

European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)

Minutes of the General Committee Meeting on 23 April 2018 at the 28th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Madrid, Spain

1. Apologies

No official apologies were received.

2. Minutes of meeting in Vienna, 24 April 2017

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) if the representative for their country has changed.

4. EUCAST Steering Committee membership

The current membership of the Steering Committee was presented. Christian Giske is the Chair, Rafael Cantón is Clinical Data Coordinator and Gunnar Kahlmeter is Technical Data Coordinator and Website Manager. John Turnidge is the Scientific Secretary. Arjana Tambic Andrasevic (Croatia) and Deniz Gür (Turkey) are the current General Committee representatives but will be handing over to Cidalia Pina Vaz (Portugal) and Efi Petinaki (Greece) at the conclusion of the next Steering Committee meeting.

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. CG outlined the latest changes in the breakpoints released in Breakpoint Tables 8.0. Other changes included changes to some standard and high dosing regimens in the Dosing tab. Since publication of v8.0, a number of small changes and corrections had been required, and v8.1 is due for release soon.

He also noted that the Steering Committee has difficulty keeping up with changes in the implementation of EUCAST methods and breakpoints in Europe and emphasised the need for

General Committee members to assist in gathering this information, which is requested yearly by the European Centre for Disease Control.

CG outlined the processes for establishment of NACs and demonstrated the webpage on which they are described. Ten countries outside Europe now had NACs. He noted that since the last General Meeting China has formed a NAC (ChiCAST).

There had been 8 recent consultations:

- EUCAST guidelines for detection of resistance mechanisms
- SOP for "MIC distributions and the determination of epidemiological cut-off values
- *Moraxella catarrhalis* fluoroquinolone breakpoints
- 2nd consultation on the definition of the Intermediate category.
- Breakpoints for *Aeromonas* and *Plesiomonas*
- Removal of macrolide breakpoints for *Haemophilus influenzae*
- Oral aminopenicillin breakpoints (*H. influenzae* and *S. pneumoniae*)
- 3rd consultation on definition of the Intermediate category

EUCAST had three peer-reviewed publications in 2017-8. Visits to the EUCAST.org website continued to increase, as well as unique page views and downloads.

Ongoing work includes:

- Revision of detection of resistance mechanisms and expert rules
- The intermediate definition
- Setting of breakpoints for new agents
- Several ongoing projects in EDL (shown later)
- Ongoing revision of breakpoints
 - Aminoglycoside breakpoints
 - Carbapenem breakpoints
 - Piperacillin-tazobactam breakpoints in *H. influenzae*
 - Temocillin
 - Tigecycline

6. Subcommittee on Antifungal Susceptibility Testing (AFST)

Maiken Arendrup presented an update on the organisation and activities of the AFST. She highlighted a number of activities including ongoing work with methods and quality control, the combination of yeasts and moulds into a single rationale document for voriconazole, a description of the AFST current reference methods and breakpoint setting history, and features of the AFST organisation.

Ongoing work includes:

- Revision of Rationale Documents
 - Amphotericin B vs *Candida*
 - Amphotericin B vs *Aspergillus*
- Implications for the type of plastic on MIC measurement
- Dermatophyte testing
- ECOFF and breakpoint setting for a number of agents under development

7. Subcommittee on Veterinary Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (VetCAST)

Peter Damborg, the Scientific Secretary of VetCAST, gave a brief overview of the activities of VetCAST. VetCAST has 42 members from 11 countries, and a steering committee of five people. The Subcommittee had received a grant from the JPI-AMR initiative, and had so far developed a position paper, a roadmap/SOP on PK data, and run a training course in Toulouse, FR.

Ongoing work includes:

- An SOP for clinical breakpoint development
- Setting of clinical breakpoints for florfenicol
- Consideration of breakpoints for amoxicillin in pigs and azalides in food animals
- Continued search for funding sources

8. Subcommittee on Antimycobacterial Susceptibility Testing (AMST)

Emmanuelle Cambau (EC, Subcommittee Chair) presented the activities of AMST. The principal work of the Subcommittee has been the development of a reference method for susceptibility testing of *M. tuberculosis*. A range of media are being examined.

Other ongoing work includes:

- Developing rationale documents for bedaquiline and delamanid
- Development of an AMST General Committee

9. EUCAST Subcommittee on MIC Distributions and ECOFFs

Gunnar Kahlmeter spoke to the progress that this Subcommittee, especially in the area of distribution acceptability. Questions about this were raised by Jeff Fuller (Canada) and Ron Miller (USA).

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. Work performed in the EDL in the last year included developing zone diameter breakpoints for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and ceftolozane-tazobactam, and breakpoints and zone diameters for *Aeromonas* species. The EDL had two publications in *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, one of *Kingella kingae* and another on evaluation of commercial MIC colistin testing products. The EDL had also undertaken a second evaluation of disk quality, and many showed improvements between 2013 and 2017.

Ongoing work includes:

- Disk mass, quality control and MIC vs zone evaluations for a number of new agents
- Early ready of zones for paid AST of positive blood cultures
- Development of disk diffusion for anaerobes using Fastidious Anaerobe Agar
- Development of a fresh horse blood substitute
- Improved screening algorithm for beta-lactam resistance in *H. influenzae*
- Methods and breakpoints for *Nocardia* spp.

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

Bob Rennie confirmed the establishment of the Canadian NAC (CANCAST) and informed the meeting that they will be holding a workshop in May in Toronto. He also asked a question about whether it was appropriate for NACs to publish on particular topics. It was agreed that the Steering Committee would look into the rules for NAC publication.

16. Next meeting of the EUCAST General Committee

Scheduled to be held during the 29th ECCMID, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 13-16 April 2019