

# European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)

## Minutes of the **General Committee Meeting** on 12 April 2025 at the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID Global), Vienna, Austria

The Immediate Past Chair of EUCAST, Professor Christian Giske, opened the meeting at 16.30

### 1. Apologies

Official apologies were received from Prof. Sören Gatermann (Current Chair) who was unable to attend ESCMID-Global on the 12 April.

### 2. Minutes of meeting in 2024

Minutes for the 2024 meeting were ratified.

### 3. EUCAST General Committee membership

The current membership list is detailed on the EUCAST website. Representatives should inform the Scientific Secretary (email [mandy.wootton@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:mandy.wootton@wales.nhs.uk)) if the representative for their national antimicrobial susceptibility testing committee (NAC) has changed.

### 4. EUCAST Steering Committee membership

The current membership of the Steering Committee was presented: Sören Gatermann is Chair (May 2024), Christian Giske is Immediate Past Chair, Mandy Wootton is Scientific Secretary, Rafael Cantón is Clinical Data Coordinator, Gunnar Kahlmeter is Technical Data Coordinator and Website Manager and Erika Matuschek is the Head of the EUCAST Development Laboratory. National Antimicrobial Committees are represented; Alasdair MacGowan (United Kingdom), Marlene Amara (France). The rest of the Steering Committee remains unchanged since previous years. Barbara Holzkecht (Denmark) and Anouk Muller (The Netherlands) are the current General Committee representatives, tenure ending April 2025. Barbara Holzkecht will join the Steering Committee as the education officer. Two new temporary General Committee members Qiwen Yang (China) and Stefano Mancini (Switzerland) will be joining in June 2025-2027.

Members of National Antimicrobial Committees (NAC) may attend the Steering Committee meeting by prior agreement (one per meeting).

### 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. The majority of European countries now have >90% implementation.

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.

In addition to the Steering Committee, there are three standing subcommittees for fungi, veterinary pathogens, and mycobacteria, and six active ad hoc subcommittees on Expected Phenotypes and Expert Rules, MIC Distributions and ECOFFs, Relationship Between WGS and Phenotype (WGS-

ASP), Anaerobe AST, Detection of Resistance Mechanisms and Phage AST group.

The WGS-ASP committee was formed in May 2024, producing a finalised document outlining remit, tasks and timelines finalised in September 2024. An updated report was drafted in January 2025 and revised in March 2025 and will be concluded at the April 2025 ESCMID-Global meeting.

The Phage Susceptibility Testing (PST) Steering Committee comprises Frédéric Laurent (Chair), Annika Classen (Scientific Secretary), Christian Giske (EUCAST representative), Ran Nir-Paz (ESGENTA representative), Martha Clokie, Gregory Resch and Jean-Paul Pimay. The general committee comprises 17 members from 15 countries. Virtual meetings take place monthly plus additional meetings of an online half-day symposium (12 March 2025) and at ESCMID-Global (face-to-face). The subcommittee remit is to develop a reference method for PST for academic and industrial use. The committee has generated and discussed PST data for *S. aureus* and *E. coli*, which will form the basis of a pilot study, using standardised protocols, to commence in six laboratories in Q3 of 2025. Further engagement with therapy companies and health authorities (EMA observer) will be pursued to build links to clinical trial consortia to correlate PST with patient outcome.

During 2024, breakpoints were developed for cefepime-enmetazobactam, aztreonam-avibactam and endocarditis breakpoints. Breakpoints were revised for streptococci, *S. pneumoniae* and aminopenicillins in enterococci. In 2025 breakpoints for carbapenems and trimethoprim-sulphamethoxazole will be reviewed plus a dosing table for paediatric use will be published.

Guidance documents updated during 2024 were those for *S. maltophilia*, cephalosporins in *S. aureus* infections and reporting in infective endocarditis. An extensive review of data for the *S. maltophilia* guidance document revealed that trimethoprim-sulphamethoxazole or combination therapy did not appear superior to other agents or monotherapy, with cefiderocol suggested as preferable to other agents.

