



EUCAST *Newsletter*

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EUCAST Statutes

On 10 November 1997 there was a meeting of the European Committee on Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) in London attended by approximately 50 delegates from 28 European countries. It was agreed to re-constitute the European Study Group on Antibiotic Breakpoints (ESGAB), with a remit to cover wider aspects of antibiotic susceptibility testing than breakpoints alone.

The proposed statutes of EUCAST are as follows:

Mission

To achieve European consensus on the practice of antibiotic susceptibility testing and interpretation of its results.

Objectives

1. To bring together in a main committee, under the auspices of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, representatives of
 - i. European, national or international groups involved in the technology and interpretation of antibiotic susceptibility testing in Europe.
 - ii. Companies involved in the production and marketing of antibiotics (antimicrobial agents).
 - iii. Companies involved in the production and marketing of in-vitro diagnostic medical devices used in antibiotic susceptibility testing.
2. To set up subcommittees whose objectives are defined by the main committee and who report to that committee. These may include Terminology, Breakpoints, Disk Testing, MIC Determination, Intracellular Pathogens, Fungi, Mycobacteria, and others as agreed by the main committee.
3. To produce, agree upon, disseminate and update a series of documents on the technology of in-vitro antibiotic susceptibility testing, the aim of which is to promote standardisation of methods used in different parts of Europe and comparability of results obtained by different technologies.
4. To define the methods to be used in setting antibiotic susceptibility breakpoints and to apply those methods, in collaboration with their respective manufacturers, in setting breakpoints for new and existing antibiotics,
5. To raise funds for the activities of the committee and subcommittees.

6. To collaborate with European and international groups concerned with the epidemiology of antibiotic resistance.
7. To advise European Community institutions on the technology of antibiotic susceptibility testing and its interpretation.
8. To work with NCCLS to achieve international consensus in susceptibility testing.
9. To devise and participate in educational and training programmes.

Membership

The membership of EUCAST will comprise the following:

1. One member from each European country, representing and approved by national groups concerned with the technology of antibiotic susceptibility testing (where these exist) and carrying authority to agree upon consensus decisions.
2. Two members representing the sustaining pharmaceutical companies.
3. Two members representing sustaining media and equipment manufacturers.
4. Up to six members appointed by ESCMID (initially from ESGAB, from which EUCAST is derived), including the chairman and the scientific secretary.
5. Other officers of EUCAST, including chairpersons and members of subcommittees, will be appointed by the chairman of EUCAST, based on the recommendations of the main committee, and will serve for two years, with the possibility of reappointment for a further two terms.

Meetings

The meetings of the main committee will take place at least annually, whenever possible in association with the ECCMID. They will be open to all who wish to attend as observers.

The meetings of the subcommittees will take place as determined by the chairmen and will be open to all who wish to attend as observers.