

## The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Study Group on *Clostridium difficile* (ESGCD)

The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Study Group on *Clostridium difficile* (ESGCD) was established to act as a focus for research into *Clostridium difficile* on a European-wide basis and, since its launch earlier this year, over 50 workers from 15 different European countries have joined the Study Group. Thanks to ESCMID support, the first scientific meeting of ESGCD took place at the 11th ECCMID in Istanbul on 3 April 2001. The symposium was entitled 'Update on *C. difficile* infection' and was well attended, filling the allocated hall in the convention center. Part of this issue is based on the proceedings of the symposium at which invited speakers presented the latest information

on laboratory diagnosis, epidemiology, pathogenesis, typing and mathematical modeling of *C. difficile* disease. General interest in the topic at ECCMID was maintained, with a good number of high quality posters on *C. difficile* in the poster session. The symposium was followed by an ESGCD business meeting at which officers of the Study Group were elected. ESCMID members wishing to find out more about the activities of ESGCD are encouraged to visit the ESCMID web-site.

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