

**“Surveying and Combating AMR in the Highly Endemic
East – South Europe and Mediterranean Basin”
Athens, 20-23 May 2026
Hotel Divani Caravel**

WELCOME LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an extremely important issue for most countries worldwide, including the European and neighboring regions. However, the distribution of AMR is not even, with Central, West and North Europe to have much lower rates than East and South Europe. To focus on AMR in the hot spot regions of East and South Europe and Mediterranean basin, the ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (ESGARS) and the Hellenic Society of Clinical Microbiology are organizing the International Conference "Surveying and combating AMR issues in the highly endemic East and South Europe and Mediterranean Basin". In this Conference we will try to raise the most crucial AMR problems in our regions, discuss about possible interventions and set up international collaborations. We wish that this is the first meeting of many more to come and that expanding knowledge will lead to better outcomes in the battle against AMR. All colleagues who are interested in AMR will be very welcome!

On behalf of the organizers,

S. Pournaras

Conference Chair

Scientific Committee

1. Ritu Banerjee
2. Sophie Baron
3. Georgios Chamilos
4. George Daikos
5. Adrian Egli
6. Önder Ergönül
7. Christian Giske
8. Dimitrios Hadjigeorgiou
9. Jaroslav Hrabak
10. Surbhi Malhotra-Kumar
11. Jacob Moran-Gilad
12. Laurent Poirel
13. Jean-Marc Rolain
14. Fotini Paliogianni
15. Robert Leo Skov
16. Arjana Tambic Andrasevic
17. Athanasios Tsakris
18. Sotirios Tsiodras

19. Timoleon-Achilleas Vyzantiadis

20. Konstantinos Tsioutis

21. Theoklis Zaoutis

Organizing Committee

1. Spyros Pournaras
2. Lemonia Skoura
3. Olympia Zarkotou
4. Stavroula Antonopoulou
5. Maria Panopoulou
6. Eleftheria Trikka
7. Simona Karampela
8. Antonio Oliver
9. Yesim Besli
10. Iva Butic
11. Ini Adebyii

PRELIMINARY -SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Wednesday 20 May, Day 1

08:00-09:00: Registrations

09:00-10:30 Educational course 1

- **How to survey antibiotic resistance at the One Health interface (incl. livestock/wild animals, plants and environment)?**
Marwan Osman, Lebanon,
- **How to track the origin of antibiotic resistance genes?**
Jaroslav Hrabak, Czech Republic,
- **How to create consortium for grant proposal between North and South Mediterranean Sea?**
To be announced

10:30-11:30 Satellite Symposium 1

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

12:00-14:00 Symposium 1

Antibiotic Decision-Making and Stewardship Integration

Chairs: Aygun Israyilova, Yeşim Beşli

- **Antibiotic Decision-Making in Critical Care: From Emergency Room to ICU**
Jeroen Schouten, The Netherlands,
- **Integrating Infection Control and Antimicrobial Stewardship: A Synergistic Approach to Combat AMR**
Constantinos Thomas, Greece,
- **Laboratory-Driven Integration of Infection Control and Stewardship: Bridging Surveillance with Clinical Practice**
Yeşim Beşli, Türkiye,
- **Laboratory Algorithms for Rapid Detection of Resistance: Supporting Timely Stewardship Decisions**
Olympia Zarkotou, Greece,

14:00-15:00 Lunch break

15:00-16:00 E-poster

16:00-17:00—MediCA2C project presentation (business meeting)

MediCA2C project is an alliance between lab, experts and Universities in the Mediterranean basin supported by Aix-Marseille University, Institute Méditerranée Infection and Euromediterranean consortium of Universities Tethys

17:00-18:30 Symposium 2

AMR in ICU Settings: Regional and Clinical Insights

Chairs: Dimosthenis Makris, Dafna Yahav

- **MDR Gram-Negative Bacteremia in the ICU: Duration, Resistance Profiles, and Treatment Outcomes**

