



News Release

Speech highlights lack of awareness around health apocalypse

A Cheshire conference (Wednesday 12 February) will hear how Britons are almost wholly ignorant of the biggest health problem to hit the planet.

Antibiotic resistance has been rated as a larger problem than cancer with dire predictions of ten million deaths from so-called superbugs by 2050.

Yet even those who have conditions like drug-resistant pneumonia, urinary tract and sexually transmitted infections, don't even know their condition is antibiotic-resistant - let alone receive information and support about it (1).

Charity **Antibiotic Research UK (ANTRUK)** is trying to change all of that, with the introduction of a world-first patient support programme.

Coordinator Arlene Brailey (*pictured*) will detail to international experts gathered at the 2020 BioInfect Conference in Alderley Park, how superbugs can shatter lives. She will also call upon the whole of society to help solve a problem that has been created by the misuse and abuse of antibiotics (for details of the event, visit <https://bionow.co.uk/event/BIONOW023/2020-bioinfect-conference>)

Antibiotic resistance is caused when bacteria in our bodies no longer respond to a miracle medication that previously prevented millions of death since the birth of penicillin. Recent figures from the NHS showed that cases of drug-resistant illness rose by 9% last year and yet no new antibiotic classes have been developed since the 1980's. The over-prescribing of antibiotics by doctors, nefarious purchase of antibiotics online by the public and even the abuse of the drugs in farming, has also contributed to the problem.

In response to ignorance around the issue, ANTRUK has launched web pages and leaflets on conditions such as UTIs and skin and soft tissue infections. They have also set up a hotline to advise patients and families, plus resourced a bank of case studies to illustrate how superbugs affect lives.

Arlene will be sharing some of these heart-breaking human stories when she addresses delegates from government, research organisations and fellow charities at the event.

“As with the environment and climate change, people see antibiotic resistance as a remote problem somehow connected to the future and a long way from their day-to-day existence” said Arlene, “but when I relate the story of Rachel for example, who developed sepsis when 16 after a series of UTIs, they will recognise that it is here and now and we must all do something about it”.

Rachel told ANTRUK: “I believed I had always used antibiotics correctly, so wouldn’t have been at risk of antibiotic resistance! How could this have happened to me? The more information I gathered during my own research into this, the angrier I became, realising there was nothing I could do! I realised to my horror that infection caused by bacteria resistant to antibiotics can happen to anybody. Even me!”

Although tackling the world's biggest health problem, ANTRUK is an emerging charity based in the North of England, reliant on donations to support their patient information programme and fund small research programmes to find alternatives to our ageing antibiotics.

Professor Colin Garner, founder and Chief Executive of ANTRUK added: “Our fledgling programme is not only aiming to advise, encourage and support those with superbugs, it is there to create a network so that sufferers no longer feel alone. It has also engaged health workers and increased their knowledge of the consequences of antimicrobial resistance. For it to flourish though, it does need support from all quarters and my hope is that Arlene will make people realise that this is deadly problem caused by everyone and which can only be solved by a total societal approach.”

ANTRUK is the only charity in the world solely dedicated to saving modern medicine and defeating drug-resistant infections. It is aiming to alternatives to current antibiotics and support patients living with superbugs. To donate to the charity or organise a fundraising event, visit <https://www.antibioticresearch.org.uk/>

- Ends -

(1) ANTRUK and MGP questionnaire to medical practitioners, October 2019 – see <https://www.antibioticresearch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Survey-release-1->

[converted.pdf](#)

For further information

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