

Antibiotic Research UK's Chief Executive Calls for a UK Focused Action Plan to Tackle Antibiotic Resistance

Five Point Action Plan Issued

For immediate release

Antibiotic Research UK announced at its Annual Lecture given by Dame Sally Davies, England's Chief Medical Officer, a Five Point Action Plan to Tackle Antibiotic Resistance in the UK

Key points include:

- 1) A call to form a GRAND ALLIANCE of the UK government, the pharmaceutical industry, collective medical research charities, academics and the public to produce a UK focussed GRAND STRATEGIC PLAN
- 2) A proposal that regional Antibiotic Resistance Registers be created in the same way that we have regional cancer registers
- 3) The government to introduce a re-imburement model **NOW** for pharmaceutical companies so that they recommence their antibiotic drug development programmes.
- 4) That the Third Sector must be part of the resistance solution and must be allowed to apply for government funding.
- 5) The creation of a £100 million UK Antibiotic Discovery Fund with monies coming from government, pharma and medical charities. The pharma money could be a *quid pro quo* for agreeing a reimbursement model.

Antibiotic resistant infections are predicted to lead to 10 million deaths per year globally by 2050 at a cost of up to \$100 trillion to the world economy. In the UK at least 12,000 people per year die from resistant infections (a likely underestimate).

13 October 2017: Following their Annual Lecture given in London by Dame Sally Davies this week, Antibiotic Research UK announced a five-point action plan which they would like to see adopted by all stakeholders with an involvement with antibiotic resistance. The purpose of the plan is to move the debate from a global and national level to a local level since it is only local actions that will impact the resistance threat to modern medicine.

Professor Colin Garner, chief executive of Antibiotic Research UK says: "we believe the Third Sector has a pivotal role to play in tackling antibiotic resistance. Numerous surveys have shown that charities can provide a bridgehead between official organisations and the public. We want to see a GRAND ALLIANCE formed of all stakeholders including other medical research charities that focus on cancer treatments, heart surgery, organ transplantation, childbirth, joint replacement etc. Dame Sally Davies was quoted as saying following recent meeting in Berlin that this resistance is with us now, killing people. This is a serious issue that is causing deaths. If it was anything else, people would be up in arms about it. But because it is hidden they just let it pass. It does not really have a 'face' because most people who die of drug-resistant infections, their families just think they died of an uncontrolled infection. It will only get worse unless we take strong action everywhere across the globe. We need some real work on the ground to make a difference or we risk the end of modern medicine. The charity needs to raise £600,000 in 2018 to fund the next phase of its research where it will progress leads that it has identified as well as launching its education programme.

Notes to Editors

About Antibiotic Research UK (ANTRUK)

Professor Colin Garner, an academic formerly based at the University of York, founded ANTRUK in June 2014, following discussions held with some of the UK's leading academic scientists and clinicians who had formed an informal network known as Antibiotic Discovery UK. There was general agreement amongst this community that the country that discovered penicillin and some of the other leading antibiotics in common use today had let this area of drug development slip backwards to such an extent that there was very little research now being conducted in the area. The charity was registered in July 2014.

In a recent scientific paper by Professor Laura Piddock and her colleague Eilis Bragginton from the University of Birmingham, they estimated that just £95 million was spent on antibiotic research (0.7% of all UK medical research funding). This compares with £500 million spent annually on cancer research and a total annual expenditure on medical research of £1.4 billion. Without effective antibiotics the position of medicine would go 'back to the dark ages' as Dame Sally has stated. It is against this backdrop that ANTRUK has been created with the aim of developing new antibiotic therapies, educating the public and professionals about the problem and providing patient support to those affected by AMR. The Charity's mission is to provide a step change in developing new antibiotics with a view to developing one new antibiotic therapy by the early 2020's. Typically it takes 10-15 years to develop a new drug but ANTRUK is using some novel methods which short-circuit this process including taking drugs into patients much earlier than currently practiced (accelerating the process of drug development from lab bench to bedside). In order to achieve this medium term objective, ANTRUK needs to raise up to £600,000 in the next year using social media campaigns, crowd funding, applications to Foundations and Trusts, donations by the general public and private donors, and corporate sponsorship.