

2022 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 the conditions in the Nordic countries in terms of traditions, resources and resistance rates. The breakpoint tables are translated to Nordic languages, especially the comments that will be communicated to clinicians. Other central activities are to arrange an annual AST workshop for Nordic laboratories as well as webinars, and to provide guidance on how to detect important resistance mechanisms.

In May 2022, the annual workshop was again organised as physical meeting in Gothenburg, for the first time since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The workshop was fully booked with had 181 participants. NordicAST board also continued to have digital educational activities. A webinar was held on February 3rd: “What is new in the breakpoint table v12.0” and a webinar on basic AST for routine laboratory staff on November 16th. Both webinars were well attended with appr. 100 devices logged in.

Several explanatory method documents were updated, e.g. “Anaerobic bacteria and resistance” and “Detection of carbapenemases in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*”.

The NordicAST board has after the pandemic decided to keep every second board meeting as a virtual meeting. Virtual meetings were held in February and September and a physical meeting before the workshop in Gothenburg. The year’s fourth board meeting was organized in Steningevik, close to Stockholm in the end of November.

By the end of 2022 the regular members of the group were Anna-Karin Smekal (SE), Annika Wistedt (SE), Christian G. Giske (SE), Ingvild Haugan (NO), Arnfinn Sundsfjord (NO), Karianne Wiger Gammelsrud (NO), Barbara J. Holzkecht (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. Alexander Husby (NO) entered the group as a new workshop coordinator.

The group was chaired by Barbara Holzkecht in 2022, Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava was the scientific secretary, Ulrik S. Justesen the treasurer, Kristjan Helgason the webmaster, Karianne Wiger Gammelsrud the breakpoint table coordinator (assisted by Anna-Karin Smekal, Heikki Ilmavirta and Ingvild Haugan), Robert Skov the scientific program coordinator of workshop (assisted by Christian Giske and Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava) and Nathalie Friberg, Annika Wistedt and Alexander Husby coordinated the WS preparations.

In 2022 NordicAST generated a profit of 167.116,97 DKK (see separate economic balance report).
On 31.12.2022 the balance was 517.505,55 DKK (see economic balance report).

Copenhagen, Turku and Odense, January 26th, 2023

On behalf of NordicAST



Barbara Holzknicht
Chair



Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava
Scientific secretary



Ulrik Stenz Justesen
Treasurer