The 4th International *Clostridium difficile* Symposium (ICDS) was held at its traditional location – Bled, Slovenia – from 20 to 22 September 2012. The meeting once more brought together the main individuals and research groups from academia, industry and clinical settings.

The number of attendees again increased compared to the 3rd ICDS and reached 261 participants from 34 countries, and for the first time, all five continents were represented.

Session topics mirrored the extensive development of some aspects that were previously not well represented – among them immunology, sporulation/germination and comparative genomics – while more traditional topics included pathogenesis and virulence factors, physiology, diagnostics/clinical aspects/infection control and veterinary aspects. In addition, a round table session was held during the meeting on typing *C. difficile*, both current and future.

As previously, all presenters of papers, both oral and poster, were invited to submit a manuscript for possible inclusion in a collection of manuscripts within the *Journal of Medical Microbiology*. After stringent peer reviews, 16 papers were accepted for this issue of the journal. These again reflect the sessions of the meeting with papers on pathogenesis (3), antimicrobial resistance (2), genetics/genomics (2), immunology (2), clinical aspects (2) and epidemiology (2), and single papers on diagnostics, bacteriotherapy and sporulation.

The next meeting is already being planned for May 2015.

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