

AFFILIATIONS

This spring NSMM has been affiliated to ECMM - European Confederation of Medical Mycology, and ISHAM - International Society of Human and Animal Mycology. ECMM focus especially on providing and supporting education within the field of medical mycology. ECMM's decision is therefore to hold biennial ECMM teaching meetings in the years between the joint ECMM/TIFI congresses. The ECMM meetings will be based around a focussed theme within the medical mycology field and will concentrate on presentation of training material, rather than research papers. The joint TIFI/ECMM congress will be held next time in 2005 in Berlin.

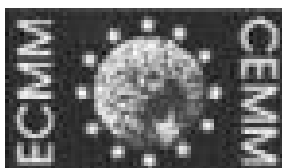
One of the major projects undertaken by the ECMM over the past four years has been to set up national groups undertaking prospective studies on the epidemiology of various mycoses in their countries. ECMM are now sponsoring a workshop on *Pseudoallescheria* at the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures in the Netherlands, organized by G.S. De Hoog.

Over the next few years ECMM plan to produce an educational CD-ROM and other educational material that can be circulated to all the affiliated societies.

The ISHAM website can be found at:

www.isham.org, and the ECMM secretary contacted by email at:

roilides@med.auth.gr



THREE UPCOMING NSMM MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

2nd NSMM scientific meeting. April 1st 2005.

The next scientific meeting will be held at "Børsen" the historic stock exchange building built by King Christian VI in the centre of Copenhagen. The meeting will take place on April 1st, which is the day before the opening of the 2005 EC-CMID conference also held in Copenhagen.



Børsen. Old stock exchange building.

This meeting will focus on "Proper Use of Antifungals" and will include topics such like

- Antifungal agents currently available and ones being developed
- Pharmacokinetics / pharmacodynamics (PK/PD)
- Clinical use in different fungal infections e.g. Deep versus superficial infections, vaginitis and other mucosal infections, solid organ infections, skin infections, eye infections and subcutaneous infections such as Madura foot, etc.
- Correct dosing in various clinical groups such as children, renal or hepatic insufficiency, immunodeficiency etc.

- Combination therapy
- Susceptibility and resistance epidemiology

The meeting is open for members of the society and free of charge. The number of participants for this meeting is limited to 125 and applicants will be handled on a first come first serve basis. The detailed programme is available at our website together with information regarding programme registration and abstract submission forms at www.nsmm.nu. Please note that since it is a members-only meeting, posters may be presented here may also be presented later at another open conference.

Medical Mycology Introduction Seminar, March 31st 2005.

A one-day course in medical mycology will be held in Copenhagen at Statens Serum Institute March 31st 2005. The course will be mainly theoretical; however, cultures of different fungi and susceptibility plates will be demonstrated for those who are interested. The course will focus on the essentials of medical mycology and is aimed at doctors and clinicians without advanced mycology training. Lectures will be given on the following topics

- Introduction to fungi. Classification and taxonomy. Demonstrations of fungal cultures.
- Superficial fungal infections; epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment.
- Invasive fungal infections.
- Diagnostics of invasive infections.
- Antimycotics and Susceptibility testing.

The number of participants for this course is limited to 50 and applicants will be handled on a first come first serve basis. Registration for the course is available at www.nsmm.nu. The course will cost 50€ and is only open to members of the society.



Statens Serum Institute

Joint NSMM and EFISG session during ECCMID in Copenhagen 2005

An educational session "Invasive Infections due to Rare or Emerging Yeasts and Moulds: Clinical Aspects, Diagnosis and Treatment" will be held as a joint arrangement between NSMM and European Fungal Invasive Study Group (EFISG) and as part of the next ECCMID conference in Copenhagen. The session is scheduled to be held Saturday the 2nd of April.

