation of the ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop ‘Molecular Typing Methods for Pathogens’, 30 June – 4 July 2014, Lyon, France, coordinated by ESGEM

- Undertake a multicentre European survey to assess the prevalence of CA-MRSA in skin and soft-tissue infections at hospital admission, and the proportion of these caused by the major clone USA300 vs other lineages, similar to the Moran et al NEJM 2006 study
- Interaction with the International Symposium on Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections in Chicago, August 2014, with the possibility of supporting a session or selected oral speakers

**EVASG**  
ESCMID VACCINE  
STUDY GROUP  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

The newly founded ESCMID Vaccine Study Group began its work in 2013.

### Planned activities

- ECCMID 2014, Barcelona: 2-hour Educational Workshop: Vaccination in the elderly: perspectives
  - 2-hour Symposium: Hot topics in vaccine-preventable diseases
  - Meet-the-Expert Session: Healthcare providers and influenza vaccination
- Conference on The Importance of Mutual Protection, Spring 2015
- Consensus Statement on Recommended Immunisation Schedules for Adults and the Elderly to be completed within 2014



EVASG foundation meeting at ECCMID 2013 in Berlin



Portrait of a top-performing Study Group



ESGCD Business Meeting at ECCMID 2013

Ian Poxton (Edinburgh, UK)  
ESGCD Chair 2005–2009; i.r.poxton@ed.ac.uk

Ed Kuijper (Leiden, The Netherlands)  
Current ESGCD Chair; e.j.kuijper@lumc.nl

The foundations of the group were laid in Stockholm in 2000, steered enthusiastically by Jon Brazier together with several *Clostridium difficile* stalwarts, and the group’s inaugural symposium was held at ECCMID in Istanbul in 2001.

Jon Brazier completed two 2-year terms as Chair (2001-2005), with Ian Poxton taking over the reins from 2005-2009, again ably assisted by Michel Delmée as treasurer and Ed Kuijper as secretary. Following Ian’s departure, Ed Kuijper continued the leadership, with Frédéric Barbut as treasurer and Jean O’Driscoll as secretary. From the outset, the group’s Executive Committee consisted of individuals with a long-established history of *C. difficile* research from the European countries where *C. difficile* infections (CDIs) were most actively investigated.

The great success of the Study Group is the result of many factors, including a great drive to host symposia, educational workshops and ‘meet the expert’ sessions at ECCMIDs; being proactive in organising prospective surveys to determine the epidemiology of *C. difficile* in European Member States; and developing international guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of CDIs – in collaboration with ECDC and other interested parties in Europe and North America. Collaborations with ESCMID Study Groups and other societies have also been important. Notable among these were the joint post-graduate education courses with ESGARAB (now named ESGAI) on anaerobic bacteria in Szeged (2007) and Groningen (2010); the joint FEMS/ESCMID series on New Frontiers in Microbiology and Infection: ‘Clostridia: from

old diseases to new threats’, held in Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland, in 2008, and being part of the organising committees for the four International *Clostridium difficile* Symposia held in Slovenia 2004–12.

The Study Group was instrumental in securing funding from the EU for Framework Six and Seven projects, and has collaborated with ECDC on two large projects: ‘European *Clostridium Infection* Survey (2008–2009)’ and ‘Supporting capacity building for surveillance of *Clostridium difficile* infections at European level (2010–2014)’ (see [www.ecdisnet.eu](http://www.ecdisnet.eu)). The group also provided support for the publication of ‘*Clostridium difficile* infection in Europe’ (sponsored by Astellas). Using recent support from ESCMID, an update of the treatment guidance document was published as a special issue of *CMI* (March 2014).

Planned activities

- The Study Group is involved in applications for Horizon 2020 projects and for Joint Programming Initiatives on Antimicrobial Resistance.
- An update of the diagnostic guidance document has been scheduled for 2014–2015.
- At ECCMID 2014, a two-hour Symposium will be held on ‘New approaches to prevent transmission of *Clostridium difficile* infections,’ and a one-hour Symposium on ‘Emergence of *Clostridium difficile* infections outside healthcare facilities.’
- ESGCD will also organise a session at the 9th Healthcare Infection Society International Conference 2014 in association with the French Society for Hospital Hygiene (SF2H).
- In close collaboration with ESGAI and EUCAST, fidaxomicin ECOFFs will be determined.
- ESGCD will provide a chapter in Infectious Diseases 4th edition (Cohen, Powderly and Opal).

Executive Committee Members:

- Anne Collignon, Faculty of Pharmacy, Dept. Microbiology, University of Paris-Sud XI
- Paola Mastrantonio, Dept. Infectious Diseases, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome
- Petra Gastmeier, Hospital Infection Control, Charité-Universitätsmedizin, Berlin
- Mark Wilcox, Dept. Med. Microbiology, University of Leeds
- Emilio Bouza, Dept. Med. Microbiology, University Hospital, Madrid, Spain
- Reno Frei, Dept. Med. Microbiology, University Hospital, Basel, Switzerland
- Fidelma Fitzpatrick, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Dublin, Ireland
- Richard Bax, Transcrip Partners, Reading, UK

**Chairperson:** Ed Kuijper, Dept. Med. Microbiology, Leiden University Medical Center  
**Secretary:** Jean O’Driscoll, Dept. Med. Microbiology, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, UK  
**Treasurer:** Frédéric Barbut, Infection Control Practitioner in Saint-Antoine Hospital, Paris

The Study Groups held their annual meeting at ECCMID 2013





 **ESGCIP** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



 **ESGIE** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR INFECTIONS IN THE ELDERLY  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



 **ESGICH** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR INFECTIONS IN COMPROMISED HOSTS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



 **ESGIAI** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR IMPLANT-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



 **ESGEM** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR EPIDEMIOLOGICAL MARKERS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



 **EFWISG** ESCMID FOOD- AND WATER-BORNE INFECTIONS STUDY GROUP  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



 **ESCAR** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR COXIELLA, ANAPLASMA, RICKETTSIA AND BARTONELLA  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



 **ESGLI** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR LEGIONELLA INFECTIONS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



 **EFISG** ESCMID FUNGAL INFECTION STUDY GROUP  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



 **EHSG** EUROPEAN HELICOBACTER STUDY GROUP  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



EHSG Workshop 2012 in Ljubljana

 **ESGBOR** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR LYME BORRELIOSIS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



 **ESGMD** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases





**ESGMYC** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR MYCOBACTERIAL INFECTIONS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



**ESGNI** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR NOSOCOMIAL INFECTIONS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



**EPASG** ESCMID PK/PD OF ANTI-INFECTIVES STUDY GROUP  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



**ESGARS** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



**ESGITM** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR INFECTIONS IN TRAVELLERS AND MIGRANTS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



**ESGVH** ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



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ESCMID Medical Guidelines

www.escmid.org/guidelines

Murat Akova  
ESCMID Scientific Affairs Officer,  
President-elect & Secretary General  
murat.akova@escmid.org

ESCMID actively supports the publication of high-quality, evidence-based guidance to support best medical practice in the diagnosis and management of infectious disease. The guidance is based on current best evidence and is intended to support patient management, although this of necessity demands the careful consideration of all issues relevant to a particular patient.

ESCMID supported guidance may be in the form of Clinical Practice Guidelines, Consensus Statements or Technology Reviews. The table below lists currently ongoing and recently completed guidance projects. The diligent work of all partnering Study Groups and Societies in these projects is greatly appreciated.

On the Medical Guidelines website (see top of page for direct link), you can find published guidelines written, endorsed or otherwise promoted by ESCMID; furthermore, there are detailed instructions if you want to submit a proposal for guidelines yourself.

Guideline	Owner	Status
Fever and neutropenia	ESCMID/ESIL (ESGICH)	Published 2013
Surviving sepsis campaign (treatment guideline) –revision 2012	ISF/ESCMID	Published 2013
Infection control measures for MDR Gram-negative bacteria in the healthcare setting	ESCMID	Published 2014
Diagnosis and treatment of emerging fungal diseases	ESCMID/ECMM (EFISG)	Published 2014
Treatment of <i>Clostridium difficile</i> –update	ESCMID (ESGCD)	Published 2014
Diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment of biofilm infections	ESCMID (ESGB)	Publication planned in 2014
Diagnosis and treatment of <i>Aspergillus</i> diseases	ESCMID/ECMM/ERS/EACCI (EFISG)	Publication planned in 2014
Diagnosis and treatment of bacterial meningitis	ESCMID (ESGIB)	Publication planned in 2014
HAP/VAP	ERS/ESICM/ESCMID	Publication planned in 2014
The diagnosis and management of vertebral osteomyelitis	IDSA/ESCMID	Publication planned in 2014
Clinical practice guidelines on leishmaniasis	IDSA/ESCMID/ASTMH	Publication planned in 2014
Nontuberculous mycobacteria	IDSA/ATC/ERS/ESCMID	Started 2013

Roger Finch has been Medical Guidelines Director since 2012. In the name of the entire Executive Committee, I would like to warmly acknowledge his strong commitment to overseeing and stimulating the diverse guideline projects during his term of office. He also intensively contributed to the further development of simple, comprehensive operating procedures to make it much easier for you, the project proposers and managers, to propose and run such complex projects.

ESCMID will introduce William Hope as the new Medical Guidelines Director during ECCMID 2014 in Barcelona, with the Scientific Affairs Subcommittee newly enlisted as advisory board.

We are looking forward to your proposals for new guidelines.

CAESAR Project

Nienke van de Sande  
WHO Regional Office for Europe  
NVS@euro.who.int

The Central Asian and Eastern European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (CAESAR) project is a joint initiative of ESCMID, The Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe. The aim of CAESAR is to set up a network of national surveillance systems of antibiotic resistance in all countries of the WHO European Region that are not part of EARS-Net, by using similar methodology.

CAESAR is an important step towards the implementation of the European strategic action plan on antibiotic resistance adopted by the WHO-EURO Regional Committee 61 in Baku, Azerbaijan, in September 2011.

Country assessments

WHO-Europe, in collaboration with ESCMID and RIVM, performs country assessments to determine Member States’ status with respect to the prevention and control of antibiotic resistance through surveillance, prudent use of antibiotics and infection control. It specifically focuses on promoting national coordination and strategy, strengthening AMR surveillance and improving clinical microbiology practice. The team meets (during one week as feasible) for discussions with relevant stakeholders and organisations at national, regional and local level. In 2013 country assessments were performed in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

National and sub-regional CAESAR workshops

CAESAR workshops were held in countries that are at the stage of setting up or strengthening their national AMR surveillance. In 2013 workshops were held in Turkey, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Belarus, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At ECCMID last year, the first CAESAR network meeting brought together the national AMR Focal Points of the first 8 countries engaged in CAESAR, the CAESAR project group and a pool of experts. Challenges, opportunities and needs in setting up or strengthening national AMR surveillance were discussed.

From 6–8 November 2013 WHO/Europe organised a regional workshop on Surveillance of Antibiotic Resistance, Consumption and Raising of Awareness hosted by RIVM in collaboration with ESGARS-ESCMID, University of Antwerp and BAPCOC, Belgium.

External Quality Assessment of CAESAR laboratories

In November 2013 a first EQA for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing for 121 laboratories in nine countries engaged in CAESAR was performed by UK NEQAS. Results of this EQA will be discussed at the second CAESAR network meeting at ECCMID 2014.

CAESAR data collection

So far data have been collected according to CAESAR methodology in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey. We plan to include results from three more countries in the first CAESAR annual report that will be issued at the end of 2014.

