

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Since its inception on 1 January 2011, NordicAST has been a working group for methodology in antimicrobial susceptibility testing, 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) and the Danish methodology group (DANRES-M; three members). Since 2013 the group has also had a scientific data co-ordinator, appointed on an additional mandate. Two regular members resigned from the committee at the end of 2014, and were replaced by new members from their respective national committees.

The scope of the group is to work with methodology issues in antimicrobial susceptibility testing. An important part of this task is to maintain breakpoint tables adapted to Nordic traditions and translated to the Nordic languages, as well as providing guidance on how to detect important resistance mechanisms. In 2014 NordicAST has had four regular board meetings, and organized one workshop in antimicrobial susceptibility testing. During 2014 Iceland participated in one board meeting and Finland in two board meetings. Both countries agreed to be permanently represented in NordicAST by 1-3 representatives each. The bylaws of NordicAST were updated to accommodate the change in representation.

At present the regular members of the group are Kurt Fursted (DK) (replaced Robert Skov from 2015), Ulrik S. Justesen (DK), Dennis S. Hansen (DK), Iren Høyland Löhr (NO) (replaced Christoffer Lindemann from 2015), Dagfinn Skaare (NO), Truls Michael Leegaard (NO), Hördur S. Hardarson (IS), Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava (FI), Antti Hakanen (FI), Anne-Mari Rissanen (FI), Christina Åhrén (SE), Annika Wistedt (SE), and Christian G. Giske (SE). The group is chaired by Christian G. Giske. Iren Høyland Löhr replaced Dagfinn Skaare as the scientific secretary of the group from 2015, and Ulrik S. Justesen is the treasurer. The role as scientific co-ordinator is filled by Mikala Wang (DK). In addition to the regular members, Gunnar Kahlmeter and Erika Matuschek (both Sweden) are permanently associated members with expertise in EUCAST-questions. Further, Anita Løvås Brekken (NO) is an associate member, with travel expenses not financed by NordicAST.

In 2014 NordicAST generated a surplus of 54.238,06 DKK (see separate economic balance report from the treasurer). The economy is at this point strong enough to carry expenses related to the four annual meetings, plus organization of certain research projects with focus on methodological issues. NordicAST's incomes are derived by the surplus generated from the yearly workshop.

The main activities for NordicAST in 2014 have been maintaining a website ([www.nordicast.org](http://www.nordicast.org)), harmonization of breakpoint tables including recommendations for detecting some clinically important resistance mechanisms, organizing a Nordic study on detection of *vanB*-mediated vancomycin-resistance in enterococci (paper published in 2014), and finally organizing the annual workshop in Gothenburg, attended by around 150 people from various clinical laboratories in the

three countries. This year, Iceland and Finland were also represented at the workshop with one representative each (free of charge).

Stockholm 21 April 2015

On behalf of NordicAST



Christian G. Giske  
Chairman



Dagfinn Skaare/Iren Høyland Löhr  
Scientific secretary



Ulrik S. Justesen  
Treasurer