



Stop AMR Global Media Monitor

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Antibiotics market failure webinar

Covid-19 uploads nightmarish images in our memory banks. But is it enough to make us change? Will the European Commission continue its pre-Covid-19 Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) policies as criticized by the European Court of Auditors – or will there be a new start as Europe runs out of effective antibiotics? Will the demonstrated lack of disease preparedness, prevention and pre-emption, despite early warnings, continue or will there be a new structure to prevent a next pandemic outbreak?

This was the background for a webinar, co-organized by [The Parliament Magazine](#) and the [PA International Foundation](#) on 4 June 2020, on ‘Antimicrobial Resistance: The Requirement for a New Business Model for the Development, Production and Sales of New Antibiotics’ including speakers such as Lord Jim O’Neill and webinar co-hosts and Members of the European Parliament Tiemo Wölken and Peter Liese. Click [here](#) to read a summarizing article from The Parliament Magazine.

Newly announced UK Government antibiotic reimbursement scheme welcomed – but will it be enough?

The UK Government has announced “A pioneering scheme to provide new antibiotics to NHS patients by offering to pay pharmaceutical companies upfront for their work will start this week.” Professor Colin Garner, CEO of Antibiotic Research UK, welcomes the scheme but warns that “Pharma companies are commercial businesses and always have to calculate whether they will make a return on investment. Any significant reimbursement model for antibiotics would have to compete with other therapeutic areas which are more profitable.

On the other hand our view is that pharma companies have a civic duty to invest in drugs that save lives and in the case of antibiotics modern medicine. I look forward to seeing further details from the government to help safeguard ourselves, our children and grandchildren from resistant bacterial infections.”

Source: [Antibiotic Research UK](#), 17 June 2020

Overuse of antibiotics threatens twin pandemic of superbugs and Covid-19

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the WHO, has warned that “The Covid-19 pandemic has led to an increased use of antibiotics, which ultimately will lead to higher bacterial resistance rates that will impact the burden of disease and deaths during the pandemic and beyond.” According to a Covid-19 cases study 70% of patients were treated with, often broad-spectrum, antibiotics although less than 10% were diagnosed with bacterial or fungal infections. Moreover, Covid may have negatively affected opportunities to improve antibiotic stewardship, especially in countries with less well-developed health systems. Experts advocate worldwide, sustainable and urgent solutions, with “leadership at higher levels”, according to Prof. Hanan Balkhy, assistant director-general for antimicrobial resistance at the WHO.

Source: [The Telegraph](#), 16 June 2020

Changes in colistin resistance and *mcr-1* abundance in *Escherichia coli* of animal and human origins following the ban of colistin-positive additives in China: an epidemiological comparative study

Scientists in China conducted a research into the effects of the banning, by the Chinese Government on 30 April 2017, of colistin as an animal growth promotor. The ban came into place following the discovery and emergence of the plasmid-mediated colistin resistance gene, *mcr-1*.



It appeared that “the colistin withdrawal policy and the decreasing use of colistin in agriculture have had a significant effect on reducing colistin resistance in both animals and humans in China. However, continuous colistin monitoring is essential, in particular to act as an early warning system for colistin stewardship in Chinese hospitals.”

Source: [The Lancet](#), 4 June 2020

A potential new weapon in the war against superbugs

A team of researchers of the University of Melbourne has shown that a newly discovered natural antibiotic, teixobactin, could be effective in treating bacterial lung conditions such as tuberculosis and those commonly associated with COVID-19.

Teixobactin was found to significantly suppress mechanisms involved in resistance to vancomycin-based antibiotics that are recommended for complicated skin infections, bloodstream infections, endocarditis, bone and joint infections, and MRSA-caused meningitis. The research will support the development of novel antibacterial drugs for the treatment of multi-drug resistant Gram-positive infections.

Source: [Medical Xpress](#), 2 June 2020

Deadly superbug could get a vigorous foe in repurposed antibiotic

Researchers from the University of Southern California have found that the old antibiotic rifabutin is "highly active" in fighting multidrug-resistant superbug *Acinetobacter baumannii*, a significant cause of life-threatening infections in medical facilities and responsible for about 2% of the 99,000 US deaths from hospital-acquired infections. The effectiveness of the old antibiotic was discovered thanks to a new screening technique involving media better mimicking conditions inside the body rather than ‘rich culture media’. Rifabutin’s efficacy still needs to be proven in randomized controlled human trials.

Source: [Phys.org](#), 9 June 2020

Researchers create antimicrobial surfaces to combat antibiotic resistance

With ever fewer antibiotics being marketed and resistance looming, engineers of Purdue University in Indiana have developed a laser treatment technique providing antimicrobial properties to surfaces such as implants, doorknobs, keyboards and other medical equipment.

The technique makes use of a copper surface nanoengineered with a laser treatment to increase the ‘contact killing’ surface area of the material; copper surfaces are known for rupturing and inactivating bacterial membranes.

Source: [Geographical](#), 12 June 2020