CAESAR project group

Nienke van de Sande (WHO EURO); Danilo Lo Fo Wong (WHO EURO); Christian Giske (ESGARS-ESCMID); Robert Skov (ESGARS-ESCMID); Jos Monen (RIVM-Cib); Tjalling Leenstra (RIVM-Cib).



CAESAR meeting at ECCMID 2013, Berlin, Germany

23rd ECCMID 2013: Berlin, DE



Jordi Vila  
ECCMID 2013 Programme Director  
jordi.vila@escmid.org

The 23rd ECCMID, held in Berlin from 27 to 30 April 2013, was remarkable for two reasons. The quality of the abstracts presented was outstanding, showing the excellence of research in the fields of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases in Europe, and we had the largest technical exhibition an ECCMID has ever had, despite the economic crisis. The Programme Committee devised a balanced scientific programme for both specialties, including bacteriology, virology, micro-bacteriology, mycology, parasitology and infection control from the diagnostic, prevention and treatment points-of-view. A big thank you to all members of the Programme Committee for their achievements in setting up such an interesting programme. Thanks also go to more than 200 reviewers, who conducted a blind review of the abstracts. As we do every year, we have received some complaints about specific abstracts being rejected. In 2013, of the 3'602 submitted abstracts (Figure 1), just above 30% were rejected. Many excellent abstracts inevitably had to be excluded because of time and space constraints but this contributed to the extremely high quality of the presentations and posters. The most popular topics of accepted abstracts were: diagnostic/laboratory methods (other than molecular) (288 abstracts), molecular bacteriology (207), resistance surveillance (187), antibiotic usage (156) and infection control (152).

The congress programme consisted of 20 Educational Workshops, including the TAE Trainees Day, 12 keynote lectures, 16 meet-the-expert sessions, 64 official symposia, 33 oral sessions and 19 integrated symposia. The total number of speakers and chairs was 345. Figure 2 shows the wide distribution of the countries of origin of the speakers. The contact time during keynote lectures, symposia, educational workshops, meet-the-expert sessions and oral sessions hit an all-time high of more than 260 hours.

Although over 65% of Congress participants were logically from Europe, we were pleased to see increased percentages of participants from North and South America, Asia and Africa (Figure 3). This trend reflects our Society's efforts to extend our activities beyond Europe, especially in fast growing economic areas.

All delegates who attend ECCMID are welcome to get in touch with us with any comments or criticism that can help improve the meeting.

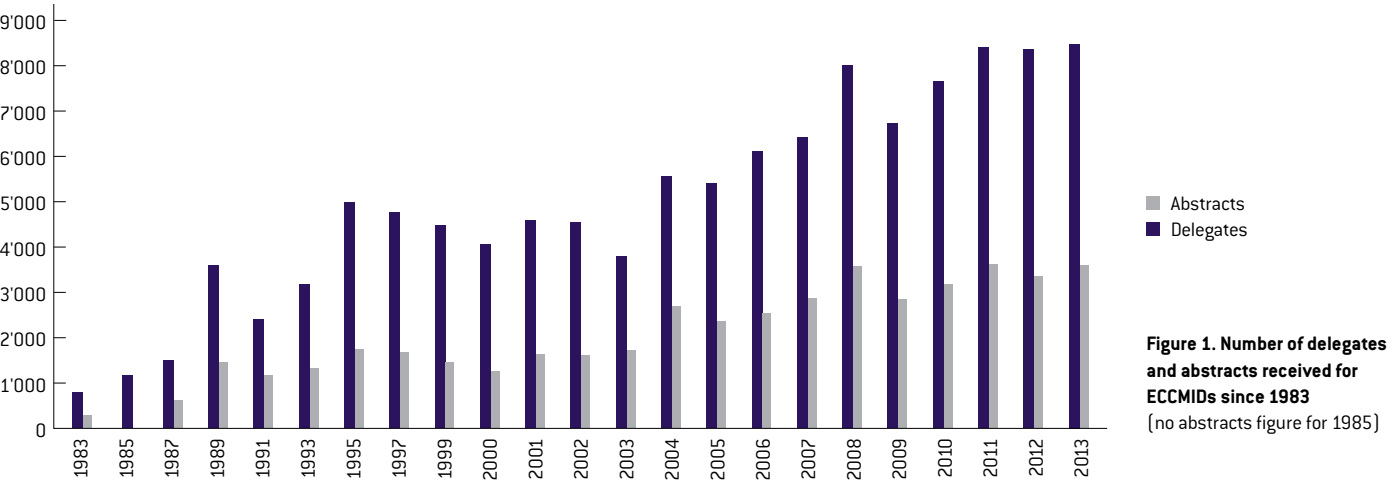


Figure 1. Number of delegates and abstracts received for ECCMIDs since 1983 (no abstracts figure for 1985)

Table 1. Key ECCMID figures

<b>Number of participants:</b> 9'992 from 109 different countries, of which: 8'465 scientific delegates 1'527 exhibitor personnel	<b>Exhibition:</b> 122 exhibiting companies 3'121 m² net area
<b>Countries with highest attendance:</b> Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, France	<b>Press:</b> 91 registered journalists 3 press releases

Figure 2. Geographical analysis of participants

- Western Europe
- Asia
- Eastern Europe
- North America
- Middle East
- South & Central America
- Australia & New Zealand
- Africa

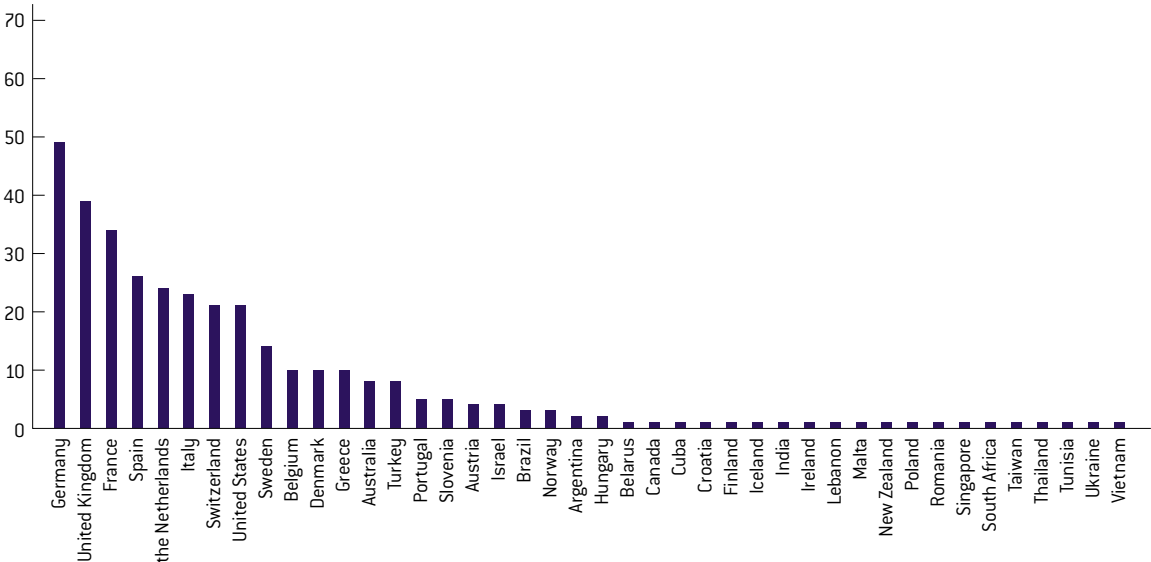
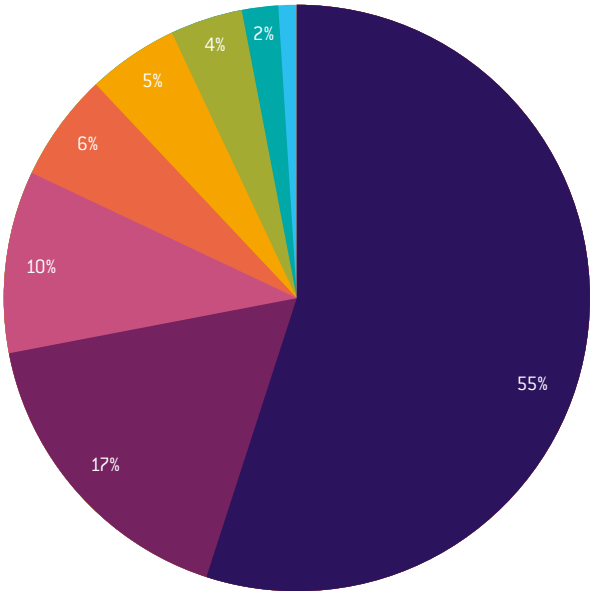
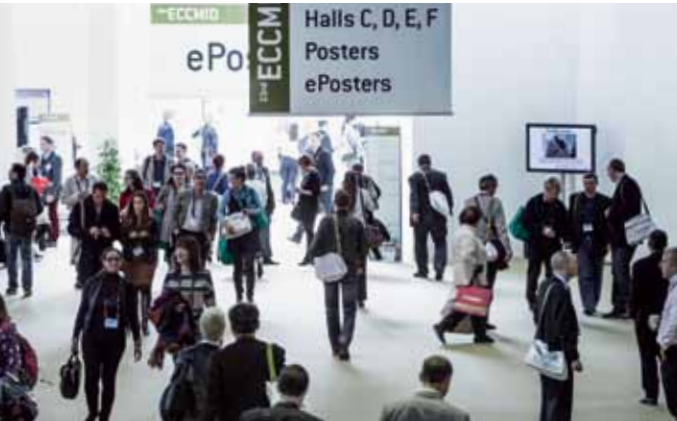
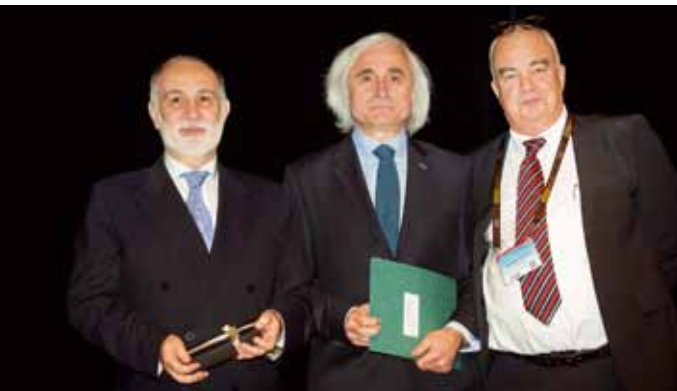


Figure 3. Country of origin of Speakers and Chairs  
42 countries  
345 speakers





## ESCMID Observerships

# Improve your clinical and laboratory skills!

The ESCMID Observership programme provides funding for our members to visit an ESCMID Collaborative Centre in another country for one day to one month to learn good clinical and/or laboratory practice. Applications accepted throughout the year.

Apply now and get financial support to visit our Collaborative Centres:

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



## ESCMID Educational Activities



*Jesús Rodríguez-Baño  
ESCMID Education Officer  
[jesusrb@us.es](mailto:jesusrb@us.es)*

### Main educational activities in 2013

Never before in the history of ESCMID have so many proposals for educational courses been submitted as there were in 2013. From the 26 proposals, the Education Subcommittee chose nine educational courses and five technical workshops. ESCMID Study Groups joined forces with many foreign institutes to organise a splendid array of opportunities for professional development, becoming more and more involved in ESCMID's Education Programme and contributing greatly to ensure its high quality. In addition, ESCMID and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), offered the 15th Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology in Brussels, in conjunction with the Aesculap Academy. For a few intensive days, participants were offered one of three modules for interactive training that has practical applicability to their own hospital settings.

