European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)

Minutes of the General Committee Meeting on 1 April 2012
22nd European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, London, UK

A list of attendees who signed the register is attached.

1. Apologies for absence
   Alasdair MacGowan (UK).

2. Minutes of meeting in Milan, 9 May 2011
   With minor corrections, the unratified minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising
   None.

4. EUCAST Steering Committee membership
   4.1 The current membership of the Steering Committee is attached:
   4.2 Gunnar Kahlmeter reported that Arne Rodloff (DIN) has resigned and the term of office of Marina Ivanova will finish at this meeting. Arne and Marina were thanked for their contributions. Germany is restructuring and forming a NAC as the DIN breakpoint committee is no longer active. Two new members representing the General Committee were welcomed, Luis Martinez Martinez from Spain and Robert Skov from Denmark. After this meeting Rafael Cantón will take over as Chairperson and Gunnar Kahlmeter will be the Clinical Data Coordinator.

5. EUCAST General Committee membership
   5.1 The membership list is on the EUCAST website (the current list is attached). Representatives should inform the Scientific Secretary (email derek.brown222@btinternet.com) if the current representative for their country has changed. Representatives should keep their national societies informed of EUCAST activities and respond to consultations from EUCAST.
   5.2 Anyone in the pharmaceutical and susceptibility device manufacturing industries may be a part of the email networks included in the consultation process (contact gunnar.kahlmeter@ltkronoberg.se). If email addresses change Gunnar Kahlmeter should be informed as addresses rejecting correspondence twice will be removed from the list.

6. EUCAST Chairperson’s report
   Gunnar Kahlmeter summarised activities over the past year.
   6.1 The structure and organisation of EUCAST were reviewed. In the last year there have been five meetings of the Steering Committee. The General Committee meets once annually, at ECCMID.
   6.2 Maps were presented showing that EUCAST breakpoints and the disk diffusion method have been adopted in several countries and several are in various stages of implementing EUCAST breakpoints.
   6.3 A eucast.org newsfeed is available from the EUCAST website. This keeps users regularly updated about news on the website. Newsfeeds are automatically broadcasted on the user’s computer without them visiting the website. Newsfeeds contain a summary of the latest content including links which directly lead users to respective information on the website.
   6.4 Harmonization of breakpoints for widely used older agents was completed over two years ago. Breakpoints have been set for the topical agents mupirocin, retapamulin and fidaxomicin. Breakpoints for Listeria monocytogenes, Helicobacter pylori and Clostridium difficile are now included in EUCAST tables. Haemophilus influenzae and Moraxella catarrhalis breakpoints have been reviewed. There have been revisions to some breakpoints including the following:
• Fosfomycin breakpoints removed from *Pseudomonas*.
• Nitrofurantoin breakpoints removed from *E. faecium*.
• Trimethoprim breakpoints $S \leq 2$, $R > 2 \, mg/L$ included for *S. agalactiae* in UTI.
• Amoxicillin & amoxicillin-clavulanic acid breakpoints in *H. influenzae* increased to $S \leq 4$, $R > 2 \, mg/L$.
• Chloramphenicol breakpoint in *H. influenzae* increased to $S \leq 2$, $R > 2 \, mg/L$.
• For ceftibuten “uncomplicated” removed from the caveat “uncomplicated UTI”.
• Replaced “IE” with “dash” for ceftibuten and *S. pneumoniae*.

Breakpoints are currently being developed for *Campylobacter* spp., *Corynebacterium* spp., *Pasteurella multocida*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Pseudomonas non-aeruginosa*, *Actinomyces* spp., *Nocardia* spp. and *Burkholderia cepacia*. Breakpoints based on ECOFFs are being developed for older topical agents.

6.5 The setting of breakpoints for new agents according to the EMA SOP (available on the EUCAST website) continues and telavancin was completed in the last year. Several other agents are in process.

6.6 Version 2 (January 2012) of breakpoint tables is on the EUCAST website. There is a pdf version for printing as well as a version for viewing on the website. Rationale documents continue to be added on the website (www.eucast.org) and 45 are now available.

