Unratified minutes of the Meeting on 12 May 2003 at the 13th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Glasgow, UK

Chairman Dr Gunnar Kahlmeter
Scientific Secretary Dr Derek Brown

A list of attendees who signed the register is attached.

1. Apologies for absence
   Prof J. Degener
   Prof H. Mittermayer
   Prof W. Hryniewicz
   Dr P. Urbaskova
   Prof A. MacGowan

2. Minutes of meeting in Milan, 26 April 2002
   The minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising
   None.

4. EUCAST structure
   Dr Kahlmeter described the current structure of EUCAST.

   The EUCAST General Committee has one representative from each country as previously. Industrial representation has been increased to 2 pharmaceutical, 2 automated device manufacturers and 2 media/disc manufacturers. There have been problems getting two representatives of the pharmaceutical industry and an email network is being set up with a representative from each company so all will receive information directly.

   A EUCAST Steering Committee has been set up with one representative of each of the active European national breakpoint committees, currently BSAC (UK), CRG (Netherlands), DIN (Germany), NWGA (Norway), SFM (France), SRGA (Sweden). These members are appointed by the national committees (three year terms, renewable). Two members from other countries on the General Committee (2 year term), a Chairperson and a Scientific Secretary (3 year terms, renewable), are selected by the ESCMID Executive. The current membership of the Steering Committee is:
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 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 (EMEA), 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.
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**Past chairman**
Prof. Ian Phillips

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- **Mr Daniel Malait** Bio-Rad (appointed by STMA*)
- **Mr Ivo Steenackers** Becton-Dickinson (appointed by STMA*)

*Susceptibility Testing Manufacturers Association