The courses were held in cities across Europe, from Porto to Izmir and from Madrid to Athens. Three were in Spain: two technical workshops and an educational course, while Italy and Switzerland hosted two educational courses and two technical workshops, respectively. The number of participants varied according to the format of each course, ranging from 20 participants for certain lab-based workshops to over 120 for other formats. The activities were determined by the host Study Group with a view to providing up-to-date information or a practical approach.

The 12th Summer School took place in the seaside town of Vravrona, Greece, from 6–13 July 2013. There were 55 participants from 21 countries at this year's event, which everyone enjoyed, particularly as they could follow their intensive study with a dip in the Aegean in the evening (see separate report).

ESCMID helps young members to attend courses and workshops by offering them grants. Some of our young colleagues struggle financially, especially when practising in countries with a much lower cost of living than that where the courses are held. The course organisers, with the help of the ESCMID Executive Office, select the recipients. The Education Programme provides excellent opportunities for young 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](http://www.escmid.org/OLL).

### Outlook for 2014 and 2015

One course in 2014 will be located in São Paulo, Brazil, while the rest of the 17 postgraduate courses and technical workshops will, as usual, be held in cities across Europe. The number of proposals has increased to 28 and the standard has once again been extremely high, so the programme promises to be exciting. See the calendar section on the Society's website for full details of the 2014 Education Programme ([www.escmid.org/calendar](http://www.escmid.org/calendar)).

This year's Summer School heads back north, to Sigtuna, Sweden, from 5 – 12 July 2014. Registration is already underway and details can be found online at [www.escmid.org/summerschool](http://www.escmid.org/summerschool).

We have already contacted all Study Groups and Affiliated Societies to ask for their ideas for the 2015 programme to be submitted by the end of May 2014 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 and, of course, we highly recommend taking part in this year's programme.

### ESCMID WHO Observership in 2014

## Visit the WHO Regional Office for Europe and learn about their programmes!

A group of 10 observers (ESCMID members) are offered a 3 day programme at the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Division of Communicable Diseases, Health Security and Environment (DCE) in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Date of Observership: 30 September – 2 October 2014  
**Applications accepted from: 15 May 2014, 10:00 CET**  
Selection: 'First come, first served', but ensuring CM, ID, gender and country balance.

To apply, visit the ESCMID website.  
Deadline for applications: 30 May 2014, 16:00 CET

[www.escmid.org/WHO\\_Observer](http://www.escmid.org/WHO_Observer)  
[www.euro.who.int](http://www.euro.who.int)



### Education Subcommittee 2013

(l. to r.) Patrice Nordmann, Ramachandran Gopalakrishnan, Anna Skiada, Sibel Asciglu, Thomas Greif, Bernd Salzberger, Emmi Andersson, Dorothea Orth, Tibor Pál, Jesús Rodríguez-Baño; Absent: Peter Chiodini



# ESCMID Courses and Workshops

## Educational Programme on Transplant Infectious Diseases

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
24–25 May 2013, Madrid, Spain  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Compromised Hosts (ESGICH)

## Gaining Expertise on Mycobacterial Infections

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
27–29 May 2013, Paris, France  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Mycobacterial Infections (ESGMYC), École du Val-de-Grâce, Société Française de Microbiologie (SFM), French National Reference Center for mycobacteria and resistance to antituberculosis drugs, Université Paris Diderot and Hôpitaux Universitaires Lariboisière-Saint Louis



## Infections in the Elderly: Prevention and Management

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
30–31 May 2013, Rome, Italy  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in the Elderly (ESGIE) and Universitätsklinikum Tübingen

## Hot Topics on Infections in the Critically Ill Patient

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
31 May–1 June 2013, Athens, Greece  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Critically Ill Patients (ESGCIPI) and Hellenic Society of Chemotherapy

## Technical Workshop for Basic and Clinical Parasitology

ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop  
17–21 June 2013, Porto, Portugal  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP), Faculty of Medicine–University of Porto and São João Hospital Centre



## Antifungal Resistance and its Challenges in the Management of Invasive Fungal Infections

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
20–22 June 2013, Sibiu, Romania  
Organised by the ESCMID Fungal Infection Study Group (EFISG) and Romanian Society of Medical Mycology and Mycotoxicology (RSMMM)



## Mechanisms of Antimicrobial Resistance: A Practical Approach

ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop  
23–28 June 2013, Palma de Mallorca, Spain  
Organised by the Spanish Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology (SEIMC)



## Intracellular Bacteria: From Biology to Clinic

ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop  
26–30 August 2013, Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Coxiella, Anaplasma, Rickettsia and Bartonella (ESCAR)



## Meningitis Update 2013

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
2–4 September 2013, Izmir, Turkey  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Infectious Diseases of the Brain (ESGIB), Turkish Society of Infectious Diseases Specialists (EKMUD) and Turkish Society of Hospital Infection and Control (HIDER)



## Bioinformatic Tools in Clinical Microbiology

ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop  
16–19 September 2013, Santander, Spain  
Organised by the University Hospital Marqués de Valdecilla (HUMV) and University of Cantabria (UC)



## ESCMID-SHEA Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology

22–25 September 2013, Brussels, Belgium  
Organised by the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID), The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and Aesculap Academy

## Infectious Diseases in Pregnant Women, Foetuses and Newborns

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
29 September–3 October 2013, Bertinoro, Italy  
Organised by the Association of Italian Clinical Microbiologists (AMCLI), Italian Society of Infectious and Tropical Diseases (SIMIT) and Universities of Bologna, Brescia and Pavia



## Viral Hepatitis: Recent Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
28 February–1 March 2014, Istanbul, Turkey  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Viral Hepatitis (ESGVH), Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology Specialty Society of Turkey (EKMUD) and Turkish Viral Hepatitis Society (VHSD)

## Principles of Molecular Microbiological Diagnostics

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
5–7 March 2014, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Molecular Diagnostics (ESGMD), Institute of Medical Microbiology and Hospital Hygiene–Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, University Hospital Antwerp, Ministry of Health Jerusalem, Bioanalytica AG Lucerne, Edinburgh Specialist Virology Centre, Maastricht University Medical Centre, University Medical Center Groningen, Leiden University Medical Center and Jessa Hospital Hasselt

## Practical Diagnosis of Arthropod-Borne Infections

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
17–19 March 2014, Marseille, France  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Coxiella, Ana-plasma, Rickettsia and Bartonella (ESCAR), Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire Méditerranée-Infection Marseille and Eurotravnet Coordinating Center ECDC Marseille

## Bloodstream Infections: Management and Research

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
27–28 March 2014, Seville, Spain  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Bloodstream Infections and Sepsis (ESGBIS), University of Seville, University Hospital Freiburg and Red Española de Investigación en Patología Infecciosa (REIPI)

## Infections by Legionella: Surveillance, Prevention and Control

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
2–5 April 2014, Erice, Italy  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Legionella Infections (ESGLI), University of Modena and Reggio Emilia and G. D'Alessandro School of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture, Erice, Italy

## Educational Programme on Transplant Infectious Diseases

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
25–26 April 2014, São Paulo, Brazil  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Infection in Compromised Hosts (ESGICH)

## Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes: Developing, Implementing & Measuring

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course  
8–10 May 2014, Seva (Barcelona), Spain  
Organised by the ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies (ESGAP) and Nosocomial Infections Study Group of the Spanish Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology (GEIH)





## 13th ESCMID Summer School Sigtuna, Sweden 5 – 12 July 2014

Postgraduate and continuing medical education in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases

Including:

- State-of-the-art lectures
- Update lectures
- Small group tutorial sessions
- Pro and Contra sessions
- Career advice

Please register at [www.escmid.org/summerschool](http://www.escmid.org/summerschool).  
Places are limited, apply by 9 May 2014!

**Organised by the ESCMID Education Subcommittee**  
Hosted at «Sigtuna Folkhögskola» in Sigtuna, Sweden



Summer School  
[www.escmid.org/summerschool](http://www.escmid.org/summerschool)

## 12th ESCMID Summer School 2013

*Anna Skiada*  
12th ESCMID Summer School Co-Director  
Athens, Greece  
[askiada@otenet.gr](mailto:askiada@otenet.gr)

The 12th Summer School took place in Vravrona, Greece, from 6 to 13 July 2013, in a hotel located on a beautiful beach. We were slightly worried that the sea would be too tempting for the young people attending the course but, instead, it served as a way to relax after a day full of lectures, presentations and interactive sessions.

This year's Summer School directors were George Petrikos (Athens), Anna Skiada (Athens) and Mical Paul (Tel Aviv). They put together a very interesting programme, covering a wide range of topics in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases. The 34 lectures included various aspects of infections such as MDR bacteria, invasive fungal infections, influenza and other viral infections, HIV, endemic infections and infections in the immunocompromised host.

In addition, lectures about 'how to prepare a presentation' and 'how to publish the results of research' were very well received by the audience and considered really useful. There were also two pro-con sessions presented by the students and coordinated by members of the faculty, as well as five small-group tu-

torials. Furthermore, all the students presented their research or some case reports and this gave them the opportunity to practise their skills and to ignite lively conversations.

There were 55 participants from 21 countries: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom. Their vivacity and enthusiasm was transmitted to the 19 faculty members from five countries who supervised all the students' activities and were constantly available for further interaction, both scientific and social.

Overall, it was a very exciting experience for everybody. Many thanks to all the members of the faculty for sharing their expertise and knowledge and thus contributing to a very successful event – as successful as the previous Summer School in Innsbruck, Austria, and, I am sure, as the next one in Sigtuna, Sweden.



Message from the CMI Editor-in-Chief



Didier Raoult  
CMI Editor-in-Chief  
cmi.raoult@gmail.com

CMI appears monthly and includes peer-reviewed manuscripts, reviews and research notes. Each print and online issue includes a themed section, highlighting the key subjects CMI wishes to focus on. A guest editor assembles three to five invited reviews on the chosen topic, an editorial and related cover images. The following page shows all the themed sections published in 2013 and those scheduled for 2014. Elsewhere, ‘Hot Topics’ highlights particular infections and remains a very popular section of the journal. CMI also publishes well cited supplementary issues to cover ECCMID and conferences sponsored by partners.

Among the noteworthy developments of the past year is that CMI has published articles from countries with emerging economies; Madagascar for instance. This clearly confirms the willingness of the journal to be open to the world and not just advanced nations. It is also significant that China and Taiwan

are among the top five countries submitting papers to CMI. However, while around a quarter of the papers submitted from Spain (the highest contributor) and the USA were accepted, the figure for those from China was only 9%. CMI editors continue to work with authors to improve the quality of papers coming from countries with cultural and organisational difficulties, enabling them to reach a standard more consistent with that of our own scientific community (Table 1).

We have tried to balance the various topics covered by CMI. About a third of the journal concerns bacteriology, with epidemiology, mycology, infectious diseases and virology at between 11 and 18% each. Tropical and parasitic diseases account for 7.4%. The proportion of manuscripts submitted as original articles or as research notes (separate from invited reviews and editorials) is continually increasing (Table 2).

In terms of citations and its impact, CMI is going from strength to strength. Figures for 2012 show increases in both the headline 2- and 5-year impact factors. The immediacy index (papers both published and cited during 2012) increased by over 25%, indicating that CMI is publishing highly topical material that is cited very soon after publication. Likewise, the Eigen factor (up 11%) and article influence score (up 8.2%) both indicate the journal’s increasing prestige. CMI also passed a major milestone in 2013: our millionth full text download, achieving an all-time high of 1’092’747, up 34% on 2012 (see Figure 1). The two articles downloaded most often in 2013 can be found in Table 3.

