



## News Release

### **Professor Tim Walsh discoverer of the colistin resistance gene MCR-1 to give 2019 Antibiotic Research UK Annual Lecture**

*Includes details of ANTRUK's Annual Lecture, Thursday 24 October 2019*

The world's first charity, Antibiotic Research UK, formed to tackle bacterial antibiotic resistance (superbugs) is celebrating its fifth birthday by organising an Annual Lecture and Minisymposium in London (see <https://www.antibioticresearch.org.uk/delighted-announce-professor-tim-walsh-will-give-antruks-2019-annual-lecture/>). The keynote speaker will be Professor Tim Walsh of Cardiff University, a world authority on antibiotic resistance transmission.

Tim whilst carrying out research in China, found together with his collaborators that overuse of colistin, our last resort antibiotic, in pigs gave rise to colistin resistance in the animals gut bacteria *E coli*. Resistance was due to a gene called MCR-1 which has been subsequently found in bacteria in many countries around the world including the UK. MCR-1 is a mobile gene that can easily be transferred to other bacteria. As a result of Professor Walsh's findings, the Chinese government banned the use of colistin in farming.

This research highlights a problem that still has not been adequately addressed around the world. Should some antibiotics be reserved for human therapeutic use only?

Professor Colin Garner, ANTRUK's Chief Executive commented 'we are delighted that one of the world's foremost experts in antibiotic resistance will be giving our Annual Lecture on the occasion of our fifth birthday. He joins a distinguished list of previous speakers including the former Chief Medical Officer, Dame Sally Davies. It will be fascinating to learn about Professor Walsh's research into one of the world's most pressing medical issues'.

In addition to the keynote speakers, presentations will be made by recipients of the charity's 2018 small research grant awards. Details of the award research programmes

funded by Antibiotic Research UK can be found in the Meeting Programme which is attached.

### **For further information**

Please contact Peter Gibson on 0759 202 8142 or email [media@antibioticresearch.org.uk](mailto:media@antibioticresearch.org.uk)

Learn more about Antibiotic Research UK (ANTRUK) at [www.antibioticresearch.org.uk](http://www.antibioticresearch.org.uk)

Tickets for the event can be found here - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/antibiotic-research-uk-annual-lecture-and-minisymposium-tickets-62576989460>

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### **About Professor Tim Walsh, Cardiff University**

Professor Timothy R Walsh is currently Professor of Medical Microbiology and Antibiotic Resistance at Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales, and leads an active research programme in antibiotic resistance. He has published/presented over 400 papers in particular on the characterization of  $\beta$ -lactamases within Gram-negative bacteria, in journals such as Clinical Microbiological Reviews, Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews, Lancet Infectious Diseases, Nature and Lancet. His research has been supported by a wide variety of funding bodies including the Wellcome Trust, MRC, European Union, IMI, British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, BBSRC, and Gates Foundation. He acts as an advisor to the WHO and MSF, and is also is Director to the South Asian Antibiotic Resistance Program