



Under the aegis of the Italian Ministry of Health

9th Meeting of The European Monitoring Group on Meningococci

May 30th - June 1st, 2007
Rome, Italy

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Aurelia Convention Centre
Via Aurelia 481, Rome, Italy

The 9th EMGM Meeting is organised by the National Meningococcal and Bacterial Meningitis Reference Laboratory and the Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases Unit of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità together with the European Meningococcal Disease Society. The event is under the aegis of the Italian Ministry of Health which has also provided generous financial support.

Scientific Committee

Dominique Caugant, Norway
Matthias Frosch, Germany
Sigrid Heuberger, Austria
Ed Kaczmarek, United Kingdom
Paola Mastrantonio, Italy
Per Olcen, Sweden
Mary Ramsay, United Kingdom
Julio Vazquez, Spain

Local Organising Committee

Paola Mastrantonio, Meeting President
Paola Stefanelli
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Meeting Venue

Aurelia Convention Centre
Grand Hotel Palazzo Carpegna,
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The organisers are grateful to the following for their kind financial support:

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Wednesday May 30th, 2007

14.30 - 16.30 **European Union Invasive Bacterial Infections Surveillance
EU-IBIS Meeting** (restricted to members of the EU-IBIS network)

16.30 - 17.00 **Coffee Break**

17.00 - 19.00 **EMGM Working Groups :**

17.00 – 18.00 Room Torlonia - **Strain characterization and typing** (A. Fox)

18.00 – 19.00 Room Orsini - **Antibiotic resistance** (M. Taha, J . Vazquez)

17.00 – 18.00 Room Sforza - **Biosafety** (E. Kaczmariski)

18.00 – 19.00 Room Colonna - **Carriage** (D. Caugant)

17.00 – 18.00 Room Benedetto XV - **Public health policies** (J. Stuart)

20.00 **Welcome Party**

Thursday May 31st, 2007

09.00 – 09.10 **Welcome on behalf of the Italian Reference Laboratory for Invasive
Meningococcal Disease at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità.**
P. Mastrantonio (Italy)

09.10 – 09.30 **The Italian Centre for Disease Control.**
D. Greco (Italy)

09.30 – 10.00 **Towards an integrated EU surveillance system.**
L. Pastore Celentano (ECDC, Sweden)

10.00 – 10.30 **EU-IBIS: Surveillance and epidemiology of invasive meningococcal disease
in Europe 1999 – 2006.**
M. Chandra (United Kingdom)

10.30 - 11.00 **Coffee Break**

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Moderators: M. Frosch (Germany), D. Caugant (Norway)

Cluster Analysis

- 11.00 - 11.15 **EpiscanGIS: an online geographic information system for laboratory surveillance and cluster detection of meningococcal disease in Germany.**
M. Reinhardt, J. Elias, J. Albert, M. Frosch, D. Harmsen, U. Vogel
- 11.15 – 11.30 **The application of molecular characterization to the investigation of meningococcal disease clusters and epidemiologically related cases.**
SJ Gray, LS Newbold, AD Carr, AJ Fox, A. Birtles, E. Kaczmarski
- 11.30 – 11.45 **Exploring the origin of a ST-42 outbreak in the Euregio Mass-Rhein by combined use of MLVA and MLST.**
J. Elias, L. Schouls, I. van de Pol, M. Schröter, M. Frosch, U. Vogel, A. van der Ende

Evolution and Diversity

- 11.45 – 12.00 **Geographic and temporal distribution of *Neisseria meningitidis* epidemic types in Europe over 3 years.**
C. Brehony, M. Maiden, K. Jolley and the EUMenNet Consortium
- 12.00 – 12.15 **Evolution of the clonal complex 41-44.** A. van der Ende
- 12.15 – 12.30 **Capsular switching event and C conjugate vaccine in Spain. A stable or dynamic situation?**
C. Salcedo, B Alcala, R. Abad, R. Enriquez, J.A. Vazquez
- 12.30 – 12.45 **Influence of Mass vaccination on the genetic diversity of invasive meningococci.**
R. Ure, S. J. Gray, E. B. Kaczmarski, M. C. J. Maiden
- 12.45 – 13.00 **Genotype, serogroup and capsule expression in meningococci carried by smokers.**
A. Ibarz-Pavon, J. MacLennan, M. Maiden and The UK carriage study group
- 13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch Break**
- 14.00 – 15.00 **Poster Walk:**
Cluster analysis (P1)
Epidemiology (P2 - P25)
Meningococcal carriage (P26)
Diagnostics and Strain characterization (P27 – P34)

STRAIN CHARACTERIZATION AND TYPING

Moderator: P. Mastrantonio (Italy)

15.00 – 15.30 **Molecular typing of meningococci: defining an elusive pathogen.**

M. Maiden

15.30 – 16.00 **Report of Working Group on Strain Characterization and Typing and results of EQUAS.** A. Fox

16.00 – 16.15 **Questionnaire on Strain Characterization and Molecular Typing.**

Per Olcen, Sigrid Heuberger

16.15 – 16.30 **Questionnaire on databases.** U. Vogel

16.30 – 17.00 **Coffee Break**

LABORATORY SAFETY

Moderator: S. Heuberger (Austria)

17.00 – 17.30 **Safe working with meningococci: a workshop to facilitate development of local codes of practice and model rules, review staff immunisation schedules and to address issues around safe transportation of specimens and changes in disinfectant agents.**

