

# European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)

## Minutes of the General Committee Meeting on 15 April 2019 at the 29<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

The Chair of EUCAST, Professor Christian Giske, opened the meeting at 0845.

### 1. Apologies

Official apologies were received from Rafael Canton, Gerard Lina and Emmanuelle Cambau

### 2. Minutes of meeting in Madrid, 24 April 2018

The unratified minutes were approved as a true record.

### 3. EUCAST General Committee membership

The current membership list was presented and the list is updated on the EUCAST website (the current list is appended). Representatives should inform the Scientific Secretary (email [john.turnidge@escmid.org](mailto:john.turnidge@escmid.org)) if the representative for their country has changed.

### 4. EUCAST Steering Committee membership

The current membership of the Steering Committee was presented. the Chair. Rafael Cantón is Clinical Data Coordinator and Gunnar Kahlmeter is Technical Data Coordinator and Website Manager. John Turnidge is the Scientific Secretary. Cidalia Pina Vaz (Portugal) and Efi Petinaki (Greece) are the current General Committee representatives.

Up to two additional “visiting” General Committee members may attend each Steering Committee meeting by prior agreement. Details are on the EUCAST website. There have been such attendances at Steering Committee meetings in the past year by members from the USA.

There are five annual ESCMID observerships, each with a maximum value of 1000 Euros, to support attendance of European visiting members to EUCAST Steering Committee meetings. In addition, ESCMID has agreed to fund an additional five observerships of up to 1000 Euros to support attendance by non-European visiting members. Applications should be made by email to the Chairman or Scientific Secretary of EUCAST.

### 5. EUCAST Chair’s report

Christian Giske (CG) summarised activities over the past year, covering all agenda items except where indicated. Implementation of EUCAST breakpoints and guidelines continues to grow in Europe and internationally. Most European countries now have >50% implementation. EUCAST disk diffusion is the main testing method in several European countries. The Chair pointed out that the latter is becoming more important with the implementation of rapid AST from blood cultures.

In addition to the Steering Committee, there are now three standing subcommittees, for fungi, veterinary pathogens and mycobacteria, and five active ad hoc subcommittees on intrinsic

resistances and experts rules, MIC distributions and ECOFFs, disk potency development (in conjunction with CLSI), the relationship between WGS and phenotype, and susceptibility testing of anaerobes.

The Chair then showed the maps of NACs. There are NACs currently in 52 countries, almost all European countries with microbiology laboratories have a NAC now.

Over the previous year, six consultations were finalised:

- Oral aminopenicillin breakpoints for *H. influenzae* and *S. pneumoniae*
- Definition of the “I” category, with agreement for “I” to mean “susceptible – increased exposure
- Carbapenem breakpoints
- Piperacillin-tazobactam breakpoints for *H. influenzae*
- Tigecycline breakpoints
- Adapting the breakpoint table to the changes of the I-category

Other important initiatives included:

- Rollout of rapid AST (RAST) on positive blood cultures
- Elaboration on the Area of Technical Uncertainty (ATU), including advice for laboratories on what to do when such results are obtained. Results falling into the ATU should not be reported to the clinician. One attendee asked what to do when both MIC and disk results ended up in the ATU. Gunnar Kahlmeter suggested that this might actually flag a problem with the breakpoints.

## 6. Subcommittee on Antifungal Susceptibility Testing (AFST)

Maiken Arendrup presented an update on the organisation and activities of the AFST. The AST Steering Committee met three times during the previous year, and the General Subcommittee met at the previous ECCMID in Madrid. Changes in the Subcommittee line-up were also highlighted, with reappointment of Jesús Guinea as Secretary and Francesco Barchesi finishing his term as a NAC representative.

AFST now has a network of 11 laboratories, two more than at the same time last year. The AFST Development laboratory continues at the Statens Serum Institute in Copenhagen.

Initiatives in the last year include:

- Development and rollout of a screening test for azole resistance in *A. fumigatus*
- Ongoing development of an echinocandin screening test in the same species
- Pilot study on the impact of different plastic tray manufacturers on MICs
- Methods for testing susceptibility of dermatophytes. 10 centres are working on this based on EDef 9.3, and testing terbinafine. The results look promising.
- Updating the QC table, including a one-page overview table
- Discussion about the revised “I” category and its application to AFST

AFST have given 9 oral presentations at various meetings in the last year.

