

16 June 2017

## Support for recognition of medical specialty Infectious Diseases in Spain

To the SEIMC officers

The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) continues to support the recognition of Infectious Diseases as a full independent medical specialty in Spain. This already is a reality in a large majority of European countries, and such a move is also recommended by the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS).

We are facing extraordinary challenges in the field of infectious diseases. We are confronted with problems including antimicrobial resistance, (re-)emerging diseases related to migration, refugees and travels, new challenges concerning HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases, and an increase in immunocompromised patients related to transplantation, to name just a few. Because of these issues and the challenges posed by new biological drugs and novel cancer therapies countries clearly require a fully specialised training programme – developed in close collaboration with specialists in Clinical Microbiology – to assure clinical practise with a minimum standard of quality.

The fact that most Spanish tertiary hospitals already feature units dedicated to Infectious Diseases clearly indicates that there is a distinct need for such services – as it is the case in all European countries. Clinical activity and research in Infectious Diseases by researchers in Spain is internationally well recognised. ESCMID is concerned that the training of young professionals in Infectious Diseases risks being compromised by the lack of a fully recognized speciality.

ESCMID is dedicated to improving the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of people suffering from infectious diseases in Europe and beyond. The recognition of Infectious Diseases as independent medical specialty in Spain would be an important step towards increasing the homogeneity of medical training and care in this very important area.

On behalf of ESCMID



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ESCMID President