



Stop AMR

Global Media Monitor

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www.stopamr.eu

Americans Express Broad Support for Fight Against Superbugs

The online survey of 1,000 likely U.S. voters from the Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease found that voters are deeply worried about the growing threat of antibiotic resistance—and that fear remains urgent in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Most respondents (77%) were familiar with the general concept of superbugs, and after hearing some basic background information, 85% said they are very or somewhat concerned about antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Of that total, 45% said they were very concerned. In addition, nearly 6 in 10 (58%) said they feel the current level of new antibiotics research is too low. Moreover, the analysis of the survey suggests that “COVID-19 has not taken urgency away from the issue” of AMR, and that “voters see the two as linked, not competing issues.”

The survey findings come as major pharmaceutical companies have largely abandoned antibiotic development in favor of more profitable drugs. With thousands of American lives at stake and voters ready for action, now is the time to bolster U.S. efforts to fight antibiotic resistance.

Source: [The Pew](#), 1 September 2020

SOTEU showcases the EU’s health priorities

This Wednesday, 16th of September, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivered her widely anticipated State of the European Union speech, outlining her legislative priorities for the next year. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, health policy took considerable importance: von der Leyen particularly emphasized the need to improve health management and

build a stronger European Health Union. To this end, she said the Commission would empower both the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and would also establish a new European agency for biomedical advanced research and development, like the US BARDA. Furthermore, she also declared a new push for discussing the question of health competences, which now are exclusively under the Member States jurisdiction, at the Conference on the Future of Europe.

With regards to the EU4Health programme, which would have originally provided €9.4 billion in funding to EU countries, health organisations and NGOs starting in 2021 but was slashed to €1.7 billion by the so-called ‘Frugal’ states, von der Leyen announced the Commission’s plan to team up with the European Parliament to make up for the cuts made by the Council. She would also work together with the forthcoming G20 president, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, to convene a global health summit in Italy next year to signal the EU’s willingness to be a world leader in health cooperation.

Finally, Von der Leyen also stressed as a priority to work on the EU’s crisis preparedness and management of cross-border health threats. Although she made no mention of AMR, improved organization in this area is certainly necessary to tackle future pandemics, of which AMR is the most threatening.

Source: [EURACTIV](#), 16 September 2020

OECD official: 20% of all health spending in Europe is pure waste

Europe’s current health systems have been facing long-standing malfunctions which have led to almost 20% of health spending in Europe being “pure waste”. An interview with the deputy director of employment,

labour and social affairs at OECD, held place on the situation with waste in Europe's healthcare systems. He declared that *"The problem is not individuals; it is the system which fails both patients and those who have to pay for health systems"*.

Too often, people receive unnecessary/inappropriate care, which increases the costs of antimicrobial resistance. *"We use antibiotics far too much (...). The Netherlands uses far fewer antibiotics than in other countries and has an excellent health system. Health systems often buy expensive on-patent drugs when generics are available."*

Some highlights from his interview are that 10% of all hospital spending is correcting errors made in treating people; health spending overwhelmingly goes on curative care, not prevention; the flow of data to decision-makers should be improved; health decision-makers should avoid confusing messages to the public; and integrated budgets can help promote better care for people.

Source: [EURACTIV](#), 16 September 2020

Meat is mayhem

Heavy use of antibiotics is one of the most important features of meat production today. According to the WHO, their widespread use in animal production is one of the most important causes of antimicrobial resistance. Government surveys of German supermarkets have found antibiotic-resistant pathogens in 66 per cent of the chicken and 42.5 percent of the turkey on offer.

While AMR rises and the global population has doubled over the past 50 years, global meat production has more than tripled. Today, around 300 million tons of meat are consumed worldwide.

In Germany, people eat about 60 kilograms (132 pounds) of meat per person annually. The amount is even higher in the US, Australia, and some other European countries. Furthermore, Covid-19 outbreaks in slaughterhouses worldwide show that meat production is based not only on environmental destruction and insufficient animal welfare, but on exploitation of workers. In June, more than 1,000 workers in Germany's biggest

slaughterhouse, who are subcontracted by companies that lack regular labour contracts, often limiting social services and health care, were infected with Covid-19.

For years, politicians have largely ignored scientists' health warnings about the meat industry. "Meat should be consumed: not three times a day, maybe not even three times a week, but once or twice". A comprehensive transformation of our agricultural and food systems is desperately needed. "The scientific know-how to enact such measures has been available for years. We just need to use it."

Source: [Eco-Business](#), 15 September 2020

New antibiotic Fetroja launched in the UK

Japanese pharma company Shionogi has announced that its new antibiotic Fetroja (cefiderocol) is now available for use in the UK, the first country to launch the drug following its European Commission (EC) approval earlier this year.

A range of studies have shown that Fetroja can produce potent *in vitro* activity against a broad spectrum of aerobic Gram-negative pathogens, including all three pathogens identified by the World Health Organization as being of a 'critical priority'. The drug will be used to treat infections caused by aerobic Gram-negative bacteria, including complicated urinary tract infections, hospital-acquired pneumonia, ventilator-associated pneumonia, and bloodstream infections such as sepsis and bacteraemia.

Source: [PharmaTimes](#), 15 September 2020

PREP-ing for Future Pandemics and AMR

Considering Covid-19, the need for global preparations for an antimicrobial-resistant/superbug emergency cannot be overstated. AiCuris, a leading company in anti-infective drug development, recently launched the Pandemic and Resistance Emergency Preparedness (PREP) initiative, comprising four pillars of action.

These include: the development of AIC649, a biological immunomodulator capable of boosting the immune

system, as a broad-acting first-line therapy against corona and other viruses with pandemic potential; promoting innovative approaches to fight antimicrobial resistance; establishing an AiCubator to strengthen and support novel approaches in anti-infective research; and finally, supporting active licensing strategy and partnering.

AiCuris' position is that just fighting Covid-19 is not enough to protect public health because the large threat of AMR is still present, hidden behind the current SARS-CoV-2 outbreak, already kills hundreds of thousands of people around the world and will only worsen unless action is taken.

Source: [Labiotech.eu](https://www.labiotech.eu), 14 September 2020
