

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Since 2011, NordicAST has been a working group for methodology in antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST), organized by the Nordic Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (NSCMID). The group members are appointed by the Swedish Society for Clinical Microbiology (three members), the Norwegian Working Group on Antibiotics (NWGA; three members), the Danish methodology group (DANRES-M; three members), and the Finnish methodology group (FIRE; three members). One member represents the Icelandic Laboratory for clinical microbiology. The maximum number of regular members attending a board meeting will thus be 13.

The scope of the group is AST methodology issues. An important part of this task is to maintain breakpoint tables based on EUCAST recommendations, adapted to Nordic traditions and translated to Nordic languages. Other central activities are to arrange an annual AST workshop for Nordic laboratories, and to provide guidance on how to detect important resistance mechanisms.

In 2018, NordicAST had four regular board meetings (Oslo, Gothenburg, Reykjavik, and Turku). In Turku, a joint meeting with FIRE was held ahead of the regular meeting. The main activities were revision of breakpoint tables, maintaining the website ([www.nordicast.org](http://www.nordicast.org)), developing methods documents on screening for multidrug-resistant carriage (CPE, VRE and ESBL), provide guidance on how to detect important resistance mechanisms, and organizing the annual AST workshop in Gothenburg. The Finnish group has been working on a Finnish translation of the breakpoint table during 2017-18, and a test version will be published in 2019. Other central activities were to initiate and conduct research studies on methodological issues.

By the end of 2018 the regular members of the group were Anna-Karin Smekal (SE), Annika Wistedt (SE), Christian G. Giske (SE), Iren Høyland Löhr (NO), Dagfinn Skaare (NO), Didrik F. Vestrheim (NO), Barbara J. Holzkecht (DK), Ulrik S. Justesen (DK), Mikala Wang (DK), Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava (FI), Anne-Mari Rissanen (FI), Anu Pätäri-Sampo (FI), and Kristjan Helgason (IS). In addition to the regular members, Gunnar Kahlmeter and Erika Matuschek are permanently associated members representing the EUCAST Development Laboratory, and Lise Hulløen-Orø (NO) is a permanently associated member with particular responsibility for organising the annual workshop.

The group was chaired by Dagfinn Skaare in 2018. Iren Høyland Löhr was the scientific secretary, Ulrik S. Justesen the treasurer, Mikala Wang the webmaster (assisted by Kristjan Helgason), Barbara J. Holzkecht the breakpoint table coordinator (assisted by Anu Pätäri-Sampo and Anna-Karin Smekal), and Lise Hulløen-Orø the workshop coordinator (assisted by Anne-Mari Rissanen).

In 2018 NordicAST generated a deficit of 99.010,69 DKK (see separate economic balance report). The main reason for the deficit was a reduced surplus from the annual workshop. This will be considered when planning the 2019 workshop to avoid further deficit. The economic balance by 31.12.2018 was 509.018,41 DKK (see economic balance report).

Stavanger/Tønsberg/Odense, January 16, 2019

On behalf of NordicAST



Dagfinn Skaare  
Chairman



Iren Høyland Löhr  
Scientific secretary



Ulrik S. Justesen  
Treasurer