What Is CLSI AST ORWG?

The CLSI AST Outreach Working Group (ORWG) is part of the CLSI Subcommittee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) and was established in 2015. The formation of the working group originated in a desire to efficiently convey information regarding contemporary AST practices, recommendations, and resources to the clinical microbiology community.

Members:
Janet A. Hindler (Co-Chairholder), UCLA Health System, USA
Audrey N. Schuetz (Co-Chairholder), Mayo Clinic, USA
April Abbott, Deaconess Health System, USA
Stella Antonara, Nationwide Children's Hospital, USA
Marcelo F. Galas, National Institute of Infectious Disease, Argentina
Violeta J. Rekasius, Loyola University Medical Center, USA
Romney M. Humphries, UCLA Health System, USA
Nicole E. Scangarella-Oman, GlaxoSmithKline, USA
A. Beth Prouse, Peninsula Regional Medical Center, USA
Lars F. Westblade, Weill Cornell Medical College, USA

Goals:
- Educate practicing clinical microbiologists and health care professionals about AST practices and recommendations.
- Provide resources to facilitate individuals in their understanding and implementation of CLSI AST recommendations.

What can you learn from CLSI AST News Updates?

Through periodic newsletters, the CLSI AST ORWG will direct you to educational materials to help you learn more about the CLSI Subcommittee on AST (CLSI AST SC) and the recommendations published in CLSI AST documents. Information will be provided through webinars, annotated presentations, self-study programs, case studies, articles, and more. A “hot topic” in antimicrobial resistance will be included in each issue of the newsletter. Educational materials will be provided by ORWG members and guest authors.

In this inaugural issue, we explain the role of the CLSI AST SC and the structure of CLSI AST SC meetings. We also provide a description of the types of information presented at these meetings and links to materials presented at past meetings. Through these newsletters, you will gain insight into the proceedings of the CLSI AST SC, which will help you determine if you might be interested in contributing to these activities.
What is the CLSI AST Subcommittee and where and when does it meet?

- The CLSI AST SC is a group of volunteers representing the government, industry, and the professions that research contemporary issues in AST and, through a consensus mechanism, constructs the recommendations included in CLSI AST documents.
- The CLSI AST SC is comprised of microbiologists, infectious diseases physicians, pharmacists, public health specialists, and others. There is one appointed chairholder, a vice-chairholder, 12 appointed voting members, 12–20 appointed advisors, and an unlimited number of reviewers.
- Meetings are held twice a year (January and June), generally in cities near the East or West coasts (warm weather venue in January!)
- The meeting begins Saturday evening with a workshop (see CLSI AST SC Meeting Educational Workshops, later in this issue) and runs through Tuesday afternoon.
- The chairholder appoints working groups to address specific AST issues that need attention. Issues might be raised by an appointed member of the CLSI AST SC, a reviewer, or someone from outside CLSI.
- Working groups assemble at the face-to-face meetings and also meet by conference call multiple times between meetings.
- Final voting occurs at plenary sessions during which all topics are reviewed.
- CLSI AST SC meetings are open to interested individuals. Anyone can volunteer information to guide an issue under discussion.
- To learn more about upcoming or past meetings, please go to www.clsi.org/standards/micro.

Intersted in reading the full newsletter? Visit www.clsi.org/ASTNewsUpdate to read the full version and access additional AST resources.

Upcoming Webinar

**November 15, 2016**


Mariana Castanheira, PhD
JMI Laboratories

Audrey N. Schuetz, MD, MPH, D(ABMM)
Mayo Clinic

For more information on CLSI webinars, visit www.clsi.org/edu/webinars.

CLSI 2017 AST Update Webinar

In just 90 minutes, learn about all of the recent changes in the new M100 tables!

**APHL/CLSI 2017 AST Update**

Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 1:00-2:30 PM ET
Thursday, February 2, 2017, 3:00-4:30 PM ET

Janet A. Hindler, MCLS MT(ASCP)
UCLA Health System

Audrey N. Schuetz, MD, MPH, D(ABMM)
Mayo Clinic

Visit: www.aphl.org/training/Pages/Webinars.aspx for more information on these upcoming webinars.