Dafna Yahav, Israel,

- **Epidemiology and Resistance Mechanisms of *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in ICU in Balkan countries**

Alice Ghenea, Romania,

- **Carbapenem Resistance and Antibiotic Use Patterns in Azerbaijani ICUs: Local Data and Regional Challenges**

Aygun Israyilova, Azerbaijan,

18:30-19:00 Keynote Lecture 1

Chairs: Spyros Pournaras, Athanasios Tsakris

Climate crisis and AMR: a dual threat

Arjana-Tambic Andrasevic, Croatia,

19:00-20:30: Opening Ceremony

Thursday 21 May, Day 2

08:30-10:00 Oral presentations—

Infection control and prevention around Mediterranean Basin

Chairs: Arjana-Tambic Andrasevic, Stavroula Antonopoulou

10:00-11:30 Educational course 2

Chairs: Jaroslav Hrabak, Marwan Osman

How to evaluate

- **Novel AMR diagnostics**
Thierry Naas, France,
- **Antimicrobial Stewardship programs**
To be announced
- **IPC interventions**
To be announced

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

12:00-12:30 Keynote Lecture 2

Chairs: Antonio Oliver, Alessandra Carattoli

Implementation of Whole Genome Sequencing Data to support surveillance and combat

AMR

Andrei-Alexander Muntean, Romania,

12:30-13:30 Satellite Symposium 2

13:30-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-15:30 Eposters — Antimicrobial stewardship around Mediterranean Basin

Chairs: Constantinos Thomas, Maria Panopoulou

15:30-17:00 Symposium 3

Chairs: Jacob Moran-Gilad, Jean-Marc Rolain

Applications and challenges of Artificial Intelligence in AMR, AMS and IPC

- Artificial Intelligence for AMR prediction
Oliver Nolte, Switzerland,
- **Artificial Intelligence supporting antibiotic decision making and antimicrobial stewardship**
Belen Rodriguez, Spain,
- **Bacterial genomics in infection prevention and control: the role of artificial intelligence**
Jacob Moran-Gilad, Israel,

17:00-19:00 Symposium 4

Chairs: Sotirios Tsiodras, Gian Maria Rossolini

Future treatment options for infections related to drug-resistant bacteria

- **Promising treatment opportunities against drug-resistant Gram negatives**
Ursula Theuretzbacher, Austria,
- **Optimized treatment options against tuberculosis in the Mediterranean basin**
Dimitrios Papaventsis, Greece,
- **Antimicrobial Peptides and Immunotherapy as Next Generation Weapons Against Multidrug Pathogens**
Burkhard Bechinger, France,
- **New/novel/emerging vaccines against drug-resistant bacteria**
To be announced

19:00-19:30 Keynote Lecture 3

Factors associated with antibiotic resistance: the PharmacoMicrobioresistance paradigm

Jean-Marc Rolain, France,

Friday 22 May, Day 3

08:30-10:00 Oral Session

East – South Europe and Mediterranean Basin: an AMR Hot Zone

Chairs: Thierry Naas, Ursula Theuretzbacher

10:00-11:30: Educational course 3

Chairs: Ini Adebyii, Iva Butic

Carbapenemase production across Mediterranean Basin: from bench to the bedside

- Advances in carbapenemase detection in Enterobacterales
Gian Maria Rossolini, Italy,
- Trends in carbapenemase-producing *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
Antonio Oliver,
- Current treatment options for carbapenem-resistant pathogens
Konstantinos Tsioutis, Cyprus,

11:30-12:00: Coffee break

12:00-13:00 Satellite Symposium 3

13:00-14:30—Symposium 5

Chairs: Thierry Naas, Gian Maria Rossolini

Epidemiology and challenges for ESKAPE pathogens in the Mediterranean basin

- **Current trends of antibiotic resistance**
Alessandra Carattoli, Italy,
- **Implementation of antibiotic stewardship in low- and middle-income countries**
Souha Kanj, Lebanon,
- **Circulation of Enterobacterales clones in the Mediterranean basin: a genomic approach**
Sophie Baron, France,

14:30-15:30: Lunch break

15:30-16:30 Eposters

16:30-17:00 Keynote Lecture 4

Chairs: Laurent Poirel, Iva Butic

What is new in Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* epidemiology and management?