E. Kaczmarek, SJ. Gray

Questionnaire on Laboratory Safety. E. Kaczmarek

17.30 – 18.30 **General Assembly of EMGM Society (for members only)**

Friday June 1st

PUBLIC HEALTH

Moderator: P. Olcen (Sweden)

09.00 – 09.30 **Challenges for public health policy in Europe.** J. Stuart

09.30 – 09.45 **Questionnaire on Public Health Policies.** M. Hoek, J. Stuart

EPIDEMIC OUTBREAKS

Moderator : E. Bertherat (Switzerland)

- 09.45 – 10.00 **Response to an outbreak of meningococcal disease due to a B:14:P1.7,16 strain, Seine-Maritime district, Normandy, France.**
I. Parent du Châtelet, M-K Taha, JM. Alonso, C. Sesbouë, P. Rouaud, G. Berthelot, A. Perrocheau, D. Levy-Bruhl
- 10.00 – 10.15 **An outbreak of serogroup X meningococcal meningitis in Niger, Africa, 2006.**
P. Nicolas, P. Boisier, S. Djibo, MK Taha, I. Jeanne, HB Mainassara, B. Tenebray, R. Stor, KK Kairo, D. Giorgini, S. Chanteau
- 10.15 – 10.30 **Molecular Epidemiology of meningococci in western Burkina Faso and Togo.**
B. Njanpop Lafourcade, JE Mueller, S. Yaro, Y. Traoré, KLS Adjogble, M. Lourd, O. Sanou, B. Nacro, A. Drabo, D. Niamba, R. Borrow, MK Taha, P. Nicolas, BD Gessner

10.30 – 11.00 **Coffee Break**

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Moderators: J. Vazquez (Spain), P. Stefanelli (Italy)

- 11.00 – 11.30 **Target gene sequencing to characterize penicillin G susceptibility of *Neisseria meningitidis*.**
MK. Taha, J. Vázquez, E. Hong, DE Bennett, S. Bertrand, S. Bukovski, M. Cafferey, F. Carion, JJ Christensen, M. Diggle, G. Edwards, R. Enríquez, M. Frosch, S. Heuberger, S. Hoffmann, K. Jolley, M. Kadlubowski, A. Kechrid, K. Kesanopoulos, P. Kriz, L. Lambertsen, I. Levenet, M. Musilek, M. Paragi, A. Sagner, A. Skoczynska, S. Thulin, G. Tzanakaki, M. Unemo, U. Vogel, ML Zarantonelli
- 11.30 – 11.45 **Penicillin susceptibility of *Neisseria meningitidis* in Africa – phenotypic and genotypic perspective.**
S. Thulin, P. Olcén, H. Fredlund, P. Nicolas, D. Caugant, M. Unemo
- 11.45 – 12.00 **Resistance to Rifampicin in *Neisseria meningitidis*.**
A. Skoczynska, C. Ruckly, D. Giorgini, JM Alonso, MK Taha
- 12.00 – 12.15 **Fluroquinolone resistance in *Neisseria meningitidis*: increasingly nearby.**
R. Enriquez, C. Salcedo, R. Abad, J.A. Vázquez
- 12.15 – 12.45 **Report of Working group on Antibiotic Resistance & Questionnaire on Antibiotic Resistance.**
J. Vazquez, M. Taha
- 12.45 – 14.00 **Lunch Break**

14.00 – 15.00 **Poster Walk**

Antibiotic resistance (P35 - P41)

Meningococcal vaccines (P42 - P45)

Vaccination strategies (P46 - P48)

Clinical aspects of meningococcal disease (P49)

Database & database structures (P50)

EU-IBIS epidemiology (P51 – P68)

VACCINES AND VACCINATION STRATEGIES

Moderators : M. Ramsay (United Kingdom), M.L. Ciofi degli Atti (Italy)

15.00 – 15.30 **Progress in MenB vaccine development.** R. Rappuoli

15.30 – 15.45 **The demise of the epidemic strain following vaccination: the New Zealand Experience.**

D. Martin, H. Davies, L. Lopez, J. O'Hallahan, P. Oster

15.45 – 16.00 **Immunogenicity of 1-dose of a new meningococcal serogroups A, C, W-135, Y tetanus toxoid conjugate (Men ACWY-TT) vaccine in children 12-14 months and 3-5 years old.**

A. Prieler, M. Knuf, J. Poolman, P. Vink, D. Boutriau

16.00 – 16.30 **Coffee Break**

16.30 – 16.45 **Immunogenicity and booster response after infant vaccination with a reduced schedule of 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate and one of three monovalent meningococcal group C conjugate vaccines.**

R. Borrow, P. Balmer, J. Southern, N. Andrews, A. Crowley-Luke, M. Hudson, E. Miller

16.45 – 17.00 **Target strain selection for the evaluation of candidate meningococcal group B vaccines – are phenotypically and genotypically identical strains the same?**

J. Findlow, A. Holland, R. Barchha, P. Balmer, R. Borrow.

17.00 – 17.15 **Characterisation of meningococcal strains resistant to killing by sera raised against the serogroup C polysaccharide conjugate vaccine.**

MJ Uria, KY. Chan, R. Borrow, JA. Vazquez, CM Tang

17.15 – 17.30 **Vaccination of household contacts of a sporadic case of meningococcal disease: a cost-effective intervention?**

M. Hoek, W.Hellebrand, H. Christensen, M. Howitz, P. Stefanoff, JM. Stuart

17.30 – 17.45 **Poster Awards by EMGM President and Congress President**

17.45 – 18.00 **Conclusions and 2009 EMGM Meeting.** M. Frosch, P. Mastrantonio

20.00 **Farewell Dinner**