



A WORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the Chief Executive
- 2 Patient support first report
- 3 Media update
- 4 Fundraising
- 5 New grants scheme
- 6 Fundraising events
- 7 Science update
- 8 Social media
- 9 Diary dates

Taking our place on a major BBC Radio Four debate with Lord Jim O'Neil and a senior player from the pharmaceutical industry, displayed how our charity is now at the top table in the national debate on antibiotic resistance.

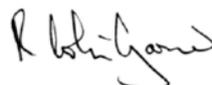
A quick glance at our social media pages and you will also see that we have become a sought-after source of information globally and have even had other countries looking jealously and asking: "why doesn't our nation have an ANTRUK?"

That reputation has been achieved through innovations such as our pioneering Patient Support programme, our passionate campaigning and our ability to generate funds to self sufficiently support our work to find alternative medications to our ageing antibiotics.

But that last factor will always be the most challenging. At a time where there is still great Government and pharmaceutical ennui about antibiotic resistance, we are sometimes the lone voice on the issue and our work costs.

Please enjoy this newsletter. But as it informs you, also remember that without the continuing swelling of the coffers our small but mighty charity cannot expand.

Do all that you can to join in and encourage others to support us. The future generations for whom antibiotic resistance is becoming an increasingly frightening reality, will thank you for it.



Professor Colin Garner
Founder and Chief Executive of Antibiotic Research UK (ANTRUK)





Patient support, first report

ANTRUK's world-first Patient Support programme has taken its first steps.

Arlene Brailey, who coordinates the scheme to support superbug suffering patients and their families, had this first report on the fledgling drive:

"During the last few months I have been building a bank of information on those infections which cause most issues - for patients, their families and for healthcare staff treating them. ANTRUK's newly launched website now has even more information on antibiotic resistance as well as a patient support section especially for those wishing more detailed information on particular resistant infections. While I cannot comment on specific treatment plans, I can signpost you to sources of additional information, and offer suggestions, depending on the situation.

Patients and their carers or families can also contact me by telephone or email, knowing that our conversation will be kept confidential. On those rare occasions where I need to seek guidance from experts or clinicians, you can be assured this is done anonymously.

The stories I have already heard from those suffering bacterial infections resistant to antibiotics are both compelling and moving. They leave me convinced we must, together, do more in the fight against antibiotic resistance, and reduce the huge impact it has for those living with infections that occur - and often reoccur - as a result of antibiotic treatments failing.

*I've heard from patients trying to recover from infections caused by *Klebsiella pneumoniae* which antibiotics are just not managing to clear. Then there's the young person who had to have repeat surgeries due to infection recurring in a surgical wound area. These are real stories from real people experiencing the impact of antibiotic resistance.*

Offering personal support to patients is a new, and very tangible way in which your donations and fundraising efforts are helping ANTRUK to support those people and their families/carers who are struggling with bacterial infections resistant to antibiotics."

On the money with media

ANTRUK chief executive Professor Colin Garner joined ex-Newsnight and PM anchor Evan Davis on a heavyweight debate on the role pharmaceutical companies were taking in combatting antibiotic resistance.



BBC Radio 4's The Bottom Line examines the effect business has on our society, exploring everything from how gyms contribute to health to literally the cost of crime.

Colin was joined in the discussion by Lord Jim O'Neil and a representative from a pharmaceutical giant. You can [enjoy the programme again on the BBC website here](#).

Aside from being the headline on the Bottom Line, Colin also provided an opinion piece for Britain's most distributed newspaper - The Metro. [Read more here](#).



Finally, you may have caught our spokesperson Peter Gibson on BBC Breakfast News recently, commenting on claims that honey could replace antibiotics. The phone lines and social media accounts were certainly buzzing after that feature!

If you have a press story, contact peter.gibson@antibioticresearch.org.uk

Help save lives by funding crucial research. Click to donate online



Fundraising - every little helps!

Tesco's shoppers in York chose ANTRUK as their charity to support and promptly raised £4,000 for our cause.

As part of their Bags of Help campaign run in conjunction with UK charity Groundwork, the super store rewards local charities dependent on how many tokens they receive from shoppers to their two outlets.

And following an overwhelming vote of confidence, ANTRUK received a cheque from Tesco's Community Champion, Caroline MacDonald.

"My uncle died of an antibiotic resistant infection after going into hospital for a water infection" revealed Caroline. "He was given some really harsh antibiotics after the original medication didn't work, but then developed MRSA and Sepsis. There is still so much to learn about antibiotic resistance."



This has been another busy period of fundraising – with runners from the University of Aberdeen amongst those pounding the streets to raise cash. Three doctors from Kent also spent time training and running for ANTRUK (this time for the Edinburgh Marathon) and our sincere thanks goes to Amy, Greta and John ([go to their Just Giving page](#)). Lottie Gregory also completed the race for ANTRUK, raising £1,000 and smashing her personal best time!

