



ECMM

European Confederation of Medical Mycology

CEMM

Confédération Européenne de Mycologie Médicale

Great hits in Mycology

Things are going well with medical mycology in Europe. We witnessed a balanced, dynamic and very well organized TIMM3 in Torino, Italy. Our specialty has arrived where it belongs, in the center of infectious diseases and alongside with the other specialties of clinical microbiology. It is the close cooperation with our clinical colleagues at the EORTC IDG that brings this diversity and collaboration in Europe. Trends in Medical Mycology has become the international meeting ground for all professionals working with and against fungi and fungal infections. While many people still think that "The best things in life are free" it requires hard work, meticulous preparation and planning to run a successful meeting like this. I would like to thank the executive committee consisting of Claudio Viscoli, Marianna Viviani, Thierry Calandra and Maiken Cavling Arendrup, with help of the enthusiastic local Italian colleagues and support of the PCO Congress Care, for their efforts.

Now it is time to look ahead. Our goal should be to outperform the next time. Without doubt the upcoming TIMM4 executive committee, George Petrikos, Emmanuel Roilides, Maiken Cavling Arendrup and Johan Maertens is eager to start making the first arrangements for 2009 in Athens, Greece. Although our bi-annual conference is the flagship of ECMM, the Confederation is doing several other things which are of equal importance. Still there is an increasing demand for well trained and well informed doctors regarding opportunistic fungal infections in Europe. Therefore educational meetings are organized every other year in

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The ECMM Council at TIMM3 in Torino. From left: K. Mencl (Czech Rep.), M. Ullberg (Sweden), C. Lass-Flörl (Austria), M.C. Arendrup (Nordic Soc.), J. Meis (The Netherlands), A.Y. Sergeev (Russia), I. Surmont (Belgium), M. Schaller (Germany), S. Arikan (Turkey), M.A. Viviani (Italy), B. Dupont (France), E. Segal (Israel), E. Roilides (Greece), L. Rosado (Portugal), J. Pemán García (Spain)

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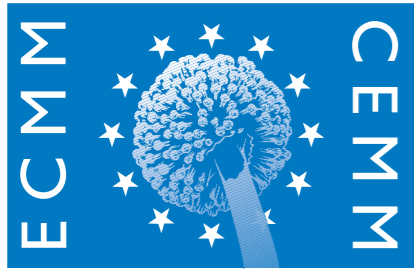
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ECMM/CEMM
Mycology Newsletter

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Mycology

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Registrazione Tribunale di Milano
n. 749 del 25.11.1997

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Secretary: M. Babic
Membership 2005: 19
National meeting: twice a year

Netherland Society for Medical Mycology (NVMY)
President: J.F.G.M. Meis (*ECMM delegate*)
Secretary: E.P.F. Yzerman
Treasurer: M.H. Dammer
Scientific Secretary: G. S. de Hoog
Membership 2007: 139
National meetings: 1-2 April 2008, Arnhem
Newsletter: NVMY Newsletter
Website: www.nvmy.nl

Nordic Society for Medical Mycology (NSMM)
President: M.C. Arendrup (*ECMM delegate*)
Vicepresident: M. Richardson
Secretary: P. Gaustad
Treasurer: D.M.L. Saunte
Membership 2007: 214
Scientific Meeting: 22 May 2008, Stockholm
Newsletter: at web site
Website: www.nsmm.nu

Polish Dermatological Society-Mycology Section
President: E. Baran
Vicepresident: Z. Adamski, R. Maleszka
Secretary: J.C. Szepietowski (*ECMM delegate*)
Treasurer: R. Bialynicki-Birula
Membership 2006: 98
Journal: Mikologia Lekarska (Medical Mycology)

Romanian Society of Medical Mycology and Mycotoxicology (RSMMM)
President: M. Mares (*ECMM delegate*)
Vicepresident: B. Doroftei
Managing Editor: I. Ailincai
Secretary: A. Stefanache
Treasurer: L. Malic
Membership 2007: 56
National meeting: National Meeting every two years and Congress every four years
Journal: Fungi & Mycotoxins
Books: Syntheses of Medical Mycology (for Continuing Medical Education)
Website: www.fungi.ro / www.journal.fungi.ro