In 2024, revised guidance for cefiderocol in *Acinetobacter* species, *S. maltophilia* and *Achromobacter xylosoxidans* were published in the breakpoint table. Although no clinical breakpoints exist, the guidance provides interpretative criteria to help reporting of this agent in scenarios with few clinical options. The criteria determine when isolates are devoid of resistance mechanisms, have acquired resistance mechanisms and those which probably have some resistance but if therapeutic options are limited, cefiderocol may be of use.

On going work for 2025 includes revision of the Detection of resistance mechanisms document, development of breakpoints for new agents, new educational material and development of a new website.

EUCAST cooperation with CLSI will continue with working groups to harmonise standards for breakpoint setting, disk content decisions, breakpoints for *N. gonorrhoeae* and standards for modification of testing methods.

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

Emmanuelle Cambau (EC, Subcommittee Chair) presented the steering committee and general committee members (unchanged from April 2024), which have been updated on the website. A finalised reference method for MIC determination of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* was published in February 2025, including an annexe containing examples of practical laboratory protocols. The consultation document and responses were published on 7 October 2024, with an online question and answer session recorded on 9 October 2024. Also published were a Standard Operating Procedure for calibrating surrogate methods against the EUCAST reference method, a rationale for the reference method, inoculum preparation and CFU counts.

EC presented details of the final protocol for antituberculous agents: untreated polystyrene microtitre plates should be used with liquid Middlebrook 7H9 medium + 2% glycerol, sterilised then enriched with 10% oleic albumin dextrose catalase). EC summarised the difficulty of inoculum preparation and the final decision for inoculum density.

Ongoing work includes using the reference protocol for non-tuberculous mycobacteria (reference strains *M. abscessus* and *M. avium*) against amikacin, clarithromycin and azithromycin, reading at

day 3, 5 and 14. First results were reviewed in early 2025.

In 2025, the subcommittee will better define *Mycobacteria tuberculosis* complex, finalise the calibration study for bedaquiline in MGIT plus review new anti *M. tuberculosis* agents.

EC requested discussion with EUCAST on the frequency of document review and the possibility of a real-time open consultation.

EC reminded members that MIC distributions of *Mycobacteria* and *M. tuberculosis* may be uploaded onto the EUCAST website.

### Subcommittee on Antifungal Susceptibility Testing (AFST)

CG presented *in lieu* of Maiken Arendrup (MA, AFST Chair). Current steering committee membership comprises Joseph Meletiadis as data coordinator (Greece), NAC representatives Jochem Buil (The Netherlands), Eric Dannoui (France), NAC representative Pavlina Lyskova (Czech Republic) and EUCAST representative CG. The scientific secretary role was performed by Jesús Guinea-Ortega (Spain) until end of 2024; in 2025 Jochem Buil and Eric Dannoui are co-scientific secretaries. The term for national representative Pavlina Lyskova ends in 2025. One application for replacement from Karin Amilon has been received. Four AFST meetings took place in 2024-5.

In 2024-5 methods were updated for Dermatophyte agar screening and ongoing development of a EUCAST agar screening for resistance in *Trichophyton* spp (expected Q2 2025) and clinical evaluation of a commercial kit (Research only), Derm-SR-screen, which comprises the same agar plate format as in the upcoming method document for *Trichophyton* spp.

CG noted that a number of Quality Control strains are now available from CCUG or ATCC.

In 2024-5, MIC distributions were enriched by new datasets, ECOFFs and breakpoints were revised for anidulafungin against *C. Albicans* and established for *C. dublinensis* and *C. tropicalis* (micafungin). ECOFFs were set for anidulafungin against *C. auris*, *C. kefyi*, *C. lusitanae* and for micafungin against *C. auris*, *C. guilliermondii*, *C. kefyi*, and *C. lusitanae*. TECOFFs have been set for both agents against *S. cerevisiae*.

ECOFFs for Amphotericin B, anidulafungin and micafungin were set for *C. auris*, with breakpoints in consultation until 17 April 2025.

The Clinical breakpoint for fungi v 11.0, and Overview of ECOFFs and BPs (v 5.0) were both released 2 December 2024.