Setting a no-less frantic pace were the hikers who tackled the Wolds Walk in Yorkshire for ANTRUK.

Also three cheers for Karen and Ray who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary by donating over £600 in lieu of presents!



For those wanting to pound the streets of London for ANTRUK, there are some coveted places available for the London Landmarks Half-Marathon which passes by some of the nation's most historic and iconic buildings and statues. [Find out more here.](#)



Get some bright ideas on how to raise funds to combat the superbugs – and encourage your community to do the same on our website:

www.antibioticresearch.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/





Small grants advanced to researchers

Following the success of last year's Small Grants scheme, ANTRUK has launched a similar big initiative to bolster research into antibiotic resistance.

Spread over two to three years, up to £20,000 could be awarded to projects which focus on antibiotic resistance, new antibiotic therapies or the health and societal impact of antibiotic resistance.

Cash can be spent on everything from small research programmes to lab equipment and may even support PhD students or junior lecturers in their research work.

The closing date for applications is Friday 12 July. [visit our website for more details.](#)

Details of progress made by last year's recipients will be revealed at ANTRUK's Annual Lecture on Thursday 24 October (see diary date story). Sheffield Children's Hospital (pictured) were one of those granted resource - with their project examining whether children with "wet cough" were becoming more susceptible to antibiotic resistance.

Events make sure we're not ale-ing

From hog roasts to choir concerts, our supporters and volunteers are making sure the money comes rolling in for ANTRUK.

We're drinking another toast to our friends from independent brewery Ainsty Ales for their recent contribution (see poster). And we'd like to thank the One Voice Community Choir in Crawley for holding a notable concert on our behalf. [Click here to find out more](#)



Let's also mark your card with some upcoming fundraising activities - including Beverley Races on 30 July ([see their website for details](#)). And we have been selected as the Ryedale Festival's charity for 2019 and will be collecting at their concerts across North Yorkshire between 12-28 July.

Plus, we have some really exciting news about a Manchester November fundraiser coming soon.

ANTRUK's new-look website contains how-to guide on organising a fundraising event.



A quick reminder

It might also be time to start thinking about organising a Great British Tea Party as the campaign will also be upon us in the 11th month of 2019. [Visit our website for more details.](#)

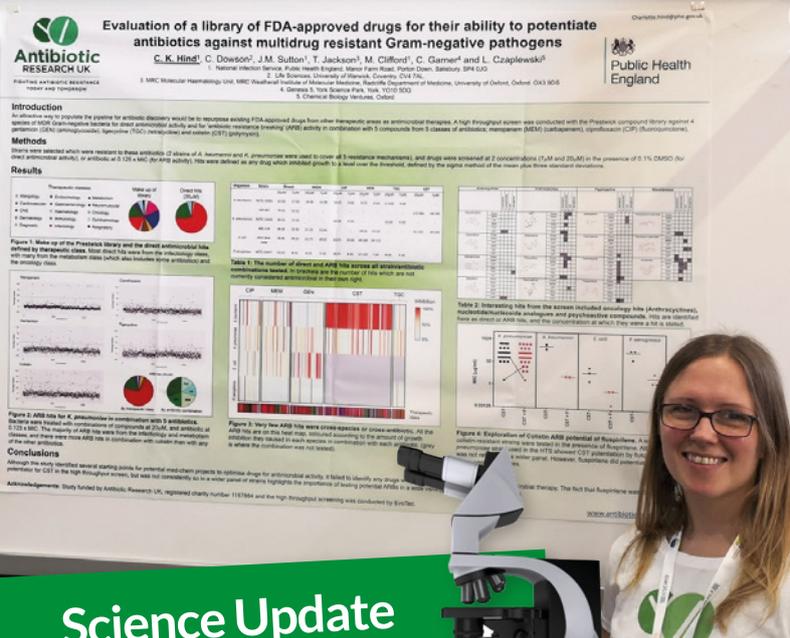


Our volunteers and staff are also now available for talks about antibiotic resistance. And we are searching for volunteer bucket collectors and organisations prepared to place a donation box on their premises.

To organise your fundraising event, contact info@antibioticresearch.org.uk

Help save lives by funding crucial research. Click to donate online





Science Update

Above left: Dr Charlie Hind (PHE) in front of her ARB poster presentation at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Amsterdam

At a recent Science Committee meeting we were delighted to hear that the results of one of our first research programmes on Antibiotic Resistance Breakers (ARBs) had been accepted for publication in the highly cited journal of the American Society for Microbiology, Antimicrobial Agents & Chemotherapy.

