



2022 in Review

January 2023

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Introduction

ISAC's operational activities continued to increase in 2022 post-pandemic. ISAC also welcomed the return of face-to-face meetings with the first in-person Trustees' meeting since January 2020 which was held in September 2022.

Once Australia's international borders reopened in February 2022, it was confirmed that the 32nd International Congress of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (ICC) would go ahead in Perth, Australia after having been postponed from 2021.

However, the consequences of the pandemic continued to present challenges for delegates being able (or wanting) to travel such a long distance. Airfares also increased significantly both internationally and domestically which heavily impacted delegate numbers.

Despite the issues, the congress programme was well curated and the congress expertly organised by the Australian Society of Antimicrobials. The five workshops were very well attended and we are grateful to everyone who presented and participated, particularly representatives from ISAC's Member Societies. It was also an excellent opportunity to meet with ISAC's Executive Committee—the first in-person meeting of the Committee since 2019.

Although much of ISAC's focus was on the ICC, ISAC undertook various other educational initiatives. Early in 2022, ISAC launched the ISAC Academy website, a resource hosting both ISAC content and that of organisations with similar aims to ISAC. ISAC also launched its first E-module in collaboration with BSAC / Page Medical which has been very well received so far.

ISAC also continued to deliver its programme of educational webinars. Although these have previously been outsourced, the Executive Office begun hosting webinars in-house and it is hoped to carry this forward into 2022 so costs can be utilised for other educational initiatives.

Going forward, ISAC will hold its next strategy review meeting later in 2023 to determine how to better serve its Member Societies and Working Groups. Input from ISAC's Member Societies will be pivotal to the review.

If you have any feedback at this stage or would like to propose collaborative initiatives, please email secretariat@isac.world



Make sure to follow ISAC on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[YouTube](#)

We are happy to share details of any relevant events / activities / news you have on our website and on social media.

Executive Committee Updates

In accordance with the ISAC constitution, elected members of the Executive Committee nominate and select new Directors from within the committee. As such, we welcome **Prof. Souha Kanj** to the Board of Directors as ISAC President-Elect and **Prof. Heiman Wertheim** as ISAC Treasurer as of 30 November 2022.

ISAC solicited nominations from the ISAC Council (Elected Executive Committee members / Member Societies) to fill four vacant Ordinary Member positions on the ISAC Executive Committee. Eight candidates were shortlisted for the ballot and the following were elected onto the ISAC Executive Committee:

Fatma Amer (Egypt), Dale Fisher (Singapore), David Jenkins (UK) and Patricia Muñoz (Spain). The results of the ballot were announced at ISAC's first virtual Council meeting in November 2022. The new ISAC Executive Committee looks as follows:

