

## ISAPP 2023: Discussion Group 6

### ***C. difficile* and the microbiome – evolving roles in pathophysiology and management**

**Chairs: Eamonn Quigley and Colleen Kelly**

This workshop will explore the latest information on an infection that represents a major challenge for health care throughout the world. This will include an update on basic pathogenesis of *Clostridioides difficile* infections including interactions with the microbiome, as well as with the host immune response. Here, biological factors that increase susceptibility or enhance resistance to *Clostridioides difficile* infection will be explored. In recent decades significant shifts have been observed in the epidemiology of *Clostridioides difficile* infections; a reappraisal of the current status of this infection and of *Clostridioides difficile*-associated disease (CDAD) is, therefore, important and timely with attention, in particular, being given to the relative prevalence of health care- vs community-acquired infections. A core component of the workshop will be the role of bacteriotherapy in the prevention and treatment of CDAD. Issues that will be addressed will include the potential of bacteriotherapy, in all of its forms, in both primary prevention and in the prevention of recurrence following successful treatment of an infection. An update on treatment strategies (and antibiotics, in particular) in the context of the emerging epidemiology and bacteriology of *Clostridioides difficile* will be provided and the latest information on fecal microbiota transfer (FMT) and live biotherapeutics will be shared and discussed.