

2017 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 2017, NordicAST had four regular board meetings (Helsinki, Gothenburg, Copenhagen, and Stockholm). The main activities were revision of breakpoint tables, maintaining the website and translate it into English (www.nordicast.org), developing methods documents on screening for multidrug-resistant bacteria carriership, and organizing the annual workshop in Gothenburg. The Finnish group has been working on a Finnish translation of the breakpoint table during 2017.

By the end of 2017 the regular members of the group were Christina Åhrén (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 2017. Iren Høyland Löhr was the scientific secretary, Ulrik S. Justesen the treasurer, Mikala Wang the webmaster (assisted by Kristjan Helgason), Anu Pätäri-Sampo the breakpoint table coordinator (assisted by Barbara J. Holzkecht), and Lise Hulløen-Orø the workshop coordinator (assisted by Anne-Mari Rissanen).

In 2017 NordicAST generated a surplus of 25.745,24 DKK (see separate economic balance report).

Stavanger/Tønsberg/Odense, February 13, 2018

On behalf of NordicAST



Dagfinn Skaare
Chairman



Iren Høyland Löhr
Scientific secretary



Ulrik S. Justesen
Treasurer