United States NAC

The National AST Committee for the USA (USCAST) was founded in early 2013 by experts in antimicrobial susceptibility testing and new drug research. This effort was supported initially by several professional societies (International Society of Anti-Infective Pharmacology, Pediatric Infectious Disease Society) and a broad base of scientists across the disciplines of infectious disease (adult and children), laboratory medicine (pathology and clinical microbiology), pharmacology and pharmacodynamics, toxicology, in vitro and in vivo modeling, antimicrobial discovery and development, resistance surveillance and monitoring, antimicrobial drug stewardship, and the epidemiology of infections.

Membership: The committee has 10 members (including a five member Executive Committee) that includes experienced members in all key specialties and society representatives. The Chairman is Paul G. Ambrose, PharmD (Albany, New York) and the Scientific Secretary is Ronald N. Jones, MD (North Liberty, Iowa). Current members of the Executive Committee are John S. Bradley, MD (San Diego, California), William A. Craig (Madison, Wisconsin), and Michael N. Dudley, PharmD (San Diego, California).

Positions (committee or working group [WG] members and advisors) with the USCAST will be selected/confirmed after EC screening of resumes documenting qualifications and experience in the area of antimicrobial susceptibility testing methods research and development and/or infectious disease therapy (efficacy and safety)/clinical research/education and/or regulatory processes.

Priority Objectives:

- **Provide a venue** (electronic and "face-to-face" meetings) for USA individual practitioners/scientists, governmental agencies, and medical societies to interact with the EUCAST/EMA process of antimicrobial testing and development of interpretive criteria per EUCAST NAC SOP 5.0.

- **Review and endorse** the "best use choice" of established reference and standardized antimicrobial susceptibility testing methods currently found in public domain documents for dilution and agar disk diffusion procedures.
Using USA-FDA Microbiology Sections of product package inserts, CLSI tables and EUCAST published guidelines, review all clinical breakpoints and provide best, consensus published breakpoints recommendations to the agency and for use in USA medical practice.

Review new agent development data regarding those items impacting the selection of antimicrobial susceptibility testing breakpoint criteria for clinical practice. New agents will be promptly reviewed.

Provide an efficient process respecting potentially sensitive, confidential information, but remaining open via full disclosures of conflicts of interest and by seeking public comment via electronic mechanisms on proposed published documents (breakpoints or test-result-based guidelines).

Provide readily accessible breakpoints and other guidelines for antimicrobial chemotherapy related to tested available agents, on an electronic format (online/website) to minimize cost and maximize widespread clinical/laboratory utility. Rapid application of breakpoints would be facilitated by collaborations with commercial susceptibility testing systems manufacturers and regulatory agencies.

Seek continued support and/or participations from established investigators in the disciplines important to antimicrobial breakpoint determinations.

Meetings: The USCAST began face-to-face meetings in August 2013 and will meet every 60 days. Additional meetings will be scheduled during national and international meetings (ASM, ICAAC, IDWeek, ECCMID, etc) and via teleconference, as needed by the WGs or other USCAST committees.

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