Submitting Author's country	Number of manuscripts
Spain	135
China	133
France	111
Italy	71
Taiwan	59
The USA	58
The Netherlands	50
Germany	47
India	37
Turkey	34

Table 1. Most prolific contributors to CMI

Submission type	
Infection Hot Topics	13
Invited Editorials	16
Invited Reviews	93
Original Articles	1104
Research Notes, online only	367
Other	41
Total	1634

Table 2. Number of submissions in 2013

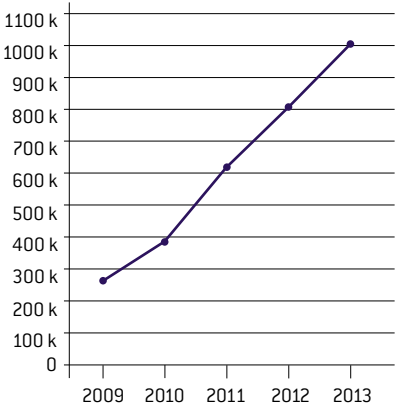


Figure 1.  
Number of full text downloads

Authors	Article Title	Vol.	Issue	Downloads
Robert Lodge, Tamsir O. Diallo, Albert Descoteaux	Leishmania donovani lipophosphoglycan blocks NADPH oxidase assembly at the phagosome membrane	8	12	4257
Michael Otto	MRSA virulence and spread	14	10	2638

Table 3. The two most downloaded articles from 2013

For the next two years we want to stabilise the current size of the journal in order to better assess its real impact on the scientific community.

We are of course aware of how important it is for researchers to have their findings published quickly so we have been steadily reducing the time from submission to publication over the last two years. Publication online (Early View) now takes 32 working days (about six weeks, down from 55 in 2012 and 48 in 2013) and print publication takes on average 130 working days (roughly six months). We shall continue to streamline the process without compromising quality.

CMI strives to reflect ESCMID’s academic activities and, more generally, the world of infectious diseases and clinical microbiology, as well as to attract the best articles and reviews. It also aims to draw attention to emerging fields and to questions raised in the themed sections. As always, we welcome feedback on our efforts and look forward to the challenges ahead.

Monthly themed sections in 2013 and 2014

2013	2014
<b>January</b> Automation in molecular virology. <i>A. Guido</i>	<b>January</b> Emerging technology in tracking contagion. <i>P. Brouqu</i>
<b>February</b> Multiple infections. <i>S. Cutler</i>	<b>February</b> Systematic reviews and meta-analyses in infectious diseases. <i>M. Paul</i>
<b>March</b> Ocular infections. <i>M. Drancourt</i>	<b>March</b> Microbe discovery: lessons from the past. <i>M. Drancourt</i>
<b>April</b> Obesity & microbiology. <i>D. Raoult and M. Paul</i>	<b>April</b> Parasitic diseases and immunosuppression. <i>E. Bottieau</i>
<b>May</b> POC (point-of-care) for tropical diseases. <i>E. Bottieau</i>	<b>May</b> Antimicrobial susceptibility testing and clinical interpretation of antimicrobial susceptibility testing data. <i>R. Canton</i>
<b>June</b> Pig-related infection. <i>G. Pappas</i>	<b>June</b> Emerging clones of bacterial epidemics. <i>D. Raoult</i>
<b>July</b> Bacteraemia as a cause. <i>M. Paul</i>	<b>July</b> Norovirus. <i>L. Kaiser</i>
<b>August</b> Mosquito-transmitted diseases; relevance of bites; a new threat for Europe? <i>T. Avsic-Zupanc</i>	<b>August</b> Emerging clones of bacterial epidemics. <i>D. Raoult</i>
<b>September</b> Genomics in routine diagnostic labs – new techniques and their application in clinical microbiology. <i>P.E. Fournier and G. Greub</i>	<b>September</b> New epidemiology of <i>S. aureus</i> infection. <i>G. Lina</i>
<b>October</b> The comeback of the big three killers (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria). <i>P. Parola</i>	<b>October</b> Faecal transplantation and the infectious diseases physician. <i>D. Raoult and A. Andremont</i>
<b>November</b> Guidelines, consensus, expert opinions, analysis, meta-analysis: Who are the experts? How reliable are they? <i>M. Paul, P.T. Tassios, E. Roilides</i>	<b>November</b> Antimicrobial stewardship: an international emergency. <i>C. Pulcini and J. L. Mainardi</i>
<b>December</b> Predictions for infectious diseases. <i>M. Paul</i>	<b>December</b> Host genetics and infections. <i>A. Guido and E. Roilides</i>



# NEW MICROBES AND NEW INFECTIONS

Editor-in-Chief: Michel Drancourt

ISSN: 2052-2975



**NMNI** is an Open Access journal with a focus on new genomes, new microbes, and new technology applied to the diagnosis of infectious and tropical diseases.

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ESCMID

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
EUROPEAN SOCIETY  
OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY  
AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

WILEY

14-64783

## Message from the NMNI Editor-in-Chief



Michel Drancourt  
NMNI Editor-in-Chief  
[michel.drancourt@escmid.org](mailto:michel.drancourt@escmid.org)

Microbes and infections ignore frontiers but clinical microbiology does not. A recent survey by Didier Raoult, Editor-in-Chief of *CMI*, showed that papers from emerging countries are still under-represented in infectious diseases and clinical microbiology journals (1). This is a shame, not only for the scientists from these countries but also for ID/CM scientists at large, and has a knock-on effect for health authorities and populations. Microbes and infections have always used the most advanced travel vehicles provided by humans to jump over frontiers and reach target populations. The frightening pandemic of the Beijing family of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, one of the major modern pathogens, illustrates this as it has invaded the whole world within only 20 years (2). Therefore, it is of prime importance for us to leap over all boundaries and communicate as soon as possible any new event in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases because the evolution of microbes and outcome of infections is unpredictable.

*New Microbes and New Infections* serves the field as a peer-reviewed, open access journal for the 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. As Editor-in-Chief, I am pleased to report that the first issue of this official ESCMID publication was issued in October 2013, papers having been solicited since May. Article categories include any country's first descriptions of a microbe, first noted resistance or first case reports, new genomes and new technologies for diagnosis. 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. The sooner these new data are published, the sooner the issues they raise can be tackled.

Scientists and medical practitioners in emerging countries have a great deal to contribute and *NMNI* is at the forefront of addressing the imbalance in papers from these countries. One key characteristic of this new digital journal is to break language barriers by being multilingual. Authors may submit manuscripts not only in English but also in one of five other languages. Papers will be handled by the most appropriate member of the Editorial Board, taking language into consideration. Its members are Tahar Kernif (Arabic), Jónatas Santos Abrahão (Portuguese), Wanderley de Souza (Portuguese), Ruifu Yang (Chinese), Wu-guo Chen (Chinese), François Denis (French), Xavier de Lam-

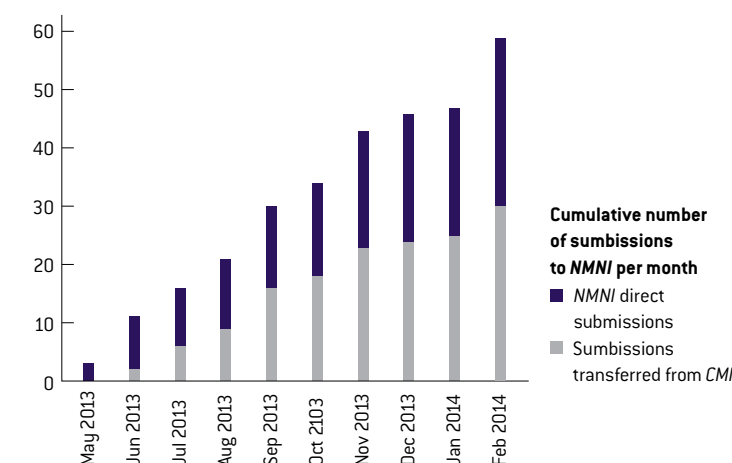
ballerie (French), Ogobara Doumbo (French), Oleg Medianikov (Russian) and Míriam-José Álvarez Martínez (Spanish). The journal offers a payment model affordable for any research group worldwide.

All articles published by *NMNI* are fully open access: immediately 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* is something we do want to go viral!

(1) Yelnik, C., Cousens, R. and Raoult, D. (2013), *CMI* Editorial Report 2013. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, 19: 1–7.

(2) Golei F, Brignatz J, Bellenfant M, Raoult D, Drancourt M. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Beijing outbreak in a school in Marseille, France, 2012. *Euro Surveill* 2013;18: pii 20354





## PA Workshop

# The Future of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Europe Ljubljana, Slovenia, 5–6 June 2014

### Workshop Objectives

- To review the status of the specialties, Clinical / Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, across Europe.
- To discuss initiatives to improve the organisational basis for medical practice in our disciplines.

Register online for the PA Workshop  
in Ljubljana at  
[www.escmid.org/PAworkshop14](http://www.escmid.org/PAworkshop14)

### Workshop Faculty

Murat Akova, Ankara, TR  
Petra Apfalter, Linz, AT  
Bruno Baršić, Zagreb, HR  
Nicholas John Beeching, Liverpool, UK  
Nur Benzonana, Istanbul, TR  
Bojana Beovic, Ljubljana, SI  
Joana Cortez, Coimbra, PT  
Davorka Dušek, Zagreb, HR  
Paul Hunter, Norwich, UK  
Gunnar Kahlmeter, Växjö, SE  
Winfried V. Kern, Freiburg, DE  
Titia Kortbeek, Bilthoven, NL  
Truls Michael Leegaard, Lørenskog, NO  
Pier Luigi Lopalco, Stockholm, SE  
Polona Maver Vodigar, Ljubljana, SI  
Mario Mondelli, Pavia, IT

Dan Otelea, Bucharest, RO  
José Artur Paiva, Porto, PT  
Hilpi Rautelin, Uppsala, SE  
Jesús Rodríguez-Baño, Seville, ES  
Gian Maria Rossolini, Florence, Siena, IT  
Katja Seme, Ljubljana, SI  
Chrysanthi Skevaki, Athens, GR  
Branka Stirn Kranjc, Ljubljana, SI  
Davor Štimac, Rijeka, HR  
Špela Štunf, Ljubljana, SI  
Evelina Tacconelli, Tübingen, DE  
Sotirios Tsiodras, Athens, GR  
Jos W. M. van der Meer, Nijmegen, NL  
Johan van Eldere, Leuven, BE  
Adriana Vince, Zagreb, HR  
Reinhard Zbinden, Zurich, CH  
Annelies Zinkernagel, Zurich, CH

## Professional Affairs Overview



*Mario Poljak, Professional Affairs  
Officer for Clinical Microbiology  
[mario.poljak@escmid.org](mailto:mario.poljak@escmid.org)*



*Evelina Tacconelli, Professional Affairs  
Officer for Infectious Diseases  
[evelina.tacconelli@escmid.org](mailto:evelina.tacconelli@escmid.org)*

ESCMID's involvement in Professional Affairs' activities for both Clinical Microbiology (CM) and Infectious Diseases (ID) has continued to grow over the past year.

Less than a month after ECCMID 2014 we hope to see you in Ljubljana, Slovenia, to discuss the future of both our professions at the '3rd ESCMID Workshop on Professional Affairs in CM & ID: The Future of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Europe'. More information on page 40 and at: [www.escmid.org/PAworkshop14](http://www.escmid.org/PAworkshop14).

Many ESCMID members consider the ESCMID Collaborative Centre (ECC) and Observership Programme to be one the most original and successful activities of our Society, and it is proving to be increasingly successful. Two new Observership opportunities – with ECDC and WHO – were established last year and we welcomed three new ESCMID Collaborative Centres on other continents (South Africa, China and Peru). More information about can be found on pages 42 and 43.