ISAC Executive Committee 2022–2024

Trustees / Board of Directors



President
Geoff Coombs
Australia



President-Elect
Souha Kanj
Lebanon



Treasurer
Heiman Wertheim
Netherlands



Secretary General
Serhat Unal
Turkey



Past President
Andreas Voss
Netherlands

Executive Committee



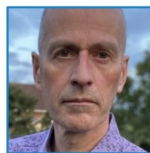
Fatma Amer
Egypt



Anuradha Chowdhary
India



Dale Fisher
Singapore



David Jenkins
UK



Patricia Muñoz
Spain



Kazuhiro Tateda
Japan

Ex-officio Members



Stefania Stefani
JGAR Editor in Chief



Jian Li
IJAA Editor in Chief



Jinxin Zhao
Early Career Rep

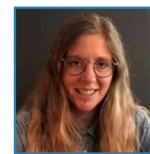


David Lye
APSCMI rep

Executive Office



Fiona MacKenzie
CEO



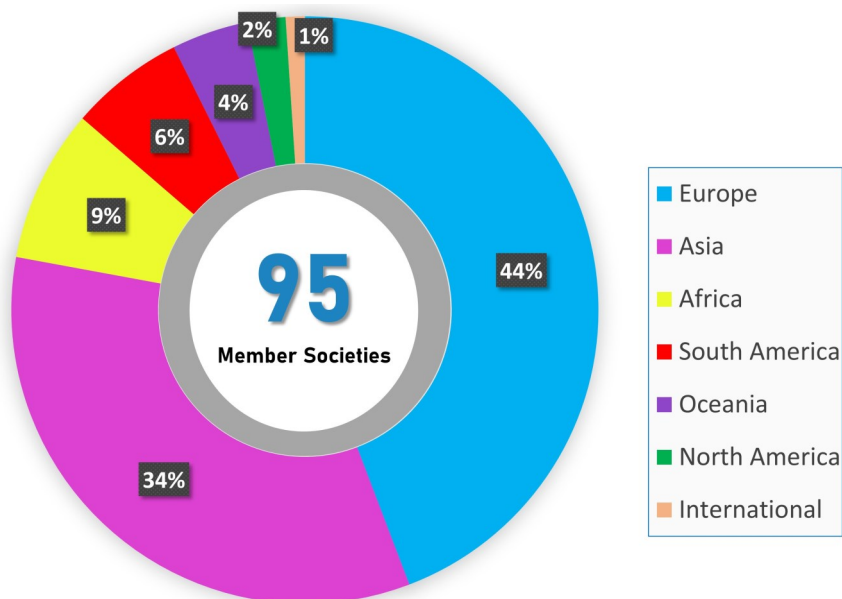
Fee Johnstone
Executive Officer

ISAC Internal Meetings



| | 2022 | 2021 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Trustees' Meetings | 9 (7 virtual, 2 in-person) | 12 |
| Executive Committee meetings | 4 (3 virtual, 1 in-person) | 5 |
| APUA Board meetings | 4 (3 virtual, 1 in-person) | 4 |

ISAC Member Societies



Two new Member Societies were welcomed to ISAC:

- **Hong Kong Society of Infectious Diseases**
- **Kosovo Society for Microbiology**

Resignations / removals

- **Kosovan Society of Chemotherapy and Infection**

Member Societies at the ISAC Council Meeting

There were 32 Member Societies represented at the ISAC Council Meeting in November 2022:

| | |
|---|---|
| Arab Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials | Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Society of Pakistan |
| Association of Microbiology in Bosnia and Herzegovina | Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Society of Pakistan |
| Association of Pathologists of Tanzania | Mediterranean Society of Chemotherapy and Infection |
| Australian Society of Antimicrobials (ASA) | Paediatric Infectious Disease Society of Thailand |
| Chinese Pharmacological Society | Panamerican Society of Infectious Diseases (API) |
| Federation of Infectious Diseases Societies of Southern Africa | Polish Medical Association, Section of Chemotherapy |
| Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology Specialty Society of Turkey (EKMUD) | Romanian Society for the Study of Chemotherapeutics |
| Japanese Society of Chemotherapy | Scottish Microbiology Association |
| Korean Society for Clinical Microbiology | Swiss Society for Infectious Diseases |

ISAC Working Groups

General Update

Working Groups on specialist subjects are engaged in advancing scientific knowledge in antimicrobial chemotherapy, clinical microbiology and infectious diseases through various activities: Peer Reviewed Publications Symposia, Consensus Conferences, International Surveys, Collaborative Research, Development and Implementation of Professional Guidelines.

If you are interested in joining an ISAC Working Group, please email secretariat@isac.world with a short CV.

| Active Working Groups | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Anti-Infective Pharmacology | APUA | Bone, Skin & Soft Tissue Infections |
| <i>Clostridium difficile</i> Infections | Early Career | Fungal Infections |
| Immunisations and Vaccines | Infection Prevention and Control | Infections in Catastrophic Areas |
| Infections in the ICU and Sepsis | MRSA | Mycobacteria |
| Pharmacoeconomics | Rapid Diagnostics and Biomarkers | Urinary Tract Infection |
| Viral Infections | Zoonoses (NEW) | |

Webinars

APUA

- The fight against antimicrobial resistance: a luta continua!

Early Career Working Group

- Introduction to adaptive clinical trial design
- Antimicrobial Pharmacometrics: Mathematical Models for Antimicrobial Research and Development

Bone, Skin & Soft Tissue Working Group

- Hot topics in skin, bone and joint infections

Viral Infections Working Group

- Dissemination of viral infections during mass gatherings
- Monkeypox: a new human threat?

Congresses

International Congress of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy

The following Working Groups were active at the 32nd ICC:

- Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics
- Anti-Infectives Pharmacology
- Early Career

International Conference on Antimicrobial Computational Pharmacology

- The Anti-Infectives Pharmacology Working Groups co-organised this congress which also involved the Early Career Working Group.

Publications

Annual Reports are requested at the end of each year for which Working Groups are given access to funds for educational activities. The Viral Infections Working Group published numerous papers in 2022. [View all ISAC publications on the ISAC Academy.](#)

ISAC Academy

The [ISAC Academy website](#) was launched at the start of 2022. It is an online, educational resource which hosts both ISAC and stakeholder educational material on key infection topics.

