

## 2024 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 AST 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 partly 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 2024, the annual workshop was organised in Hyllie (Malmö). The feedback from the approx. 160 participants was again very positive, also with regards to the new venue and its facilities. For the first time, four young scientists and laboratory technicians/bioengineers, who had submitted abstracts, presented their work in mini oral presentation sessions and could register at a reduced fee.

The NordicAST board also continued its digital educational activities: the NordicAST Bp-table webinar took place on January 31<sup>st</sup> with approx. 120 devices participating and 371 accesses of the recording at Youtube. Another webinar on *S. pneumoniae* and benzylpenicillin breakpoints took place on December 5<sup>th</sup>. More than a hundred devices participated there as well, and the recording on Youtube has been accessed 195 times by now.

NordicAST has participated in the NSCMID general meeting held in August 2024 Oslo in the session “Pro et contra discussion: Gentamicin – does it have a future in the Nordics.” Results from the NordicAST Project “Detection of linezolid resistant (LRE) and tigecycline resistant enterococci (TRE)”, where 46 Nordic laboratories participated in 2023, were presented at ESCMID global in Barcelona in April 2024 and at the NordicAST workshop.

Explanatory method documents on Detection of ESBL/pAmpC and Detection of CPE were updated, as well as the document on *Haemophilus influenzae* and beta-lactams.

The NordicAST board had four meetings: a virtual meeting in February and physical meetings before the workshop in Malmö, in September in Växjö and in November in Helsinki.

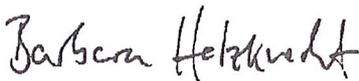
By the end of 2024 the regular members of the group were Anna-Karin Smekal (SE), Anna Hill (SE), Christian G. Giske (SE), Ingvild Haugan (NO), Arnfinn Sundsfjord (NO), Karianne Wiger Gammelsrud (NO), Barbara J. Holzknacht (DK), Dennis Back Holmgaard (DK), Robert Skov (DK), Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava (FI), Nathalie Friberg (FI), Heikki Ilmavirta (FI), and Kristjan Helgason (IS). Gunnar Kahlmeter having left the group in the beginning of the year, Erika Matuschek and Jenny Åhman are now permanently associated members representing the EUCAST Development Laboratory. Alexander Husby (NO) is an associated member as workshop coordinator

The group was chaired by Barbara Holzknicht in 2024, Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava was the scientific secretary, Dennis Back Holmgaard 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 and Alexander Husby coordinated the WS preparations.

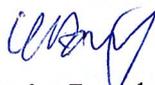
In 2024 NordicAST generated a surplus of 64.156,39 DKK and on 31.12.2024 the balance was 704.192,14 DKK (see separate economic balance report).

Copenhagen, Turku and Slagelse, January 22nd, 2024

On behalf of NordicAST



Barbara Holzknicht  
Chair



Kaisu Rantakokko-Jalava  
Scientific secretary



Dennis Back Holmgaard  
Treasurer