The ESCMID Parity Commission (EPC) reports on interesting achievements and initiatives to review and improve equal representation (page 44).

The Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) continues to thrive in its work on new and ongoing projects (page 47).

A new project dealing with infection control is being launched in 2014. ESCMID is pleased to dedicate resources to this important topic (page 45).

Both PA officers have also been working closely with the Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases sections of the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS) to further harmonise and improve the quality of both specialisations within European Countries. An update on the

current status of the Clinical/Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases profession throughout Europe will be presented at the 3rd Professional Affairs Workshop in Ljubljana on 5–6 June 2014.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to our EU Partner Search Platform and the Job Platform on the ESCMID website. Both platforms are in constant development, with the aim of entirely meeting the needs of our members.

### [www.escmid.org/eupartner](http://www.escmid.org/eupartner)

The EU Partner Search Platform is useful for finding new collaboration opportunities among European Research Centres.

### [www.escmid.org/jobs](http://www.escmid.org/jobs)

The Job Platform is an easy way to find your next job or to fill an open position in CM and ID. Open positions are then published in the ESCMID newsletter and on the homepage.

An overview of the current activities within the Professional Affairs' portfolios can be found on the following 8 pages.



# ESCMID Collaborative Centres and Observerships

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

Mario Poljak  
Professional Affairs Officer for Clinical Microbiology  
[mario.poljak@escmid.org](mailto:mario.poljak@escmid.org)

The ESCMID Collaborative Centres (ECCs) and Observership Programme is one of the most original and successful activities of our Society. Clinical Microbiology/Infectious Disease centres of excellence in Europe and beyond welcome ESCMID members from abroad to learn about diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and the local organisation of services, as well as to establish new contacts and foster international exchange. The ECC programme was launched in early 2009 and currently lists 67 fully operating centres (Figure 1). The countries with the most ECCs are Spain (7), the Netherlands (7), the United Kingdom (6), Turkey (6) and Germany (5) (Figure 2).

Many other European countries have not yet joined this initiative but it is ESCMID’s intention to increase the number of ECCs outside Europe (Figure 1). Just recently ESCMID welcomed the University of Cape Town, South Africa (Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV), the Peking Union Medical College Hospital in Beijing, China and the Instituto de Medicina Tropical Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru as new ESCMID Collaborative Centres. For some time, an ECC in Tunisia, offers Observers a chance to gain experience of infections rarely seen in Europe and learn from local diagnostic approaches.

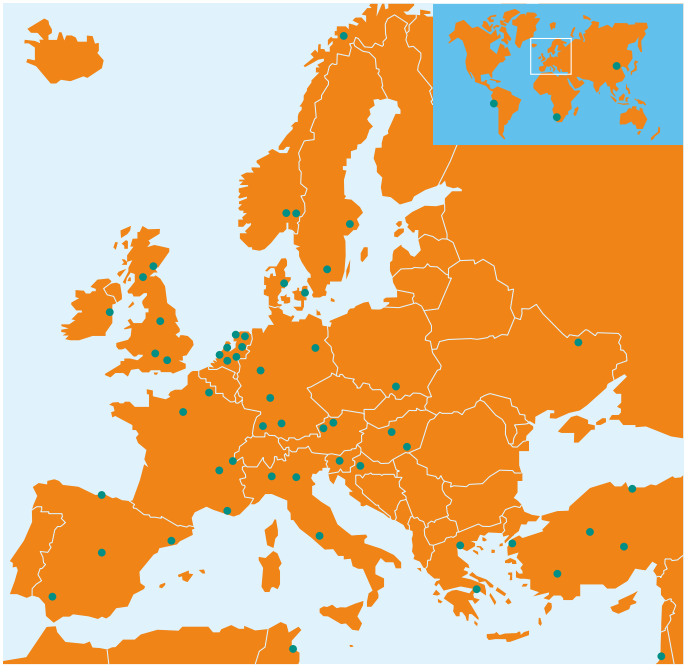
The ESCMID Observership Programme started in the second half of 2009 and is flourishing. More than 274 Observership visits had taken place by 1 February 2014. Approximately 95% of Observers rate their Observership visit excellent and 5% good. The Center for Musculoskeletal Surgery at the Charité-University Medicine in Berlin, Germany hosted the largest number of Observers in 2013.

Two new Observership initiatives were successfully launched in 2013 with ECDC and WHO as reported on page 46. We are pleased to announce that both initiatives continue also in 2014. Details of calls for applications in 2014 are available on pages 30 and 44.

### Activities within the ESCMID Collaborative Centre and Observership Programme

#### European Network Corner at ECCMID

In recent years, the European Network Corner has had a dedicated area at ECCMID for ECCs to showcase their activities and connect with potential Observers. Also at this ECCMID, the European Network Corner will again have a dedicated area for ECCs to present themselves.



**Figure 1:** Distribution of the ECCs throughout Europe and beyond. For a list of ECCs, please visit the website: [www.escmid.org/profession\\_career/collaborative\\_centres\\_observerships](http://www.escmid.org/profession_career/collaborative_centres_observerships)

#### ECC activity in 2013

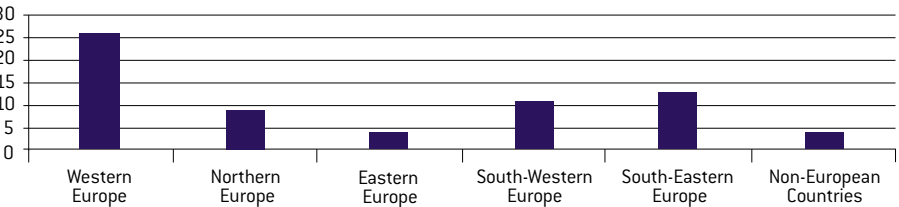
In the past year ESCMID approved eight new institutions as Collaborative Centres, increasing the number of operating ECCs to 67. A Centralised Request Form for Observerships and ECC administration has been introduced to streamline the process.

#### Observer visits in 2013

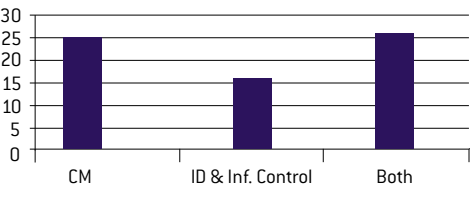
In 2013 a total of 76 Observership visits took place, up 10% on last year. Most of the visits were between 1 and 4 weeks (55%) and 45% of the visits were short. Observers came from all over the world: 65 from various European countries and 11 from further afield (including Australia, India, Pakistan, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen). For more details, see Figures 4 – 7.

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

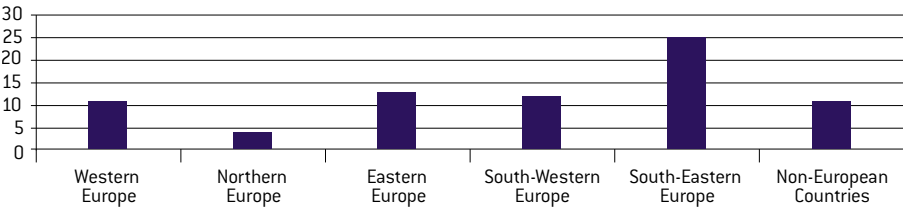
Do you have a question about ESCMID Observerships? Consult our FAQ: [www.escmid.org/observerships](http://www.escmid.org/observerships).



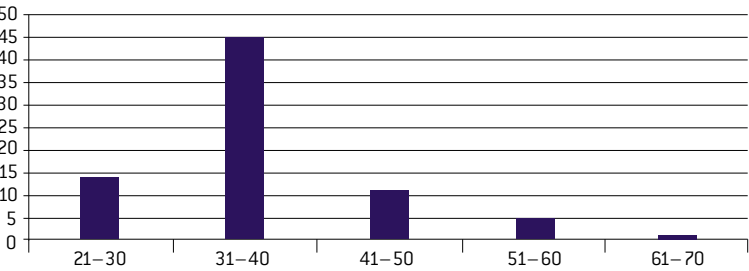
**Figure 2:** Number of ESCMID Collaborative Centers per region



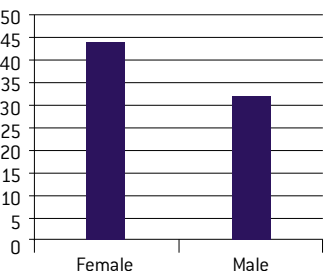
**Figure 3:** Number of ESCMID Collaborative Centers per specialty



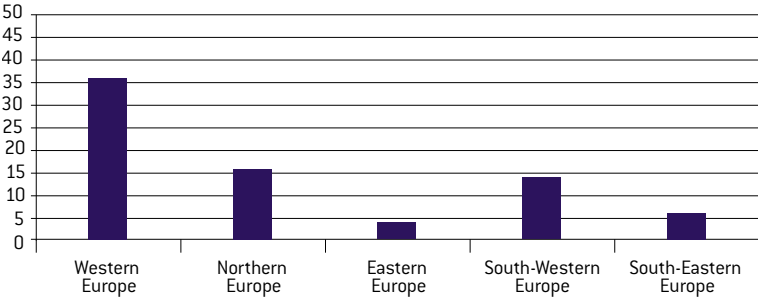
**Figure 4:** Origin of Observers in 2013 by region



**Figure 5:** Age distribution of Observers in 2013



**Figure 6:** Gender of Observers in 2013



**Figure 7:** Number of Observership visits per region

# ESCMID Parity Commission

Evelina Tacconelli  
Co-chairperson of ESCMID Parity Commission (EPC)  
evelina.tacconelli@escmid.org

The ESCMID Parity Commission has been very active during the past year. After the ESCMID survey carried out in 2011, where semi-structured questionnaires were administered to 1'274 CM/ID professionals, we identified a need to further deepen our understanding of some of the most interesting results, this time through a mostly qualitative approach. Furthermore, the need to address all possible determinants of professional inequality besides gender also became apparent: national origin, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation. On the basis of such considerations, EPC decided to promote a research study aimed at integrating the 2011 ESCMID survey with additional information on a broader array of inequality factors in the CM/ID sector. Through this additional qualitative focus, the study, in its two components (quantitative survey and qualitative research study) will be able to represent a unitary, replicable model, both in time and in different disciplinary areas, countries and international societies among others.

EPC is also actively working on a mentorship programme, designed to connect young or inexperienced CM/ID scientists,

or those who want to improve in a specific area, with experienced practitioners willing to help them. ESCMID believes that the creation of this European network of mentors will provide extended opportunities to all ESCMID members to improve their research or advance their career level.

Recently, a surveillance study showed that in some European countries the prescribing of antibiotics in the community is significantly influenced by the gender of the patients (after adjusting for major clinical and epidemiological biases). To understand the contributing factors and characteristics of this phenomenon, EPC started a specific, systematic review of the literature and 'on site' analysis of antibiotics prescribing in selected European countries.

We trust that these projects will contribute to improve representativeness and balance, both in terms of career and research, among ID/CM professionals in Europe. EPC would be glad to work with all Society members to further define the next projects to be undertaken to reduce the areas of discrimination presently existing within the medical scientific community in Europe. Therefore, we encourage all our members to send their feedback and proposals for current and future activities of EPC to: parity@escmid.org.