The material includes educational webinars, e-learning modules, podcasts, free access to peer reviewed published papers and much more.

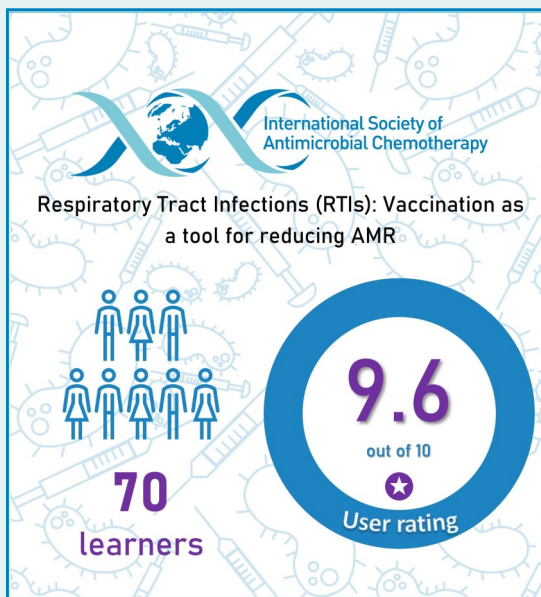
The ICC plenary and keynote sessions will also be promoted via the ISAC Academy.

To share any relevant resources, please email secretariat@isac.world



E-modules

Together with Page Medical, ISAC began developing three E-modules suggested by Working Groups.



[ACCESS THE FREE COURSE HERE](#)

Respiratory Tract Infections (RTIs): Vaccination as a tool for reducing AMR

ISAC's first e-module was launched in November 2022. The course has been created as part of the ISAC Academy series of short courses on infection topics. This module was developed by ISAC's Immunisations and Vaccines Working Group, led by Dr David McIntosh and Dr Mario Ramirez.

It is designed to help users build their understanding of how vaccinations can help to prevent antimicrobial resistance in relation to respiratory tract infections, such as pneumonia.

Feedback has been very positive so far:

The following are some comments received from users:

"Practical module. Simple and straight to the point. Kudos to the team."

"Highly important information."

"Very Informative and knowledgeable."

"Simplified explanations, and well explained diagrams."

Fever on Returning from the Tropics

The second module, also developed by ISAC's Immunisations and Vaccines Working Group, led by Dr David McIntosh, aims to launch in early 2023.





Infection Prevention & Control Massive Online Open Course (MOOC)