Société Belge de Mycologie Humaine et Animale/Belgische Vereniging voor Menselijke en Dierlijke Mycologie
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Treasurer: M.-P. Hayette
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Membership 2007: 183
Website: www.medmycol.be

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Treasurer: A. Detry
Membership 2007: 350
National meetings: May 15-16, 2008, Tours,
November 2008, Paris
Journal: Journal de Mycologie Médicale
Website: www.mycolmed.chez.tiscali.fr

Swedish Society for Clinical Mycology
President: J. Faergemann
Vicepresident: T. Kaaman
Secretary: L. Klingspor (*ECMM delegate*)
Treasurer: M.L. von Rosen
Membership 2006: 80
National meeting: 22 May 2008, Stockholm
(joint meeting with Nordic Society for Medical Mycology)

Turkish Microbiological Society Mycology Section
President: Ö. Ang
Secretary: A. Ağaçfidan
Treasurer: D. Yaylılı
ECMM delegate: E. Tümbay
Membership 2007: 150
Newsletter: Bulletin of the Turkish Microbiological Society

ECMM Affiliated Societies

(Information provided by the member Societies)

All-Russian National Academy of Mycology
President: Y.V. Sergeev
Vicepresident, Head of Medical Section: S.A. Burova
Secretary: A.Y. Sergeev (*ECMM delegate*)
Treasurer: V.M. Leschenko
Membership 2007: 246
Website: www.mycology.ru

Associação Portuguesa de Micologia Médica (ASPOMM)
President: M. Rocha
Vicepresident: R.M. Velho
Secretary: M.L. Rosado (*ECMM delegate*)
Treasurer: M. Gardete
Membership 2007: 50

Asociación Española de Micología (AEM) Sección de Micología Médica
President: J. Pontón San Emeterio
Vicepresident: C. Rubio
Secretary: F.J. Cabañas Saenz
Treasurer: F.L. Hernandez Echevarría
President Medical Mycology Section: J. Pemán García (*ECMM delegate*)
Membership 2007: 145
National meeting: Every two years.
A workshop meeting ("Forum Micológico") is scheduled the years between National Meetings
Journal: Revista Iberoamericana de Micología
Website: www.reviberoammicol.com/AEM

Austrian Society for Medical Mycology (ASMM)/Österreichische Gesellschaft für Medizinische Mykologie (ÖGMM)
President: B. Willinger
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H.-J. Dornbusch
Secretary: W. Buzina
Vicesecretary: G. Ginter-Hanselmayer
Treasurer: C. Speth
Vicetreasurer: J. Rainer
Membership 2007: 122
National meeting: twice a year
Website: www.oegmm.at

British Society for Medical Mycology (BSMM)
President: E. M. Johnson (*ECMM delegate*)
General Secretary: R.P. Hobson
Meetings Secretary: G. Moran
Treasurer: D.M. MacCallum
Membership 2007: 302
National meeting: March 30th - April 1st, 2008,
Norwich
Newsletter: BSMM Newsletter
Website: www.bsmm.org

Bulgarian Mycological Society (BMS)
President: T. Kantardjiev (*ECMM delegate*)
Vicepresident: G. Mateev
Secretary: A. Kouzmanov
Treasurer: T. Velinov
Membership 2007: 50
National meeting: 3-6 April 2008
Website: www.bam-bg.net

Committee for Medical Mycology of Czechoslovak Society for Microbiology (CSSM)
President: K. Mencl (*ECMM delegate*)
Secretary: P. Hamal

Treasurer: J. Gabriel
Membership 2007: 16
Newsletter: Bulletin of CSSM

Danish Society for Mycopathology
President: J. Stenderup (*ECMM delegate*)
Vicepresident: B. Andersen
Secretary: B. Knudsgaard
Treasurer: J. Stenderup
Membership 2006: 25
National meeting: twice a year
Newsletter: Report from the Danish Society for Mycopathology