# Infection control and preventive measures: an ESCMID priority

Evelina Tacconelli, Professional Affairs  
Officer for Infectious Diseases  
evelina.tacconelli@escmid.org

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. Therapy is becoming ever more difficult because of the increasing rate of antimicrobial resistance among common HAI pathogens. Over the last decade, multidrug-resistant bacteria have been implicated in severe invasive infections and their occurrence has increased steadily. Patients are starting to see the rate of HAI and antibiotic resistance as an important indicator of quality of care. After presenting the first European Guidelines on infection control in Berlin,

intended to reduce the spread of multidrug-resistant bacteria in hospitalised patients, ESCMID is going to increase its influence and involvement in infection control. A new ESCMID Committee for Infection Control was formed at the beginning of 2014 and had its kick-off meeting in March 2014. A list of members can be found below. Major goals will be: to harmonise infection control and preventive measures in all European countries and to reduce morbidity and mortality related to HAI. Development of new educational tools as well as specific guidelines and expert opinion with 'real life' applicability are a major focus. Research will be coordinated through dedicated networking. Questions about this programme can be directed to: infectioncontrol@escmid.org.



Participants at the first ESCMID Infection Control Committee meeting

## ESCMID ECDC Observerships in 2014

### Visit ECDC and learn about the organisation!

A group of 10 observers (ESCMID members) are offered a 5 day programme at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm, Sweden.

Date of Observership: 01–05 September 2014

Applications accepted from: 15 May 2014, 10:00 CET

Selection: 'First come, first served', but ensuring CM, ID, gender and country balance.

To apply, visit the ESCMID website.

Deadline for applications: 30 May 2014, 16:00 CET

[www.escmid.org/ECDC\\_Observer](http://www.escmid.org/ECDC_Observer)  
[www.ecdc.europa.eu](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu)



#### Members of the ESCMID Infection Control Committee

- Evelina Tacconelli, Tübingen, Germany
- Alexander W. Friedrich, Groningen, The Netherlands
- Petra Gastmeier, Berlin, Germany
- Achilleas Gikas, Heraklion, Greece
- Herman Goossens, Edegem, Belgium
- Stephan Jürgen Harbarth, Geneva, Switzerland
- Alison Helen Holmes, London, United Kingdom
- Anders Johansson, Umeå, Sweden
- Jean-Christophe Lucet, Paris, France
- Jesús Rodríguez-Baño, Seville, Spain
- Emese Szilágyi, Budapest, Hungary



# New ESCMID Observerships with ECDC and WHO

*Gunnar Kahlmeter*  
*ESCMID President*  
*gunnar.kahlmeter@escmid.org*

In 2013 ESCMID invited ECDC and WHO to co-organise Observerships for ESCMID members. We quickly realised that these would have to be different from 'standard' ESCMID Observerships, that it would be more efficient to invite several people to visit at the same time and for them to interact with ECDC and WHO staff and each other as part of the Observerships. The aim is to familiarise ESCMID members with the public health efforts of these two important public health agencies. The reports from ECDC and WHO below speak to the success of the first series of Observerships.

In 2014 ESCMID, ECDC and WHO have all agreed to increase the number of invited Observers from five to ten for each of the two programmes. The WHO Observerships are in the spectacular new UN building in Copenhagen, Denmark, and the ECDC Observerships are in the beautiful ECDC building in the grounds of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

Details of how to apply for 2014 are available on pages 30 and 44.

## ECDC/ESCMID Observership Report

*Polya Rosin*  
*Scientific Officer Microbiology,*  
*Microbiology Coordination section,*  
*Office of the Chief Scientist unit*  
*European Centre for Disease*  
*Prevention and Control*  
*polya.rosin@ecdc.europa.eu*

*Marc Struelens*  
*Chief Microbiologist*  
*European Centre for Disease Prevention*  
*and Control*  
*Marc.Struelens@ecdc.europa.eu*

In September 2013, for the first time, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) hosted five ESCMID members as part of a new Observership in Public Health. These mid-career health professionals have diverse interests in the areas of clinical microbiology, infectious diseases and public health. During their four-day stay at ECDC they met with ECDC staff and learned about the mission and activities of the Centre. The Observers became acquainted with European-level surveillance and epidemic intelligence work, different disease programmes and networks as well



(l. to r.): Isabel Lopes de Carvalho, Piotr Kochan, Marc Struelens (President, ECDC), Claudio Köser, Pilar Retamar and Nico Mutters

as the Centre's public health microbiology and molecular surveillance activities. The ESCMID Observers also met with fellows from the European Public Health Microbiology (EUPHEM) training programme. The positive evaluation received encouraged ESCMID and ECDC to offer ten ESCMID members the opportunity to visit ECDC in September 2014. Details on the ECDC Observership and reports from the 2013 ECDC visit are available on ESCMID's ECDC Observership pages at [www.escmid.org/ECDC\\_observer](http://www.escmid.org/ECDC_observer).

## WHO/ESCMID Observership report

*Nienke van de Sande-Bruinsma*  
*Technical Officer AMR Communicable Diseases,*  
*Health Security, and Environment*  
*WHO Regional Office for Europe*  
*NVS@euro.who.int*

The first ESCMID-WHO Observership took place from 18–20 June 2014 at the Division of Communicable Diseases, Health Security and Environment (DCE) of the WHO Regional Office for Europe. During the 3-day Observership, 4 participants were introduced to WHO activities and programmes via presentations, 'speed dates', a tour of the department and more in-depth visits to the programmes in which the Observers had indicated their specific interest. The Observers were: Nuno Mendonça from Portugal, Alina Martynova from Russia, Giuseppe Pichieri from the UK and Carmen Muñoz-Almagro from Spain. The Observers gained a broad overview of the scope of WHO and had the opportunity to talk to many different WHO staff working in a variety of public health fields. On the last day the ESCMID President, Gunnar Kahlmeter, joined the programme. The Observers had prepared presentations on their observations during the Observership as well as opportunities

for collaboration with WHO, which led to a fruitful discussion. Both the Observers and WHO staff were very enthusiastic about this first Observership, which will be the first of many.

Further details on the WHO Observership are on ESCMID's WHO Observership pages at: [www.escmid.org/WHO\\_observer](http://www.escmid.org/WHO_observer).



Observers and facilitators at WHO Regional Office for Europe

# Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE)

*Polona Maver Vodičar*  
*TAE President*  
*polona.maver@mf.uni-lj.si*

## The young generation involved in the future development of CM/ID

Founded in November 2009, the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) represents a group of trainees and young specialists who finished their training fewer than three years ago. The TAE has a Steering Committee (SC) consisting of six elected members, three of whom are active in the field of clinical microbiology (CM) and the other three in infectious diseases (ID). In 2013 the very first TAE Steering Committee handed over the baton to their successors. With fresh motivation and youthful energy, we continue the initial idea of increasing and supporting the scientific and medical contribution of young clinical microbiologists and infectious disease specialists all over Europe.

On the first day of ECCMID 2013 in Berlin, TAE organised the third 'Trainees Day: a time for trainees to share their knowledge under the supervision of seniors'. This special session dedicated to trainees was an interactive event covering important epidemiological links between infections and animal exposure, surgical site infections and a workshop on how to produce high quality research papers. This year at ECCMID 2014 in Barcelona, TAE is preparing the fourth 'Trainees Day' with new, attractive and educational topics. In addition, we are actively involved in three other sessions presented at this year's ECCMID.

An ESCMID educational quiz composed of 20 questions with different levels of difficulty was run online from 1 September to 31 October 2013. Almost 200 participants from 40 different countries completed the quiz, demonstrating that this kind of online educational approach is very appealing.

At the ninth TAE SC Meeting, held in Porto in October 2013, preparations for future activities progressed, not only related to the ECCMID sessions we are organising but also for the upcoming ESCMID Professional Affairs Workshop in Ljubljana in June 2014. Other plans include a survey on training conditions in Europe and beyond, maintaining a good collaboration with both the Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases sections of UEMS, and the TAE Award in Training Achievements. This year we have 3 outstanding awardees who have set excellent standards in their training (page 16).

Last but not least, we are working on establishing a solid and efficiently functioning network of CM and ID trainee representatives from all European countries and beyond. Together we can improve communication and cooperation among young ESCMID members and encourage trainees to get involved in the many ESCMID activities available to them, to share their knowledge among their peers, and to participate in the development of our specialities.



TAE Steering Committee meeting at ECCMID 2013 in Berlin

EUCAST is the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing. It provides common European breakpoints and antimicrobial susceptibility testing methodology. ESCMID continues to provide the administrative, financial and scientific framework for EUCAST. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) supports EUCAST while ESCMID supports the development of the EUCAST disk diffusion method.

The EUCAST Steering Committee for 2013–14 consists of Rafael Cantón (Chairman), Derek Brown (Scientific Secretary), Gunnar Kahlmeter (Clinical Data Coordinator), Luc Dubreuil (France), Sören Gatermann (Germany), Christian Giske (Sweden), Alasdair MacGowan or Robin Howe (UK), Luis Martínez-Martínez (Spain), Johan Mouton (The Netherlands), Robert Skov (Denmark) and Martin Steinbakk (Norway).

**National Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Committees (NACs)**  
Most European countries now have established NACs. Responses to a questionnaire sent in December 2012, with some updating in 2013, are given in the figure below, which illustrates the national status with regard to NACs. Although EUCAST has not been specifically promoted outside Europe, it is notable that the interest in EUCAST outside Europe is becoming stronger and NACs have been set up in non-European countries including Australia, Israel, South Africa and the USA. These committees promote a national strategy for antimicrobial susceptibility testing and help to implement EUCAST breakpoints and methods where appropriate.

**EUCAST breakpoints**  
Version 4.0 of the EUCAST breakpoint tables, which include MIC and zone diameter breakpoints for bacteria, was published on the EUCAST website in January 2014 (see below for information on breakpoints for antifungal agents).

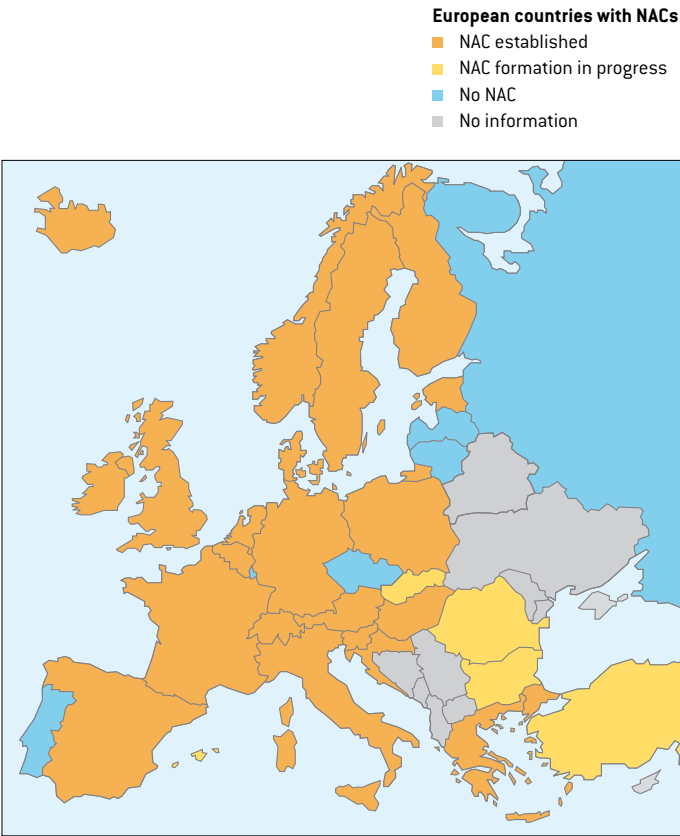
Breakpoints for new agents are set by EUCAST as part of the marketing authorisation process by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Through this process, breakpoints have been set in the past year for ceftobiprole and for the antimycobacterial agents delamanid and bedaquiline. Several other new agents are currently in progress.

