

European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)

Unratified minutes of the Meeting on 17 May 2009 19th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Helsinki, Finland

A list of attendees who signed the register is attached.

1. Apologies for absence

Prof. K. Metodiev.

2. Minutes of meeting in Barcelona, 19 April 2008

Item 4. "Antti Nissinen" was corrected to "Antti Hakanen". Otherwise, the unratified minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. EUCAST Steering Committee membership

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

Chairman	Prof Gunnar Kahlmeter	Sweden	2011
Scientific Secretary	Dr Derek Brown	UK	2011
Clinical Data Coordinator	Dr Rafael Canton	Spain	2011
BSAC	Prof Alasdair MacGowan	UK	2011
CRG	Dr Johan W. Mouton	Netherlands	2011
DIN	Dr Arne Rodloff	Germany	2011
NWGA	Dr Arnfinn Sundsfjord	Norway	2011
SFM	Prof Claude-James Soussy/ Prof Luc Dubreuil	France	2011
SRGA	Dr Christan Giske	Sweden	2011
General Committee	Prof Paul Tulkens	ISC	2010
General Committee	Dr Antti Hakanen	Finland	2010

5. EUCAST General Committee membership

5.1 The membership list was presented (the current list is attached). Representatives should inform the Scientific Secretary (email derek.brown222@btinternet.com) if the current representative for their country has changed. Representatives were asked to keep their national societies informed of EUCAST activities and to take part in the consultation process.

5.2 Anyone in the pharmaceutical and susceptibility device manufacturing industries may be part of the industry email network that is included in the consultation process (email gunnar.kahlmeter@ltkronoberg.se). Members changing email addresses were requested to inform Prof Kahlmeter, and email addresses rejecting correspondence twice will be removed from the list.

6. EUCAST progress report

Prof Kahlmeter summarised activities over the past year.

6.1 The principal source of funding for EUCAST is now the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). ESCMID and National Breakpoint Committees also continue to provide support to EUCAST.

6.2 In the last year there have been five meetings of the Steering Committee. The General Committee meets once annually, at ECCMID. At ECCMID this year EUCAST has presented a workshop on problems in susceptibility testing and a symposium with be presented on implementation of EUCAST breakpoints. There have also been multiple presentations over the year at various scientific meetings.

6.3 Harmonization of breakpoints for widely used older agents is essentially completed. Oral cephalosporins are the last major group and these will be completed before the end of May, 2009. Less commonly used older organism-agent combinations will be addressed in the next few months.

6.4 The collaboration with EMEA in the setting of breakpoints for new agents according to the EMEA

SOP (available on the EUCAST website) continues to work very well – in the last year breakpoints have been set for doripenem and several more agents are in the pipeline.

- 6.5 All breakpoints are in tables on the EUCAST website. The format of the tables will be changed soon to an organism based system.
- 6.6 Rationale documents explaining the basis of breakpoints continue to be prepared for each agent and will be added to the EUCAST website as they are completed. Technical notes summarising the background to EUCAST breakpoints are published in CMI.
- 6.7 All EUCAST publications are available from the EUCAST website.
- 6.8 ESCMID remains the valued European professional group under which EUCAST operates. The close relationship with the National breakpoint committees in Europe also continues. EUCAST collaborates with and advises ECDC, the various resistance surveillance groups that ECDC has taken over and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Contact with CLSI also continues.
- 6.9 The EUCAST website (www.eucast.org) has been extensively revised and continues to be expanded. The front page includes news items and there are new sections on the proposed EUCAST disk diffusion method and MIC-zone diameter distributions. Anyone with data, particularly MIC distributions for less common organism-agent combinations, are invited to send them to EUCAST for inclusion in the database.

7. EUCAST subcommittee reports

7.1 Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee:

Prof Rodriguez-Tudela, chairman of the subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee Steering Committee has met once in the past year and does most work via email. The full committee meets at each ECCMID. Membership of the full Subcommittee and Steering Committee are attached. In the past year they have developed voriconazole breakpoints and these, together with a rationale document and technical note, have been published. Breakpoints for other agents are now being considered and are at various stages of development. A document on susceptibility testing of filamentous fungi has been published in CMI. These, and additional publications on aspects of antifungal susceptibility testing, are detailed on the EUCAST website. Work is underway on documents for determination of broth dilution MICs of antifungal agents for non-fermentative yeasts (Coordinator Manuel Cuenca Estrella) and a collaborative study to identify the best method for determination of broth dilution MICs of echinocandin agents for yeasts (Coordinator Maiken Arendrup). An ISO committee set up to produce a standard for yeast susceptibility testing first met in Copenhagen; and EUCAST and CLSI have reached an agreement to produce an ISO standard with two different approaches: one as in CLSI standard M27A and one as in EUCAST definitive document EDEF 7.1, noting that the methods give essentially the same MIC results. The next meeting will be later this year at ICAAC in San Francisco. Future activity will include the rationale for isavuconazole breakpoints, inter- and intra-laboratory exercises to define QC strains for non-fermentative yeasts, and an ESCMID workshop in Thessaloniki, Greece.

7.2 Expert Rules Subcommittee:

Dr Roland Leclercq, Chairman of the subcommittee, reported that version 1.0 of the rules has been available from the EUCAST website for one year. Several comments and suggestions for updating have been received. These will be dealt with over the next few months and a new version will be produced for January 2010. A computer program for application of EUCAST expert rules is being developed and will be available via the EUCAST website later this year. A supplement in CMI has been proposed and is in draft format. Membership of the subcommittee is attached to the minutes.

