



# ***Euromed Conference on Antibiotic Resistance in the Mediterranean Region***

***10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
Malta***

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

*In collaboration with*



European Commission



European Society of  
Clinical Microbiology  
and Infectious Diseases



World Health  
Organisation



Government of Malta

**Antimicrobial Resistance** is now seen to be a global threat to effective healthcare delivery and patient care. Data from recent studies carried out within Europe have suggested that the situation is particularly acute in the Mediterranean nations. Over the past three years, the ARMed project has also studied this matter in countries in the south and east of the Mediterranean. The information gathered indicates that the challenges of antimicrobial resistance in these regions are even more pressing. It is therefore clear that the entire Mediterranean region requires particular attention.

This congress will provide a first-time opportunity for Euro-Mediterranean stakeholders working in microbiology, infectious diseases and infection control, as well as doctors, nurses, healthcare administrators and hospital executives, to discuss how antimicrobial resistance specifically impacts the Mediterranean region. The academic programme will present up-to-date information from epidemiological studies on antimicrobial resistance undertaken in the countries within this area. There will be state-of-the-art lectures delivered by experts in the field, most of whom hail from Mediterranean countries or have worked on projects conducted in the region. They therefore have first-hand knowledge of the problems and possible solutions. Discussion groups will allow delegates to share their experiences in addressing antimicrobial resistance and the important drivers for its control: effective antibiotic stewardship and infection control practices.

The conference will also be enriched by the presence of speakers representing the European Commission, World Health Organisation and the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases; all key players in antimicrobial resistance initiatives. The additional invitation of decision makers from Euro-Mediterranean and EMRO countries should provide the right mix for reflective discussion and to enable solutions, relevant for the region, to be put forward for action.

We look forward to welcome you to Malta in November 2006 and to join us in these fruitful interactions.

**Michael Borg**

*Chair - Organising Committee*

ARMed Project

Infection Control Unit

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Conference Homepage: <http://www.slh.gov.mt/armed/congress>



# Friday 10 November 2006

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- 09:00 - 09:30 **Opening ceremony**
- Plenary 1: *The challenge of antimicrobial resistance***
- 09:30 - 10:00 **The key antimicrobial resistance challenges of the 21st century**  
*C. Bal, Turkey*
- 10:00 - 10:30 **Epidemiology of resistance in the Euro-Mediterranean region: ARMed & EARSS data**  
*N. van der Sande, Netherlands*
- 10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 - 11:30 **Does antimicrobial resistance matter to the patient? to the healthcare facility? to the country?**  
*F. Baquero, Spain / ESCMID*
- 11:30 - 12:00 **The role of the microbiology laboratory in antimicrobial resistance initiatives**  
*G. Kahlmeter, Sweden / ESCMID*
- 12:00 - 12:30 **European recommendations for antimicrobial resistance surveillance**  
*G. Cornaglia, Italy / ESCMID*
- 12:30 - 14:00 **Lunch**
- Plenary 2: *Infection control in healthcare settings***
- 14:00 - 14:30 **Regional status of infection control initiatives**  
*B. Cookson, UK*
- 14:30 - 15:00 **What makes a cost-effective infection control programme in limited resources?**  
*O. Rasslan, Egypt*
- 15:00 - 15:30 **Infection control in high endemic countries: is the battle lost?**  
*G. French, UK*
- 15:30 - 16:00 **Coffee break**
- 16:00 - 16:30 **Global Safety campaign on hand hygiene**  
*D. Pittet, Switzerland / W.H.O.*
- 16:30 - 17:00 **Surveillance of healthcare associated infections**  
*Speaker to be announced.*

# Saturday 11 November 2006

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## **Plenary 3: *Improving the use of antibiotics***

09:00 - 09:30 **Is antimicrobial resistance related to consumption and if so, what can we do about it?**

*D. Monnet, Denmark*

09:30 - 10:00 **Antibiotic consumption in the Mediterranean: what do we know and what more do we need to know?**

*M. Ferech, Czech Republic*

10:00 - 10:30 **Can we really change hospital prescribing practices & is it worthwhile?**

*A. Antoniadou, Greece*

10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 - 11:30 **Self-medication with antibiotics in the ambulatory care setting**

*E. Scicluna, Malta*

11:30 - 12:00 **Strategies for better use of antimicrobials in the community**

*H. Goossens, Belgium*

12:00 - 12:30 **Socio-cultural aspects of antimicrobial use and resistance in the Mediterranean**

*M. Borg, Malta*

12:30 - 14:00 **Lunch**

## **Workshops: *Concurrent sessions on***

14:00 - 15:30 **Antimicrobial resistance**

*H. Grundmann (Netherlands), D. Gür (Turkey)*

**Antibiotic use**

*H. Goossens (Belgium), P. Zarb (Malta)*

**Infection Control**

*B. Cookson (UK), M. Benbachir (Morocco)*

15:30 - 16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00 - 17:30 **Continuation of workshops**

