

European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)

Minutes of the General Committee Meeting on 24 April 2017 at 27th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Vienna, Austria

1. Apologies

No official apologies were received.

2. Minutes of meeting in Amsterdam, 24 April 2016

With minor corrections, 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 and is appended. Christian Giske is the new Chair, Rafael Cantón is Clinical Data Coordinator and Gunnar Kahlmeter is Technical Data Coordinator and Website Manager. John Turnidge is the new Scientific Secretary, replacing Derek Brown in January 2017. Arjana Tambic Andrasevic (Croatia) and Deniz Gür (Turkey) 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 Chairman’s report

Christian Giske (CG, incoming chair) summarised activities over the past year, covering all agenda items except where indicated. CG outlines the latest changes in the breakpoints released in Breakpoint Tables 7.0, in particular the changes in relation to ceftazidime screening of staphylococci. Other changes included changes to some standard and high dosing regimens.

6. National AST Committees (NACs)

CG outlined the processes for establishment of NACs and demonstrated the webpage on which

they are described. Nine countries outside Europe now had NACs. He noted that China was in the process of forming a NAC. NACs were also under consideration in Serbia and FYR Macedonia.

7. EUCAST Consultations

Four consultations were noted from the previous year: Redefining the INTERMEDIATE category; Colistin breakpoint for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; Fluoroquinolone breakpoints reviewed and several revised; and the 1st report from the Subcommittee on the relationship between WGS and phenotypic AST.

Gunnar Kahlmeter (GK) asked the meeting attendees what they felt was an adequate period for general consultation. It was agreed that 6 weeks was appropriate.

8. EUCAST and ECDC Consultations

EUCAST has one more year to run on its current contract with ECDC.

9. Subcommittee on Antifungal Susceptibility Testing (AFST)

Maiken Arendrup presented an update on the 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 posaconazole, a description of the AFST current reference methods and breakpoint setting history, and features of the AFST organisation.

Ongoing work on methods include.

- A EUCAST azole agar screening method for detecting resistant *A. fumigatus*
- A study on the visual versus spectrophotometric reading of *A. fumigatus* azole BMD
- Alternative methods for echinocandin testing of *Aspergillus*
- The impact of plastic type on BMD MICs

10. Subcommittee on Veterinary Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (VetCAST)

Dik Mevius 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 has received a grant from the JPI-AMR initiative. It plans to invest the grant in two face-to-face meetings, and a workshop in breakpoint setting in September (to be held in Toulouse). It is also currently gathering MIC distribution data with a view to breakpoint setting (starting with tetracyclines as a proof of principle) and is working on a position statement about the Subcommittee's proposed approach to breakpoint setting, which it proposes to have published in a veterinary journal.

The Subcommittee is also participating in a project in Sardinia on PK-PD in goats, and a ZonMW (Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development) application on PK-PD for poultry pathogens. It plans to submit a COST application this year.

11. Subcommittee on Antimycobacterial Susceptibility Testing (AMST)

Emmanuelle Cambau (EC, Subcommittee Chair) presented on this newly formed Subcommittee (September 2015). The Subcommittee has 8 members, provides counselling and expertise on new antimycobacterial agents, and is working on establishing a reference method for susceptibility testing of *M. tuberculosis*. It has a range of planned future activities including

- Review of the pharmacokinetic literature
- Standardisation of the hollow fibre in vitro model
- Comparable testing of Middlebrook 7H9/7H10 media, including drug stability
- A position paper on repeatability and reproducibility
- A testing survey on clarithromycin susceptibility testing of *M. abscessus*

12. EUCAST Subcommittee on MIC Distributions and ECOFFs

GK spoke to the progress that this Subcommittee is taking with the improving the collation of MIC distribution data for the EUCAST MIC distribution website, and the development of methods for setting epidemiological cutoff values.

Dik Mevius asked a question about when COFFs would be available for colistin. GK advised that colistin MIC distributions and ECOFFs will be the first to be cleaned up and set.

13. EUCAST Development Laboratory 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.

14. EUCAST websites

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

14. EUCAST documents

CG described the new EUCAST documents published since the last General Meeting in his report. In particular, the following documents were highlighted:

- the role of whole genome sequencing has been published in Clinical Microbiology and Infection.
- An update on the EUCAST guidelines for the detection of resistance mechanisms was published on the EUCAST website in March.

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 28th ECCMID, Madrid, Spain, 21-24 April, 2018



EUCAST General Committee Meeting attendees signing the register, 24 April 2017

Maiken C Arendrup	Denmark
Afonso Luis Barth	Brazil
Alexandre P Zavaski	Brazil
Ana C Gales	Brazil
Marines DU Martino	Brazil
Nina Nestorova	Malta
Onur Katauna	Turkey
Martin Steunbakk	Norway
Karianne Wiger Gammelsrud	Norway
Paul Christoffer Lindemann	Norway
Samantha Cain	ThermoFisher Scientific
Nicole Hunter	ThermoFisher Scientific
Ivana Ćirković	Serbia
Marina Sukhorukova	Russia
Fabio Brocco	Liofilchem
Daniela Ohlasová	Slovakia
Håkan Hanberger	Sweden
Itzok Štrumbelj	Slovenia
Moureen Mansfield	MM Consult
R Zbinden	Switzerland
Akos Toth	Hungary
Sören Gatermann	Germany
Johan Mouton	Netherlands
Rafael Canton	Spain
Paul Tulkens	Belgium (ISC representative)
Dik Mevius	Netherlands
Ludovic Pelligrand	United Kingdom
Marina Ivanova	Estonia
Anastasia Pavelkovich	Estonia
Jolanta Miciuleviciene	Lithuania
Philippe Arowas	Beckman-Coulter
Gerard Lina	France
Kaisa Rantakpko-Jalava	Finland
Bob Rennie	Canada
Susan Thomson	Mast Group
Erika Matuschek	Sweden
Jenny Åhman	Sweden
Gunnar Kahlmeter	Sweden
Kristian Orri Helgason	Iceland
Luis Martinez-Martinez	Spain
Arjana Tambić-Andrasević	Croatia
François Jehl	France
Yorah Keness	Israel
Thomas Schön	Sweden
John Turnidge	Australia