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## The ISAC Early Career Working Group: providing support to the next generation of researchers

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*The ISAC Early Career Working Group Officers*

There has never been a more critical time than now for the next generation of researchers, clinicians and clinical pharmacists in the field of antimicrobial chemotherapy, in the early stages of their careers, to keep up with novel techniques and to ensure a timely response in meeting current global health threats. Infectious diseases, as a discipline, is facing pressing challenges due to current global health and biodiversity threats and, in turn, requires next-generation scientists to be fully engaged in continuous advanced training during the early stages of their careers. With the support of the International Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (ISAC) Executive Committee, we have established this international collaboration amongst early-career researchers that will help to address the challenges in antimicrobial research and serve as a platform for communication between early-career and senior scientists. Aligning with aims of ISAC, the ISAC Early Career (EC) Working Group aims to promote continuous education for young scientists and the general public to advance training in the science of antimicrobial infections. Importantly, we intend to provide opportunities for young experts worldwide to build long-lasting networks for collaboration.

Since its establishment, the ISAC EC Working Group has been actively involved in ISAC's programmes. As of 2022, its members were from 18 countries, reflecting the global importance of ISAC and the ISAC EC Working Group for facilitating outreach, networking, collaboration and advanced training for the next generation of scientists working in infectious diseases.

In 2022, the ISAC EC Working Group successfully held a workshop for early-career scientists at the 32nd International Congress of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (ICC). It included scientific presentations by ISAC / ICC Travel Grant awardees as well as a panel discussion by Professor Robin Patel. Following this event, the EC Working Group assisted in the early-career researchers session at the 1st International Conference on Antimicrobial Computational Pharmacology (ICACoMP). Some of the EC Working Group's leadership team (Drs Nusaibah Abdul Rahim and Yu-Wei Lin) shared their experiences with other attendees.

In addition, the group is organising a monthly webinar series that will focus on 'When pharmacometrics and systems pharmacology meet infectious diseases' to provide members and attendees with cutting-edge techniques and their applications in the field of infectious diseases. Visit the ISAC YouTube Channel to watch the three webinars already

organised by the EC Working Group.

The ISAC EC Working Group is also planning other programmes and activities, which will be implemented very soon. One of its exciting programmes aims to foster the next global generation of scientists by establishing academic and clinical collectives that will bring together researchers, clinical pharmacists and clinicians to form the ISAC International Young Ambassadors Programme.

ISAC Young Ambassadors should become a member of an affiliated society of ISAC in their country, although the aims of these may vary depending on the needs of each location and community. In general, early-career researchers engaged in this programme will have the opportunity to develop essential skills outside the training curriculum; including teamwork, scientific writing, improvement of communication skills, participating in and organising meetings, and expanding personal and professional networks. If you are interested in becoming an ISAC Young Ambassador of your country, please email your CV and a letter of support to [earlycareer@isac.world](mailto:earlycareer@isac.world).

**The ISAC Early Career Working Group represents the interests of young ISAC members in the field of infectious diseases.**

The ISAC EC Working Group will also work with ISAC committee members to feature in journals and newsletters relevant to ISAC and have a presence on the website to share information on activities and opportunities. This will ensure that early-career researchers are able to engage with ISAC itself, are supported as they continue their journey with the society and can become involved with its other committees.

Building on ISAC's notable successes in promoting education and research, together, we aim to advance the education and training of the next generation of professionals in the field of infectious diseases. Through the ISAC partnership, we hope to contribute to advancing both the quality and quantity of education, which will be a substantial investment for the future of infectious disease research.

Throughout the year, you can stay connected with the ISAC EC Working Group via our social media platforms ([Twitter](#) / [LinkedIn](#) / [Website](#)) By signing up to our social platforms, you will be the first to hear about what is coming up, and you can also contribute with ideas and feedback. What are you waiting for? Get involved now!

The ISAC EC Working Group is always happy to welcome new members; both students and early-career scientists. If you are interested in joining the ISAC EC Working Group, please email your CV to and [earlycareer@isac.world](mailto:earlycareer@isac.world)