



The way forward: ISAC 2025

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After recently celebrating the International Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy's (ISAC) and the Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics' (APUA) "combined 100-years anniversary of fighting infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance", it is now time to look at the way forward. ISAC currently has a worldwide membership composed of 94 member societies, which in turn have over 60,000 individual members. As ISAC membership continues to grow, the ISAC Executive Committee believes the Society's future focus should be to ensure membership for the societies under the ISAC umbrella becomes more attractive and rewarding.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented all of us from traveling around the globe, thanks to online meetings it has brought the Executive Officers and Executive Committee members closer and more frequently together. Furthermore, we have taken this opportunity to "virtually meet" the leadership of some of our ISAC Member Societies. As we have found online meetings to be very successful, we have decided most future communication between the Executive Members and with our Member Societies will be online. By reducing the number of face-to-face meetings, ISAC anticipates it will be able to increase its financial support for more prolific activities whilst at the same time reducing its carbon footprint.

ISAC will continue online meetings as the main form of communication, which will increase the Society's financial support towards other activities and decrease its carbon footprint.

A request by one of our societies for more educational material resulted in ISAC establishing the 'ISAC Academy'. In 2020 we commenced a series of free webinars which initially focused on COVID-19. The first webinar was on "COVID-19: Around the World in Eighty Minutes" which brought a global view of the pandemic from those on the front-line in diverse parts of the world. In 2021 we continued the COVID theme with webinars on "COVID-19 Vaccines", "COVID-19 Variants", "COVID-19 Effective Treatments" and "What is Long COVID?". In collaboration with our Working Groups, we also arranged webinars on "Regional and National MRSA Surveillance Programs Worldwide", "Rapid Diagnostics and Biomarkers at the Heart of Patient Management" and "Hot Topics in Infections in Critical Care". Recordings of all the webinars are freely available on the [ISAC website](#).

In 2022, in cooperation with the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC), we will commence developing e-Learning modules. BSAC and ISAC will also provide a massive open online learning course (MOOC) on infection prevention and control.

In co-operation with our Working Groups / Member Societies we will further develop the ISAC Academy to provide free and open access education.

One of ISAC's principal activities is production of the *International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents* (IJAA) in collaboration with Elsevier. IJAA provides comprehensive and up-to-date peer reviewed reference information on the physical, pharmacological, *in vitro* and clinical properties of individual antimicrobial agents. In addition, it signals new trends and developments in the field through highly authoritative review articles on antimicrobial agents, immunomodulators and immunotherapy. The journal's impact factor continues to increase and in 2021 was 5.283, ranking it 17 out of 92 in Infectious Diseases.

Every month, the Editor-in-Chief, Jean-Marc Rolain and his Scientific Assistant, Dr Sophie Baron, choose one or two articles for the Editor's Choice section. These articles are open access for a limited time and can be [viewed here](#). ISAC member societies can take advantage of reduced subscription rates. [For further information please click here](#).

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ISAC's second journal, *Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance* (JGAR) is a collaboration between ISAC, the Asia-Pacific Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infection (APSCMI) and the Global Chinese Association of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (GCACMID). JGAR is a quarterly online journal run by an international Editorial Board headed by Editor-in-Chief Stefania Stefani and supported by Dr Simona Purrello, Scientific Assistant.

The journal focuses on the global spread of antibiotic-resistant microbes and aims to track the resistance threat worldwide and to give a comprehensive view of how infectious disease experts are challenging the problem. The journal's impact factor is 4.035 ranking it 34 out of 92 in Infectious Diseases.

In 2020, JGAR became a fully open access journal with no subscription charges. Authors publishing in JGAR can make their work immediately, permanently and freely accessible to researchers worldwide. JGAR automatically applies Article Publishing Charge (APC) waivers or discounts to those articles for which all authors are based in a country eligible for the Research₄Life programme. If an author group from a non-Research₄Life country cannot afford the APC to publish an article and they can demonstrate they have had no research funding, ISAC will consider individual waiver requests on a case-by-case basis.

JGAR article publishing charges are automatically waved for authors in a country eligible for the Research₄Life programme.