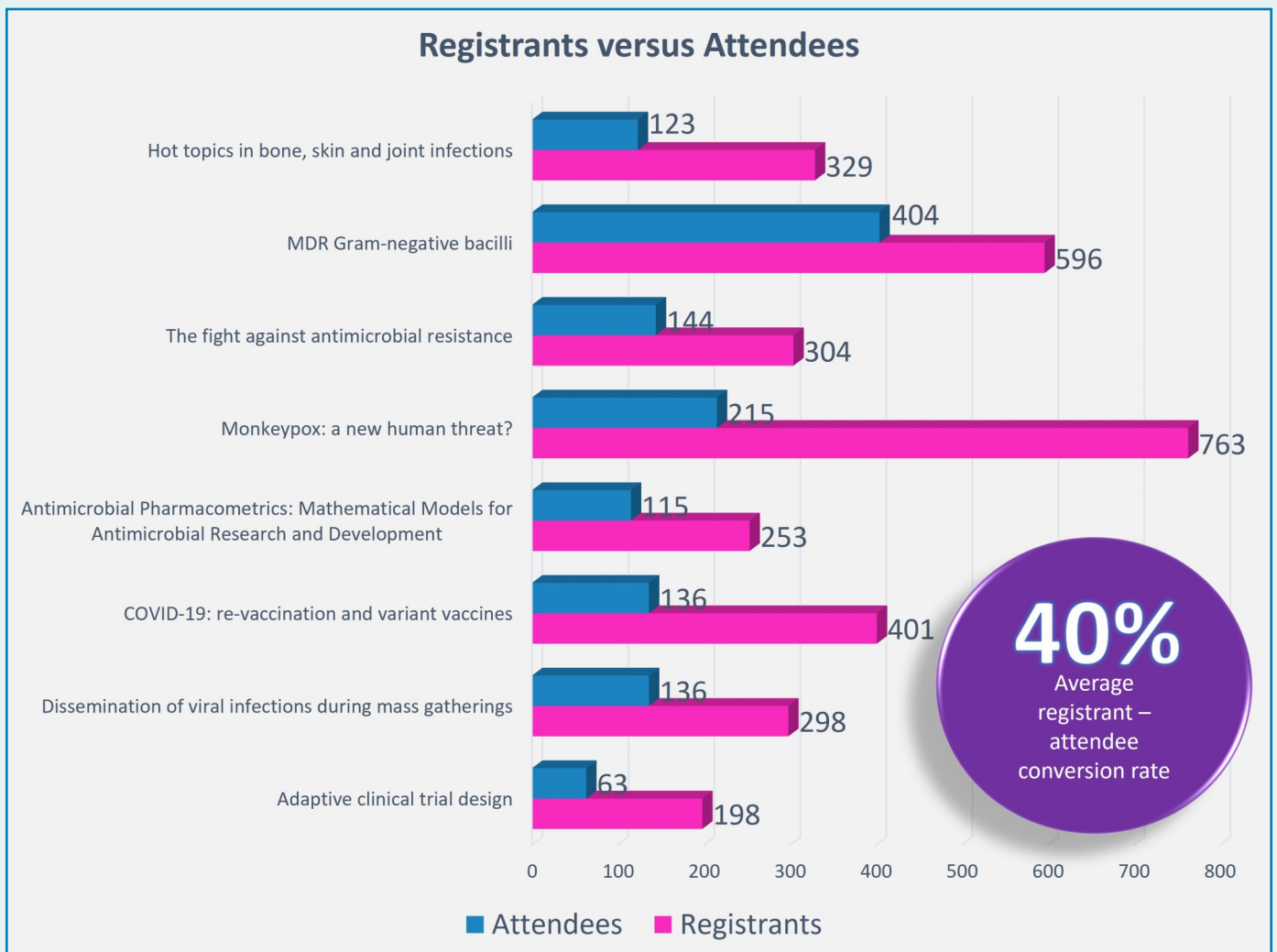


Under the leadership of A. Voss (ISAC President) and D. Jenkins (BSAC President), two Infection Prevention & Control MOOCs are being developed— one basic module and one advanced module.

