

2021 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, especially the comments that will be communicated to clinics. Other central activities are to arrange an annual AST workshop for Nordic laboratories, and to provide guidance on how to detect important resistance mechanisms.

During the second year of COVID-19 pandemic 2021, NordicAST board continued to have digital educational activities. A webinar was held on February 9th: “What is new in the breakpoint table v11.0”. The annual AST workshop in Gothenburg was first postponed to September and finally transformed to a fully digital webinar which took place on September 22nd. Recordings of these webinars are available on the homepage.

The NordicAST board had Zoom meetings in March, May and September. The year’s fourth board meeting was organized face-to-face in Copenhagen in the end of November.

By the end of 2021 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), Nathalie Friberg (FI), Heikki Ilmavirta (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. Lise Hulløen-Orø (NO) left the group and the workshop coordinator post remained unfilled during the year.

The group was chaired by Iren Høyland Löhr in 2021, 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 Anna-Karin Smekal, Karianne Wiger Gammelsrud and Heikki Ilmavirta), Robert Skov the scientific program coordinator of workshop (assisted by Christian Giske and Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava) and Annika Wistedt and Nathalie Friberg were coordinating the WS preparations. Since Iren Löhr was leaving the group in the end of the year, the process of electing a new chair was set, with Barbara Holzknacht taking over in 2022.

In 2021 NordicAST generated a deficit of 75.400,50 DKK (see separate economic balance report). This was due to lack of income from the workshop. 31.12.2021 the balance was 350.388,58 DKK (see economic balance report).

Stavanger, Turku, Odense and Copenhagen, June 20th, 2022

On behalf of NordicAST



Iren Høyland Löhr
Chair 2021

Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava
Scientific secretary



Ulrik S. Justesen
Treasurer



Barbara Holzkecht
Chair 2022