



The Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

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**MINUTES OF THE AGAR EXECUTIVE MEETING
Thursday 30th April 2009**

VENUE **Qantas Meeting Rooms, Sydney Airport, Sydney**

ATTENDEES Graeme Nimmo (Chair)
 Geoff Coombs (Secretary/Treasurer)
 Keryn Christiansen
 John Turnidge
 Narelle George
 Peter Ward
 Tom Gottlieb
 Julie Pearson (Minute Secretary/AGAR Scientific Officer)
 Jan Bell (AGAR Scientific Advisor)

1. Welcome

GN welcomed all attendees.

2. Apologies

Peter Collignon and David Mitchell

3. Minutes

The minutes of the November 2008 AGAR meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Correspondence

ATTACHMENT

4.1 Request for AGAR Data (Mary-Louise McLaws)

A Canadian colleague of Mary-Louise McLaws, Any Simor, requested AGAR data to compare and contrast MRSA and MSSA in Australia and Canada. The project will commence in 2010 and will take several months. Prior to this meeting, the Executive agreed to make the data available and GN has contacted M-LM.

4.2 DoHA Correspondence

Tabled for the minutes. No further action required.

5. Operating Procedures

ATTACHMENT

No issues raised.

6. Treasurer's Report (Geoff Coombs)

6.1 2007/2008 Financial Report (Audited)

ATTACHMENT

This report, previously presented at the November 2008 meeting, has been audited. Report accepted by the AGAR Executive.

Proposed: TG

Seconded: NG

6.2 December 2008 Quarter

ATTACHMENT

Report accepted by the AGAR Executive.

Proposed: TG

Seconded: JB

6.3 March 2009 Quarter

ATTACHMENT

Report accepted by the AGAR Executive.

Proposed: TG

Seconded: PW

7. 2007/2008 AGAR Funding

ATTACHMENT

Final report presented. No further invoices will be accepted.

8. 2008/2009 AGAR Funding

ATTACHMENT

Books to be closed 30th June 2009. GC to update the invoice list and circulate to members.

ACTION: GC

9. 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 Proposed AGAR Funding

ATTACHMENT

The funding request has been submitted. A response is not expected until September. Vitek 2 cards cannot be purchased until funding is confirmed therefore labs are to commence collection of isolates July 1st and store in glycerol until Vitek 2 cards are delivered.

10. AGAR Website

Approximately 300 people per month visit the AGAR website. As the CDC meeting scheduled for next week has been cancelled the GNB 2006 and SPNE 2005 posters will be uploaded on the AGAR website.

11. 2005/2006 Surveys

11.1 *Haemophilus influenzae* 2006 Survey

Jenny Robson and PC will prepare the report by June 30th.

12. 2006/2007 Surveys

12.1 *Staphylococcus aureus* 2006 Survey (Community)

A combined MRSA typing and susceptibility report has been submitted to CDI. The susceptibility report is almost complete. Trend data to be updated and the report circulated to the group.

ACTION: Staphylococcal writing group

12.2 GNB 2006

All data received. JP and JB to compile data (susceptibilities and ESBL characterisation) and forward to writing group.

ACTION: GNB writing group.

12.3 *Enterococcus* 2007 Survey

All data received. JP to compile data and forward to writing group.

ACTION: Enterococcal writing group.

13. 2007/2008 surveys

13.1 *Staphylococcus aureus* 2007 Survey (Hospital)

The draft susceptibility report has been circulated to the writing group. Once the writing group has responded the report will be finalised. MRSA characterisation is complete. Report to be prepared and circulated to the writing group.

ACTION: Staphylococcal writing group.

13.2 *Streptococcus pneumoniae* 2007/2008 Survey

Eighteen laboratories participated in the survey, data from two laboratories is outstanding. When final data received, JP to circulate to the writing group.

ACTION: *Streptococcus* writing group.

14. 2008/2009 Surveys

14.1 *Staphylococcus aureus* 2008 Survey (Community)

Data from 11 laboratories is outstanding. Report to be finalised by June 30th. A summary report of the daptomycin results was forwarded to Novartis in April.

ACTION: Staphylococcal writing group.

14.2 GNB 2008 Survey (Community)

Data from 10 laboratories is outstanding. Report to be finalised by June 30th.

ACTION: GNB writing group.

15. Ongoing Surveys

15.1 Enterococcal Bacteraemia Survey

Data collection for the Enterococcal bacteraemia survey ceased in November 2008. Data has been forwarded to PC and Tony Kormon (see item 12.1 committee meeting minutes)

15.2 *Streptococcus pneumoniae* Bacteraemia Survey

Data collection for the Streptococcal bacteraemia survey ceased in November 2008.

16. Proposed 2009/2010 Surveys

16.1 *Staphylococcus aureus* 2009 Survey (Hospital)

Survey period is 1st July to 30th November 2009. Data to be forwarded to JP by December 31st. If the purchase of Vitek 2 cards is delayed these dates may be revised. Protocol to remain the same as previous hospital surveys. It is anticipated that Novartis and Wyeth will provide daptomycin and tigecycline Etests as for previous surveys. Executive to prepare a protocol.

ACTION: AGAR Executive

16.2 GNB 2009 Survey (Hospital)

Survey period is 1st July to 31st October 2009. Data to be forwarded to JP by November 30th. If the purchase of Vitek 2 cards is delayed due to a delayed these dates may be revised. The 2009 survey to be a hospital survey (specimen collected >48h after admission). Testing will be by Vitek card only. Species limit will remain as for the community survey (70 *E. coli*, 20 *Klebsiella* species and 10 *Enterobacter* species) but there will be no restriction on specimen types. Executive to prepare a protocol.

