

UPCOMING NSMM EVENTS

4th NSMM scientific meeting 2007:

The next and fourth Scientific Meeting of NSMM will take place in Helsinki, in the spring 2007 as a joint meeting with the Finish Society for Medical Mycology. The theme will be superficial fungal infections and include topics like:

Superficial fungal infections

- **Mucosal infections:**
 Oral and esophageal candidiasis
 Vaginitis incl. Recurrent Vulvo-Vaginal Vaginitis
- **Dermatophyte infections**
 Of the skin, hair and nails
- **Skin manifestations of invasive fungal infections**
- **Chromoblastomycosis and Madura foot**
- **Free oral presentations**

Further information regarding programme registration and abstract submission forms will be available at the web site in the autumn.

RECENT EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

The AGM 2006 was held immediately after the scientific meeting. The two main decisions were (1) the election of Tore Abrahamsen (Norway) and Pentti Kuusela (Finland) as new board members. Tore and Pentti have been introduced in newsletter no 7. (2) The ratification of proposed changes in the statutes Article 8 Modifications of Articles and Dissolution of the Society which were necessary according to the Danish Tax-law. The minutes will be sent to all members separately.

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

The 3rd scientific meeting was recently held in Oslo and this years meeting focused on nosoco-

mial fungal infections in the ICU. **Jacques Bille** from Switzerland gave the key-note lecture on fungal infections in the ICU setting and thereby gave the meeting a great kick off. The rest of the meeting focused somewhat more on the Nordic perspective with presentations from Nordic ICU departments and a workshop focusing on surveillance cultures.



Jacques Bille. Key note speaker.



Erja Chryssanthou discussing during the workshop



Maiken Cavling Arendrup and Peter Gaustad

We hope that everyone enjoyed the meeting as much as we did and thank all speakers and participants for coming.

NRMM: Second Nordic EQA raised important issues

The second "Nordic EQA shipment" was arranged by Victor Fernandez from the Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control (SMI) and distributed in the Nordic countries in March 2006. Again the shipment was composed by five simulated clinical samples, however this time some of the samples contained multiple fungal microorganisms in order to resemble the clinical situation more. Fifty-nine Nordic laboratories participated. The laboratories were encouraged to handle the samples like routine specimens, in order to obtain a true picture of the mycological procedures used in the Nordic countries. It is our impression that this instruction was at least in part followed. Important findings are:

- 66% of the laboratories failed to detect that sample no 1 (blood culture) contained not only *C. albicans* but also *C. glabrata*. Recommendation: Use chromogenic agars, secure proper spreading allowing single colonies and observe carefully for mixed cultures for at least 3 days.
- 34% of the laboratories reporting susceptibility results failed to recognise that a *Cryptococcus neoformans* isolate was not fluconazole susceptible. Recommendation: If the laboratory decides to perform susceptibility testing a critical number of isolates should be tested by the technicians and quality control strains should be included at a regular basis.
- 24% of the laboratories failed to detect *Aspergillus fumigatus* which was present together with *C. albicans* and *Enterobacter cloacae* in a BAL sample from a neutropenic patient in an ICU. Recommendation: Awareness of mould infection and especially *A. fumigatus* in such a high risk population should be increased.

In our point of view, this distribution of simulated clinical samples has been educational and illustrate that the traditional quality assessment programs may give a false sense of well performance. It also illustrates that mycological diagnosis is difficult and that there is a need of further improvement and attention.

If interested you may download the report by visiting www.nsmm.nu and click on the NRMM link.

NSMM WEBSITE UPDATED

Our website has been updated with presentations and pictures from the recent 3rd NSMM scientific meeting and with information on the new board and the next scientific meeting.



Therefore we encourage you to visit the webpage, and as usual suggestions and comments are welcome.

Sponsors

Again this year it has been possible to raise sponsor support for this year's meeting. We gratefully thank Merck Sharp & Dohme, Pfizer, Schering-Plough, Swedish Orphan and Zeneus Pharma (in alphabetic order) for their generous contributions.

On behalf of the society.

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Maiken Cavling Arendrup