

ECMM-ISHAM Working Group Zygomycoses

In 2005 a Working Group on Zygomycosis was formed at ECMM, in order to record and better analyze the epidemiology of zygomycosis in Europe. During the period 2005-2007, 235 cases of zygomycosis have been collected from 16 European countries and the data will be presented at ICAAC, in Washington DC. Due to the success of this venture, the Group decided to expand its activities, in collaboration with ISHAM, and Fungiscope and compare zygomycosis in Europe to zygomycosis in the rest of the world.

The co-ordinator of the Working Group is Prof. George Petrikos. Each country in Europe has a national co-ordinator, who collects cases in special CRF forms. The co-ordinators for countries in Asia and South America will be announced soon. Further aims of the group are:

1. To make an electronic database, so as to allow online input of data and to include data from as many countries as possible. In the meantime, the CRF for any colleague who wishes to submit a case can be found on the site of the Hellenic Society of Medical Mycology (www.hsmm.gr) and the European Confederation for Medical Mycology (ECMM), <http://ecmm.eu> and can be completed and sent by e-mail to petrikos@med.uoa.gr or askiada@otenet.gr.
2. To collect strains of zygomycetes and send them to the laboratory of Dr. Tudela-Rodriguez, jlrtudela@isciii.es, who will co-ordinate the molecular identification of fungi. He will take care, in collaboration with Sybren de Hoog, s.hoog@cbs.knaw.nl in state-of-the-art molecular identification and long-term maintenance. Strains will thus have official accession-numbers which can be used in future publications.
3. To collect any available histology specimen and send them to Dr. Bialek [:bialek@labor-krause.de](mailto:bialek@labor-krause.de) for PCR. This will aid in the identification of fungi when no cultures are available, as well as for comparison with culture-proven strains.

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