

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Since 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). Following an amendment of the NordicAST bylaws in December 2014, NordicAST now also comprises 1-3 regular members from Finland and Iceland, respectively. It is noted that the maximum number of regular members attending a board meeting will thus be 15, should all countries decide to send all three members.

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 2015 NordicAST has had four regular board meetings, and organized one workshop in antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

At present the regular members of the group are Kurt Fuursted (DK), Ulrik S. Justesen (DK), Dennis S. Hansen (DK), Iren Høyland Löhr (NO), Dagfinn Skaare (NO), Truls Michael Leegaard (NO), Kristjan Helgasson (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 is the scientific secretary, Ulrik S. Justesen is the treasurer, and Mikala Wang (DK) is the scientific co-ordinator (permanently associated). 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 but by NWAG.

In 2015 NordicAST generated a surplus of 67,403 DKK (see separate economic balance report from the treasurer). The main activities for NordicAST in 2015 have been maintaining a website (www.nordicast.org), harmonization of breakpoint tables, developing documents regarding screening of multidrug-resistant bacteria, discussions on the definition of the intermediate category, organizing and financially supporting a Nordic study on detection of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae, and finally organizing the annual workshop in Gothenburg, attended by around 150 people from various clinical laboratories in the Nordic countries. NordicAST has also spent time on recruitment of a new chairman of the group.

Stockholm 2 May 2016

On behalf of NordicAST



Christian G. Giske
Chairman



Iren Høyland Löhr
Scientific secretary



Ulrik S. Justesen
Treasurer