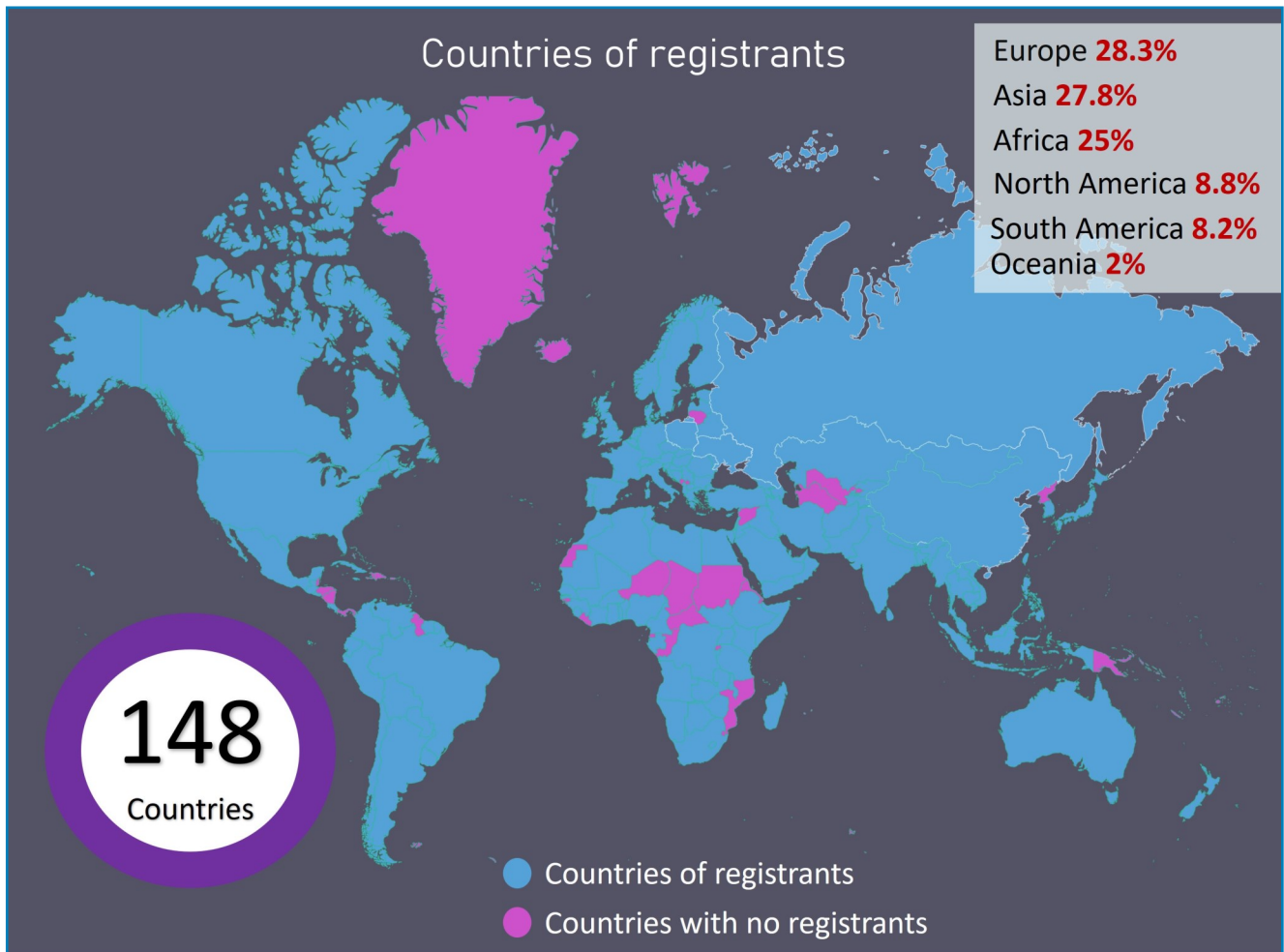
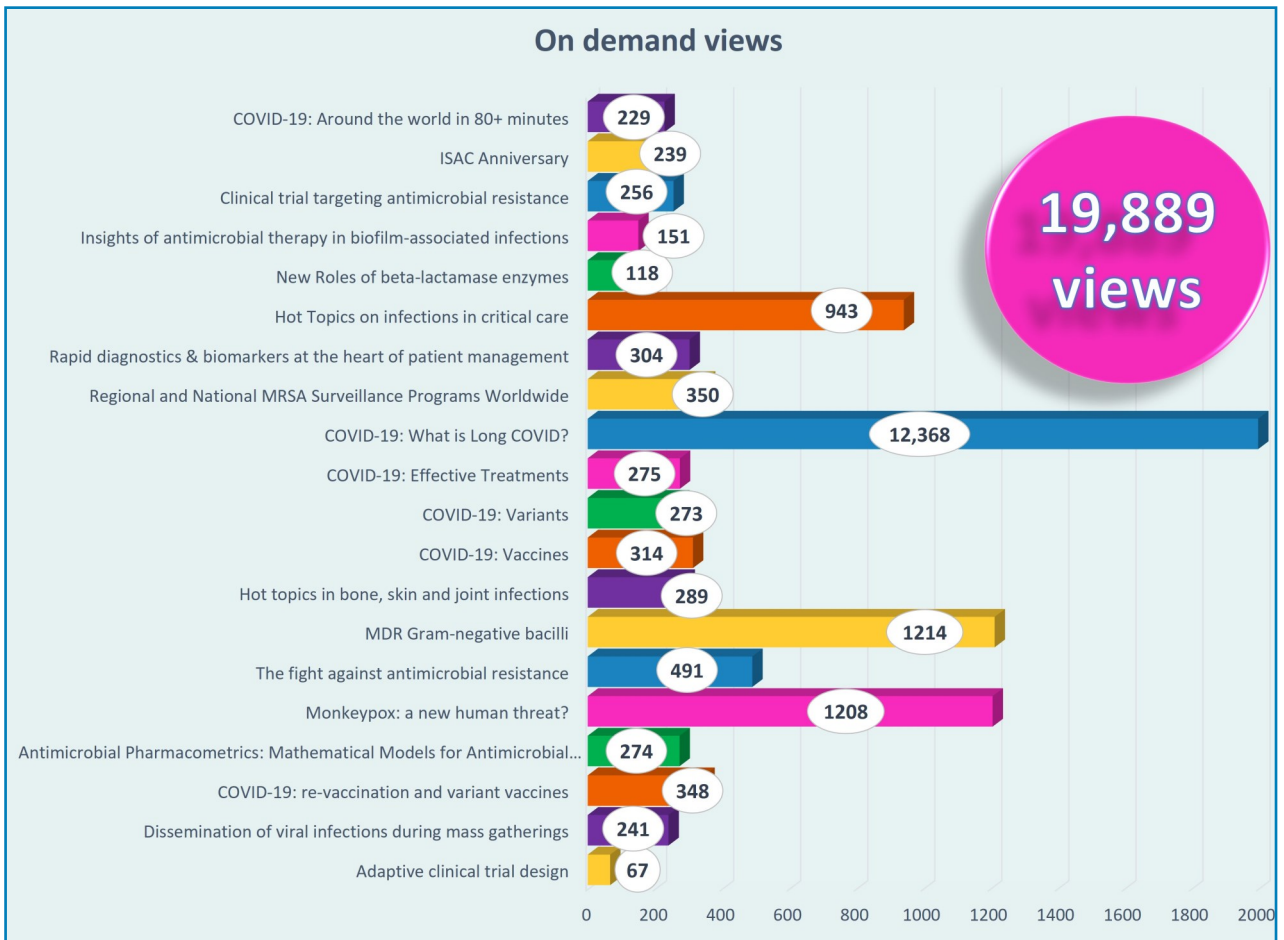
It is hoped to launch the first course in 2023.

