

EUCAST Statutes

EUCAST objectives

- To form in EUCAST, under the auspices of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), a network of established experts in the determination of antimicrobial breakpoints and in antimicrobial susceptibility testing.
- To determine, review and revise European clinical breakpoints and epidemiological cut-off values for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in close collaboration with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and ECDC.
- To promote the development and standardization of in-vitro antimicrobial susceptibility testing methods used in Europe.
- To promote quality assurance of in-vitro antimicrobial susceptibility testing.
- To promote education and training in antimicrobial susceptibility testing.
- To advise ECDC and other European Union health agencies on issues related to antimicrobial susceptibility testing and detection of resistance determinants relevant to public health.
- To collaborate with international groups, ECDC and other European Union health agencies involved in antimicrobial susceptibility testing and/or the epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance in human pathogens.
- To work towards international consensus and harmonization of clinical breakpoints and antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

EUCAST membership

- **Steering Committee**

ESCMID appoints the Chair, Scientific Secretary, Clinical Data Coordinator and Technical Data Coordinator. These posts will be limited to a maximum of eight years. National Breakpoint Committees decide on 4-6 members representing National Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Committees (NACs) with experience in determining breakpoints (currently France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK) and, on recommendation from the Steering Committee, ESCMID approves 2-4 members from the EUCAST General Committee. Steering Committee members other than General Committee representatives serve for two years and may be reappointed. Those representing the General Committee serve for two years and may not be reappointed for consecutive periods unless there are no other applicants. Expertise in breakpoint setting, antimicrobial resistance, susceptibility testing, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics must be guaranteed. Observers from ECDC and EMA are free to attend Steering Committee meetings. Experts from outside the committee may be co-opted to participate in discussion of specific topics as agreed by the Steering Committee.

Applications for General Committee representative positions may be made in response to notifications of forthcoming vacancies to General Committee members and on the EUCAST website.

- **General Committee**

The General Committee consists of one representative from each European country and each country outside Europe interested in advocating and developing EUCAST guidelines. Countries that have formally applied through their NAC or a national society of clinical microbiology and/or infectious diseases and/or medicine are appointed to the General Committee. Representatives of ECDC and EMA will be *ex officio* General Committee members.

New applications to the EUCAST General Committee may be submitted to the Steering Committee at any time.

EUCAST Subcommittees

The Steering Committee may establish ad-hoc subcommittees to work towards achieving specific objectives of EUCAST. The subcommittees will work to a defined remit and timescale.

EUCAST Decisions

- EUCAST proposals will, unless restricted by confidentiality agreements, be distributed for consultation to EUCAST General Committee members and, when appropriate, to other interested parties through “wide consultation” announced on the EUCAST website.
- EUCAST proposals for breakpoints as part of the approval process of new antimicrobial agents will be disclosed only to the applicant and to EUCAST Steering Committee members who have signed a confidentiality agreement (when such an agreement has been required).
- The Steering Committee will make final decisions.
- EUCAST will maintain email address lists of expert groups and individual experts in specific fields. These groups will be consulted on and informed of EUCAST activities as appropriate. Other interested parties will, when confidentiality permits, be consulted via “wide consultations” posted on the EUCAST website.

EUCAST breakpoints for new antimicrobial agents

Through an agreement between the EMA, pharmaceutical industry and EUCAST, the role of EUCAST with respect to breakpoint determination is recognised as part of the official EMA process for approval of new antimicrobial agents (see EMA SOP/H/3043 14 February 2005, revised 23 January 2007). Only the applicant of the specific product under consideration will be part of the process, as outlined in the EMA SOP/H/3943

(http://www.eucast.org/fileadmin/src/media/PDFs/4ESCMID_Library/3Publications/EUCAST_Documents/Other_Documents/EMEA_CHMP_EUCAST_SOP_on_Harmonising_European_Breakpoints_2007.pdf).



EUCAST Meetings

- A EUCAST Annual General Meeting will be held in conjunction with the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID). The Annual General Meeting will be an open meeting.
- The Steering Committee will meet as often as necessary, normally 4-5 times per year.

EUCAST Publications

As appropriate, documents will be submitted for publication in scientific journals. All EUCAST documents will be posted on the EUCAST website (www.eucast.org).

Declaration of commercial interests by EUCAST Steering Committee members

Each Steering Committee member will make a declaration of commercial interests in companies involved in marketing and/or development of antimicrobial agents or in the manufacture of susceptibility testing products. The declarations will be made/updated at the start of each two-year term of office. Any new interests relating to current discussions must be declared by the individual member. The declarations will be held by the Chairman and will be presented on request. Steering Committee members will excuse themselves from discussions on issues where a conflict of interest exists and this will be noted in minutes.

EUCAST funding

The activities of EUCAST are jointly supported financially by ESCMID and ECDC based on contractual arrangements. The employers of Steering Committee members support the work of EUCAST by allowing employees to take part in EUCAST activities as agreed between the employer and the employee. Financial support from industry is not accepted for the work of EUCAST committees or subcommittees.

London 10 November 1997

Amended Munich 31 March, 2007

Amended Milan, 9 May, 2011

Amended Amsterdam, 11 April, 2016