

Norris Whitehouse Cochran IV
Acting Secretary of HHS
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Feb. 23, 2021

Dear Acting Secretary Cochran,

We, the undersigned organizations, are members of the Stakeholder Forum on Antimicrobial Resistance (S-FAR), representing clinicians, scientists, public health, veterinary professionals, hospitals, patients, advocates and the pharmaceutical and diagnostics industries. We urge you to make antimicrobial resistance (AMR) a priority for the G7. We recommend a comprehensive, One Health approach that includes prevention, surveillance, stewardship, research and innovation.

Globally, antibiotic resistance is estimated to cause at least 700,000 deaths annually. As modern medicine advances, we rely heavily on antibiotics to treat serious and life-threatening infections that complicate procedures such as cancer chemotherapy, transplants, cesarean sections, joint replacements, other surgeries, care of wounds and burns, and care of complex patients. However, in the US, there are at least 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections each year, causing more than 35,000 deaths. Furthermore, antibiotic resistance impacts our preparedness for public health emergencies, as secondary infections can complicate the response to mass casualty events. Access to new, innovative antibiotics is a critical component of the pandemic preparedness challenges that the G7 partners will address in their meeting this summer.

We applaud past G7 commitments to address AMR, and appreciate global gains made as many countries have developed action plans and increased surveillance. But significant work remains, and it is critical that the G7 develop actionable plans that go beyond previous discussions. The UK presidency of the G7 in 2021 presents an important opportunity to advance AMR solutions, as Dame Sally Davies, UK special envoy for antimicrobial resistance, is widely recognized as a leading global voice on the AMR crisis. The US was an early global leader in combatting AMR, as one of the first countries to launch and fund an AMR national action plan during the Obama Administration. We urge the US to renew and strengthen its global AMR leadership.

We urge G7 countries to reinforce the importance of well-resourced national action plans and establish metrics that track progress against AMR to inform future G7 action. These metrics should include implementation of incentives for antibiotic research and development (R&D)—an aspect of the global AMR response in which very little progress has been made. Antibiotics must be used judiciously to preserve their effectiveness, making it very difficult for antibiotic innovators to earn the reasonable return on investment necessary to sustain the antibiotic pipeline. Nearly all large pharmaceutical companies have been driven away from antibiotic R&D, and small companies in this space struggle to stay in business. In 2019, two small US companies with newly launched antibiotics filed for bankruptcy despite earlier BARDA support for their development and FDA approval. Federal investments and global cooperation paired

with new policies to provide returns on investments are critical to ensure a renewable antibiotic pipeline capable of meeting current and future patient and public health needs.

The G7 is an important mechanism through which the US could encourage broader action on reimbursement reform and novel incentives that are aligned with policy proposals currently under consideration by Congress. In combination with the 2022 German and 2023 Japanese G7 presidencies, there is a real opportunity to set and deliver on ambitious goals related to antibiotic innovation.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. If you have any questions or would like to speak with S-FAR members, please contact Amanda Jezek, IDSA Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Government Relations, at ajezek@idsociety.org.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
American Thoracic Society
Antimicrobial Innovation Alliance
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
BD
bioMerieux
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy, Washington
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Duke Center for Antimicrobial Stewardship and Infection Prevention
Emory University Antimicrobial Resistance Center
Global AMR R&D Hub
Global Health Technologies Coalition
Health Care Without Harm
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
Making-A-Difference in Infectious Diseases
Merck & Co.
Microbion Corporation
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
NTM Info & Research
ONCORD, Inc.
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society

Peggy Lillis Foundation

PhRMA

Professor Kevin Outtersen, Boston University

Qpex Biopharma, Inc.

Research!America

Sepsis Alliance

Small World Initiative

Society of Critical Care Medicine

Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists

Spero Therapeutics

Stuart B. Levy Center for Integrated Management of Antimicrobial Resistance (Levy CIMAR)

The Antimicrobials Working Group

(Amplifyx Pharmaceuticals, Cidara Therapeutics Inc., Entasis Therapeutics Inc., Iterum Therapeutics Ltd., Nabriva Therapeutics US Inc., Melinta Therapeutics, Paratek Pharmaceuticals Inc., Qpex Biopharma Inc., SCYNEXIS Inc., Summit Therapeutics plc, UTILITY therapeutics Ltd, Venatorx Pharmaceuticals Inc. and X-Biotix)

The Gerontological Society of America

The Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease

The Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease

The Pew Charitable Trusts

Thermo Fisher Scientific

Venatorx Pharmaceuticals