Deutschsprachige Mykologische Gesellschaft e.V. (DMYkG)
President: M. Ruhnke
Vicepresident: O. Cornely
Secretary: H. Chr. Korting
Treasurer: C. Hipler
ECMM delegate: M. Schaller
Membership 2007: 478
National meeting: 4-6 September, 2008, Jena
Journal: Mycoses
Newsletter: Mykologie Forum (4 issues/year)
Website: www.dmyk.de/start2.html

Federazione Italiana di Micopatologia Umana e Animale (FIMUA)
President: L. Pagano
Vicepresident: E. Difonzo
Secretary: F. De Bernardis
Treasurer: A.M. Tortorano
ECMM delegate: M.A. Viviani
Membership 2007: 160
National meeting: November 20-22, 2008, Catania
Website: www.fimua.it

Finnish Society for Medical Mycology
President: R. Visakorpi
Vicepresident: T. Putus
Secretary: L. Naire-Koivisto
Treasurer: O. Lindroos
ECMM delegate: P. Kuusela
Membership 2007: 88
Newsletter: Sienet ia Terveys (Fungi and Health)

Hellenic Society of Medical Mycology
President: G.L. Petrikkos
Vicepresident: G. Samonis
Secretary: A.M. Ziouva
Treasurer: O. Nikolatou-Galiti
ECMM delegate: E. Roilides
Membership 2007: 81
Website: www.hsmm.gr

Hungarian Dermatological Society Mycology Section
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Secretary: G. Fekete
Membership 2005: 59

Israel Society for Medical Mycology
President: E. Segal
Vicepresident: I. Polacek
Secretary: I. Berdicevsky (*ECMM delegate*)
Treasurer: D. Elad
Membership 2007: 50
National meeting: twice a year

Mycology Group of Bosnia Hercegovina
President: L. Ozegovic (*ECMM delegate*)

to be controlled versus those women likely to be cured, is not possible at present. Both categories of women have identical azole susceptible organisms and whether the prognosis is a function of host versus microorganism factors remains unclear. One ideally would like to achieve a patient population that is not only free of attacks off therapy, but remains either culture negative or if becoming culture positive, at least attack free in the presence of *Candida* colonization (which probably reflects the most physiologic state). New research is being directed at identifying both yeast as well as host characteristics responsible for vaginal yeast persistence.

In the meantime, control of recurrent *Candida* vaginitis caused by non-*albicans* *Candida* species is more problematic with regard to *C. glabrata*. All the other non-*albicans* *Candida* species with the exception of *C. kruseii*, which is rare, can be controlled with maintenance fluconazole enjoying an excellent prognosis on cessation of therapy. *C. glabrata*, however, is problematic in being less azole responsive and regimens that are most effective include those containing boric acid or flucytosine. Long-term maintenance programs are less available. Moreover, the major problem confronting the patients with *C. glabrata* vaginitis is identifying those women in whom *C. glabrata* is actually causing the symptoms as opposed to symptomatic women with *C. glabrata* but being of low virulence the yeast is simply an innocent bystander.

Idiopathic recurrent *Candida* vaginitis has not benefited from the new generation of available echinocandins which are not available topically or orally, as well as from the availability of voriconazole and posaconazole. We are in need of more active broad spectrum azoles which can be taken orally and preferably those with the advantages of a long half life. Nevertheless, significant progress in patient management has been accomplished.

Jack D. Sobel



3rd Trends in Medical Mycology

Dermatophyte infections in Europe

Dermatophyte fungi almost never cause serious damage to human health or threaten life of the patient. Nether the less, dermatophyte infections still affect millions, and the members of *Trichophyton*, *Microsporum* and *Epidermophyton* genera cause the most ubiquitous and the only true contagious fungal infections known today.

Extensive industry support for research on invasive fungal infections in recent years has no parallel in the field of superficial mycoses. Recognizing this, ECMM and TIMM organizing committee members have agreed to hold a special workshop to review the current state of the problem. The workshop was chaired by R. C. Summerbell and A. Y. Sergeev.

