

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

### **80,000 DEATHS COULD BE AVOIDED WITH NEW ANTIBIOTICS**

**6 April 2015–**

A report published today by the Cabinet Office for the first time estimates that 80,000 people could die each year in the UK from antibiotic resistant infections. The National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies states that this number may die each year if no new antibiotics are introduced

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419549/20150331\\_2015-NRR-WA\\_Final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419549/20150331_2015-NRR-WA_Final.pdf) and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-32193606>

This is an alarming figure, particularly as it is likely to be the very young or very old who would be most at risk. Antibiotic Research UK, the world's first charity devoted to finding new antibiotics, is trying to do something about the problem before it becomes a medical catastrophe. Founded in mid-2014 by some of the country's leading scientific and clinical experts in antibiotic resistance research, the charity aims to find new antibiotics with the first to be in clinical use by 2020. The charity is funded by public donation and hopes to replace the hole left by many of the big pharmaceutical companies who have withdrawn from antibiotic drug development.

Professor Colin Garner, Antibiotic Research UK's Chief Executive says 'The Risk Register report is a recognition that antibiotic resistance will become a major health threat if we don't do something about the problem now. Our charity is determined to succeed in its goal of finding new antibiotics.

David Battie, Star Presenter on the BBC TVs Antiques Roadshow, who was a victim of an antibiotic resistant infection said recently 'no I am not dead but I was nearly' - you may have heard that I had quietly passed on to that auction house reject shelf in the sky; actually, it was close (see <http://www.antibioticresearch.org.uk/david-battie-star-of-bbcs-antiques-roadshow-writes-to-support-antibiotic-research-uk/>)

David's near death experience shows just how important it is that antibiotic resistant infections can be treated with new drugs. The charity aims to raise up to £30 million, through a combination of traditional fundraising, corporate sponsorship, trusts and foundations as well as newer fundraising methods such as crowd funding.

ENDS

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Antibiotic Research UK – developing new antibiotics

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About ANTRUK (see attached)

and [www.antibioticresearch.org.uk](http://www.antibioticresearch.org.uk)

## Notes to Editors

### **About Antibiotic Research UK**

Antibiotic Research UK is the world's first charity to tackle the problem of antibiotic resistant infection. We aim to develop one new antibiotic therapy by 2020 with further antibiotics being introduced over the next decade. **To reach our goals we need to raise £30 million over the next 5-7 years.**

Antibiotic Research UK has the support of some of the United Kingdom's leading scientific and clinical experts in antibiotic resistance, drawn from 14 of the country's top universities and 12 specialty pharmaceutical or support companies.

The problem of antibiotic resistance (superbugs) has been highlighted by the World Health Organisation, the UK Prime Minister, the President of the USA, the UK Chief Medical Officer and Jim O'Neill, chair of the Government's Review of Antimicrobial Resistance. David Cameron talked about medicine going back to the 'dark ages' if we didn't tackle this impending health disaster. Antibiotic Research UK is a registered charity and is uniquely placed to develop new therapies which would be made available to all affected by antibiotic resistant infections throughout the world.