21 years of EUCAST: supporting your laboratory

EUCAST provides methods, interpretative guidelines, guidance and support for antimicrobial susceptibility testing. EUCAST guidelines are increasingly implemented in European laboratories and beyond, supporting its adoption through a network of National AST Committees (NACs). It has now been active for more than 20 years and expanded its activities from antibacterial susceptibility testing to testing of antifungal, antimycobacterial and veterinary antibacterial agents.

News 2018-2019: the work never stops

- New NACs have been formed and new countries have joined EUCAST
- New breakpoint tables v.9.0 for bacteria, together with updated QC tables
- Revised the Dosages tab to align fully with the new categories
- Redefined breakpoint categories into Susceptible, Susceptible–Increased Exposure and Resistant
- Introduced Areas of Technical Uncertainty into AST results, requiring additional laboratory action
- Proposed breakpoints for three new antimicrobial agents
- Revised several sets of breakpoints
  - Carbapenems, all species
  - Tigecycline, Enterobacteriales
  - Amoxicillin+/- clavulanic acid for *S. pneumoniae* and *H. influenzae*
  - Azithromycin for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (ECOFF only)
- Introduced breakpoints for piperacillin-tazobactam and *H. influenzae*
- Released the first version of methods for rapid susceptibility testing of positive blood culture isolates
- Commenced extensive revision of the EUCAST Expert Rules
- Undertook development of testing methods and breakpoints (MIC and zone diameter) for *Burkholderia pseudomallei*
- Established a Working Group to review testing and breakpoints for anaerobic bacteria
- Continued work on the development of a reference testing method for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- Developed a screening method for azole resistance in *Aspergillus fumigatus*
- Updated the voriconazole rationale document
- Continued work on the development of breakpoints for florfenicol on bovine respiratory disease

EUCAST objectives

- To form under the auspices of ESCMID and ECDC an expert network on clinical breakpoints and antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST)
- To determine, review and revise European clinical breakpoints in collaboration with the EMA
- To determine, review and revise epidemiological cut-off values (ECOFFs)
- To develop and standardize methods, to promote quality assurance, education and training, and to advise and collaborate with other groups on issues related to antimicrobial susceptibility testing
- To work towards international harmonization of clinical breakpoints and AST

For more information of EUCAST see [www.eucast.org](http://www.eucast.org)