

Wrap-Up Report: Antibiotic Research UK Conference & Reception

Samia Burridge, March 2024



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US: We are so pleased you could join Antibiotic Research UK on March 21st for our conference, *Living with Chronic and Complex UTIs* at London's Wellcome Collection. This addressed the realities and challenges of living with drug resistant infections, featuring insights from leading speakers in both research and clinical practice, alongside powerful personal testimonies from individuals suffering from chronic and complex infections. It was more than just a platform for discussion; it fostered shared experiences, mutual learning, and a compelling call to action against UTIs and antimicrobial resistance. We announced the launch of the **AMR Patient Community Advisory Board** and the **UTI research priority-setting partnership** (in collaboration with the James Lind Alliance/NIHR), both initiatives recognising the invaluable role of patient insight in guiding research and development efforts. This initiative will bridge the gap between patients and stakeholders, ensuring that our endeavors align with genuine patient needs and improve outcomes.

Other highlights included:

- **Expert Talks:** Dr. Catriona Anderson, Prof. Gail Hayward, Dr. Melissa Haines, and Prof. Jennifer Rohn.
- **Discussions** on topics, including point-of-care diagnostics and phage therapy.
- Jonathan Pearce, CEO of Antibiotic Research UK, on **bridging the gap between research and patient needs**.
- In person & online **networking**, plus evening **reception**.



WATCH AGAIN: A recording of the conference is available for 3 months [at the link here](#). Enter the email you used to register and password AB2024. For those who haven't registered, videos will be posted to our [YouTube channel](#) soon. To be notified of future events please [sign up to our newsletter](#) or [get in touch to share your ideas](#).

FEEDBACK: Feedback so far shows that **over 90% of delegates rated the event as "excellent"** – an outcome that we are thrilled with. If you haven't already please do complete the [evaluation form](#) to help improve future events. Many of you told us that you were moved by our patient speakers. The outpouring of support for our cause and charity was palpable throughout the conference, resulting in the forging of relationships that will undoubtedly propel our work forward. We will keep the powerful words of our patient speaker Caroline (shown in red below) in our minds as we go about our work for the rest of 2024, and we hope that you will too:

"I want to say to you that you are the ones who can help us. You are the ones who can shine a light at the end of this very dark tunnel. And I want to thank you for everything that you are doing to champion our cause. And say to you please, please never, ever stop fighting for the funding to underpin your research. Never stop asking the questions until you get the answers. Until you find a cure for this awful miserable condition."



MEDIA & SOCIAL: We had strong interest from journalists in the event, with [this article in The Independent](#) recently published with more coverage expected soon. If you would like access to professional photographs taking during the day please get in touch with

'My life was over': Chronic UTI patients demand non-antibiotic treatments

Patients-turned-campaigners tell landmark conference about the realities of living with a debilitating and painful infection



The activists spoke of their search for effective chronic UTI treatments



By **Connie Dimsdale**
Education and News Reporter

March 24, 2024 10:00 am (Updated 2:47 pm)



Chronic UTI patients have demanded more treatment options, as sufferers who cannot tolerate antibiotics say they have been left feeling like their "lives were over".

info@antibioticresearch.org.uk. We will be sharing content across our social media in coming months, so if you don't already follow us, please do so at the links below and get involved in the discussion online: [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#). Please look out for us in the media and feel free to refer journalists to us for patient stories. We have more patient [stories to watch on our website](#)

SPONSORS: The event would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors. This allowed us to subsidise tickets for patients and students to just £10, offer free places to patient ambassadors and supporters, while running a professional hybrid event so patients/carers unable to travel can still join online, including virtual networking. We received grants

from **Pfizer** and **Menarini** for the conference and reception. **Aspire Pharma** supported the daytime educational program. The event is editorially independent and we retain sole responsibility for content.

EVENING RECEPTION: The conference was followed by an invite-only networking reception to celebrate the charity's 10 year anniversary, including an audience with a panel of special guests introduced by our Chair Simon Dukes. We were joined by donors, representatives from other organisations, and new trustees who will take the organisation forward over the next decade.

AUDIENCE: 250+ registered to join in London and online, including evening reception. Registrants/RSPVs excluding press & speakers: **Onsite:** 96 (80 in attendance; **Virtual:** 128 (77 in attendance); **Evening:** 102 (65 in attendance)

DELEGATE QUOTES:

Extraordinary. Cutting edge science together with compassion and respectful inclusion of patients.

Well-organised, smooth-flowing, balance of perspectives from patients/doctors/researchers. Language of presenters accessible to lay audience. Insightful, thought provoking, hopeful.

Amazing breadth of attendees and scope of talks. Really interesting to run a topic centered rather than job centred meeting. Encourages cross talk. So much to think about now.

Brilliant. Excellent speakers, excellent questions, addressing topics that needed to be brought into the open. A real force for good.

Truly inspirational.

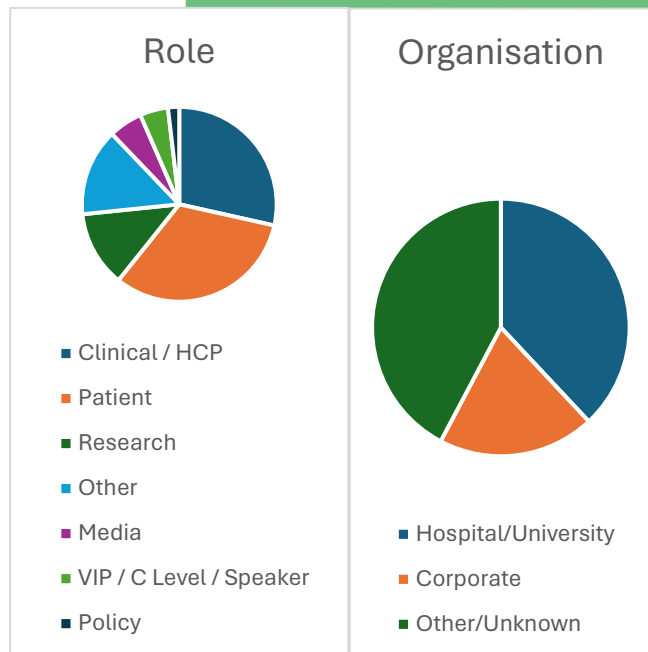
Very impressive.

Fantastic! As a patient, I appreciated every session as well as the online networking.

It was great to be able to attend the conference virtually. I enjoyed all of the sessions and felt I was able to take part if I wanted to and would definitely attend a conference like this again.

Really good balance between the science and the patients, really moving patient stories.

This was by far and away one of the most emotive and inspiring [conferences] we have ever attended.



How will you make tackling antibiotic resistance a company goal? [Check out our partnership possibilities](#) or get in touch to explore ideas:

Dr Samia Burridge M 07967588831
 E samia.burridge@antibioticresearch.org.uk
www.antibioticresearch.org.uk