

UPCOMING NSMM EVENTS

3rd NSMM scientific meeting 2006: Nosocomial Fungal Infections in the ICU.

The next and third Scientific Meeting of NSMM will take place in Oslo, Wednesday, the 7th of June at a new conference centre located near Rikshospitalet University Hospital. The main theme will be nosocomial fungal infections in the ICU. The tentative program is the following:

Key note lecture

Fungal Infections in the Intensive Care Unit Patients – state of the art

The Nordic Perspective: Presentations from ICUs in each Nordic country

- the magnitude of the problem – how many patients, use of antifungals
- the diagnostic and therapeutic procedures

Microbiological Diagnosis in a Nordic perspective

- Nordic laboratory survey on diagnostic procedures (Jan-March 2006)
- Surveillance Cultures: A Pro et Contra session
- Workshop on fungal colonisation surveillance and diagnostic procedures
- Cases

Treatment

- Proven, probable, possible infections
- Prophylaxis, empiric therapy and treatment of documented infections
- Can we agree on a consensus

Free oral presentations

The program is ambitious in the way that the goal is to collect Nordic data on ICU fungal infections in the months preceding the meeting and thus to be able to present **highly updated and unique data** for discussion. We also invite you to contribute with abstracts for oral or poster presentations, and remind you that this is not prohibitive for later presentation of the same data at other meetings, as the NSMM meeting is a member-only meeting. Presenting participants will have their travel and accom-

modation expenses covered by the society. Deadline for submission of abstracts will be May 8th. Meeting secretary of the meeting will be Peter Gaustad and questions and suggestions can be directed to him at peter.gaustad@rikshospitalet.no

The preliminary program, registration and abstract forms are available at the website.

Pictures from the conference centre can be found at www.gsk-konferansesenter.no



GSK Konferansesenter, Oslo.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

The AGM 2006 will be held June the 7th at the GSK conference centre in Oslo, just after the 3d annual meeting.

Our general secretary Per Sandven has decided to resign from the board as he has been offered and accepted a new position outside the mycology field. We all gratefully thank Per for his substantial contributions to the society and to the NRMM work.

A new board member thus has to be elected. **Members willing to candidate for the board** are most welcomed and should be nominated by at least two NSMM members no later than 3 weeks before the general assembly i.e. May 17th 2006.

The present NSMM board consists of the following persons with the board member periods indicated:

Maiken Cavling Arendrup DK

President 2004-2007

Past-president board member 2007-2009

Malcolm Richardson FI
Vice-president 2004-2007
Re-electable for the period 2007-2009

Per Sandven NO
General Secretary 2004-2005
Resigning by the end of 2005

Ditte Saunte DK
Treasurer 2005-2008
Re-electable for two periods 2008-2014

Lena Klingspor SE,
Board member 2004-2007
Re-electable for the period 2007-2009

Jan Faergeman SE,
Board member 2004-2007
Re-electable for the period 2007-2009

Juha Salonen FI
Board member 2004-2007
Re-electable for the period 2007-2009

Peter Gaustad NO.
Board member 2005-2008
Re-electable for the period 2008-2010

Also at this AGM a change of the NSMM Statutes article 8 has to be decided as the Danish law demands a written and accepted decision on the disposition of the society's surplus in case of dissolution of the society. The following modification of article 8 is proposed by the board (modifications are highlighted in bold):

Proposal of Modification of Article 8 – Modification to the Statutes and Dissolution of the Society.