A review of Twenty years in EUCAST Anti-Fungal Susceptibility Testing: progress and remaining challenges was published in Mycopathologia, whilst a paper on “How to interpret MICs of amphotericin B and flucytosine against *C. auris* according to newly established EUCAST breakpoints” has been submitted to CMI.

Two active warnings on the website for VIP check and problems detected with several commercial products for amphotericin B MIC testing.

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

Peter Damborg (PD), the Chair of VetCAST, confirmed no change in subcommittee members (68 members from 17 countries) and gave a brief overview of the activities of VetCAST for 2024-5.

PD presented ongoing work with sulphonamides and trimethoprim in six laboratories; review of PK/PD data for trimethoprim combinations with different sulphonamides plus evaluation of the efficacy of registered dosing regimens and developing optimisation. The study aims to review MIC distributions and develop ECOFFs, review static *in vitro* PD studies, review *in vivo* studies in various animals then perform *in silico* PK/PD modelling and correlate with *in vitro* dynamic PK/PD data.

ECOFFs for a number of agents used in veterinary practice are being developed alongside a study establishing ECOFFs for *Mycoplasma* spp..

Rationale documents worked on in 2024-5 include:

- Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid (iv and oral) in dogs (near completion)
- Procaine benzylpenicillin (im) in horse (near completion)
- Oxytetracycline in cattle (for consultation)
- Doxycycline in swine (for consultation)

Clinical breakpoints for oxytetracycline in cattle (calves and adults) against *B. bronchiseptica* and *M. haemolytica* / *P. multocida* have been proposed, with suggested lengthening of dosing interval for calves. Doxycycline clinical breakpoints have been proposed for all pigs against *S. suis* and for piglets against *P. multocida*, *S. hyicus* and *B. bronchiseptica*.

Work is ongoing on the vetCAST breakpoint table, which is near to completion; further work on *Staphylococcus* spp. Table.

PD summarised the plans for 2025-6, including publication of breakpoint tables, rationale documents listed above plus strategy for next steps and continuing work in the projects MyMIC, EU-PAHW and SulTAn.

## 9. EUCAST Subcommittee on MIC Distributions and ECOFFs

Gunnar Kahlmeter (GK) stated that all ECOFFs and MIC distributions have now been reviewed in the database. New agents are reviewed and ECOFFs set by bespoke program, developed through extensive analysis. GK confirmed that the ECOFFfinder program had been removed from the website. GK encouraged all to submit MIC distributions to EUCAST using the website.

## 10. EUCAST Development Laboratory (EDL) Report

Erika Matuschek (EM) outlined the wide range of activities undertaken in the EDL in 2024-5:

New breakpoints and zone diameter (ZD) correlations for cefepime-enmetazobactam and aztreonam-avibactam.

Updates in zone diameter breakpoints based on revised MIC breakpoints for endocarditis breakpoints and benzylpenicillin breakpoints for *Enterococcus* spp..

Revised flow chart for screening for beta-lactam resistance in *Streptococcus pneumoniae* utilizing the combined testing of oxacillin 1 µg and benzylpenicillin 1 unit disks to screen for benzylpenicillin resistance.

CLSI-EUCAST Joint Working Group updated SOPs on disk potency selection (SOP 11.1/CLSI M23S 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed) and the process for disk potency selection (SOP 12.1/CLSIM23S2 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed); addition of advice for developing disk tests for beta-lactam-beta-lactam inhibitor agents. Disk potencies were decided for ceftibuten-xeroborobactam, aztreonam-nacubactam, cefepime-nacubactam and meropenem-ANT3310. Studies on two further agents are ongoing.

Other ongoing work includes evaluating MIC reference methods and disk diffusion methods for *N. meningitidis* and *N. gonorrhoeae*, guidance document on an alternative for Mueller Hinton Fastidious media in countries with limited supply, breakpoints for additional species of anaerobic bacteria.

EM confirmed that EDL were presenting three posters at ESCMID Global 2025.

## 11. Future Activities

CG described the EUCAST future activities in his report.

## 15. Any Other Business

No AOB.

## 16. Next meeting of the EUCAST General Committee

Scheduled to be held during the 2026 ESCMID Global, Munich, Germany, 17-21 April 2025.