

Chairman	Dr Gunnar Kahlmeter	Sweden	2005
Scientific Secretary	Dr Derek Brown	UK	2005
BSAC	Prof Alasdair MacGowan	UK	2005
CRG	Dr Johan W. Mouton	Netherlands	2005
DIN	Dr Arne Rodloff	Germany	2005
NWGA	Dr Martin Steinbakk	Norway	2005
SFM	Dr Fred Goldstein	France	2005
SRGA	Dr Anders Österlund	Sweden	2005
General Committee	Dr Alkiviadis Vatopoulos	Greece	2004
General Committee	Dr Pavla Urbaskova	Czech Republic	2004

The Steering Committee is the more active part of EUCAST. Tentative proposals and decisions made by the steering committee are submitted to the EUCAST General Committee for comments and suggestions, which are then addressed by the Steering Committee, which the makes the final decision.

5. Confirmation of membership of EUCAST General Committee

Dr Kahlmeter reported that all members are asked annually to confirm their membership and the name of the national organisation which nominated them. The current membership list is attached.

6. Chairman's report

Dr Kahlmeter reported the following activities in the past year:

- 6.1 With the exception of the Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Sub-committee all original Sub-committees had been closed as their work was effectively completed or no significant progress had been made.
- 6.2 Common expression of the susceptibility categorisation as S \leq and R $>$ has been agreed.
- 6.3 A process for harmonizing breakpoints for existing agents has been agreed and is currently being applied to quinolone agents, aminoglycosides, glycopeptides and linezolid.
- 6.4 A process for setting breakpoints for new agents has been agreed.
- 6.5 New definitions for clinical breakpoints and epidemiological breakpoints have been proposed.
- 6.6 Liaison with several organisations has been established including the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA), the NCCLS, international veterinary organisations, pharmaceutical companies, the Susceptibility Testing Manufacturers' Association, various surveillance groups including EARSS and NARMS, scientific organisations including the International Society for Chemotherapy (ISC) and the Federation of European Societies of Chemotherapy and Infection (FESCI) and quality assurance programmes including the UK National External Quality Assessment Scheme (NEQAS).
- 6.7 The EUCAST pages on the ESCMID website are being updated and there is also direct access to this via <http://www.eucast.org>.
- 6.8 New software for collection and presentation of wild type MIC distributions has been developed. There is free access to this site as a direct link from the EUCAST website.

- 6.9 A site has been set up for use by the Steering Committee and national committees only.
- 6.10 An application has been made to the EU for funding EUCAST activities including secretariat work, Steering Committee meetings, Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Sub-committee meetings, workshops for the General Committee and website development.

7. Report on Sub-committees

Dr Brown reported that all Sub-committees other than the Fungal Susceptibility Testing Sub-committee had been closed. EUCAST discussion and definitive documents published in *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* are available as pdf files on the EUCAST website.

In the past year the discussion document on *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* was published (Drobniewski, F. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, Discussion Document E.Dis 8.1. *Clin Microbiol Infect* 2002, 10;8: 1-10 insert).

Discussion Documents E.Dis 5.1 (Determination of minimum inhibitory concentrations of antibacterial agents by broth microdilution) and E.Dis 7.1 (Determination of minimum inhibitory concentrations by broth microdilution of fermentative yeasts) are "in press" as inserts in CMI.

Within the next year Discussion Documents 8.1 (Antimicrobial susceptibility testing of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) and 6.1 (Antimicrobial susceptibility testing of intracellular and cell-associated pathogens) should be converted to Definitive documents. Also, E.Dis 9.1 (Quality assurance of antimicrobial susceptibility tests) should be published as a Discussion Document.

Definitive Document E.Def 1.2 (Terminology) is to be revised to include updated definitions of susceptibility categories, wild type, epidemiological cut-off values, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics and definitions for antifungals.

Definitive Document E.Def 2.1 (Determination of antimicrobial susceptibility test breakpoints) will need to be revised to reflect agreed changes to the process.

Comments on any of the EUCAST documents would be welcomed.

8. Future activities

Dr Kahlmeter reported that activities for 2003-4 will include:

- 8.1 Continuing the process of harmonization of clinical breakpoints for fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides, glycopeptides and linezolid.
- 8.2 Publication of documents as defined in section 7.
- 8.3 Further development of the EUCAST websites, including a program for importing data.
- 8.4 Expansion of the collection of MIC distributions for the "wild type

distributions" website. All were invited to contribute data.

- 8.5 Continuing to promote liaison with relevant groups.
- 8.6 Organisation of EUCAST sessions for the ECCMID meeting in Prague, May 1-4, 2004.
- 8.7 It has been agreed with the Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Sub-committee that they would work along similar lines to those established for bacteria to set breakpoints, and wild type distributions would be published on the website in a similar way to those for bacteria.

9. Any other business

None.

10. The next meeting of the EUCAST Committee

This is scheduled to take place at ECCMID 2004, Prague, Czech Republic, May 1-4 2004.

General Meeting attendees, 12 May 2003

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Past chairman

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Bulgaria	Prof. Krassimir Metodiev
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Romania	no official representative
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Switzerland	Prof. Jacques Bille
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UK	Prof. Richard Wise
Yugoslavia	representative not confirmed

Pharmaceutical Industry Representatives

Prof. André Bryskier

Hoechst Marion Roussel

One position vacant

Device Manufacturers Representatives

Dr Jean-Pierre Marcel	bioMérieux (appointed by STMA*)
Ms Maureen Mansfield	TREK (appointed by STMA*)
Mr Daniel Malait	Bio-Rad (appointed by STMA*)
Mr Ivo Steenackers	Becton-Dickinson (appointed by STMA*)

*Susceptibility Testing Manufacturers Association