Spyros Pournaras, Greece,

17:00-18:30: Symposium 6

Chairs: Robert Leo Skov, Önder Ergönül

National Strategies and Surveillance Frameworks

- **Advancing AMR Surveillance Through Laboratory Standards**
Onur Karatuna, Sweden,
- **Multidisciplinary Interventions Against Carbapenem-Resistant Bacteria in ICUs: Outcomes from a Lebanese Tertiary Center**
Nesrine Rizk, American University of Beirut., Beirut Lebanon, nr00@aub.edu.lb
- **Implementing Stewardship Across Levels: Clinical Pathways, National Policy, and Big Data Analytics in Türkiye**
Önder Ergönül, Türkiye,

18:30-19:00 Keynote Lecture 5

Chairs: Joseph Meletiadis

Trends in antifungal resistance in East – South Europe

T-A Vyzantiadis, Greece,

Saturday 23 May, Day 4

08:30-10:00 Oral Session

IPC and AMS implementation across Mediterranean Basin: exchange lessons learned

Chairs: Konstantinos Tsioutis, Simona Karampela

10:00-11:30 Symposium 7

Chairs: Lemonia Skoura, Tom Talbot

Successes, Innovations and Challenges in IPC

- **Monitoring and feedback to enhance environmental cleaning**
Efthymia Protonotariou, Greece,
- **Is behavior change feasible in high endemic regions?**
Michael Borg, Malta,
- **Sustainability of IPC activities: opportunities and threats**
Ritu Banerjee, USA,
- **Engaging hospital leaders and governments**
Tom Talbot, USA,

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

12:00-13:00 Satellite Symposium 4

13:00-14:30 Symposium 8

Chairs: Sofie Baron, Ritu Banerjee

Gaps on education, research, equity, ethics, drugs and building capacities, in South Mediterranean and Middle East countries (how to create Joint Programme Initiatives in the Euromediterranean area..?)

- **Educational, Diagnostic and Research inequities in Mediterranean Basin Countries**
To be determined
- **Role of infectious diseases and clinical microbiology professional societies in low- and middle-income countries**
Robert Leo Skov, Denmark,

- **Provision of low-cost diagnostic approaches, suitable for low-income settings**
To be announced

14:30-15:30 Lunch break

15:30-16:00 Keynote Lecture 6

Chairs: Jean-Marc Rolain

GLASS REPORT 2025 for East – South Europe and Mediterranean Basin

Surbhi Malhotra-Kumar, Belgium,

16:00-18:00 Symposium 9

Chairs: Olympia Zarkotou, Surbhi Malhotra-Kumar

Resistance and Virulence-Related Risks: The Gram-Negative Threat

- **Hypervirulent *Klebsiella Pneumoniae***
Mohamed Elhadidy, Egypt,
- **MDR *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* at a global perspective**
Marek Gniadkowski, Poland,
- **Tracking Resistance and Virulence in Foodborne Pathogens**
Lourdes Migura-Garcia, Spain

18:00-18:30 Keynote Lecture 7

Chair: Fotini Paliogianni

Is AMR in Gram-positives still a threat?

