

PRESS RELEASE

ANTIBIOTIC RESEARCH UK WELCOMES O'NEILL COMMISSION'S FIRST REPORT; ANNOUNCES MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS WITH THE UK BIOINDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

York, UK

Date: 12 December 2014

Professor Colin Garner, Chief Executive of Antibiotic Research UK (ANTRUK) (www.antibioticresearch.org.uk), the world's first charity to tackle the impending health disaster of antibiotic resistance, welcomed the publication of the first report by the O'Neill Commission on antibiotic resistance. Set up by the Prime Minister, Jim O'Neill and his colleagues were tasked with looking at the economic and societal costs of antibiotic resistance. The figures published today by the O'Neill commission make sobering reading. They estimate by 2050 there will be 10 million deaths a year from antibiotic resistant infections at a cost of up to \$100 trillion. Professor Garner said 'the O'Neill commission's first report highlights just how important the work of a charity like ANTRUK could be in tackling this problem. We have reached the tipping point, where there is general agreement that new antibiotics, better antibiotic stewardship of existing antibiotics and better diagnostics are needed. We now require to turn words into action which requires a quantum increase in funding for this neglected disease area'.

On the same day that the O'Neill Commission reported its findings, the UK's premier trade association of pharmaceutical and biotechnology, the UK BioIndustry Association (BIA) has announced that ANTRUK will be their charity of the year in 2015. The first major fundraising event will be a Gala Dinner with over 600 guests to be held at the Natural History Museum, London at the end of January.

Steve Bates, Chief Executive Officer, BIA said:

"Antibiotic resistance is a major global problem with significant implications for public health. The biotech industry will play a key role in the solution to antibiotic resistance through the development of new antibiotics, diagnostics and novel therapies. Today I am representing the BIA at a meeting at the Wellcome Trust to discuss Jim O'Neill's crucial review on this matter and the BIA will also continue to advocate on this issue

on the global stage as part of the newly formed International Council of Biotech Associations. The BIA pushed hard for antimicrobial resistance to be on this agenda and this announcement shows our continued commitment to this issue. We are delighted to be able to support the work of Antibiotic Research UK and raise the profile of this new charity.”

Professor Colin Garner, Chief Executive, ANTRUK said:

“We are delighted to have been chosen by the BIA as their charity of the year for 2015 in recognition of our pioneering efforts to highlight the growing problem of antibiotic resistance and to find new therapies. As a new charity we are keen to see as many people as possible being made aware about our objective of developing new therapies against antibiotic resistant bacteria. The BIA is a powerful body whose members represent some of the UK’s leading pharma and biotech companies. By being selected as the BIA’s 2015 charity means that Antibiotic Research UK will be made known to some of the country’s most influential and knowledgeable drug developers.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Antibiotic Research UK

'Antibiotic Research UK – developing new antibiotics' (ANTRUK) (www.antibioticresearch.org.uk) is a charity founded in the summer of 2014 by a group of eminent UK scientists, clinicians and professionals drawn from fourteen of the UK's leading universities as well as a similar number of SMEs and all knowledgeable in antibiotic resistance. The network's focus was on tackling the impending medical catastrophe of antimicrobial resistance.

Antibiotic resistance is becoming a major health issue in the UK; without new antibiotics coming on stream, medicine could go back to a pre-antibiotic era. The problem has been highlighted by the WHO, the Chief Medical Officer, Dame Sally Davies and the Prime Minister. The incidence of antibiotic resistant infections is on the rise with 5,000 people dying each year from antibiotic resistant infections in the UK and some 25,000 in Europe. If no new antibiotics are developed in the next 10-15 years then much of modern medicine as currently practiced, including cancer treatment, organ transplantation and premature baby deliveries, will become increasingly impossible.

Finance for the charity's research programmes will need to be raised from individuals, foundations and trusts, corporate sponsorship and social media campaigns. ANTRUK aims to develop one new antibiotic therapy by 2020 with further antibiotics coming on-stream in the next decade. To achieve our goals we require to raise at least £30 million in the next 5-7 years.

ANTRUK CONTACT DETAILS

Antibiotic Research UK – developing new antibiotics

A charity registered in England and Wales; Number 1157884

Chief Executive: Professor Colin Garner

Email: colin.garner@antibioticresearch.org.uk

Tel: 01904 468719

Mob: 07956 366133

Website: www.antibioticresearch.org.uk

Follow us on



antibioticresearchuk



@1ANTRUK



Antibiotic Research UK



+AntibioticresearchOrgUk/about

BioIndustry Association

Founded 25 years ago at the infancy of biotechnology, the BioIndustry Association (BIA) is the trade association for innovative enterprises involved in UK bioscience. Members include emerging and more established bioscience companies; pharmaceutical companies; academic, research and philanthropic organisations; and service providers to the bioscience sector. The BIA represents the interests of its

members to a broad section of stakeholders, from government and regulators to patient groups and the media. Our goal is to secure the UK's position as a global hub and as the best location for innovative research and commercialisation, enabling our world-leading research base to deliver healthcare solutions that can truly make a difference to people's lives.

For further information, please go to www.bioindustry.org and twitter.com/BIA_UK

Contact

BIA

Pamela Learmonth

Director of Public Affairs and Communications, BioIndustry Association

Email: plearmonth@bioindustry.org

Phone: 020 7630 2188

