



ETS to participate at FIS 2017

Latest research on microbial contamination in hospital washrooms to be shared during Symposium session on 2 December

Brussels, Belgium – 22 November 2017 - The European Tissue Symposium ([ETS](#)) has confirmed its presence at FIS 2017 taking place at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham from 30 November – 2 December. The annual conference of the Federation of Infection Societies (FIS) will gather scientists, microbiologists and other experts from around the world.

In addition to taking a booth at Stand 21 in Hall 3 throughout the event, ETS will be hosting a Symposium slot – ***“Drying hands matters – is the risk worthwhile”*** – at 10.00h on Saturday 2 December in Hall 1.

Leading microbiologist, Professor Mark Wilcox of the University of Leeds and Leeds Teaching Hospitals will present the results of his latest pilot study on microbial contamination in a hospital washroom environment. The study, sponsored by ETS, examined two men’s washrooms within one hospital for seven days during a three month period. One offered single-use paper towels as the method of hand drying after hand washing, and the other a jet air dryer. The washrooms were used by hospital staff, visitors and patients.

The findings could have significant implications for the choice of hand-drying method in public washrooms. Particularly, in a healthcare setting where limiting the spread of micro-organisms is paramount, due to the increased susceptibility of patients to infection and the greater prevalence of potential and/or antimicrobial-resistant pathogens.

“We are delighted that Professor Wilcox will be sharing the results of his latest research at such a prestigious event,” commented ETS chairman, Fanis Papakostas. “Appropriate hand drying after hand washing is essential in helping to minimise the spread of infection and the type of hand-drying device offered in public washrooms should be carefully chosen - especially where there are overriding cross-contamination concerns such as in hospitals and the food industry.”

Previous studies undertaken by the Universities of Leedsⁱ and Westminsterⁱⁱ have shown that electric hand dryers are more likely to disperse bacteria and viruses than single-use towels, generating aerosols that can contaminate the air, the washroom environment and other users.

Ends

About ETS

ETS is the European Tissue Paper Industry Association. The members of ETS represent the majority of tissue paper producers throughout Europe and around 90% of the total European tissue production. ETS was founded in 1971 and is based in Brussels. For more information www.europeantissue.com

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ⁱ <http://europeantissue.com/hygiene/studies/potentialcontaminationenvironment2014/>

ⁱⁱ <https://europeantissue.com/hygiene/studies/hand-dryingsingleuse-towels/>