# Sunday 12 November 2006

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- Plenary 4: Addressing the Microbial Threat**
- 09:00 - 09:30 **Can we stem the ever increasing tide of antibiotic resistance?**  
*H. Grundmann, Netherlands*
- 09:30 - 10:00 **W.H.O. strategy on antimicrobial resistance and initiatives in the EMRO region**  
*N. Metwalli, Egypt / W.H.O.*
- 10:00 - 10:30 **Coffee break**
- 10:30 - 11:00 **EU response to the Microbial Threat**  
*A. Lönnroth, Sweden / European Commission*
- 11:00 - 11:30 **European Strategies for International Research Cooperation**  
*M. Fernandes, Portugal / European Commission*
- 11:30 - 12:00 **Workshop reports**  
*Rapporteurs*
- 12:00 - 12:20 **General discussion**
- 12:20 - 12:30 **Conference conclusions & recommendations**
- 12:30 - 14:00 **Lunch**
- 14:30 - 18:00 **Cultural tour**

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## Social Events

Friday 10 November

19.30 - 21:00 **Welcome reception hosted  
by the Hon. Minister for Health**

Saturday 11 November

20.00 - 23:30 **Maltese night (extra)**

**Conference Homepage**

**<http://www.slh.gov.mt/armed/congress>**

# Conference Information

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The congress will run from Friday 10 November 2006 until Sunday 12 November 2006 and will be held at the [New Dolmen Hotel, Qawra](#). The official language is English and no simultaneous translation will be available. Further information is available from the congress website: [www.slh.gov.mt/armed/congress](http://www.slh.gov.mt/armed/congress)

Dress code for the conference is casual and lounge suit for the welcome reception. Identification badges are mandatory and will be required for admission to all scientific sessions and social events.

The Organising Committee will be pleased to send a letter of invitation to any applicant requesting one. It is understood that such an invitation is intended to help potential delegates in raising funds or in obtaining a visa. The letter of invitation is not a commitment on the part of the Conference to provide any financial support. It is the responsibility of the delegates to ascertain whether a visa is required for travel to Malta and to make the necessary arrangements to obtain one sufficiently in advance.

## Poster Presentations & Sponsorships

The Organising Committee invites delegates from Mediterranean countries to present a poster outlining the situation of antibiotic resistance in their country or institution as well as initiatives being taken to tackle the problem. One poster from each country in the Mediterranean will be accepted. The chosen presenting delegates will be provided with [free registration and accommodation](#) for the duration of the congress. More information is again available from the congress website.

Interested delegates will need to forward an abstract for adjudication by the Organising Committee. Only electronic abstracts will be accepted and must be submitted by [30 June 2006](#). Late-breakers may be accepted after agreement with the Committee. A template of the abstract submission form can be downloaded from the conference website. After its completion, the document should be saved and e-mailed back to the Organising Committee at [armed@gov.mt](mailto:armed@gov.mt). Applicants unable to access the website or to download the form can contact the Committee who will e-mail a template. The decision of the adjudication process will be communicated at the end of July through an email sent to the address given for correspondence and this decision will be final. Successful delegates will then be informed of the format of their poster.

# Registration Details

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Registration forms in writeable Adobe Acrobat format can be downloaded from the conference website [www.slh.gov.mt/armed/congress](http://www.slh.gov.mt/armed/congress) or via an email request to the Organising Committee on [armed@gov.mt](mailto:armed@gov.mt). The forms should be filled in electronically to ensure clarity of details and then printed, signed and posted or faxed to the Conference Secretariat:

Antibiotic Conference  
Alpine Travel Ltd.  
Naxxar Road,  
San Gwann - SGN 08  
MALTA.

Fax: (+356) 21 373 644 • Email: [tsg@alpinemalta.com](mailto:tsg@alpinemalta.com)

## Registration fees:

### Until 15 September 2006:

- €350 Conference registration plus 4 nights accommodation on bed & breakfast basis in a 4\* hotel starting on 9 November 2006.
- €150 Conference registration only.

### After 15 September 2006:

- €400 Conference registration plus 4 nights accommodation on bed & breakfast basis in a 4\* hotel starting on 9 November 2006.
- €200 Conference registration only.

The registration fee includes attendance for the scientific programme, conference pack including abstract book, attendance at the welcome reception and all refreshment breaks and lunches.

Payment should be made in advance by either bank transfer or credit card. Delegates paying by credit card should also attach a photocopy of their passport to the application form. It is essential that the amount credited represents the total due and that the registration form and payment are sent by airmail or faxed. Every registration will be acknowledged in writing, including any further advice necessary prior to arrival. No other correspondence will be sent before the conference.



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