The session is planned to be a combination of presentations and interaction between the speakers, chairmen and audience. For more information on the ECCMID conference visit the website www.akm.ch/eccmid2005/

OTHER BUSINESSES

NRMM

The Nordic Reference group on methods in Medical Mycology (NRMM) is still in its early phase. The group had its second meeting in Oslo in the beginning of September. It was decided to try to establish a Nordic external quality assessment program (EQA) for medical mycology. The plan is to send the first tests to the participating laboratories in

the beginning of February 2005. The aim of this first distribution will be to evaluate yeast identification methods and routines used by clinical microbiological laboratories. It is hoped that the majority of the Nordic microbiological laboratories will participate.

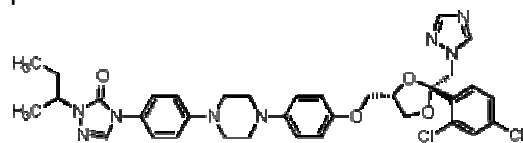
The NRMM group: Denmark: Maiken Cavling Arendrup, Finland: Markku Koskela, Iceland: Ingibjorg Hilmarsdottir, Norway: Peter Gaustad and Per Sandven (chairman), Sweden: Erja Chryssanthou (secretary) and Victor Fernandez.

A link to the NRMM web site can be found on the NSMM home page.

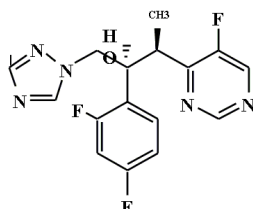
Concentration-determination of anti-fungals

Therapy of fungal infections are in most cases nowadays instituted according to published guidelines and adjusted to the patient's weight and organ function and the MIC of the fungus. However, it is in some cases of value to determine the concentration of antifungal compounds during therapy.

Determination of the concentration of voriconazole and itraconazole is performed upon request at Huddinge University Hospital.



Itraconazole



Voriconazole

For further information please contact Anders Rane or Erik Eliasson, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Huddinge, Sweden +46 8 58580000.

Medical Mycology: The African Perspective. 25 January, 2005.

The newly founded *Africa Fund for Fungal Biodiversity and Mycotic Infections* has taken the initiative to organize a symposium on mycological problems which are endemic to the African continent, including themes where African scientists have achieved major breakthroughs. The symposium will be held in conjunction with the 43rd congress of the Southern African Society for Plant Pathology (SASPP) and under the auspices of the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology (ISHAM) and the European Confederation of Medical Mycology (ECMM).

A wide diversity of topics is covered, main questions to be addressed concerning

- Cryptococcosis and other yeast infections,
- Sporotrichosis,
- Mycetoma,
- Dermatophytes and
- Infections by melanized fungi.

The congress will be held at the seaside resort in Hartenbos, Mosselbay, Western Cape, Africa. More information can be found at the following website: www.cbs.knaw.nl/Africafund/index.htm



Africa Fund for Fungal
Biodiversity and Mycotic Infections

Membership info

Our treasurer Niels Anker Peterslund has for personal reasons wished to retire from the treasurer post – until the next annual general assembly Ditte

Marie Lindhardt Saunte (dms@ssi.dk) will function as treasurer for the NSMM society.



Ditte Marie Lindhardt Saunte

Also Anders Johansson wish's to resign from the board in an attempt to reduce the work load. We thank Niels and Anders for their contributions to the society.

Members willing to candidate for the board are welcomed and should be nominated by at least two NSMM members no later than 3 weeks before the AGM i.e. March 9th 2005. Please contact any of the board members.

An updated list of members can be found at the NSMM website, and please help spread the news about NSMM in your network.

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.

Please help to extend the knowledge of the society, a new handy info-folder can be downloaded or printed from the website under latest news.

Sponsors

Again this year it has been possible to raise sponsor support for the next year's meeting. We gratefully thank Swedish Orphan, Pfizer, MSD, Galderma and Biomerieux for their generous contributions.

On behalf of the society

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



Maiken Cavling Arendrup