7.3 Anaerobes Subcommittee

Prof Kahlmeter reported that the Subcommittee, chaired by Prof. Arne Rodloff, had advised on breakpoints for anaerobes and methodology is being reviewed.

8. Implementation of EUCAST breakpoints

The implementation of EUCAST breakpoints is now a major issue. BSAC, CRG, DIN, NWGA, SFM and SRGA incorporate EUCAST breakpoints as they are released. Breakpoints can be applied to any MIC data. Automated systems are close to release of versions that can apply EUCAST breakpoints. A disk diffusion method based on the Kirby-Bauer method, but with a different medium for fastidious organisms and some different disk contents is being developed and should be available at the end of 2009. The need for additional control strains beyond those currently widely used was questioned.

9. Future activities

Prof Kahlmeter reported that priorities for the next year were:

- 9.1 Implementation of EUCAST breakpoints, as discussed earlier.
- 9.2 Complete the harmonization of breakpoints for oral cephalosporins and start work on less commonly used agents.
- 9.3 Continue the EMEA breakpoint setting process for new drugs.
- 9.4 Continue the process of revision of breakpoints as required (glycopeptides and carbapenems in progress).
- 9.5 Continue to develop the rationale documents on the EUCAST website and technical notes in CMI.
- 9.6 Continue liaison with other groups.
- 9.7 Continue education activities.
- 9.8 Develop work of Subcommittees as discussed earlier.

10. Any other business

10.1 Veterinary breakpoints:

In response to a question from Dr LeClercq, Prof Kahlmeter replied that "VETCAST" was set up 10 years ago and made recommendations on testing and surveillance which are being implemented at present. Resistance surveillance is based on the ISO reference broth microdilution MIC method and epidemiological cut-offs as breakpoints.

11. The next meeting of the EUCAST Committee

Scheduled for 20th ECCMID, Vienna, Austria 10-13 April 2010.

General Meeting attendees signing the register, 17 May 2009

Amanda Appleton	Oxoid	D
Bob Badel	International Health Management Assoc	I.
John Broughall	Janssen Cilag	P
Derek Brown	UK	
Rafael Canton	Spain	
Stephane Carryn	Eumedica	P
Ian Critchley	Cerexa, USA	P
Manuel Cuenca-Estrella	Spain	
Evelyn Ellis-Grosse	ezg Consulting, USA	I
Christian Giske	Sweden	
Antti Hakanen	Finland	
Pat Hogan	Pfizer, USA	P
Ron Jones	JMI Laboratories, USA	I
Katharina Kähler	bioMérieux, France	D
Gunnar Kahlmeter	Sweden	
Laura Koeth	Laboratory Specialists Inc, USA	I
Roland Leclercq	France	
Johan Mouton	Netherlands	
Milan Niks	Slovakia	
Barbro Olsson-Liljequist	Sweden	
Juan-Luis Rodriguez-Tudela	Spain	
Helio Sader	JMI Laboratories, USA	I
Claude-James Soussy	France	
Arjana Tambic-Andrasevic	Croatia	
Jan Verhaegen	Belgium	
Bernd Wiedemann	Germany	

EUCAST General Committee May 2009

Chair	Dr Gunnar Kahlmeter
Scientific Secretary	Dr Derek Brown
Clinical Data Coordinator	Dr Rafael Canton
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 Marina Ivanova
Finland	Dr Antti Hakkanen
France	Prof. Luc Dubreuil
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
Latvia	Dr A. Balode
Lichtenstein	No representative
Lithuania	Prof. Arvydsa Ambrozaitis
Macedonia	No representative
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
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

EUCAST subcommittees

Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee

Steering Committee

Maiken Cavling Arendrup, Denmark
Cornelia Lass-Floerl, Austria
Juan Luis Rodriguez-Tudela, Spain (Chair)
Manuel Cuenca-Estrella, Spain
J Peter Donnelly, the Netherlands (Secretary)

Full Committee

Maiken Cavling Arendrup, Denmark
Malcolm Richardson, Finland
Eric Dannaoui, France;
Wolfgang Fegeler, Germany
Francesco Barchiesi, Italy
J Peter Donnelly, the Netherlands (Secretary)
Paul Verweij, the Netherlands
Peter Gaustad, Norway
Juan Luis Rodriguez-Tudela, Spain (Chair)
Manuel Cuenca-Estrella, Spain
Erja Chryssanthou, Sweden
Jacques Bille, Switzerland
Caroline Moore, UK
David Denning, UK
Cornelia Lass-Floerl, Austria
Aristia Velegraki, Greece
Nikolay Klimko, Russia
Arno Schmalreck, Germany
Sevtap Arikan, Turkey

Expert Rules Subcommittee

Roland Leclercq (France) (Chair)
Rafael Cantón (Spain)
Christian Giske (Sweden)
Peter Heisig (Germany)
David Livermore (UK)
Patrice Nordmann (France)
Gian Maria Rossolini (Italy)
Trevor Winstanley (UK)

Anaerobe Subcommittee

Arne Rodloff (Germany) (Chair)
Luc DuBreuil (France)
Elizabeth Nagy (Hungary)