

PRESS RELEASE

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ANTIBIOTIC RESEARCH UK (ANTRUK) ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF THE GREAT BRITISH TEA PARTY

5 October 2015

Antibiotic Research UK (ANTRUK), a charity founded in 2014 to save modern medicine from the onslaught of superbugs, is delighted to announce the launch of **THE GREAT BRITISH TEA PARTY** which will take place all over the UK in the afternoon of Wednesday 18 November, European Antibiotic Awareness Day.

THE GREAT BRITISH TEA PARTY will be held annually on this day and new and existing supporters are being encouraged to organise tea parties to generate funds for our research programme, and at the same time increase awareness of antibiotic resistance, a worldwide phenomenon with public health implications for humankind.

Superbugs are fast becoming an increasing problem in hospitals and the community as bacteria become more and more resistant to our existing antibiotics. Dame Sally Davies, the Chief Medical Officer for England, recently said that if we ignore the problem now our grandchildren will blame us for not acting to address this global issue (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b05wgg4g/panorama-antibiotic-apocalypse>). There is a significant risk that future generations will not enjoy the same benefits of medicine as we do today. All the medical procedures currently taken for granted, for example cancer treatment, open heart surgery, hip and knee replacement and organ transplantation will become much more perilous.

Professor Colin Garner, Chief Executive of ANTRUK, said 'This is an exciting and engaging new fund raising initiative which my fellow Trustees and I hope will capture people's imagination. We want as many **GREAT BRITISH TEA PARTY'S** to be held up and down the country as possible – thereby contributing funds to support our vital work'. Dr David Brown, chair of the Charity's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee said 'the research programme which the Charity's scientific and clinical experts have drawn up is both exciting and innovative. Once we have raised the money we will seek bids from universities to carry out our novel work on Antibiotic Resistance Breakers'.

The charity's immediate task is to raise £250,000 to fund our first research programme to tackle superbugs. So far we have secured £25,000, from a range of supporters from across the UK. All funds generated from The Great British Tea Party will be devoted to this research initiative. The charity, with some of the UK's top antibiotic resistance researchers and scientists behind it, aims to develop its first new antibiotic therapy by the early 2020's. The charity needs to raise up to £30 million on the next 5-7 years, through a combination of traditional fundraising, corporate sponsorship, giving by trusts and foundations as well as newer fundraising methods such as crowd funding over the next five years.

ENDS

CONTACT DETAILS

[Antibiotic Research UK – developing new antibiotics](#)

A charity registered in England and Wales; Number 1157884

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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 Dame Sally Davies and Lord 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 (no 1157884) and is uniquely placed to develop new therapies which would be made available to all affected by antibiotic resistant infections throughout the world. It's first scientific programme has been developed by the charity's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee and further details can be found here - <http://www.antibioticresearch.org.uk/for-the-public/>

About European Antibiotic Awareness Day

The European Antibiotic Awareness Day is an annual European public health initiative that takes place on 18 November every year to raise awareness about the threat to public health of antibiotic resistance and the importance of prudent antibiotic use. The latest data confirms that across the European Union the number of patients infected by resistant bacteria is increasing and that antibiotic resistance is a major threat to public health. Prudent use of antibiotics can help stop resistant bacteria from developing and help keep antibiotics effective for the use of future generations. <http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/EAAD/Pages/Home.aspx>