*“All propositions with the object of modifying these Statutes or the dissolution of the Society must be made by the Board or at least two-third of the individual/life members of the Society. Such a proposition must be communicated to the Board at least three months before an AGM is called to consider it. **In case of dissolution of the society the proposition may include suggestion(s) on one or several non-profit medical society/societies (Nordic or European) on Mycology/ Clinical Microbiology as candidate(s) receiving the NSMM surplus after the dissolution.** The Board will inform the members at least six weeks in advance of the modifications proposed as well as the exact date of the AGM called to consider them. No decision can be taken unless supported by a majority of two-thirds of the voting members of the Society. The AGM shall decide the mode of dissolution of the Society **including the choice of society/societies to which the surplus should be donated.**”*

OTHER BUSINESSES

NRMM – Results of the first EQA distribution raises important issues

The first “Nordic EQA shipment” was arranged by Per Sandven and distributed in the Nordic countries in February 2005. It consisted of five simulated patient samples to be handled exactly the same way as ordinary, routine specimens are handled. Enclosed in the shipment were questionnaires focusing on the methods used.

Medical microbiology laboratories in the five Nordic countries were invited to participate at no cost and 55 laboratories accepted this offer (Denmark: 4, Finland: 6, Iceland: 1, Norway: 23 and Sweden 21 laboratories). In our view some very interesting information and conclusions followed the results of the distribution, a summary of which is listed below:

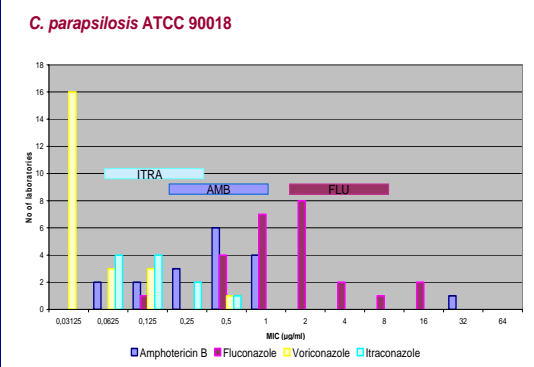
The percentage of *Candida* isolates correctly identified to species level ranged from 90-95% for *C. albicans* to around 75% for non-*albicans* species. This later group is causing app 35% of the invasive infections in the Nordic countries and include species with intrinsic resistance to azoles why species identification is important.

The median time both for identification and susceptibility testing was quite long (4–5 days). It was also apparent that some laboratories were able to shorten this time considerably. This must be the aim for all and should be facilitated by the introduction of rapid tests.

Susceptibility results were reported by 35 of the 55 laboratories. The majority of these laboratories tested for amphotericin B and fluconazole susceptibility and half of the laboratories for susceptibility to voriconazole and in some cases also other agents. Methods used were Etest, EUCAST microdilution and disc/tablet diffusion. With a few exceptions, the overall agreement as regards S or I/R categorisation was quite good. The MIC values however showed somewhat more variation. This might partly be due to variations when reading Etest. Two of the strains included were recommended quality control strains and an accepted MIC range was thus available for

some drugs. An example of one of these is shown below and illustrates the importance of strict quality assessment of the performance of susceptibility testing if performed.

MIC results obtained for AMB, FLU, ITRA and VORI with indications of expected MIC results indicated as horizontal bars.



A Few Main Recommendations

- The use of selective fungal media (e.g. Sabouraud or a chromogenic medium) for cultivation of yeasts from clinical specimens. This is especially important if bacteria also are expected (e.g. abdominal specimens).
- The use of a chromogenic medium for detection of mixed yeast cultures and for rapid identification of *C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis* and *C. krusei*.
- To identify yeast isolates (most common in Nordic countries: *C. albicans*, *C. glabrata*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. parapsilosis*, *C. krusei*) from invasive infections to species level.
- To identify important yeast isolates to species level as rapidly as possible (use rapid tests).
- To ensure that the quality of the performance of susceptibility testing is sufficient or to transfer invasive isolates to reference laboratories for testing.

ECMM news

Up-coming study. The umbrella organisation European Confederation on Medical Mycology to which NSMM is affiliated has taken the initiative to organise a European study of invasive

yeast infections in surgical intensive care unit patients. The study will be organised by Lena Klingspor and 11 countries have up to now indicated interest in participating. The objectives will be to elucidate risk factors of invasive fungal infections among this patient category in Europe and hopefully to contribute with suggestions on patients who may benefit from targeted antifungal prophylaxis. At least 75 patients per country are to be enrolled and the output will be European as well as national reports.

