

# European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)

## Minutes of the **General Committee Meeting** on 24 April 2022 at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Lisbon, Portugal

The Chair of EUCAST, Professor Christian Giske, opened the meeting at 12.30.

### 1. Apologies

Official apologies were received from Rafael Canton (clash with a symposium)

### 2. Minutes of meeting by Zoom in 2020

The nature of the meeting in online format precluded the recording of formal minutes. There was no meeting in 2021.

### 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. Jorge Sampaio (Brazil) and Gianmaria Rossolini (Italy) 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. Implementation of EUCAST breakpoints and guidelines continues to grow in Europe and internationally. More than 70% of European countries now have >50% implementation.

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 Expected Phenotypes and Expert Rules, MIC Distributions and ECOFFs, Disk Mass Development (in conjunction with CLSI), the Relationship Between WGS and Phenotype, and Anaerobe AST. National AST Committees (NACs) are now established in all European countries except Bulgaria, Belarus, Georgia and Armenia. In addition, there are NACs in 11 countries outside Europe.

CG noted the five finalised consultations on breakpoints in 2021 which were included in Breakpoint Tables 12.0

- *Vibrio* spp
- Colistin
- Bracketed breakpoints for aminoglycosides, colistin and clindamycin (*Bacteroides* only)
- Rapidly growing anaerobes
- Aminopenicillins and *Enterobacterales*

He also indicated that there were 4 upcoming consultations in 2022

- fosfomycin iv
- chloramphenicol in meningitis
- paediatric dosing in conjunction with ESPID
- cephalosporin dosing in *S. aureus* infections.

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

Maiken Arendrup (AFST Chair) 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:

- Azole resistance screening in *A. fumigatus* (E.Def 10.2)
- Mould MIC testing (E.Def 9.4)
- Alternative method for rezafungin testing
- Update of the QC tale (version 6.0). QC strains can be obtained from <https://ccug.se/>

ECOFF tables have been updated, as had the itraconazole rationale document. A paper describing molecular mechanisms of antifungal drug resistance and their detection has been submitted to the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy.

The AFST has seven papers in the previous 12 months.

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

Peter Damborg, the Chair VetCAST, gave a brief overview of the activities of VetCAST. VetCAST has 54 members from 14 countries, and a steering committee of 8 people. The Subcommittee conducted or been involved with a range of meetings and continued to collect data for the development of breakpoints and rationale documents.

Ongoing work includes:

- Florfenicol breakpoint development
- Development of rationale documents for amoxicillin in dogs, doxycycline in dogs and benzylpenicillin in horses
- Extended MIC testing using customised Sensititre plates for
  - amoxicillin ± clavulanic acid – *E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *S. pseudintermedius*
  - doxycycline – *A. pleuropneumoniae*
  - benzylpenicillin – *S. equi*
  - oxytetracycline – *P. multocida*, *M. haemolytica*

VetCAST is currently considering publishing ECOFFs as surrogates while formal breakpoints are being developed. Various formats for how these were to be presented were under discussion.

The chair also gave a brief description of ENOVAT, a COST Action initiative whose activities

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complement the activities of VetCAST.

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

Emmanuelle Cambau (EC, Subcommittee Chair) presented the activities of AMST. A formal general AMST committee has now been formed. A reference method for *M. tuberculosis* has now been established.

Ongoing work includes:

- an MIC reference protocol for antimycobacterial agents that are dissolved in DMSO (there are five currently)
- A calibration study contracted with EDL and Janssen
- An MIC reference protocol for non-tuberculous mycobacteria

AMST is in the process of recruiting laboratories to develop a network as is done for other subcommittees. There are currently 14 laboratories in the network.

## 9. EUCAST Subcommittee on MIC Distributions and ECOFFs

Gunnar Kahlmeter spoke to the progress that this Subcommittee. The website has been rebuilt with improved visualisation. Work is continuing on reviewing all distributions and revising ECOFFs according to the new version SOP 10.2 which uses a new method of estimation and includes a confidence interval.

## 10. EUCAST Development Laboratory (EDL) Report

Erika Matuschek outlined the wide range of activities currently being undertaken in the EDL

- New agents in breakpoint tables
  - Cefiderocol
  - Imipenem-relebactam
  - Meropenem-vaborbactam
  - Lefamulin
- New tables in the Breakpoint Tables
  - *Achromobacter xylosoxidans*
  - *Bacillus* spp.
  - *Vibrio* spp.
  - *Anaerobic bacteria* (now a single tab)
- RAST breakpoints are developed for 16-20 hours of incubation and for additional agents
- CLSI-EUCAST Joint Working Group
  - SOP 11 on selection of optimum disk content is now published
  - Ongoing work on 3 new agents and a SOP to detect media-related variation
- Strains with defined susceptibility are now available from the Culture Collection of Gothenburg University: *S. pneumoniae* and *P. aeruginosa*
- Other ongoing work
  - Anaerobic bacteria: Additional antimicrobial agents for the 5 organisms/organism groups (*Bacteroides* spp, *Prevotella* spp, *F. necrophorum*, *C. perfringens* and *C. acnes*)
  - Ampicillin, amoxicillin, amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, ampicillin-sulbactam, ceftriaxone (*C. acnes* only), ertapenem, imipenem and linezolid
  - Methods and breakpoints for *Nocardia* spp.
  - Agar dilution and disk diffusion on MH-F agar
  - Breakpoints for *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* and *C. ulcerans*
  - Collaboration with Institut Pasteur (FR) and the Bavarian Food and Health Authority (DE)
  - MIC and zone diameter distributions for a large (>500) collection of viridans group streptococci (including agents lacking in the current breakpoint table)
  - Collaboration with Streptococcal Reference Centre in France



- Validation of methodology projects (several)

The have been four publications from EDL in the last 12 months

### **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**

None was raised.

### **16. Next meeting of the EUCAST General Committee**

Scheduled to be held during the 2023 ECCMID, Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-18 April 2023