The annual European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID), is widely acknowledged as being one of the ‘must attend’ events on the medical sciences calendar. This year’s event in Amsterdam was no different, with a range of presentations showcasing the latest developments. AdvanDX also held a very popular networking event to allow microbiologists to meet and exchange ideas.

The poster session at ECCMID 2016 also showcased some of the work being done that demonstrates the utility and effectiveness of the AdvanDX QuickFISH™ rapid pathogen identification system. QuickFISH allows identification of pathogens to species level in just 20 minutes, directly from positive blood cultures.

These posters were of particular interest since they described studies that have been undertaken in UK hospitals rather than overseas, meaning that their findings can be more easily translated into the needs of the NHS.

A poster presented by Bharucha and co-workers at the Royal Free Hospital, London was entitled, “The potential utility of QuickFISH on positive blood cultures to inform antimicrobial stewardship decisions”. Their work showed that communicating Gram stain and QuickFISH results together, along with clinical context (including local resistance patterns), provided much better information for physicians to make treatment decisions. In particular, early decisions regarding antimicrobial intervention were facilitated. They concluded that the development of a treatment algorithm based on the results may enhance the clinical benefits of QuickFISH.

Additional work from the Royal Free Hospital was presented at ECCMID by Gorton et al., “Rapid differentiation of Staphylococcus aureus from coagulase negative Staphylococci direct from positive blood cultures: prospective comparison of four methods.” This project evaluated three rapid methods, including QuickFISH and compared the results to those obtained using the traditional tube coagulase test. It was demonstrated that QuickFISH was robust and reliable and offered advantages over a qPCR based method and MALDI-TOF. It also radically improved on the tube coagulase test. The authors concluded by suggesting a strategy based on using QuickFISH as the primary method by which S.aureus could be distinguished from Coagulase-Negative Staphylococci.

Taken together, the data presented in these posters further substantiate the growing evidence that QuickFISH can make a positive contribution to patient care and antimicrobial stewardship in NHS hospitals. This adds to a healthy body of worldwide data that continues to indicate the ability of QuickFISH to deliver real clinical benefits.

References:

Find out more about QuickFISH rapid assays for Staphylococcus, Candida, Enterococcus and Gram negative bacteria, visit: www.alphalabs.co.uk/quickfish