

Working Group Interim Report

1	Title of Working Group	ECMM/ISHAM Working Group on Zygomycosis
2	Name(s) of Coordinator(s)	George Petrikkos
3	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To collect cases of mucormycosis (zygomycosis) from all around the world in order to increase knowledge about all the aspects of this lethal disease • To increase collaboration between various countries and produce new protocols aiming at the research regarding zygomycosis • To implement educational methods so that more physicians become aware of the diseases produced by the zygomycetes and so be able to make the diagnosis earlier.
4	Achievements of the Working Group in last year (250 words)	<p>Cases are being collected on the electronical registry of the Working Group (zygomyco.net)</p> <p>Twenty-four countries (from Europe, Asia, North and South and Central America as well as Africa) are collaborating. We are now negotiating with Australia for further collaboration.</p> <p>The 2nd International Forum on Zygomycosis took part in Porto-Heli, Greece, in May 2010. The faculty included investigators from Europe, USA, Argentina and India. George Petrikkos was the Forum coordinator and the members of the Scientific Committee were Tom Chiller (USA), Andreas Groll (Germany), Jacques Meis (The Netherlands), Livio Pagano (Italy), Malcolm Richardson (UK), Anna Skiada (Greece), Juan-Luis Rodriguez-Tudela (Spain), Tom Walsh (USA), Stefan Zimmerli (Switzerland).</p> <p>The program included plenary lectures about taxonomy and animal models, and sessions about epidemiology, pathogenesis and clinical presentation, diagnosis and treatment.</p> <p>The Forum was very successful, giving the</p>

		<p>opportunity to experts from around the world to meet and exchange knowledge and opinions.</p> <p>A workshop was organized by the Working Group with the title: Emerging Zygomycetes, a new problem in the clinical lab. This took place in Utrecht, The Netherlands, on April 8-9, 2013. The meeting was accredited by the European Union of Medical Specialists with 12 CME accreditation points. The first day of the workshop was focused on the clinical aspects of the disease, as well as the infection models, diagnostic tools and epidemiology. The second day was about virulence factors, host response and genomic approach to the understanding of virulence.</p> <p>The workshop was very successful and had attendance from all over the world.</p>
5	<p>Is your Working Group going to continue for the next three years?</p>	<p>Yes. A new protocol has been prepared by Tom Walsh (USA), in collaboration with George Petrikos and other members of the Working Group. The objective of this protocol is to improve diagnostic methods for the rapid diagnosis of mucormycosis. The first draft has been presented at the meeting in Utrecht and it will be finalized by October, when the TIMM will take place in Copenhagen.</p> <p>In the meantime more cases are being submitted to www.zygomycosis.net.</p> <p>The 3rd Forum on Zygomycosis will take part in Athens, Greece, in 2014 (exact dates will be announced soon).</p>