Webinars by numbers

| |  |  |  |  |
|------|---|---|--|---|
| | Webinars | TOTAL Registrants | Average registrants | Certificates |
| 2022 | 8 | 3,142 | 393 | 854 |
| 2021 | 11 | 4,780 | 435 | 576 |



Lifetime statistics



International Congress of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (ICC)

The ICC, co-hosted by Antimicrobial Society of Antimicrobials (ASA), was held in Perth, Australia from 27—30 November 2022.



ICC 2024 / 2026

ISAC received bids from Japan, Turkey and Scotland to host the ICC in 2024 and 2026. The following was decided:

- ICC 2024 will take place in **Istanbul, Turkey** (3—6 November 2024)
- ICC 2026 will take place in **Glasgow, Scotland**



ISAC Awards 2022

The 2022 ISAC Awards were presented at the 32nd ICC.



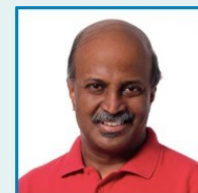
Hamao Umezawa Memorial Award (HUMA)

The HUMA is the highest award given by ISAC for exceptional contributions in the field of antimicrobial chemotherapy. It is generously sponsored by the Microbial Chemistry Research Foundation of Japan. The 2022 awardee is **Professor Robin Patel** who presented the HUMA lecture on "Microbial Theranostics – A Resistance Combatting Strategy" during the 32nd ICC.

Honorary Membership

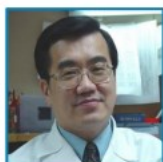
ISAC Honorary Membership is conferred upon persons who have brought outstanding contributions to antimicrobial chemotherapy.

The 2022 awardee is **Professor Paul Anath Tambyah** for his excellent leadership of the Asia Pacific Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infection.



Meritorious Membership

ISAC Meritorious Membership is conferred upon persons who have extraordinarily contributed to and supported the aims of ISAC. In 2022, ISAC Meritorious Membership was awarded to ISAC Executive Committee members who came to the end of their terms of office.



Po-Ren Hsueh
Executive Committee
2007 – 2022



Raphael Saginur
Executive Committee
2007 – 2022



Matthew Dryden
Executive Committee
2013 – 2022



Hiroshige Mikamo
Executive Committee
2017 – 2022



Jean-Marc Rolain
Editor in Chief of IJAA
2015 – 2022

Young Investigator Awards

ISAC Travel Awards were awarded to young investigators from ISAC Member Societies who submitted a high-scoring abstract for the 32nd ICC.

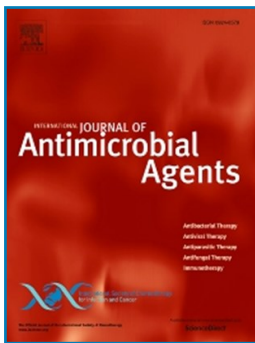
- **Hind Kadri** (American University of Beirut Medical Centre, Lebanon)
- **Zhilian Huang** (Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore)

ICC Travel Awards were awarded to young investigators from Australia / New Zealand who submitted a high-scoring abstract for the 32nd ICC.

- **Hooman Mirzaee** (The University of Queensland)
- **Yaqi Zhang** (Monash University)
- **Daniel Knight** (University Of Western Australia)
- **Renee Ng** (The University of Western Australia, Wal-Yan Respiratory Research Centre)



Journals



International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents (IJAA)

Editor: Prof. Jean-Marc Rolain

The journal saw its impact factor increase from 5.283 to 15.441.

