

# Changing Landscape of Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing and Surveillance in Canada

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# The Changing Landscape

- Quality in test performance, standardization, breakpoint determination and surveillance requires global harmonization.
- Some strides made in harmonization of methodologies at the ISO level – participation by CSA Z252 Quality Laboratory Management Committee.
- Laboratories in Canada currently use CLSI Standards for test performance. Unfortunately they are slow to update and change and often not in tune with global harmonization. Relations with FDA are sometimes stormy and not productive. Canada may become caught through accreditation in areas which are problematic.

# Opportunities

- EUCAST (European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing)
  - Most European countries have National Antibiotic Committees (NACs) that form and inform EUCAST
  - EUCAST has been given responsibility for recommendation of breakpoints to the EMEA. (European Medicines Agency)
  - EUCAST maintains an online freely available database of information on antimicrobial susceptibility and resistance.

# Opportunities

- Group of Key Opinion Leaders in the United States has formed a NAC (called USCAST).
  - Working WITH FDA and EUCAST to harmonize breakpoints globally.
  - Will join with EUCAST as a global partner
  - Has invited a member from Canada as an Advisor to assist in the development of breakpoints and standardizing test methodologies.

# Moving Forward in Canada

- Working with CSA through the Z252 Quality Laboratory Management Committee
  - Project is being developed to create a Canadian NAC (to be called CCAST – Canadian Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing).
  - Agreement with EUCAST that once formed will (like the U.S.) be integrated with the EUCAST framework for global harmonization.
  - Suggested that an important role for a Canadian NAC would be in method standardization and development.
  - Would have a USCAST participant as an advisor to support harmonization in North America and globally.

STAY TUNED!