Joseph Papaparaskevas, Greece,

End of the Conference

Sessions hours

Satelites hours

CHAIRMEN – SPEAKERS

Jaroslav Hrabak, Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen, Charles University, Plzen, Czechia

Marwan Osman, Clinical Microbiology, AMR, Global Health, Lebanon,

Aygun Israyilova, Microbiologist, Azerbaijan,

Dafna Yahav, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Israel,

Jeroen Schouten, Internist and Intensivist, The Netherlands

Constantinos Thomas, Internal Medicine - Infectious Diseases physician, Greece,

Yesim Besli, Clinical Microbiology, Türkiye,

Olympia Zarkotou, Biopathologist, Clinical Microbiologist, Greece,

Dimosthenis Makris, Prof. Internal Medicine, Greece,

Alice Ghenea, Faculty of Medicine, University of Medicine and Pharmacy Craiova, Romania,

Spyros Pournaras, Professor of Medical Microbiology, Greece,

Athanasios Tsakris, Prof. of Microbiology, Medical School of Athens, Greece,

Arjana-Tambic Andrasevic, Academic researcher, Croatia,

Stavroula Antonopoulou, Biopathologist, Greece,

Thierry Naas, School of Medicine, University Paris Saclay, France,

Antonio Oliver, Microbiologist, Spain,

Alessandra Carattoli, Molecular Microbiology Biology, Italy,

Andrei-Alexander Muntean, Microbiologist, Romania,

Maria Panopoulou, Professor of Microbiology, Greece,

Jacob Moran-Gilad, Faculty of Health Science, Israel,

Jean-Marc Rolain, President of MediCA2C Aix-Marseille University France,

Oliver Nolte, Medical Microbiology University of Zurich, Switzerland,

Belen Rodriguez, Internal Medicine Physician, Spain,

Sotirios Tsiodras, Professor of Athens Medical School, Internal Medicine Physician, Greece,

Gian Maria Rossolini, Professor of Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology, Italy,

Ursula Theuretzbacher, Microbiologist, Austria,

Dimitrios Papaventsis, Director in Med Biopathology/Lab Medicine, Clinical Microbiology
Greece,

Burkhard Bechinger, Professor for Physical Chemistry and NMR at the University of Strasbourg, France,

Konstantinos Tsioutis, Internal Medicine specialist, Cyprus,

Souha Kanj, Professor of Medicine, and Chair of the Infection Control and Prevention Program at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon,

Sophie Baron, France,

Laurent Poirel, Associate Professor at the Medical and Molecular Microbiology Unit, University of Friburg, Switzerland,

Iva Butic, Clinical Microbiologist, Croatia

Onur Karatuna, Microbiologist · Assoc. Prof. Dr. · Microbiology Specialist. Acibadem Healthcare Group, Türkiye,

Nesrine Rizk, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Onder Ergonul, Professor of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology, Türkiye,

Joseph Meletiadis, Professor of Microbiology, Greece,

T-A Vyzantiadis, Professor of Medical Biopathology – Microbiology, Greece,

Simona Karampela, Medical Doctor Biopathologist, Greece,

Surdhi Malhotra-Kumar, Professor of Medical Microbiology, Belgium,

Mohamed Elhadidy, Professor of Biomedical Sciences at Zewail City, Egypt,

Marek Gniadkowski, Professor in Medical Sciences, Poland,

Lourdes Migura-Garcia, Researcher - Endemic Digestive Bacteria and AMR, Spain,

Robert Leo Skov, Clinical Microbiology, Denmark,

Lemonia Skoura, Prof. of Medical Biopathology-Microbiology, Med. School, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Head of the Microbiology Dept, AHEPA University Hospital, Thessaloniki, Greece,

Ritu Banerjee, Professor in the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Vanderbilt, Usa,

Efthymia Protonotariou, Assistant Professor, Medical Microbiology, Aristotle University Thessaloniki, Greece,

Michael Borg, Professor · Pathology · Faculty of Medicine & Surgery, Malta,

Tom Talbot, Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease, Usa,

Fotini Paliogianni, Clinical Microbiologist, Greece,

Joseph Papaparaskevas, Medical Biopathologist, Greece,

INFORMATION

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Language: English

Certificate of Attendance: Certificates will be sent after the conference.

Attendance at least 60% of the conference is required.

EACCME Credits : Conference will be accredited by EACCME credits.

Congress Organizer:

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