The 2nd Trends In Medical Mycology conference has just been held in Berlin with more than 1000 participants from more than 53 nations. This is very impressive and we are happy that so many people are interested in mycology.

The annual board meeting of ECMM was held October the 23rd in Berlin during the 2nd Trends In Medical Mycology Conference in Berlin. NSMM was represented by Maiken Cavling Arendrup and Lena Klingspor and Juha Salonen participated as well as representatives for the national Swedish and Finnish societies. At the meeting it was decided to support Torino in Italy as venue for the 3rd TIMM in 2007 – Genoa has previously been suggested but was found to be much more expensive. The upcoming ECMM events therefore will be:

16th ISHAM conference, Paris, France, June 25-29, 2006. Preliminary program is available at www.isham.org

3rd TIMM conference, Torino, Italy 2007

Teaching meeting with basic lectures on topics not yet decided (suggestions are welcome) in 2008.

ECMM workshop at the IUMS conference to be held in Istanbul August 4-8, 2008.

4th TIMM conference 2009, location has to be decided.

At the ECMM board meeting Frank Odds resigned as chairman and his successor Jack Meiss was welcomed. As a consequence of his new position as chairman Jack Meiss had decided to leave the position as the ECMM representative of the Executive Organising Committee of the next TIMM conferences. Maiken Cavling Arendrup was selected to follow Jack Meiss on this post. For further information please visit

the ECMM website: www.ecmm.org where you will also find the ECMM newsletter.

Other up-coming events

The conference 2nd Advances Against Aspergillosis will be held February the 22-25th 2006 in Athens, Greece.

The focus of the meeting will be on the very latest advances in aspergillosis, presenting the newest thoughts. Speakers have been selected who are actively advancing the field with new discoveries. Some topics for the conference include:

- Genetic risk factors and Aspergillus disease
- Aspergillus PCR progress for diagnosis
- Clinical trial design for invasive aspergillosis
- Diagnosing pulmonary aspergillosis
- Resistance and in vitro antifungal testing
- Newer molecular transformation and gene disruption techniques
- Virulence factors elucidated in Aspergillus pathogenesis
- Alternative pathogenesis approaches
- Epidemiology of Aspergillus
- New antifungal drugs
- Pharmacology and drug interactions with antifungals
- Aspergillosis in solid-organ transplant subpopulations
- Galactomannan assay applications for diagnosis in different subpopulations
- Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis management
- Asthma, allergens and allergic sinusitis with Aspergillus
- Environmental exposures to Aspergillus
- Immunology and immunotherapy against Aspergillus

For more information please visit www.aaa2006.org

NSMM Membership info

We are proud and happy that more than 150 colleagues have registered as NSMM members, however kindly remind you all to pay the membership fee to the national accounts as listed below:

Denmark: Sydbank,
Reg.nr. 7120 Konto nr. 0151273.

Finland: Nordea, Account: 102335-68957

Norway: Gjensidige Nor Bank, Account: 1645 0868 632

Sweden: Förenings Sparbanken, Bankgiroanslutning, 5793-2758

Please also remember to inform the secretary in case you change e-mail address as the newsletter and other information is only sent out electronically.

Membership application can be made electronically at the website and is valid when your membership fee has been received at any of the Nordic NSMM accounts.

From time to time we are contacted by Mycological Societies and publishers of mycological journals who want to distribute adverts on journals, meetings etc. Until now our unwritten policy has been not to share email or postal addresses with anyone. However, we would like you to indicate, if you prefer otherwise.

Sponsors

At the present time Swedish Orphan, Pfizer and MSD have agreed to sponsor the next scientific meeting in Oslo. We gratefully thank Swedish Orphan, Pfizer and MSD for their generous contributions.

On behalf of the society I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Maiken Cavling Arendrup,
President of the Nordic Society for Medical Mycology, mad@ssi.dk



Maiken Cavling Arendrup