

## Foreword

*This is the third edition of the Report of the Scientific Board of « Observatoire National de l'Epidémiologie de la Résistance aux Antibiotiques » (ONERBA). After the first report in French in 2002 (1999-2001 data) and two versions of the second report in 2003 (2002 data): one in French and one in English, this 2004 annual report presents the 2003 data in a single volume including both the French and the English version. This bilingual edition will facilitate use of the data, particularly by European agencies. Data classification remains the same, but the 2004 edition will use an orange ink cartridge, to distinguish this edition from the previous two.*

*The eleven networks of microbiologists federated in ONERBA's Scientific Board and responsible for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance since ONERBA was created in 1997 are still active and have been joined by five other networks in 2000, 2002 and 2003.*

*A description of each network presents their characteristics and respective locations. The representative members of ONERBA's networks are the driving force of the Scientific Board.*

*Resistance statistics are classified by bacterial species and, whenever possible and relevant, they are also presented with reference to the parameters underlined by ONERBA's methodological guidelines published in 2000, which serve as "technical reference" for the networks: type of medical activity (outpatients, hospitalised patients...), type of sample, community or nosocomial origin.... Statistics are classified by network, making it possible to highlight their complementarity.*

*In the 2004 report, the Scientific Board focused on quantitative data: analysis of bacterial population distribution by level of susceptibility (type 1 information), not only for major bacterial species (*Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*), but also for less common species (*Salmonella*, *Morganella morganii*, *Proteus vulgaris*). These data will facilitate the work of the AFSSAPS in terms of updating antimicrobial spectrums.*

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*Thanks to the ongoing commitment of the networks to surveillance activities, enormous quantities of data have been collected and analysed in the past few years. Therefore, it becomes now possible to analyse trends in susceptibility to antimicrobials. These data will be particularly useful for updating antimicrobial spectrums, but also will make it possible to measure, over a period of years, the impact of the actions implemented in France to preserve antibiotic efficacy.*

*All the data presented in this report and in the previous reports are available on ONERBA's website [www.onerba.org](http://www.onerba.org).*

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