Summary of minutes of EUCAST Steering Committee Meeting
Leipzig, Germany, 28-29 September 2009

Attending
Dr Derek F.J. Brown DB Scientific Secretary United Kingdom
Dr Rafael Cantón RC Clinical Data Co-ordinator Spain
Prof Luc Dubruel LD CA-SFM France
Dr Christian Giske CG SRGA Sweden
Dr Antti Hakanen AH EUCAST Finland
Prof Gunnar Kahlmeter GK Chairperson Sweden
Prof Alasdair P. MacGowan AM BSAC United Kingdom
Dr Johan W. Mouton JM CRG The Netherlands
Prof Arne Rodloff AR DIN Germany
Dr Arnfinn Sundsfjord AS NWGA Norway
Prof Paul Tulkens PT EUCAST Belgium

Apologies
Prof Claude-James Soussy CS CA-SFM France

ECDC representative
Dr Ole Heuer OH
Dr Carlo Gagliotti CGa

Sanofi-Aventis representatives (item 19)
Dr Nathalie Moniot-Ville NM Medical Director Anti-Infectives
Dr Catherine Couturier CC Microbiology Expert
Dr Bénédicte Marchal-Pugnat BM Europe Corporate Regulatory Affairs
Clio Lacroix CL Europe Corporate Regulatory Affairs

1 Chairman’s welcome LD represented SFM in place of CS.

2 Minutes of meeting of 19-20 May 2009 The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

3 Matters arising from minutes of 19-20 May 2009
A paper for CMI explaining ECOFFs is to be prepared.

Data relating to breakpoints for less common organisms are being collected.

Discussion of the ECDC-EUCAST relationship after 2011 has been started.

Oral cephalosporin breakpoints have been released.

The prioritisation of breakpoint setting for less commonly used agents is being addressed through a questionnaire sent to all General Committee members.

4 New drugs Marketing authorisation applications to EMEA for gemifloxacin and oritavancin have been withdrawn by the respective companies. There is no new information on a diaminopyrimidine and a cephalosporin currently under consideration.

5 Status of EUCAST documents Carbapenem and aminoglycoside rationale documents have been released. Other documents under construction were reviewed.

6 Breakpoints and expert rules for ESBLs There was discussion regarding whether susceptibility should be reported as found (but with adjustment of ceftazidime and cefepime breakpoints), or whether to edit to a more resistant category if an ESBL is detected. National committees and the expert rules subcommittee will be consulted on alternative options. More clinical outcome data related to MIC and ESBL status are desirable for all agents.

7 Expert rules subcommittee An updated version of the expert rules tables is being discussed by the subcommittee. It was agreed that the new version should include a table of what has changed and why. A supplement on expert rules is being prepared for publication in CMI. A first version of an expert rules computer program has been prepared.
| 8 | **Antifungal susceptibility testing subcommittee** | Work on an ISO standard for yeast susceptibility testing is progressing. Work continues on breakpoints for posaconazole, the echinocandins and amphotericin B. |
| 9 | **Anaerobe subcommittee** | A method description for anaerobe susceptibility testing is in preparation. |
| 10 | **Breakpoints for Mycobacteria** | MIC distributions and ECOFFs will be added to the EUCAST wild type MIC database. |
| 11 | **Breakpoints for carbapenems** | Evidence supporting current EUCAST breakpoints is felt to be reasonable and it was agreed not to propose changes to breakpoints at present. |
| 12 | **Breakpoints for glycopeptides** | Responses to the proposed changes to EUCAST breakpoints were discussed. The vancomycin breakpoints for *S. aureus* at 2/2 mg/L were the only issue and responses were mostly positive. One proposal for breakpoints of 0.5/1 mg/L would effectively render the wild type non-susceptible, which is unacceptable. Suggestions for 2/4 mg/L were not felt to be acceptable these would split VISA strains between intermediate and resistant categories. It was agreed to implement 2/2 mg/L with a footnote to warn of problems with testing methods. |
| 13 | **ECCMID** | For 2010 there will be an educational workshop entitled “Antimicrobial susceptibility testing - practical implementation of the EUCAST breakpoints and methods”, a symposium entitled “Antibacterial susceptibility testing and implications for resistance surveillance and treatment” (in collaboration with ESGARS), a debate on reporting beta-lactam susceptibility tests on Enterobacteriaceae (in collaboration with ESGARS) and an educational workshop entitled “Antifungal agents: new topics on resistance, therapeutic drug monitoring and pharmacoconomy” (EUCAST AFST in collaboration with EFISG). An ESCMID Postgraduate Educational Workshop has been agreed for 27-30 September 2010, Madrid, Spain entitled “Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing and Surveillance: from Laboratory to Clinic - the EUCAST and ESGARS Perspective”. |
| 14 | **EUCAST disk diffusion method** | A draft method description has been prepared. A new format for organism group-based breakpoint tables including both MIC and disk breakpoints was approved and will be further developed. |
| 15 | **ECDC** | The role of EUCAST in relation to ECDC was discussed. |
| 16 | **EMEA** | No new information. |
| 17 | **Implementation of EUCAST breakpoints** | The EUCAST chairman will visit several countries in the next few months to discuss EUCAST breakpoints and the European disk diffusion test. Questions from individuals are frequently received. An ESCMID Postgraduate Educational Course has been agreed and there will be several EUCAST sessions at ECCMID 2010 (see 13). Some laboratories are beginning to use the EUCAST disk diffusion method with tentative breakpoints. EUCAST breakpoints are at various stages of implementation in automated systems. |
| 18-20 | **Telithromycin breakpoints for *S. pneumoniae*** | The Steering Committee met with representatives of Sanofi-Aventis to discuss breakpoints and concluded that there was insufficient evidence to support raising EUCAST breakpoints. |
| 21 | **Any other business** | None. |

Ratified summary of minutes of meeting 28-29 September 2009. Prepared by DB, GK, RC