6.7 The EUCAST website continues to be expanded and has been reorganised with the rearrangement of the antimicrobial susceptibility testing section and the introduction of a specific antifungal section. Guidance documents have been published on the website on *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* susceptibility testing, the position of oral cephalosporins with regard to the absence of systemic breakpoints for Enterobacteriaceae, and direct antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

6.8 National Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Committees (NACs) continue to be promoted by EUCAST. On antimicrobial susceptibility testing, NACs deal with strategy at a national level, implementation of breakpoints and methods, education, liaison and consultation with EUCAST, liaison with groups involved in resistance surveillance (e.g. ECDC, EARS-Net) and quality assurance. A map was presented showing that most European countries now have a NAC or are in the process of establishing one.

6.9 There have been many EUCAST presentations and workshops over the past year in Europe and more widely. Papers have been published in CMI on expert rules and on Pk/Pd in breakpoint setting. A paper on ECOFFs is currently being prepared.

7. **EUCAST subcommittee reports**

7.1 Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee (AFST):

Maiken Cavling Arendrup, the subcommittee chairperson, presented a summary of activity of the subcommittee over the past year. There were three Steering Committee Meetings and three General Committee Meetings in the past year. There was also one meeting with the EUCAST Steering Committee. Membership of the subcommittee is attached.

Revised document E.DEF 7.2 (susceptibility testing of yeasts) has been published. Changes include DMSO as the recommended solvent for caspofungin, micafungin and fluconazole; shelf life of microdilution plates is extended to 6 months at -80˚C; *Cryptococcus* is included; and QC ranges are provided for anidulafungin with *C. krusei* ATCC 6258 and *C. parapsilosis* ATCC 22019.

Breakpoints for *Aspergillus* spp. with posaconazole, itraconazole and amphotericin B have been published, together with rationale documents, and voriconazole breakpoints have been released for discussion. Rationale documents for *Candida* with amphotericin, anidulafungin and posaconazole have been published.

A separate antifungal susceptibility testing section has been established on the website so all aspects related to AFST can be accessed through the single location.

Breakpoints for antifungal agents are now in the same spreadsheet format as antibacterial agents.

Future activity will include:

- Finalising the voriconazole rationale document for *Aspergillus* spp.
- Micafungin breakpoints with *Candida* spp. (collecting MICs for ECOFF determinations).
- Isavuconazole breakpoints with Candida and Aspergillus (collecting MICs for ECOFF determinations).
- For Aspergillus with azoles a new document on the agar screening method is needed.
- For Aspergillus there are methodological issues with echinocandin testing as MICs are not reliable or reproducible. It was suggested that all isolates should be classified as "I" to reflect the problems, but it was felt that intermediate may be taken to imply treatment with a higher dose and that IE would be more appropriate, together with a recommendation not to test until testing issues are resolved.
- Systematic revision of existing documents 3 years or older.
- Breakpoints for Candida with itraconazole and with topical agents.

7.2 Expert Rules Subcommittee:
The work of the Subcommittee is complete with the publication of Version 2.0 of the expert rules. The Subcommittee has been disbanded for the present and will be reorganised in the future if needed.

7.3 Anaerobes Subcommittee:
The Subcommittee has progressed as far as possible with the current remit and has been disbanded for the present.

7.4 Subcommittee on methods for detection of resistance mechanisms of clinical and/or epidemiological importance:
This recently formed subcommittee will be chaired by Christian Giske, who outlined the background and remit of the subcommittee. Guidance on methods of detection and characterization of resistance mechanisms are required to tie in with the EUCAST MIC breakpoints, the EUCAST disk diffusion method, EUCAST expert rules and ECDC requirements for update of the EARS-Net manual. The remit is to develop practical guidelines for detection of specific antimicrobial resistance mechanisms of clinical and/or epidemiological importance. The guidance will include definition of the mechanisms, explanation of the clinical and/or public health need for detection of the mechanisms, an outline description of recommended methods of detection and references to detailed descriptions of the methods. The following resistance mechanisms will be included: MRSA, VISA/hVISA, VRE, HLAR in enterococci, penicillin resistance in S. pneumoniae, ESBLs, acquired AmpC, carbapenemases in Enterobacteriaceae and Pseudomonas spp. and any other mechanisms considered important by the Subcommittee. The subcommittee is expected to report by the end of 2012. Membership of the subcommittee is attached.

It was suggested that dissemination of recommended methods should be a high priority and that EUCAST should organise practical courses. However, it was noted that EUCAST already organises practical courses and there is an educational responsibility of NACs (with EUCAST support) at a local level.

8. The EUCAST disk diffusion method
8.1 The EUCAST disk diffusion method continues to be developed and is fully described on the website. There are also several data files with the background data used to establish disk diffusion breakpoints for particular groups of organisms.

