

European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)

Ratified minutes of the Meeting on 1 April 2006 16th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Nice, France

A list of attendees who signed the register is attached.

1. Apologies for absence

None received.

2. Minutes of meeting in Copenhagen, 4 April 2005

The minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising

Dr Brown reported that the publication list on the EUCAST website had been corrected.

Prof. Kahlmeter reported that the procedure for revising breakpoints had been discussed in the Steering Committee and it was proposed that revision of breakpoints would be considered if requested by EMEA, industry or EUCAST. Dr Tulkens asked if there were rules for declining requests. Prof Kahlmeter replied that requests to reconsider breakpoints would not be declined but that EUCAST may decline to make a change after considering the evidence.

4. EUCAST Steering Committee membership

Prof Kahlmeter reported that the current membership of the Steering Committee is:

Chairman	Prof Gunnar Kahlmeter	Sweden	2008
Scientific Secretary	Dr Derek Brown	UK	2008
BSAC	Prof Alasdair MacGowan	UK	2008
CRG	Dr Johan W. Mouton	Netherlands	2008
DIN	Dr Arne Rodloff	Germany	2008
NWGA	Dr Martin Steinbakk	Norway	2008
SFM	Dr Fred Goldstein	France	2008
SRGA	Dr Ingrid Nilsson-Ehle	Sweden	2008
General Committee	Dr Olga Stetsiuk	Russia	2006
General Committee	Dr Francisco Soriano	Spain	2006

The General Committee representatives will finish their terms on the Steering Committee in April 2006. The representatives for 2006-2008 will be Prof. Waleria Hryniewicz (Poland) and Prof. Pietro Varaldo.

5. Confirmation of membership of EUCAST General Committee

Membership was reviewed (the current list is attached). Representatives were asked to confirm that they are the current representative of their country, and were asked to ensure that they keep their national societies informed of EUCAST activities and to take part in the consultation process.

6. EUCAST progress report

Prof Kahlmeter summarised activities over the past year.

- 6.1 There have been five meetings of the Steering Committee. In addition there was a workshop for the General Committee and National Breakpoints Committees in Copenhagen, April 2005, and a joint meeting of the General Committee with EARSS in Rome, November 2005.
- 6.2 Harmonized breakpoints for moxifloxacin for staphylococci and streptococci have been added to the table of harmonized quinolone breakpoints (available on www.eucast.org).
- 6.3 Harmonized breakpoints for cephalosporins, carbapenems and aztreonam have been agreed and will be on the EUCAST website immediately after this ECCMID. Work on penicillins is in progress. Dr Tulkens asked if guidance on dosing could be given. Prof Kahlmeter reported that this was included in rationale documents.
- 6.4 Using the agreed EMEA SOP (available on the EUCAST website) breakpoints have been set for two new drugs, daptomycin and tigecycline, and four more are in the pipeline.
- 6.5 Technical notes giving the background to EUCAST breakpoints will be published in CMI. New drugs will each have a technical note. Existing drugs will have a technical note for each class of agents.
- 6.6 Sharing of data and unofficial meetings with CLSI members to discuss breakpoints has continued. Collaboration with other groups including EARSS, expert groups on meningococci, gonococci and anaerobes and veterinary groups has continued and these are routinely asked to comment on breakpoints.
- 6.7 The slideshow outlining EUCAST activity and processes has been updated and can be downloaded from the EUCAST website.
- 6.8 The EUCAST website covers most EUCAST activity and includes breakpoint tables, documents and guidelines. The data in the wild type distribution program on the website continues to be expanded. There are now over 9500 organism-antibiotic distributions from different sources, and there has been particular activity with veterinary isolates and yeasts.
- 6.9 EUCAST continues to be supported by ESCMID, the National Breakpoint Committees of Steering Committee members and a grant from DG SANCO of the EU (May, 2005 – April, 2007). ECDC is reviewing the possibility of including EUCAST within its remit.

General discussion followed:

- 6.10 Dr Tulkens noted that the EUCAST wild type distributions appear high compared with CLSI data. Prof. Kahlmeter explained that the distributions referred to were not just wild type and included some resistant organisms.
- 6.11 Dr Tulkens asked if EUCAST breakpoints would be used by EARSS. Prof. Kahlmeter noted that the breakpoints will be used when they are incorporated into national breakpoints, as is the case already. Countries with no national breakpoints will use EUCAST breakpoints only if they choose to use them.
- 6.12 Dr Ambler noted that EUCAST breakpoints will need to be incorporated into

machines. Prof. Kahlmeter noted that this will not be mandatory but it could be of great advantage to companies as they would avoid the need for multiple national systems.