The paper reported the results of test tube screening approximately 1200 drugs found in the pharmacopoeia library for their ability to break resistance to the five main classes of antibiotics.

The screen looked at multidrug resistant Gram-negative bacteria – these are the bacteria causing the most problems in the clinic. They include ESBL – E coli, Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and bacteria resistant to the last resort antibiotic colistin.

From the screen nine drugs showed some ARB activity but none were sufficiently powerful to go straight into clinical use. The clearest ARB activity was observed with antimetabolites (ziduvudine, floxuridine, didanosine), anthracycline derivatives (daunorubicin, mitoxantrone and epirubicin) and psychoactive drugs (gabapentin, fluspirilene, oxethazaine).

In addition, two disinfectants alexidine and chlorhexidine were active. These results now enable us to focus down on some specific molecules worthy of further investigation.

To continue the next phase of this research requires the charity to raise £95,000.

A second strand of our charity's research has focussed on a group of molecules known as beta-lactamase inhibitors (BLMIs). Beta-lactamase is an enzyme that breaks down the penicillin and cephalosporin class of antibiotics.

One reason for bacterial resistance to these antibiotics is the overproduction of this enzyme rendering the antibiotic ineffective. To get round this problem, drug developers have generated beta-lactamase inhibitors which are co-formulated with the antibiotic to overcome resistance. Drugs such as amoxicillin / clavulanate (Augmentin) are examples of this approach.

In Dr David Wareham's laboratory at Queen Marys, University of London, in a programme supported by ANTRUK, he has found in test tube studies that the cephalosporin, cefepime when combined with sulbactam can overcome resistance in certain species of Gram-negative bacteria.

The charity has commissioned a manufacture to develop a diagnostic test kit based on these findings. We now wish to carry out a round robin evaluation of the test discs in hospital microbiology laboratories around the UK.

In order to fund this programme we require to raise £97,000.

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Sign-up to Twitter and Facebook

Have you checked-out ANTRUK's thriving social media accounts?

Well media, academics and even MPs are amongst those who are. And it's keeping them up to speed on the very latest about antibiotic resistance.



ANTRUK's Twitter feed handles all of the news around research and political comment and it's where we highlight our successes – including the fundraising work of Lillehall Golf Club (featured in picture).



From vets in Venezuela to lecturers in Loughborough, people are finding it a font of knowledge and with as many as five updates a day, are being kept right up to speed.



Our Twitter handle is @1Antruk

Facebook takes a less formal look and includes consumer friendly articles focusing on initiatives such as our Patient Support scheme.

Our Facebook address is @AntibioticReseachUK

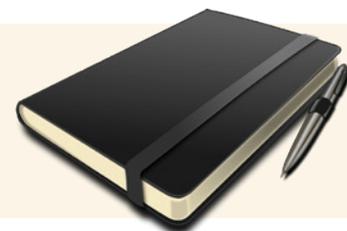
With a newly created Instagram account, we are determined to keep pace with social media and make sure everyone is aware of antibiotic resistance and the superb work ANTRUK is doing to tackle it!

DIARY
DATE

ANTRUK Annual Lecture 2019

Thursday 24 October (1-5pm)

Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT



ANTRUK holds its Annual Lecture in October – and this year's key note speaker is Professor Tim Walsh.

A professor in the School of Medicine at Cardiff University, Professor Walsh is one of the world's leading experts on antimicrobial resistance.

[Get tickets online here.](#)

He has published over 310 papers and contributes regularly to the Nature and Lancet journals. He is director of BARNARDS, the lead Gates Foundation project on AMR, examining the burden of neonatal sepsis in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Rwanda, South Africa, Nigeria (Abuja and Kano) and Ethiopia. The project thus far has enrolled 36,000 mothers and analysed 2,600 sepsis cases.

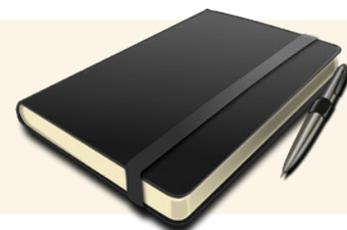
The ANTRUK annual lecture takes place at The Royal College of Pathologists, London, on 24 October (1-5pm). Admission is free but by ticket only. Email info@antibioticresearch.org.uk for more information.

DIARY
DATE

ANTRUK Talk

Sunday 17 November

Helmsley Arts Centre, York



Our founder Professor Colin Garner plus Dr Neil Todd Consultant Microbiologist/Clinical Director at York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, will be speaking at the Helmsley Arts Centre in York on Sunday 17 November.

This will be one of the last engagements The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu will perform, in his role as Archbishop of York. Dr Sentamu is currently Patron of ANTRUK.