8.2 Disk diffusion methodology is currently being developed for Campylobacter, Corynebacterium spp., Pasteurella multocida, Yersinia enterocolitica, anaerobic bacteria, Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Pseudomonas non-aeruginosa, streptococci and S. pneumoniae (validation project), screening for beta-lactam resistance in viridans group streptococci (validation project), screening for fluoroquinolone resistance in Salmonella, and Staphylococcus pseudintermedius methicillin resistance.

9. Preparedness of manufacturers of materials for AST by EUCAST methods
9.1 The file on the EUCAST website recording manufacturers’ preparedness for EUCAST breakpoints and methods is updated regularly with information from the manufacturers.

9.2 Limitations of automated systems are often quoted by laboratories as a significant block to introduction of EUCAST methods. Manufacturers need to be pressured by EUCAST, NACs and individual customers to comply with EUCAST requirements.

9.3 It was pointed out that manufacturers are responsible for the document on the EUCAST website (“The preparedness of manufacturers”) and that EUCAST does not check the reliability of claims.
made by manufacturers in the tables.

10. EUCAST and ECDC
10.1 The new contract with ECDC for funding of EUCAST runs to September 2014. EUCAST is an external expert committee of ECDC with the remit to harmonise European clinical breakpoints, ECOFFs and methodology for AMR surveillance.
10.2 EUCAST also determines clinical breakpoints for new agents for EMA and is an advisor to EFSA on food and feed safety aspects.

11. Revised EUCAST statutes
11.1 Proposed changes to the structure of the Steering Committee were described. Up to two additional “visiting” General Committee members may attend each Steering Committee meeting by prior agreement. No General Committee member can attend more than two meetings per year under this arrangement.
   • The Steering Committee meeting dates will be on the website six months in advance
   • A preliminary agenda will be on the website three weeks before each Steering Committee meeting
   • General Committee members must inform the Scientific Secretary no later than two weeks before the meeting of his/her wish to attend the meeting
   • If more than two General Committee members wish to attend a meeting the EUCAST Executive will decide on who can attend with the intention of fairly distributing General Committee representation. General Committee members will then be informed whether they can attend and whether part of the agenda is closed to them (confidential data on new agents)
   • All travel/accommodation and costs will be organised and borne by the visiting General Committee representative
The proposed changes were unanimously agreed.

12. Future activities
Gunnar Kahlmeter reported that priorities remain as follows:
12.1 Development and update of EUCAST breakpoints and methods.
12.2 Promotion of NACs.
12.3 Implementation of EUCAST breakpoints.
12.4 Maintenance and development of EUCAST website and education activities.

13. Any other business
13.1 None.

14. Next meeting of the EUCAST General Committee
Scheduled for 23rd ECCMID, Berlin, Germany, 27-30 April 2013.
EUCAST General Committee Meeting attendees signing the register, 1 April 2012

Jenny Åhman Sweden
Petra Apfalter Austria
Maiken Caveling Arendrup Denmark
Amanda Appleton Thermofisher
Phillippe Arowas Siemens
Goia Babini BD
Arta Balode Latvia
Patricia Bradford AstraZeneca
Derek Brown UK
Rafael Canton Spain
John Degener The Netherlands
Manuel Cuenca Estrella Spain
Sheila Farnham BioMérieux
Robert Flamm JMI Laboratories
Christian Giske Sweden
Hajo Grundmann The Netherlands
Antti Hakanen Finland
Ole Heuer Sweden
Pat Hogan Pfizer
Helle Järv Estonia
Manette Juvin Bio-Rad
Gunnar Kahlmeter Sweden
Yoram Keness Israel
Laura Koeth Laboratory Specialists Inc
Jana Kolman Slovenia
Daniel Malait BioRad
Maureen Mansfield Thermofisher Scientific
Luis Martinez-Martinez Spain
Linda Miller GSK
Wright Nichols Astra Zeneca
Milan Niks Slovakia
Jolanta Miciuleviciene Lithuania
Johan Mouton The Netherlands
Daniela Ohlasova Slovakia
James Poupad Pharma Inst of Phila
Bob Rennie Canada
Gian Maria Rossolini Italy
Robert Skov Denmark
Stefania Stefanı Italy
Martin Steinbakk Norway
Marc Struelens Sweden
Marina Sukhorukova Russia
Arjana Tambic-Andrasevic Croatia
Susan Thomson Mast
Akos Tóth Hungary
Paul Tulkens Belgium
John Turnidge Australia
Alkis Vatopoulos Greece
Thierry Vidalenc Bio-Rad
Reinhard Zbinden Switzerland
Barbara Zimmer Siemens
EUCAST Steering Committee 1 April 2012

