

2019 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 2019, NordicAST had four regular board meetings (Copenhagen, Gothenburg, Oslo, and Kastrup airport). The main activities were revision of breakpoint tables, especially developing a common English trunk, maintaining the website (www.nordicast.org), updating and translating methods documents to English, providing guidance on detection of important resistant mechanisms and organizing the annual AST workshop in Gothenburg. The Finnish version of the breakpoint table was in test use. Other central activities were to initiate and conduct research studies on methodological issues.

By the end of 2019 the regular members of the group were Anna-Karin Smekal (SE), Annika Wistedt (SE), Christian G. Giske (SE), Iren Høyland Löhr (NO), Arnfinn Sundsfjord (NO), Karianne Wiger Gammelsrud (NO), Barbara J. Holzknacht (DK), Ulrik S. Justesen (DK), Robert Skov (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 Iren Høyland Löhr in 2019. Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava was the scientific secretary, Ulrik S. Justesen the treasurer, Kristjan Helgason the webmaster, Barbara J. Holzknacht the breakpoint table coordinator (assisted by Anu Pätäri-Sampo, Anna-Karin Smekal and Karianne Wiger Gammelsrud), and Lise Hulløen-Orø the workshop coordinator (assisted by Anne-Mari Rissanen).

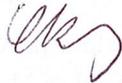
In 2019 NordicAST generated a surplus of 71.505,02 DKK (see separate economic balance report). 31.12.2019 the balance was 580 523,43 DKK (see economic balance report).

Stavanger/Turku/Odense, January 22, 2020

On behalf of NordicAST



Iren Høyland Löhr
Chairman



Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava
Scientific secretary



Ulrik S. Justesen
Treasurer