



Resistance to Antibiotics – a Threat to Global Health

“ *The issue is comparable to that of climate change in the sense that both phenomena involve non-renewable global resources, both are caused by human activity and are intrinsically linked to our behavior. The problem can only be addressed through international cooperation.* ”

Elinor Ostrom, 2009 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences,
Tercentenary Linnaeus Honorary Doctor of Uppsala University.



Key objectives

- ACT – control the problem through a more rational use of antibiotics.
- CONVINCING – persuade decision-makers that this is a serious problem and that the need for development of new antibacterial drugs is urgent.
- CHANGE – alter people’s attitudes towards the use of antibiotics.
- INVEST – promote strong research aimed at preventing antibiotic resistance and developing new antimicrobial drugs and treatments.



Facts

- Antibiotics enable us to cure bacterial illnesses that were once deadly, such as blood poisoning, pneumonia and TB. But for how much longer?
- In areas of Southern Asia at least 300,000 newborn children die every year from infections caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria.
- A reduction in our ability to fight bacterial infections would not only cause a humanitarian catastrophe, but would also undermine the world’s economies – even in the richest countries.

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Resistance to Antibiotics – a Threat to Global Health

Resistance to antibiotics is an enormous worldwide problem. Almost all bacteria will become resistant to today's medicine, and within just a few years we will be faced with unimaginable setbacks, medically, socially and economically. Unless we act now.

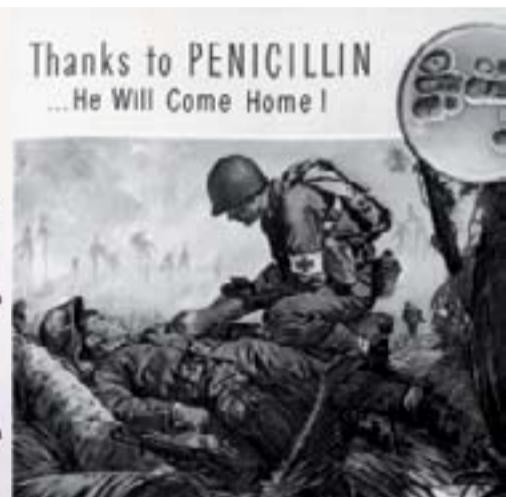
Antibiotics represent a remarkable medical success story and antibiotic treatment is one of the most important medical interventions ever invented. However, the extensive use and misuse of antibiotics have resulted in worldwide spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria and the immediate risk of entering a post-antibiotic era where our medical advances are lost. Resistant bacteria dramatically reduce the possibilities of treating infections and increase the risk of complications and fatal outcomes for patients with infections. Antibiotic resistance jeopardizes medical procedures such as prosthetic implants, organ transplantation and chemotherapy, where antibiotics are necessary to prevent or treat complications.

Managing the resistance problem requires political action and awareness of decision-makers to promote research and global strategies for action. Uppsala University has a central role in this opportunity to change the future.



“ Research at Uppsala University has both the depth and breadth that is needed to successfully deal with the antibiotic resistance problem.

Dan Andersson, Professor, Uppsala University



We know what needs to be done

Developing new antibiotics, using existing antibiotics correctly and reducing the spread of bacterial infections are literally matters of life and death. Uppsala University wants to lead the fight against resistance to antibiotics, and we have the ability to succeed. We have some of the most respected researchers in this field and a tradition of taking global responsibility.

We have the competence, the contacts and the research

Uppsala University is a world leader in antibiotic resistance research and has expertise covering virtually all aspects of the antibiotic resistance problem, i.e. from genetics to politics. Researchers at Uppsala University perform research aimed at:

- understanding how antibiotic resistance emerges and spreads
- exploring novel antibiotic dosing regimes to reduce the risk of resistance
- developing new and more effective antibiotics and identifying drug targets with lower risk of resistance
- performing multi-center clinical research and trials

“ Antibiotics are indispensable in virtually all modern medicine; major surgery, organ transplantation and cancer chemotherapy would not be possible without effective treatment and prevention of bacterial infections.



Otto Cars, Professor Uppsala University,
Chairman ReAct

Via ReAct (Action on Antibiotic Resistance), an international network of leading experts in global health, health systems, R&D and health communication based at Uppsala University, we can offer the highest levels of competence and a unique

worldwide network at every level. We have formed a number of alliances with universities around the globe, but more alliances are needed. In cooperation with the WHO, Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) and the EU, we will create the necessary conditions to achieve success.

You can make a difference

By supporting our vital research you can help bring about real change in people's lives. Our long-term goal is to develop a center of excellence at Uppsala University that attacks the resistance problem at all levels to achieve global and sustainable results.

To intensify our efforts in the field of resistance to antibiotics, we would like to recruit a researcher (professor) to lead our mission to identify those proteins essential for bacteria and that provide new therapeutic targets for drug-like molecules. This is an opportunity for you to invest in all our futures, by preventing a global health catastrophe. Your support is intended to provide an endowed chair as the foundation for the program.

Our vision is to deliver worldwide access to effective treatment of bacterial infections as part of the human right to health – now and in the future.