Chairperson
Prof Gunnar Kahlmeter
Sweden 2014

Scientific Secretary
Dr Derek Brown
UK 2014

Clinical Data Coordinator
Dr Rafael Canton
Spain 2014

BSAC
Prof Alasdair MacGowan
UK 2014

CRG
Dr Johan W. Mouton
Netherlands 2014

NWGA
Dr Arnfinn Sundsfjord/Martin Steinbak
Norway 2014

SFM
Prof Claude-James Soussy/Prof Luc Dubreuil
France 2014

SRGA
Dr Christian Giske
Sweden 2014

General Committee
Dr Marina Ivanova
Estonia 2012

General Committee
Dr Petra Apfalter
Austria 2013

EUCAST General Committee 1 April 2012

Chairperson
Dr Gunnar Kahlmeter

Scientific Secretary
Dr Derek Brown

Clinical Data Coordinator
Dr Rafael Canton

National representatives
Australia
Prof. John Turnidge

Austria
Dr Petra Apfalter

Belgium
Prof. Jan Verhaegen

Bosnia
Dr Selma Uzunovic-Kamberovic

Bulgaria
Prof. Krassimir Metodieva

Croatia
Dr Arjana Tambic-Andrasevic

Czech Republic
Dr Helena Zemlickova

Denmark
Dr Robert Skov

Estonia
Dr Marina Ivanova

Finland
Dr Antti Hakkanen

France
Prof. Luc Dubreuil

Germany
Prof. Bernd Wiedemann

Greece
Prof. Alkiviadis Vatopoulos

Hungary
Dr Ákos Tóth

Iceland
Dr Karl Gustaf Kristinsson

Ireland
Dr Michael Mulhern

Israel
Dr Yoram Keness

Italy
Prof. Pietro Varaldo

Latvia
Dr Arta Balode

Lithuania
Dr Jolante Miciuleviciene

Netherlands
Prof. John Degener

Norway
Dr Martin Steinbak

Poland
Prof. Waleria Hryniewicz

Portugal
Prof. Jose Melo Cristino

Romania
Dr Irina codita

Russia
Dr Marina Sukhorukova

Serbia
Dr Lazar Ranin

Slovak Republic
Prof. Milan Niks

Slovenia
Dr Jana Kolman

Spain
Dr Luis Martinez-Martinez

Sweden
Dr Barbro Olsson-Liljequist

Switzerland
Prof. Jacques Bille

Turkey
Dr Deniz Gür

UK
Prof Alasdair MacGowan

ISC
Dr Paul Tulkens

FESCI
Dr David Livermore
EUCAST subcommittees

Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee

Steering Committee
Maiken cavling arendrup, denmark (chairperson)
William hope, uk (secretary)
Manuel cuenca-estrella, Spain
Cornelia lass-floerl, Austria

Full Committee
Maiken cavling arendrup, denmark (chairperson)
William hope, uk (secretary)
Eric Dannaoui, france;
Wolfgang Fegeler, Germany
Francesco Barchiesi, Italy
Paul Verweij, the netherlands
Peter Gaustad, Norway
Manuel cuenca-estrella, Spain
Erja chryssanthou, Sweden
Jacques Bille, Switzerland
Caroline Moore, UK
Cornelia lass-floerl, Austria
Aristia velegraki, Greece
Nikolay Klimko, Russia
Arno Schmalreck, Germany
Sevtap Arikan, Turkey
Katrien Lagrou (Belgium)

Subcommittee on methods for detection of resistance mechanisms of clinical and/or epidemiological importance

Christian g. giske (chairperson; Sweden, EUCAST and EARS-Net)
Luis martinez-martinez (Spain and EUCAST)
Rafael canton (Spain and EUCAST)
Stefania stefani (Italy)
Robert skov (Denmark and EUCAST)
Youri glupczynski (Belgium)
Patrice nordmann (France)
Mandy wootton (UK)
Vivi miriagou (greece)
Gunnar skov simonsen (Norway and EARS-Net)
Helena zemlickova (Czech republic and EARS-Net)
James Cohen-Stuart (Netherlands)
Marek Gniadkowski (Poland)