

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Embargoed to 0001 Thursday January 21

### **ANTIBIOTIC RESEARCH UK WELCOMES JOINT DECLARATION ON SUPERBUGS AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, DAVOS**

Antibiotic Research UK, the world's first charity tackling antibiotic resistance welcomes the declaration by 80 firms and pharmaceutical giants on the need to tackle antibiotic resistance. The declaration is being launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos and calls on governments and industry around the world to work together to tackle the rise in so-called superbugs. Clearly this is a major step forward says Professor Colin Garner, the Charity's Chief Executive. However it will be many years before any real progress can be made since it takes 15-20 years to develop a new drug and costs £100's of millions. On the other hand, the problem of antibiotic resistance is here and now and getting worse. We have been far too cavalier in the use of the precious antibiotics we have and we need as a matter of urgency to see a dramatic reduction in antibiotic prescribing. We need to convert fine words into an action plan at a global, regional, national and local level. At the moment too many different bodies are making proposals which are fine but these require real money to be found which at present is lacking. We need to draw lessons from how we tackled infectious diseases such as HIV / AIDS where concerted efforts by the pharmaceutical industry, national governments and the WHO all came together to find new drugs. However the original AIDS drugs were unaffordable for those infected in the developing world in particular. It will be interesting to see how the pharmaceutical industry deals with public need and their desire to make a profit.

This is where charities such as Antibiotic Research UK can step in since they have no need to make a financial return and can put patients before profit. It is surprising in the Press Release about the Joint Declaration that no mention was made of the charity sector playing a role but simply governments and industry. Some of the major medical research charities such as the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust are spending significant funds on infectious disease research. We need to include the charity sector as well as government and the pharmaceutical industry to tackle this most pressing of medical problems.

**Ends**

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A charity registered in England and Wales; Number 1157884  
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#### **About Antibiotic Research UK**

Antibiotic Research UK is the world's first charity to tackle the problem of antibiotic resistant infections. We aim to develop one new antibiotic therapy by the early 2020's 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. Its 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/>

In 2015 the chief highlights for the charity were;

- Raised nearly £400,000 since formation towards funding our innovative research programme to develop one new antibiotic therapy by the early 2020's
- We had a lot of media coverage during the year including being on the BBC News, Sky, ITV, Channel and multiple national and local radio slots – our Press Releases can be seen at <http://www.antibioticresearch.org.uk/press-releases/>
- We published, in collaboration with Exasol AG, heat maps of antibiotic prescribing patterns throughout England (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-34790038>) (no other regions of the UK have the same prescribing information) and finally
- The Archbishop of York agreed to become Patron
- We developed our first research programme which will commence in the first half of 2016

Press Association Release

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**'SUPERBUGS' MUST BE FOUGHT BY GOVERNMENTS AND INDUSTRY, URGES DECLARATION**

By Jane Kirby, Press Association Health Editor

More than 80 firms and pharmaceutical giants have issued a joint declaration on the need to tackle antibiotic resistance.

The declaration is being launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos and calls on governments and industry to work together to tackle the rise in so-called superbugs.

Antibiotic resistance is an increasing global threat and occurs when bacteria adapt and find new ways to survive the effects of antibiotics.

Estimates for the EU showed there are 400,000 cases of reported antibiotic-resistant infections each year, with 25,000 deaths.

Drug-resistant infections could kill an extra 10 million people across the world every year by 2050 if they are not tackled, figures also suggest.

The new Declaration on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance - drafted and signed by 83 companies and eight industry associations from 16 countries - sees commercial drug and diagnostic developers agreeing on ways to develop new medicines and vaccines, as well as preserving the effects of existing drugs.

This includes more rapid tests for illness to improve how antibiotics are prescribed, and cutting incentives that reward medics for prescribing antibiotics in large volumes.

It calls on governments to look at the financing arrangements for the research and development of new drugs, as well as antibiotic pricing to reflect the benefits they bring.

Furthermore, it says there is a need to reduce the link between the profitability of an antibiotic and the volume sold.

It also calls for more training for professionals in prescribing antibiotics, and support for initiatives aimed at ensuring affordable access to antibiotics in all parts of the world.

The declaration will be updated every two years.

Lord Jim O'Neill, chairman of the review on antimicrobial resistance, which will report to Prime Minister David Cameron, said: "This declaration from industry is a major step forward in establishing a properly global response to the challenges of drug resistance.

"The pharmaceutical industry, as well as society at large, cannot afford to ignore the threat of antibiotic resistance, so I commend those companies who have signed the declaration for recognising the long-term importance of revitalising research and development in antibiotics, and for their leadership

in overcoming the difficult issues of collective action at play here."

Sir Andrew Witty, chief executive of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), one of the signatories, said: "At GSK we have a long heritage and expertise in antibiotics, we've been researching and providing these medicines since the Second World War and we remain committed to continuing in this area.

"I'm proud that in spite of the scientific challenges of antibiotic research, we still have an active pipeline, which includes a potential new and first-in-class treatment entering late stage development."

Paul Stoffels, worldwide chairman for pharmaceuticals at Johnson & Johnson, said: "We are pleased to be part of this important initiative to combat antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobials are the backbone of modern medicine, and have played a key role in increasing life expectancy globally.

"At Johnson & Johnson, our long-standing commitment to innovation in antimicrobial research and development is evident through our legacy products and our new efforts to support ongoing research."

England's chief medical officer, Dame Sally Davies, said: "A secure supply of new antibiotics for the future is clearly of vital importance, and I look forward to seeing an advancement of discussions between companies and governments on how we build new and sustainable market models that properly incentivise the discovery and development of new antibiotics, whilst ensuring affordable access to these crucial drugs for all those who need them in all parts of the world."