Several breakpoints have been set for organism-agent combinations that did not previously have breakpoints. These include ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin breakpoints for *Enterococcus* spp. in UTI, breakpoints for *Pseudomonas* spp. other than *P. aeruginosa* and breakpoints for *Corynebacterium* spp. In addition, specific amoxicillin-clavulanic acid breakpoints were set for UTI isolates and ciprofloxacin breakpoints for *Salmonella* spp. Some breakpoints have been revised in the light of new information, including doripenem breakpoints, benzylpenicillin breakpoints for coagulase-negative staphylococci, penicillinase-resistant penicillin breakpoints for group B streptococci and ce-

factol breakpoints for *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Moraxella catarrhalis*.

Breakpoints currently under discussion include those for several agents with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Neisseria meningitidis* and *Acinetobacter* spp. Following two rounds of wide consultation and protracted discussion on breakpoints for topical agents, it has been decided to publish a guidance note rather than breakpoints.

**EUCAST disk diffusion method**  
Extensive studies have been undertaken at the EUCAST Laboratory for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing in Växjö, Sweden, to validate existing zone diameter breakpoints, to develop new screening methods, and to deal with technical problems with disk diffusion and MIC methods. All developments are performed with Mueller-Hinton medium from at least three manufacturers and disks from at least two manufacturers. MIC-zone diameter correlations have been produced to establish or validate zone diameter breakpoints, both for particular organisms, such as *Corynebacterium* spp., and for new antimicrobial



agents. The EUCAST broth microdilution medium for fastidious organisms, MH-F broth, has been further evaluated for several organisms, including *H. influenzae*, *M. catarrhalis* and *Corynebacterium* spp.

Collaboration with other laboratories, both within and outside Europe, has increased. Several European laboratories have been involved in studies to investigate inter-laboratory test variations of both quality control strains and clinical isolates, e.g. a collaborative study led to revised recommendations for the disk diffusion test for detection of inducible clindamycin resistance in staphylococci and streptococci. Several projects have also been performed in collaboration with JMI Laboratories, USA, e.g. it was established that zone diameter breakpoints for *P. aeruginosa* can also be used for *Pseudomonas* species other than *P. aeruginosa*. Isolates from the worldwide SENTRY Antimicrobial Surveillance Program have kindly been provided by JMI for a number of EUCAST projects. In collaboration with other laboratories EUCAST has developed a screening method with the pefloxacin 5 µg disk to detect low-level ciprofloxacin resistance in *Salmonella* spp., criteria for use of ceftazidime 30 µg disks to screen for methicillin-resistance in *S. pseudintermedius*, and disk diffusion criteria for the new amoxicillin-clavulanate breakpoints for Enterobacteriaceae in uncomplicated UTI.

Current work includes establishment of MIC quality control ranges for amoxicillin-clavulanate and ampicillin-sulbactam with fixed inhibitor concentrations and MIC quality control ranges for *H. influenzae*. In collaboration with pharmaceutical companies, studies to establish MIC-zone diameter correlations for several new agents are also in progress.

- EUCAST website**  
The EUCAST website continues to be developed and updated, and provides all EUCAST breakpoints and documents free of charge. Additional documents have been published on the EUCAST website, including:
- Annual update of QC tables and antimicrobial susceptibility testing reading guide for disk diffusion.
  - New files on the calibration and validation of the EUCAST disk diffusion method.
  - Guidance document on susceptibility testing of *Burkholderia cepacia*.
  - New Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for operation and maintenance of the EUCAST websites (SOP 6.0) and handling of EUCAST minutes (SOP 7.0).
  - Revised SOPs for setting breakpoints for new agents (SOP 1.1) and setting of harmonised breakpoints for existing agents (SOP 2.1).
  - Translations of technical documents available through National Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Committees (NACs) in different countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Turkey.
  - Updated file on compliance of manufacturers with EUCAST breakpoints and methods.
  - Updated section on ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ about EUCAST breakpoints and methods.

**EUCAST MIC and zone diameter website**  
This presents collated MIC and zone diameter distributions of bacteria and fungi and the number of distributions included is constantly increasing (currently over 28’000). In addition,

graphs showing MIC-zone diameter correlations continue to be expanded. The distributions highlight wild type populations and give epidemiological cut-off values (ECOFFs).

**Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee (AFST)**  
In 2013 the AFST Steering Committee consisted of Maiken C. Arendrup (Chairman), William Hope (Secretary), Cornelia Lass-Flörl and Manuel Cuenca-Estrella. The group has continued to define breakpoints for antifungal compounds and to revise and update reference methods for susceptibility testing of yeasts and moulds.

Micafungin breakpoints for *Candida* were released and fluconazole and anidulafungin breakpoints for *Candida* were revised. Rationale documents for these breakpoints were published on the EUCAST website and ‘Technical Notes’ summarising both these and voriconazole breakpoints for *Aspergillus* have been published in ‘*Clinical Microbiology and Infection*’ and ‘*Mycoses*’.

In collaboration with CLSI, the AFST subcommittee documented problems in variability associated with susceptibility testing of *Candida* spp. affecting both EUCAST and CLSI methods, and this has led to common recommendations for the use of anidulafungin as a marker for caspofungin resistance (published by Ana Espinel-Ingroff et al. in *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*). Additionally, a review that summarizes the EUCAST AFST breakpoint setting process, including strengths and limitations and the existing breakpoints for *Candida* spp. and *Aspergillus* spp., was accepted for publication in *Drug Resistance Updates*. Currently, the EUCAST definitive document EDEF 9.2 ‘Method for the determination of broth dilution minimum inhibitory concentrations of antifungal agents for conidia forming moulds’ is being revised and itraconazole breakpoints for *Candida* have been proposed for consultation.

The structure of the AFST Steering Committee will be changed in spring 2014, from when it will consist of a Chairman (Maiken Cavling Arendrup, Denmark, a Scientific Secretary (Susan Howard, UK), a Data Coordinator (pending), a representative from the EUCAST Steering Committee (Johan Mouton, Netherlands) and two representatives of national committees (NACs): Manuel Cuenca-Estrella, Spain, and Cornelia Lass-Flörl, Austria. See EUCAST SOP 4.1 on the EUCAST website for details of subcommittee structure and organisation.

**Subcommittee on the detection of resistance mechanisms and resistances of clinical and / or epidemiological importance**  
This subcommittee is chaired by Christian Giske. There has been extensive discussion and wide consultation on two drafts of a guideline document in 2012–13. Version 1.0 of EUCAST guidelines on the detection of resistance mechanisms and resistances of clinical and/or epidemiological importance was released on the EUCAST website in December 2013.



# 6th International Day for Fighting Infection



'Saint George Liberates The Princess' by Altichiero, Basilica San Zeno, Verona, Italy

This year's one-day symposium, the 6th organised by ESCMID to acknowledge the International Day for Fighting Infection, was on 'how major scourges of the past still affect mankind'. The 2013 conference was held as usual on 23 April (St. George's Day), this time at the University of Verona, where in 1546 Girolamo Fracastoro proposed that epidemic diseases were caused by transferable tiny particles able to transmit infection by direct or indirect contact.

Once again we are grateful to *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* for their now traditional support.

### Scientific Programme

#### Chairpersons:

Marc Sprenger, ECDC, Stockholm  
Nedret Emiroglu, WHO Europe, Copenhagen

- Plague, the Great Mortality.  
Giuseppe Cornaglia, Verona, Italy
- Tuberculosis, the White Plague.  
Francis Drobniowski, London, United Kingdom
- Smallpox, the Angel of Death.  
Gareth Williams, Bristol, United Kingdom
- Two Hundred Years of Fear and Mystification: The Battle Against Cholera.  
Renaud Piarroux, Marseille, France
- Rabies, a Threat from the Wilderness.  
Paola De Benedictis, Padua, Italy
- Europe as a Polio-free Region: The Role of WHO.  
Nedret Emiroglu, WHO Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Of Mice, Men and Other Animals: The Human-Animal Interface.  
Albert Osterhaus, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- The Antibiotic Era—Is It Over?  
Gunnar Kahlmeter, Växjö, Sweden

Webcasts and presentations of the 6th International Day for Fighting Infection are available in the ESCMID Online Lecture Library at [www.escmid.org/oll](http://www.escmid.org/oll)



Alessandro Mazzucco (Rector of the University of Verona) and Giuseppe Cornaglia (ESCMID Past-President) opening the symposium



ESCMID President Gunnar Kahlmeter during his presentation at the conference



Nedret Emiroglu (WHO Europe) and Marc Sprenger (ECDC Director) chairing the conference



Group picture of the Faculty



# ESCMID Conference on Escherichia coli: an old friend with new tidings

Last year, for the first time, ESCMID organised a conference on *Escherichia coli* with the subheading: an old friend with new tidings (20–22 November 2013), where experts on this microorganism revealed and debated the latest information on antimicrobial resistance, pathogenesis, and clinical aspects. Held in the beautiful city of Barcelona, the conference attracted more than 60 attendees from 23 different countries and brought together 19 renowned speakers and experts.

This conference was held in cooperation with the ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (ESGARS) and the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal).

For all ESCMID members who could not attend the meeting, slides from most presentations are now available in the ESCMID Online Lecture Library [www.escmid.org/oll](http://www.escmid.org/oll)



Luis Martínez-Martínez presenting EUCAST breakpoints

### Scientific Programme

#### Pathogenesis

- Biofilm of *E. coli*.  
*Ute Römling (SE)*
- Pathogenesis of neonatal sepsis by *E. coli*.  
*Sara Soto (ES)*
- Virulence of uropathogenic *E. coli*.  
*James R. Johnson (USA)*
- Pathogenesis of intestinal infections.  
*James B. Kaper (USA)*
- Transfer of *E. coli* isolated from animals to humans.  
*Carmen Torres (ES)*
- Pathogenicity islands.  
*Ulrich Dobrindt (DE)*
- Vaccines.  
*Ann-Mari Svennerholm (SE)*

#### Resistance

- Worldwide resistance in *E. coli*.  
*Rafael Cantón (ES)*
- Quinolone resistance in *E. coli*.  
*Jordi Vila (ES)*
- *E. coli* strains producing extended-spectrum Beta-lactamases.  
*Luis Martínez-Martínez (ES)*
- Is AMPC-producing *E. coli* an increasing problem?  
*Christian Giske (SE)*
- Carbapenemase-producing *E. coli*.  
*Thierry Naas (FR)*
- Genetic elements carrying resistant determinants in *E. coli*.  
*Alessandra Carattoli (IT)*

#### Clinical aspects

- *E. coli* and inflammatory bowel diseases.  
*Margarita Martínez (ES)*
- Infections by EHEC: to treat or not to treat?  
*Martin Nitschke (DE)*
- *E. coli* as cause of diarrhoea in low-income countries.  
*Inácio Mandomando (MZ)*
- Urinary tract infection by *E. coli*: what is new?  
*Antonia Andreu (ES)*
- How to treat infections caused by multidrug-resistant *E. coli*.  
*Jesús Rodríguez-Baño (ES)*
- Plasticity of the genome of *E. coli*: can we define specific pathotypes?  
*Fernando Baquero (ES)*



## ESCMID Conference on Reviving Old Antibiotics Vienna, Austria 22 – 24 October 2014

### Organising Committee

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Contact: [vienna2014@escmid.org](mailto:vienna2014@escmid.org)

Find more information and registration information on our website  
[www.escmid.org/vienna2014](http://www.escmid.org/vienna2014)

Including:

- Optimisation of therapy – General principles
- Optimisation of therapy in Gram-negative infections
- Individualisation of therapy
- Extending the life of old antibiotics
- Clinical trials
- Breakpoints and susceptibility testing
- Communicating new knowledge to where it is needed
- Solved and unsolved problems with old antibiotics, identify need for action





# Networking in Latin America

In 2013–14 ESCMID has strengthened its links with Latin America by engaging in a number of activities together with both the Asociación Panamericana de Infectología (led by Luis Bavestrello) and individual partners.