- 6.13 Dr Frimodt-Møller asked if EMEA could press for implementation of breakpoints, but it was felt that European legislation would be difficult. However, Prof. Rodloff noted that DIN breakpoints have legal standing in Germany.
- 6.14 Dr Ambler asked whether a company could appeal against a breakpoint set by EUCAST. Prof. Kahlmeter explained that the process was outlined on the EUCAST website.
- 6.15 Dr Ambler asked whether EUCAST Steering Committee dates could be published in advance. Agreed that this could be done [Action Dr Brown].
- 6.16 Dr Tulkens asked whether harmonization with CLSI was possible as the CLSI breakpoints were widely followed. Prof. Kahlmeter explained that the Steering Committee remains open to working with CLSI, but the different organisation of CLSI and EUCAST make formal collaboration unlikely at the moment. The internal problems regarding the relationship of CLSI to FDA continue to impede revision of CLSI breakpoints. Dr Livermore noted that the problems with CLSI and FDA are becoming widely known internationally and EUCAST is increasingly seen as an alternative. However, laboratories will not switch to EUCAST until there is a complete system and all breakpoints are harmonized. Prof Jones noted that his view was that there was currently paralysis in CLSI due to the relationship with FDA. There have always been some differences between CLSI and FDA but the problems have been accentuated by recent attempts to update several breakpoints that need changing. The problems are unlikely to be resolved before the M23 revision is complete and that will take two years. Hence there was an opportunity to EUCAST to influence the rest of the world.

7. EUCAST sub-committee report

- 7.1 Prof. Kahlmeter reported that a new sub-committee on Expert Rules had been set up under the chairmanship of Dr Roland Leclercq. The subcommittee has 6 members and will prepare a first draft by September 2006 and organise a symposium at ECCMID 2007.
- 7.2 Prof. Juan-Luis Rodriguez-Tudela reported that the Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Sub-committee has completed the preparation of the definitive document on determining MICs for fermentative yeasts and is producing a new document on *Aspergillus*. Fluconazole breakpoints are being set following the EUCAST process and the breakpoints will probably be ≤ 4 / > 8 mg/L.
- 7.3 Dr Schmalrek asked if the fluconazole breakpoints would be referred to national committees for comment. Prof. Kahlmeter replied that this would be the case as the antifungal agents were to follow the same procedure as for antibacterial agents.

8. VetCAST

- 8.1 Dr Mervius gave a presentation on the informal veterinary group with links to EUCAST and termed "VetCAST". The group is small but is based on a network of laboratories in 18 countries. The group focuses on surveillance of resistance in animal bacteria with consequences for human health.

Harmonization of results is through External Quality Assurance. The work is mainly with *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*, for which there is mandatory surveillance in food-producing animals, but also covers food-borne organisms such as *E. coli* and enterococci. The surveillance concentrates on sampling strategies. There are no “clinical” breakpoints as many agents are not available clinically, and surveillance is based on wild type cut-offs. A list of agents to be tested is specified and MIC data collected are fed into the EUCAST wild type programme.

- 8.2 Through the EFSA it might be possible to prescribe breakpoints so there is continuity in the 25 European Union countries. Results could be based on the ISO broth microdilution method with EUCAST breakpoints (if required breakpoints were not available from EUCAST, those from CLSI would be used).
- 8.3 Dr Mervius concluded that VetCAST is an independent scientific committee with close links to EUCAST. There is currently no financial support and funding was necessary before more progress could be made.

There was further discussion covering both EUCAST and VetCAST issues:

- 8.4 Prof. Kahlmeter noted that EARSS was based on local methods used in different countries. There was no funding so EARSS cannot insist on particular methods. However, there is some censoring of apparently aberrant results.
- 8.5 Prof. Rodloff suggested that the CLSI technique for disc diffusion be correlated with EUCAST breakpoints. Prof. Kahlmeter agreed this would be valuable but the current priority was harmonization of breakpoints. Prof. Jones noted that CLSI MIC-zone diameter distributions are available for many combinations.
- 8.6 Prof. Jones explained that the CLSI veterinary committee wild type distributions can be examined. CLSI has been stuck with clinical breakpoints but is beginning to change as Pk/Pd data become available. For *Campylobacter*, breakpoints are based on wild type distributions.
- 8.7 Dr Schmalrek asked if an international standard for setting breakpoints could be produced through ISO. Prof. Kahlmeter reported that this was suggested at the last CLSI meeting but CLSI will continue with updating of M23. However, there are moves to start the process of setting an international standard through ISO and several countries have expressed their support for this.
- 8.8 Dr Ambler asked how veterinary breakpoints would be produced for different animals when there is much variation in pharmacology between different animals. Dr Mervius replied that the current process is based on wild type distributions, with some additional breakpoints to detect particular resistance mechanisms. The current focus was on fluoroquinolones as there is wide use of veterinary quinolones.
- 8.9 Prof. Soussy reported that CA-SFM veterinary breakpoints are available on the CA-SFM website.

9. Future activities

Prof Kahlmeter reported that priorities for the next year were:

- 9.1 Completion of harmonization of breakpoints for penicillins.
- 9.2 Start the process of harmonization of remaining outstanding breakpoints,

including macrolides, tetracyclines and individual agents such as nitrofurantion, fusidic acid and rifampicin. It is expected that the harmonization process will be substantially complete by the end of 2007.