Over the last two years, the Society's website has significantly developed and has become a useful educational resource. On the website members can access many of ISAC's resources including publications, antibiotic resistance resources, ISAC activities, the ICC 2019 abstracts and the ISAC webinars. This will be developed in 2022 when the ISAC Academy is launched. In addition, information on ISAC's Working Groups, Member Societies, future events, awards and research projects grants is available.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Society's 32nd International Congress of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (ICC), which was due to take place in November 2021, had to be postponed. The ICC which will be co-hosted by the Australian Society for Antimicrobials (ASA), will now be held in Perth, Australia from **27-30 November 2022**.

The programme is currently being put together by the scientific programme committee, which is jointly chaired by Serhat Unal from ISAC and John Turnidge from ASA. The programme will cover many different aspects of antimicrobials and infectious diseases which we believe you will find both scientifically stimulating and informative. The committee will be calling for abstracts from **1 February 2022**. Future updates and announcements can be found on the congress website. We look forward to meeting you in Perth in 2022.

32nd ICC2022
Perth, Australia 27 – 30 November 2022
(<https://32icc.org/>)

Over the last few years ISAC has reached a secure and stable financial position that allows us to invest in our Society. Having the right technical and personnel support has allowed us to employ most of the activities we had envisioned. Our two excellent executive officers, Fiona MacKenzie and Fee Johnstone, have largely been responsible for implementing most of the Society's new initiatives. Although finance, accounting and legal support remains outsourced, and other specialised functions are presently regarded as unneeded, other tasks may grow between now and 2025.

While tasks and capacity within the executive office are presently aligned, additional support might be necessary on the way to 2025.

For the ISAC Working Groups, we believe those groups that are active should be rewarded which is why we have initiated financial support for yearly reports and publications, as well as a small yearly budget.

To re-establish APUA as a brand under ISAC, APUA has its own budget. All working groups have been invited to develop e-Learning modules and establish webinars.

Working Groups will receive increasing support over the years, but the amount of support will be based on performance standards and goals.

In addition to travel-grants for the ICC, ISAC has awarded small research grants for projects in low to middle income countries (LMICs). Three were awarded in 2020 and another three will be awarded in 2021 – the awardees will be announced soon.

In 2021 we committed to a large, 3-year-guidance development project for antimicrobial use in LMICs in collaboration with APUA.

ISAC, however needs to identify other possibilities for (other types of) grant support in the coming years.

While spending more on (grant) support within the present limits, ISAC should find new ways and/or partners to develop new type of support models and generate possibilities for additional research, education, and guidance.

As we look forward, please don't forget the past...

To celebrate the combined 100 years anniversary of fighting infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance for ISAC and APUA, ISAC held a webinar which can be watched via the ISAC website or ISAC's YouTube Channel. We would like to thank Emeritus Professor Alasdair Geddes and Professor Pierre Tattevin for their wonderful reflections on ISAC and APUA. And of course, we thank all Executive Committee members, past and present, who have helped and continue to help shape the society.

Not an ISAC member...

...ISAC encourages national and regional professional societies active in antimicrobial chemotherapy, clinical microbiology, and infectious diseases to affiliate with ISAC. Membership costs nothing but there are many advantages to your society being affiliated:

Benefits of Membership includes:

- i. **Reduced subscription** to the ISAC's very successful journal, International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents.
- ii. ISAC also has a **gold open access** journal, the *Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance*.
- iii. **Reduced registration** for many conferences and workshops ISAC organises worldwide.
- iv. Priority to join **ISAC Working Groups** on specialist subjects.
- v. **ISAC Project Grants** are available exclusively to ISAC Member Society applicants.
- vi. **ISAC travel grants** to attend the bi-annual International Congress of Chemotherapy (ICC); only available to members of affiliated societies.
- vii. ISAC also offers **education fellowships** for periods of travel to a foreign centre of excellence for up to 3 months; only available to members of affiliated societies.
- viii. Priority to **publish articles in ISAC / APUA newsletter**.
- ix. Priority to submit proposals for **collaborative webinars**.

To apply for ISAC affiliation is easy. Email secretariat@ISAC.world for an application form.