## 7. Subcommittee on Veterinary Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (VetCAST)

Peter Damborg, the Chair of VetCAST, gave a brief overview of the activities of VetCAST. With the retirement of Dik Mevius, Peter Damborg (Denmark) has taken over as chair, and the Secretary position has been taken by Gudrun Overesch (Switzerland). VetCAST has 54 members from 14 countries, and a steering committee of five people.

Work activities in the last year include:

- Setting breakpoints for *Mannheimia haemolytica* and *Pasteurella multocida* and florfenicol in cattle
- Commencing work on developing guides for veterinary diagnostic laboratories and practitioners
- A VetCAST workshop held in Poland in June 2018; another is planned for the UK in June 2019
- Application for funding under the European Union’s COST Action initiative

- Two consultations with the European Medicines Agency – use of aminopenicillin ± beta-lactamase inhibitors in animals; and dose optimisation for established veterinary antimicrobials

Planned breakpoint development work activities include:

- Marbofloxacin for *Streptococcus equi* and other equine pathogens
- Cefazolin for *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* in dogs
- Amoxicillin and doxycycline for pig pathogens
- Amoxicillin, tylosin and sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim in mink pathogens

## 8. Subcommittee on Antimycobacterial Susceptibility Testing (AMST)

Thomas Schön, the AMST Secretary, presented the Subcommittee's report on behalf of Emmanuelle Cambau the Subcommittee Chair.

Activities over the last year included:

- Teleconferences: 17th of October 2018 and 12th of February 2019
- EUCAST Steering Committee (SC) meeting in Nice, February 2019
- Development of rationale documents for Bedaquiline and Delamanid
- Discussions on methodology with the respective companies
- Updating MIC distributions in the EUCAST MIC database
- Preparations for reference AST method for *M. tuberculosis*
  - Inter- and intra-laboratory agreement for 7H10 and 7H9 >95%
  - Broth microdilution (BMD) in 7H9 media is the proposal from the AMST
  - n=688 in total, 4 AMST laboratories (INH, LEV and AMI)
  - Oral presentation at current ECCMID on Monday afternoon around 16:30 (O0932)
- Discussions on ECOFFs and AST reference method for non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM)

Planned activities include

- EUCAST reference method on MIC determination for *M. tuberculosis*
  - Open consultation on the reference method for one month
  - Explanatory document about the reference method posted on the EUCAST-AMST website
  - Instructions on how to calibrate the reference method to other methods
  - Publication of the reference method and results when formally adopted by EUCAST
  - Expanding the AMST network to set QC-ranges and ECOFFs in the reference method
- Publication of rationale documents (delamanid and bedaquiline)
- ECOFF and AST reference method for non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM)
  - MIC-distributions and ECOFFs from AMST study
- Establishment of an AMST General committee
  - National representatives
  - Complement to AMST Steering committee
  - First meeting at ECCMID 2020

## 9. EUCAST Subcommittee on MIC Distributions and ECOFFs

Work on updating the distributions on the website according to the new SOP continues.

## 10. EUCAST Development Laboratory (EDL) Report

Erika Matuschek outlined the wide range of activities currently being undertaken in the EDL, including the development of methods for less common bacterial species, disk diffusion tests and criteria for new antimicrobials and quality control standards.

Ongoing work includes:

- Annual revision of the Breakpoint Tables, version 9.0 is the current version
- Frequently Asked Question to be updated after ECCMID 2019
- Guidance document on ESBL confirmation now published on the website
- Publication on the website of a broth microdilution reading guide. In relation to this, the

revised ISO 20776-1 will be released this month

- Continuing work on a range of new antimicrobial agents under development: cefiderocol, cefepime-tazobactam, cefepime-zidebactam, iclaprim, cefepime-AAI101, imipenem-relebactam
- Method evaluation of AST of *Nocardia* spp.
- Rapid AST from positive blood cultures
- Performance evaluation of piperacillin-tazobactam Etest, including examination of isolated from the MERINO study
- Development of breakpoints for *Burkholderia pseudomallei* and a range of antimicrobial agents
- Performance evaluation of 21 brands of Mueller-Hinton agar
- Defining the true wild types for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

## 11. EUCAST websites

Gunnar Kahlmeter noted that the website continues to expand and has a high hit rate both within and outside Europe now.

## 15. Future Activities

CG described the EUCAST future activities in his report.

## 15. Any Other Business

There was none

## 16. Next meeting of the EUCAST General Committee

Scheduled to be held during the 30<sup>th</sup> ECCMID, Paris, France, 18-21 April 2019