9.3 Apply the EMEA SOP to breakpoint setting for three to four new drugs.

9.4 Continue to develop the rationale documents on the EUCAST website and technical notes in CMI.

10. Any other business

10.1 Dr Miller asked for guidance on the use of Pk/Pd in setting breakpoints. Prof. Kahlmeter replied that there is already some information on the EUCAST website and there are several publications on the subject. Noted that Pk/Pd data are only part of the data applied to setting breakpoints.

11. The next meeting of the EUCAST Committee

Scheduled for 17th ECCMID, Munich, Germany 31 March- 3 April 2007.

General Meeting attendees signing the register, 1 April 2006

Dr Jane Ambler	Bayer, West Haven, USA
Prof Arvydas Ambroziatis	Vilnius, Lithuania
Dr Derek Brown	Cambridge, UK
Mr Paul Campognone	Sparks, USA
Dr Rafael Canton	Madrid, Spain
Dr Maria Cavazza	Caracas, Venezuela
Dr Manuel Cuenca-Estrella	Madrid, Spain
Dr Peter Donnelly	Nijmegen, Netherlands
Dr Evelyn Ellis-Grosse	Wyeth, Collegeville, USA
Dr Cynthia Fowler	Durham, USA
Dr Niels Frimodt-Moller	Copenhagen, Denmark
Dr Pat Hogan	New York, USA
Dr Vincent Jarlier	Paris, France
Prof Ron Jones	Iowa City, USA
Prof Gunnar Kahlmeter	Vaxjo, Sweden
Dr David Livermore	London, UK
Prof Alasdair MacGowan	Bristol, UK
Dr Maureen Mansfield	East Grinstead, UK
Dr Roland Martelin	La Balme Les Grottes, France
Dr Dik Mervius	Lelystad, Netherlands
Dr Linda Miller	Collegeville, USA
Dr Enrico Montrucchio	Buccinasco, Italy
Dr Mary Motyl	Merck, USA
Dr Johan Mouton	Nijmegen, Netherlands
Dr Milan Niks	Bratislava, Czech Republic
Dr James Poupard	Philadelphia, USA
Prof Arne Rodloff	Leipzig, Germany
Dr Juan-Luis Rodriguez-Tudela	Majadahonda, Spain
Dr Helio Sader	North Liberty, USA
Dr Arno Schmalreck	Munich, Germany
Dr Dan Sheehan	New York, USA
Prof Francisco Soriano	Madrid, Spain
Prof Claude-James Soussy	Paris, France
Dr Martin Steinbakk	Nordbyhagen, Norway
Dr Olga Stetsiouk	Smolensk, Russia
Ms Maria Tollin	Solna, Sweden
Prof Paul Tulkens	Brussels, Belgium
Prof Pietro Varaldo	Monte d'Ago, Italy
Mr Thierry Vidalenc	Paris La Defence, France
Dr Hans-Otto Werling	Leverkusen, Germany
Dr Barbara Zimmer	West Sacramento, USA

EUCAST General Committee April 2005

Chairman	Dr Gunnar Kahlmeter
Scientific Secretary	Dr Derek Brown
National representatives	
Austria	Prof. Helmut Mittermayer
Belgium	Prof. Jan Verhaegen
Bosnia	Dr Selma Uzunovic-Kamberovic
Bulgaria	Prof. Krassimir Metodiev
Croatia	Dr Arjana Tambic-Andrasevic
Czech Republic	Dr Pavla Urbaskova
Denmark	Dr Niels Frimodt-Møller
Estonia	Dr Paul Naaber
Finland	Dr Antti Nissinen
France	Prof. Claude-James Soussy
Germany	Prof. Bernd Wiedemann
Greece	Prof. Alkiviadis Vatopoulos
Hungary	Dr Éva Bán
Iceland	Dr Karl Gustaf Kristinsson
Ireland	Dr Martin Cormican
Italy	Prof. Pietro Varaldo
Lithuania	Prof. Arvydsa Ambrozaitis
Netherlands	Prof. John Degener
Norway	Dr Martin Steinbakk
Poland	Prof. Waleria Hryniewicz
Portugal	Prof. Jose Melo Cristino
Romania	no representative
Russia	Dr Olga Stetsiouk
Serbia	Dr Lazar Ranin
Slovak Republic	Prof. Milan Niks
Slovenia	Dr Jana Kolman
Spain	Dr Francisco Soriano
Sweden	Dr Barbro Olsson-Liljequist
Switzerland	Prof. Jacques Bille
Turkey	Dr Deniz Gür
UK	Prof Alasdair MacGowan
Yugoslavia	no representative
ISC	Dr Paul Tulkens
FESCI	Dr David Livermore
Pharmaceutical Industry	Email network of any with an interest in antimicrobials
Device Manufacturers	Email network of any with an interest in antimicrobials