In November 2013 ESCMID participated together with APUA and IUMS in the 2nd Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance in Pathogens (Taller de Resistencia Bacteriana), held in Havana, Cuba. The first meeting took place in 2012 on the initiative of ESCMID and the Cuban Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. Joint activities are being planned to further cooperation.

ESCMID representatives were invited to give lectures at the University Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru. An important outcome of this visit is the establishment of the first ESCMID Collaborative Centre in South America with Eduardo Gotuzzo as host.

Once again ESCMID held a joint workshop during the Congress of the Asociación Panamericana de Infectología held in Santiago de Chile. The workshop focused on carbapenemases and it was coordinated by Maria Virginia Villegas.

In March 2014, ESCMID and SHEA together endorsed the Gram-Negative Bacteria Symposium within the VIII International Symposium on Antimicrobial Resistance, which was organised in Cartagena, Colombia, by the Centro Internacional de Entrenamiento e Investigaciones Médicas (CIDEIM).



Giuseppe Cornaglia with board members of the Cuban Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



Giuseppe Cornaglia and Laurent Poirel (r.) with Professor Eduardo Gotuzzo (l.) in Lima, Peru



(l. to r.) Giuseppe Cornaglia, Patrice Nordmann and Maria Virginia Villegas at the workshop on carbapenemases in Santiago, Chile



(l. to r.) Robert Bonomo, David Livermore, Rafael Cantón and Giuseppe Cornaglia during the CIDEIM Symposium in Cartagena



Giuseppe Cornaglia (r.) and Laurent Poirel (l.) in Lima, Peru, at the University Cayetano Heredia

# Cooperative Initiatives in the Russian Federation

For the eighth consecutive year, ESCMID has joined the Interregional Association for Clinical Microbiology and Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (IACMAC), chaired by Roman Kozlov, to organise an International IACMAC/ESCMID conference on antimicrobial therapy. The conference was held from 22 to 24 May 2013 in Moscow, Russia, and was attended by 1'221 participants from 67 regions in Russia. ESCMID representatives focused on future collaboration with IACMAC.



Keynote lecture at IACMAC, Moscow, Russia



Participants at IACMAC



Exhibition at IACMAC



# ESCMID collaboration in China

On Monday, 29 April 2013 at ECCMID 2013, a special session was held with the Chinese Medical Association (CMA) and ESCMID. The purpose of the session was to get to know each other and to set up reciprocal visits.

ESCMID is joining forces with CMA, TLID and ISID to organise a meeting on ‘Infections and their control’, to be held in Beijing from 19–20 November 2014.

In 2013 ESCMID was also pleased to welcome the first ESCMID Collaborative Centre from Beijing, China. Our members can visit the Peking Union Medical College Hospital with support from the ESCMID Observership Programme. ([www.escmid.org/observership](http://www.escmid.org/observership))



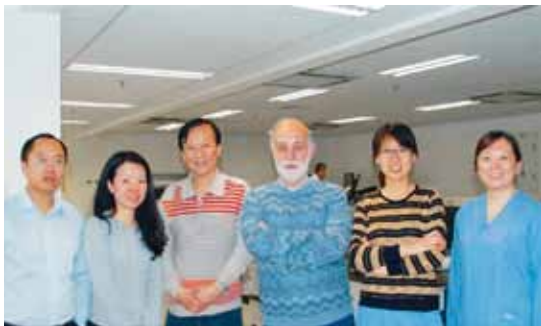
Presentation of CMA by Qiwen Yang, Peking Union Medical College Hospital



ESCMID-CMA roundtable at ECCMID in Berlin



(on the left) Welcome gifts to CMA delegation



(on the right) Giuseppe Cornaglia at Beijing Union Medical College Hospital with the Secretary General of the China Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology Experts Committee as well as the lab group



Group photo of CMA and ESCMID representatives

International Conference on



## Infections and their Prevention Beijing, People’s Republic of China 19 – 20 September 2014

### Scientific Committee

- Jonathan Cohen  
International Society for Infectious Diseases
- Giuseppe Cornaglia  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases
- John McConnell  
The Lancet Infectious Diseases
- Xu Yingchun  
Peking Union Medical College Hospital

### Topics to be discussed

- National policies to promote the rational use of antibiotics
- Care bundles in infection control
- The need for rapid diagnosis
- The molecular biological revolution in infectious diseases
- Epidemiology of MDR organisms in febrile neutropenia
- Epidemiology and control of MDR enterobacteria
- Therapy of ESBL-producing enterobacteria beyond carbapenems
- A carbapenemase overview
- Antibiotic use in ICU
- Detection and monitoring of emerging respiratory infections
- TB screening programmes and active case finding in the era of MDR infection
- Update on influenza vaccination
- Pneumococcal vaccination
- Vaccines for respiratory infections

### Conference Secretariat

Angelene Zhang  
China Anti-Infection &  
Clinical Microbiology Special Fund  
China International Medical Foundation  
Add: Rm 902-905, No. 600 Lu Ban Road  
Shanghai, PR China

Phone +86 21 523 400 06-810  
Fax +86 21 523 400 07  
Mobile +86 139 1689 3292  
[zhanghuaying@cmacimt.com.cn](mailto:zhanghuaying@cmacimt.com.cn)



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www.eccmid.org

25th ECCMID

25 – 28 APRIL 2015  
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Bella Center Copenhagen

26th ECCMID

9 – 12 APRIL 2016  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY

ICC—Istanbul Congress Center

Forthcoming Events

Postgraduate Education Courses and Workshops

Receive state-of-the-art knowledge from expert educators. Gather hands-on experience in your field of interest. Discuss your work with senior and peer colleagues.

- 30 Jun – 4 Jul 2014

**Molecular Typing Methods for Pathogens**  
Lyon, France  
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
- 4 – 6 Jul 2014

**Bringing PK and PD in Fungal Infections into the Clinic**  
Nijmegen, The Netherlands  
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
- 16 – 19 Sep 2014

**3rd Workshop on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing and Surveillance**  
Linz, Austria  
ESCMID Postgraduate Technical Workshop
- 22 – 24 Sep 2014

**Infectious Diseases in the Mediterranean and the Middle East: Current Challenges**  
Izmir, Turkey  
ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course
- 29 Sep – 1 Oct 2014

**Anaerobic Bacteria: Next Generation Technology Meets Anaerobic Diagnostics**  
Groningen, The Netherlands  
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**Infection Management in the Elderly: Room for Improvement**  
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- 16 – 17 Oct 2014

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- 20 – 23 Oct 2014

**ESCMID-SHEA Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology**  
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- 29 – 31 Oct 2014

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**Infections and their Prevention**  
Beijing, China
- 22 – 24 Oct 2014

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Vienna, Austria
- 6 – 8 Mar 2015

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- 25 – 28 Apr 2015

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- 9 – 12 Apr 2016

**26th ECCMID**  
Istanbul, Turkey
- 22 – 25 Apr 2017

**27th ECCMID**
- 21 – 24 Apr 2018

**28th ECCMID**

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

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A big thank you to all our dedicated ECCMID Abstract Reviewers! This year, abstract submissions hit a new record of more than 4'500. We say thank you to all our reviewers, who reviewed 1'000 abstracts more than in the past!

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Every year a large number of reviewers dedicate much time and effort to scrutinise and evaluate the many Research Grant applications submitted, including those from Study Groups. ESCMID would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their great commitment. *Thank you all!*  
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Giuseppe Cornaglia, ESCMID Communications Officer, responsible for content

ESCMID  
Executive Office  
P.O. Box 214  
4010 Basel, CH  
info@escmid.org

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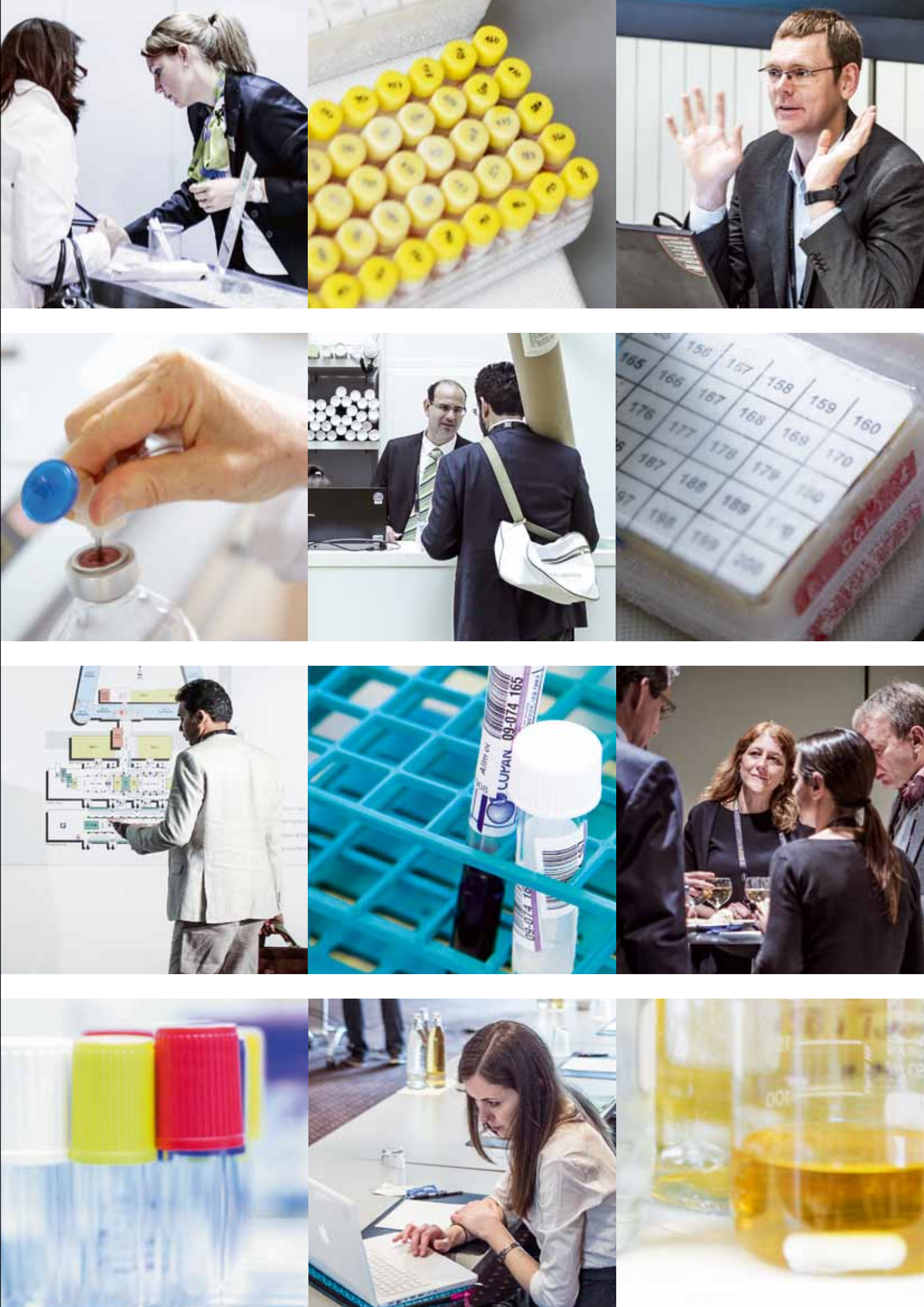
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ESCMID  
Executive Office  
P.O. Box 214  
4010 Basel  
Switzerland



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