As of 1 January 2023, Jian Li will take over Editorship of the journal although he has been working with Jean Marc Rolain on a handover since October 2022.

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Impact factor | 15.441 | 5.283 |
| Submissions | 1,434 | 1,515 |
| Acceptance rate | 9.5% | 11.5% |
| Fulltext downloads | 900,271 | 1,175,879 |

Top submitting countries

1. China
 2. India
 3. USA
 4. Brazil
 5. Republic of Korea
- 

Top accepted countries

1. China
 2. USA
 3. Italy
 4. Taiwan
 5. France
- 



Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance (JGAR)

Editor: Prof. Stefania Stefani

JGAR transitioned to a gold open access journal in January 2020 and the move has been successful, as demonstrated by the number of submissions.

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Impact factor | 4.349 | 4.035 |
| Submissions | 631 | 717 |
| Acceptance rate | 41% | 39% |
| Fulltext downloads | 699,492 | 770,640 |

Top submitting countries

1. China
 2. Iran
 3. United States
 4. Italy
 5. India
- 

Top accepted countries

1. China
 2. USA
 3. Italy
 4. Japan
 5. Brazil
- 

Journal Strategy Meetings

A full journal strategy review will take place during ECCMID 2023 in Copenhagen for both journals in collaboration with publisher Elsevier.



APUA

ALLIANCE FOR THE PRUDENT USE OF ANTIBIOTICS

APUA Board

APUA held three virtual Board meetings and one in-person Board meeting in 2022. M. Enani stepped down from her role as APUA Secretary. A new Secretary will be appointed. The APUA terms of reference are under review to bring the Board and member structure in line with ISAC's Working Groups.



Webinars

APUA hosted a webinar on “The fight against antimicrobial resistance” which focussed on AMR in low- to- middle income countries. ISAC's first three project grant awardees also presented their abstracts.

Pierre Tattévin represented APUA at the **Infections in Surgery, Global Webinar** in November 2022.

Global Treatment Guidelines

ISAC funded the Global Treatment Guidelines, an open access online antimicrobial treatment guideline, for a further six months. The 'ISAC AbxGuide' aims to provide expertise in an easy-to-use modular format that can be adapted to different settings. The project is underway and is led by H. Wertheim (the Netherlands) and S. Kanj (Lebanon).

ISAC / APUA Newsletters

Two newsletters were published in 2022, including one which was distributed in print at the 32nd ICC.

[View the newsletters here.](#) If your society would like to write a short article (up to 1,000 words), please send your proposals to secretariat@isac.world



Congresses

Pierre Tattévin (APUA Chair) represented at APUA at the 32nd International Congress of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (ICC) with a symposium on “Tools for Enhanced Antimicrobial Stewardship in Low- and Middle-Income Countries “

Antibiotic Cards

Under the leadership of Mushira Enani, the APUA Board began developing infographics on commonly used antibiotics. Ten antibiotic cards are planned in the first instance. These will be taken forward in 2023.

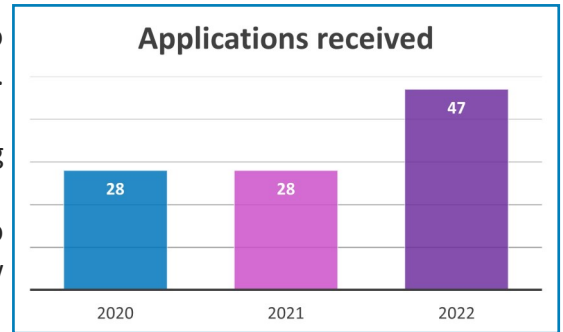
Position paper

APUA Board members have prepared a manuscript on antifungal stewardship which is currently under review.

