



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2009

ISHAM

We are a Working Group of the ISHAM so if you have not joined ISHAM and are involved in the EAPCRI please do so now by clicking on <http://www.isham.org/Membership.html>.

Funding

Our funding requirements are relatively modest but we have obtained generous support from Schering Plough, Pfizer, Merck & Co and Gilead Sciences. The funds are managed by the EAPCRI foundation which has been granted charitable status and is register with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (KvK number 09165918). These funds are used to pay for the meetings held by the steering committee and the Working Parties as well as to defray the costs incurred by circulating samples for the LAB WP exercises. In addition we were able to meet the costs of holding a symposium during the recent ISHAM conference in Tokyo.

Structure

The Steering Committee (SC) consists of the Chair of the EAPCRI (Peter Donnelly), the secretary (Jurgen Loeffler) who is also chair of the laboratory Working Party (LAB WP) and the Treasurer (Rosemary Barnes) who is also Chair of the Clinical Working Party (CLIN WP). In addition we have initiated a Statistical Working Party (STATS WP) which is Chaired by Peter Donnelly and includes the SC and Mario Cruciani (Verona) and Carlo Mengoli.(Padua) Its task is to manage the statistical analyses as required by the LAB WP.

Activities

Website: We are in the process of setting up a website (www.eapcri.eu) which will contains details of who we are as well as our mission and goals. In addition there will be a public section with links to presentations and publications as well as to related organisations and societies. There will also be a members section which will allow access to the minutes, protocols and other documents emanating from the SC and the Working Parties. There will also be a cross-link to www.isham.org.

Committee and WPs: The SC, LAB WP, CLIN WP and STATS WP have held regular meetings details of which will be posted under the members sections of the website

Joint initiatives: The Invasive aspergillosis animal models (IAAM) and the EAPCRI have undertaken a joint initiative to evaluate the proposed standard in rodents

ISHAM 2009: This was a successful symposium that generated a lot of interest. The presentations will be made available to members of the EAPCRI through the website. The next ISHAM meeting will be held in Berlin in June 2012.

Publications: Use of PCR for diagnosis of invasive aspergillosis: systematic review and meta-analysis (Lancet Infect Dis, 9, 89-96).

Future activities

The LAB WP will shortly being extending the circulation of spiked samples to all the laboratories who have registered an interest to test the robustness of the proposed standard.

The EAPCRI is to provide the translational element to a proposed strategy study of the EORTC Infectious Disease Group to assess the clinical validity of the proposed standard. This is currently progressing through the Early Project Optimisation Development programme of the EORTC and will be financed by Merck & Co. It is hoped that the study will be approved and can start early in 2010.