Richard Summerbell (now working in University of Toronto, Canada) opened the workshop with a review lecture on taxonomy, biology and virulence of dermatophytes in our current understanding. Prof. Summerbell discussed the impact of molecular studies on the changing concepts of dermatophyte species with relevance to pathogenesis and diagnosis of tinea infections.

Nadine Lateur (CHU Saint Pierre, Bruxelles, Belgium) gave a talk about tinea capitis in modern Europe. Dr. Lateur has outlined the importance of pan-European studies in this field, giving credit for ECMM epidemiological survey of tinea capitis in Europe, convened in 1997-1998 by R. J. Hay. The study gathered data from 92 laboratories and compared figures from 1987 and 1997. Growing numbers of cases represented by *Trichophyton* species were observed, probably representing the infections in immi-

grant communities. One of the major features of tinea capitis in Europe is diversity in predominant causative agents – zoophilic *M. canis* in Eastern and Central Europe, and anthropophilic *Trichophyton* in the West. Recent observations of Dr. Lateur on *M. langeronii* imported tinea capitis in Belgium were supported with the UK data of Prof. Hay later during TIMM, during his talk on imported non-endemic fungal infections (Workshop on travel and geographic mycology).

Alexey Y. Sergeev (I.M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy, Russia) provided an update topic on onychomycosis. Epidemiologic studies on onychomycosis, starting from major pan-European industry-supported Achilles project (1997-1998), were continued by different authors, contributing to the modern picture of prevalence and causative agents. Growing incidence, longer duration of disease and varying severity may describe modern onychomycosis, thus calling for selective approaches in treatment and prevention. The proportion of true dermatophyte cases of onychomycosis appears to increase when assessed with more accurate methods, e.g. with new Russian PCR probes, specific for *T. rubrum* and *T. mentagrophytes*.

Michalis Arabatzis (University of Athens, Greece), giving a talk on laboratory diagnosis of tinea infections, focused on European advances in molecular techniques. The recently published study of Dr. Arabatzis and coworkers evaluated the possibilities of multiplex real-time PCR, offering the identification of several dermatophyte species in clinical specimens in less than 24 hours. Dr. Arabatzis discussed the



From left to right: Antonella Tosti, Alexey Sergeev, Richard Summerbell, Michalis Arabatzis, and Nadine Lateur at the workshop on Dermatophyte infections in Europe.

highly sensitive PCR methods as new opportunities for laboratory confirmation of diagnosis for onychomycosis and other forms of tinea infection, and the probable emerging replacement of conventional diagnostic approaches.

Antonella Tosti (University of Bologna, Italy) presented an expert outline of clinical aspects of onychomycosis, explaining current challenges and pitfalls in treatment. Good initial response to modern systemic antifungals may continue with disappointing long-term results, possible relapses and reinfection. Varying clinical presentation of fungal nail infection, featuring several clinical forms, different extent of affected nail, and predisposing conditions, may contribute to therapeutic failures and recurrence. Non dermatophyte mold onychomycosis, presenting in new clinical forms, should deserve special attention and treatment. Combination therapy and special preventive measures may solve the problem of suboptimal therapeutic efficacy in such cases.

Alexey Y. Sergeev



3rd Trends in Medical Mycology

Updates on uncommon and emerging fungal pathogens

Invasive fungal infections in the immunocompromised population continue to be an important cause of mortality and morbidity. Several recent reports have revealed that there may be a shift in the species distribution of fungi causing these infections, in particular the non-*fumigatus* aspergilli and *Zygomycetes*. Recognizing this, a session was organized at the TIMM 2007 titled "Updates on uncommon and emerging fungal pathogens"

and was chaired by Sybren de Hoog and Kathrin Tintelnot. Four speakers presented updates on a diverse group of fungi causing human infection including black yeasts, non-*fumigatus* aspergilli, *Zygomycetes* and *Scedosporium* spp.

Montarop Sudhadham (PhD student at Centraalbureau voor Schimmecultures, Utrecht, The Netherlands) presented research data on ecology and routes of transmission of the black yeast *Exophiala der-*