ISAC Project Grants

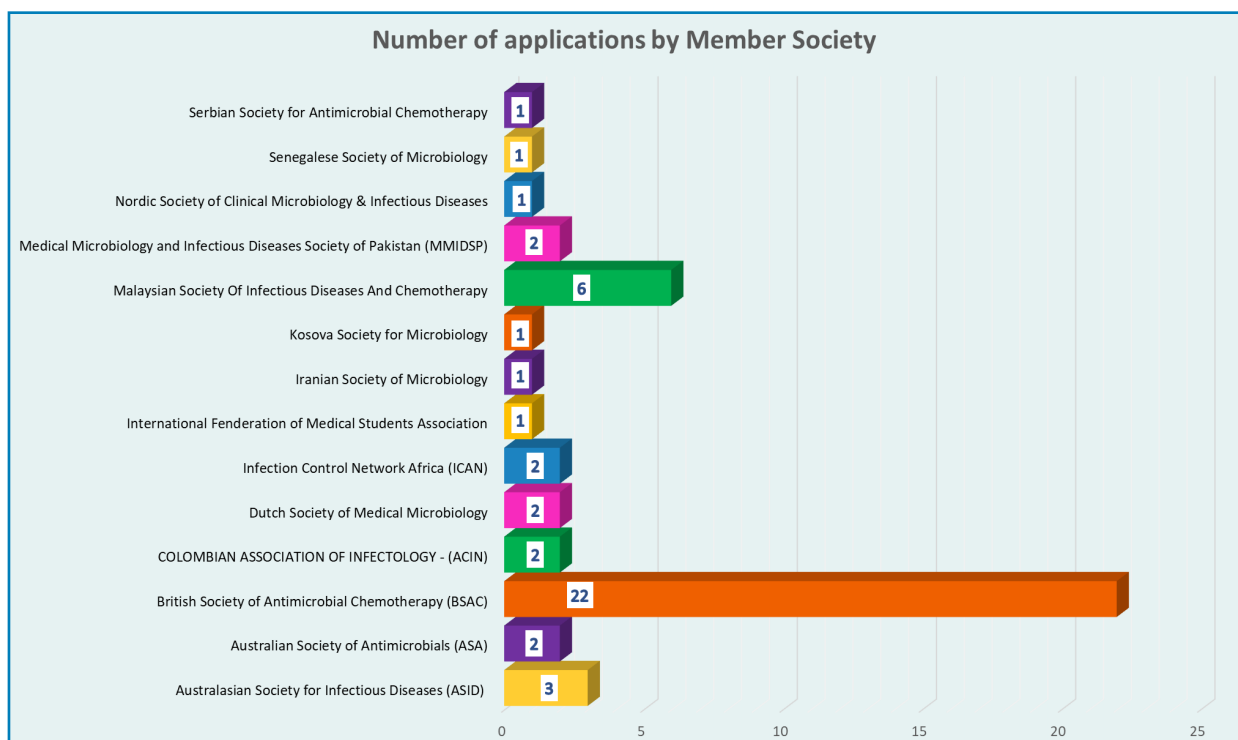
In 2020, ISAC launched the ISAC Project Grant initiative to award up to £10,000 to ISAC Member Society applicants. Applications were invited again in 2022 for the third year. Applicants were required to address one of the three following areas:

1. What are feasible and effective prevention strategies to prevent transmission of (resistant) pathogens in low resource settings?
2. What basic laboratory support does a healthcare system minimally need to tackle infectious diseases?
3. How do we improve antimicrobial use worldwide to ensure it is delivered only to those who need it?



Four projects will be funded:

1. **Impact of rapid diagnostic testing for chlamydia and gonorrhoea in Kumi, Uganda**
Erik Schaftenaar
2. **Improving the management of lower respiratory tract infections in children in Sri Lanka: An education program incorporating the evaluation of an algorithm to prompt judicious prescribing to reduce antimicrobial resistance, whilst understanding the burden of Streptococcus pneumoniae in an unvaccinated population**
Phoebe C. M. Williams
3. **Carriage of Antimicrobial Resistance in Fiji associated with Recent Exposure to International Healthcare (CARE-Fiji)**
Anton Peleg
4. **Evolution on lung-chip drives dose optimisation of antibiotic combination therapies: a systems and computational approach**
Jinxin Zhao



In memoriam—Professor Vladimir Krcmery



It is with great sadness that we shared the news of the passing of Professor Vladimir Krcmery, an eminent and highly respected colleague. Vladimir passed away on 20 December at the age of 62.

Vladimir was a leading international expert on tropical and infectious diseases who was known for undertaking foreign humanitarian missions in the most remote corners of the world.

Vladimir was not only a valued member of the ISAC Executive Committee from 2015 – 2019 and leader of the ISAC Working Group on Infections in Catastrophic Areas until his death, but a friend who always had incredible stories to share at the numerous ISAC meetings he attended.

Vladimir was an extraordinary person with a kind heart who leaves behind a strong legacy and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

ISAC colleagues close to Vladimir will share their memories and reflections of him as a colleague and friend in the new year but in the meantime, our deepest condolences are with his family, friends and colleagues.

