

## 2013 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 Medical Microbiology (three members), the Norwegian Working Group on Antibiotics (NWGA; three members) and the Danish methodology group (DANRES-M; three members). During 2013 it was decided to add a clinical data co-ordinator to the group. One Norwegian and one Danish regular member resigned from the committee in 2013, 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 2013 NordicAST has had four regular board meetings, and organized one workshop in antimicrobial susceptibility testing. The next meeting will be held in March 2014.

At present the regular members of the group are Robert Skov (DK), Ulrik S. Justesen (DK), Dennis S. Hansen (DK), P. Christoffer Lindemann (NO), Dagfinn Skaare (NO), Truls Michael Leegaard (NO), Tinna Åhrén (SE), Annika Wistedt (SE) and Christian G. Giske (SE). The group is chaired by Christian G. Giske. Dagfinn Skaare is the scientific secretary of the group, 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 2013 NordicAST generated a surplus of 121,892 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 2013 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 submitted in the late autumn of 2013), 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). During 2013 both Iceland and Finland were invited to participate in a regular board meeting of NordicAST, and tentatively accepted an invitation to participate in a meeting in Oslo in September 2014.

Stockholm 13 March 2014

On behalf of NordicAST

Christian G. Giske  
Chairman

Dagfinn Skaare  
Scientific secretary

Ulrik S. Justesen  
Treasurer