ACTION: AGAR Executive

16.3 *Enterococcus* 2009 Survey

JP discussed the difficulties in determining the rate of vancomycin resistance in the 2007 survey due to the different methodologies employed in the labs. For example, some Victoria institutions with high rates of VRE perform *van* PCR on all samples but do not test against vancomycin by any method. It was decided that participating laboratories must test against vancomycin by one of the methods in the protocol. At the November 2008 meeting, Tony Kormon suggested that tigecycline be included in the next *Enterococcus* survey. JB to present SENTRY data at the committee meeting.

Executive to prepare a protocol.

ACTION: AGAR Executive

17. Proposed 2009/2010 Surveys

17.1 *Staphylococcus aureus* 2010 Survey (Community)

GN proposed that patients hospitalised for <48 hours be included in the 2010 community survey. A decision to include only outpatients and general practitioner patients as for previous surveys was made to allow accurate trend analysis. Therefore, the protocol will be as for previous surveys.

17.2 GNB 2010 Survey (Community)

The protocol will be unchanged from the 2008 survey (urines collected from outpatients).

17.3 *Enterococcus* 2010 Survey

The protocol will be unchanged from the 2009 survey.

18. NaVREN

A summary will be presented at the AGAR committee meeting.

19. ANZCOSS

A summary will be presented at the AGAR committee meeting.

20. ESBL Characterisation Collaboration

JB will notify the labs as to which isolates from the GNB 2008 require typing and ESBL characterisation. JB will then forward relevant isolates to David Paterson.

ACTION: JB

21. Writing Groups

21.1 *Staphylococcus aureus*

Geoff Coombs, Keryn Christiansen, Graeme Nimmo, Peter Collignon and Mary-Louise McLaws.

21.2 MRSA Epidemiology and Typing

Geoff Coombs, Keryn Christiansen and Graeme Nimmo.

21.3 GNB

John Turnidge, Tom Gottlieb and David Mitchell.

21.4 *Enterococcus*

Narelle George, John Turnidge and Keryn Christiansen.

21.5 *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

Tom Gottlieb, Jenny Robson and Peter Collignon.

21.6 *Haemophilus influenzae*

Peter Collignon and Jenny Robson.

22. National Library

Hard copies of all AGAR publications have been forwarded to the National Library of Australia. Electronic copies are available at [://pandora.nla.gov.au/](http://pandora.nla.gov.au/).

23. New Business

23.1 AGAR Abstracts for CDC Conference

Five posters (SPNE 2005, ENTE 2007, GNB 2006, SAP 2006 and SAP 2007) were prepared for the CDC conference (now cancelled). The GNB 2006 and SPNE 2005 posters will be uploaded on the AGAR website. The remaining abstracts to be submitted to another conference (possibly ASA 2010).

23.2 Community Onset Definition (inclusion of <48h isolates)

See item 17.1.

23.3 Triclosan Susceptibility Testing in SAP 2009

John Ferguson proposed that triclosan testing be performed on isolates from the SAP 2009 survey. As agar dilution is the only method of testing, it was considered that this would add considerably to labour and consumable costs. NG commented that triclosan is a hazardous chemical requiring additional safety measures. Due to costs, additional labour and the hazardous nature of triclosan, the Executive decided not to test for triclosan resistance in future SAP surveys. GN to inform JF of the decision.

ACTION: GN

23.4 Presentation of AGAR Data

AGAR data has been presented at the following meetings:

- 4th Annual Infectious Diseases Control Conference, Feb 2009, Sydney (IG; *Enterococcus*, GN; *Staphylococcus*)
- Antimicrobials 2009, Feb 2009, Melbourne (Stefan Harbath; *Streptococcus*)

23.5 Referral of AGAR Isolates

JB forwarded fusidic acid resistant *Staphylococcus* from the AGAR surveys to Iowa for inclusion in a study examining resistance mechanisms. Australia had one of the highest incidences of fusidic acid resistance in the study and a *fusD* gene was identified in one isolate. The data will be presented at ICAAC 2009.

23.6 Vitek 2 Gram-negative AST Card

Biomérieux requested the AGAR Executive advise as to the antimicrobial content of the new GN AST card. As an increase from three to four wells is required for piperacillin-tazobactam one antimicrobial must be discontinued. The Executive were in favour of removing tigecycline as alternative methods could be employed for testing tigecycline when required.

23.7 AGAR Membership

- Ronan Murray replaces Clayton Golledge (PathWest QE2)
- Annabelle LeCordier replaces Helen Ziochos (SSWAHS, Liverpool)
- Iain Gosbell replaces Ann Hofmeyr (SSWAHS, Liverpool)
- Raed Simhairi replaces Miriam Paul (DHM)
- Lana Ricci replaces Marianne Allen (SNP)
- Kelly Papanoum replaces David Gordon (FMC)
- Martin Thurson replaces Dawn Arklie (SJG)

It was agreed that Mary-Louise McLaws be invited to all AGAR meetings held in Sydney.

GC to write to Helen Ziochos to thank her for all her efforts as the long-term AGAR scientific representative for SSWAHS.

ACTION: GC

24. Next Meeting

Executive Meeting: 12th November 2009, Melbourne.

Committee Meeting: 13th November 2009, Melbourne.

25. Meeting Closed

Meeting closed at 1725. GN thanked the Executive for their input.