

Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics

September 2024 Newsletter

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Our Activities and further Swiss Initiatives



Joint presentation of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) and RTA at Global AMR Hub

Representatives of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) and the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics jointly presented to the Global AMR Hub on 14 August about Switzerland's approaches to ensure availability of newly developed antibiotics as required by its health care system: While its antibiotics use per inhabitant is one of the lowest in Europe, Switzerland ranks low in access to newly developed antibiotics as from 2010 to 2020, only 6 of 18 newly approved antibiotics were put on the Swiss market. Simon Gottwalt introduced the One Health Action Plan 2024-2027 and pointed to the measures foreseen to address this observation and the reasons for Switzerland to explore pull-incentives. To overcome challenges of getting a potential "pull" pilot project implemented in a country with relatively low resistance rates and burden he called for an easy-to use framework to calculate the public health value of new antibiotics. The subsequent discussion revealed high interest of further country representatives for such a framework. Barbara Polek referred to the RTA-facilitated current activities to prepare the ground for implementation of a subscription model by defining i) eligibility criteria that new or existing antibiotics should fulfil, and ii) a method to determine the size of a guaranteed revenue.



Invitation to the RTA Members' Event: "Financing and reimbursement options to secure availability of life-saving antibiotics"

Broad acknowledgment of AMR presenting a major threat for health care systems and the economies overall has not yet spurred widespread willingness to pay for innovative antibiotics' full value. Speakers and panellists will share possible explanations and pathways to overcoming the hurdles.

Monday, 4 November 2024, 4.5pm, at Swiss Re in Zurich

Free entry

Please register here: [Link](#) (attendance in person or remotely)

International Policies and News



Australian Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Policy and Methods Review

The review's recommendations with regard to antimicrobial resistance comprise measures to incentivise the development of antimicrobials including i) exempting them from HTA fee requirements, ii) developing a framework to inform changes to HTA policy and methods for antimicrobials, and iii) designing a flexible reimbursement policy for antimicrobials including the establishment of a subscription model to fund novel antimicrobials in the short term.

You can find the Review here: [Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review](#)



Swedish policies for improving access to antibiotics

In order to contain antibiotic resistance, the Swedish strategy emphasises the importance of securing access to both old and new antibiotics. The Public Health Agency of Sweden (PHAS) organises a webinar on 7 October where speakers from three Swedish government agencies will share their experiences of developing and implementing public health, pricing and regulatory policies to improve access to antibiotics in Sweden.

Date: Monday, 7 October 2024, 1-3pm (webinar)

Registration via this [link](#) by 3 October 2024

Featured studies



Designing suitable PULL incentives for the European AMR market – a reflection paper of the BEAM Alliance

The BEAM Alliance reiterated its call for optimal pull incentives designed to fit innovators' needs based on three pillars namely sufficient size, predictability, and combination of mechanisms to meet everyone's expectations. Considering a consensus range of \$2-5bn over 10 years to restore value to the development of new antimicrobials, the EU "fair share" in proportion to GDP levels is in the range of €100m-150m per annum (€1-1.5bn over 10 years). This is far below the revenue of many drugs (and certainly far less than blockbuster drugs), even though it would bring huge societal benefits. Notably, the UK's just launched pull mechanism with a proposed size of up to £23.7m annually would amount to €1.5bn over 10 years when extrapolated to the EU whereas the Swedish model would amount to only €95m over 10 years or one tenth of the EU's fair share.

You can find the paper here: [LinkedIn Post Beam Alliance](#)



Exploring Sustainable Financing for Novel Antibiotics in Singapore – a discussion paper

The National University of Singapore's School of Public Health (SSHSPH) and the Office of Health Economics (OHE) in London explored emerging financing models for novel antibiotics and their relevance to developing and securing therapies

that are relevant to the epidemiology in South-east Asia. The authors focused on different types of pull incentives. Approaches that Singapore may consider adopting in the future include i) setting aside resources via a minimum revenue guarantee or subscription model, and/or ii) participating in a supranational pool of resources for such mechanisms.

Similar to Switzerland, the relatively small market represented by the size of Singapore's population effectively sets a ceiling on the ability to unilaterally offer a meaningful incentive relative to the needs of drug development. When approaching multilateral initiatives, Singapore adopts a pragmatic view in recognition of its own relative size as well as its financial, technical, and diplomatic resources. This takes into consideration the strategic clarity of objectives, key functions with high value-added, and overall alignment with national interests.

You can find a link here where you can submit a request to download the paper: [Request for Download](#)

Other Initiatives



PLATINEA (PLATform for INnovation of Existing Antibiotics)

PLATINEA is a Sweden-based, multisectoral collaboration platform with the aim to preserve and enhance the value of existing antibiotics. It is funded by Sweden's Innovation Agency VINNOVA, and the common goal is to ensure that the

antibiotics available today are used in the best way. PLATINEA serves as a forum for relevant stakeholders to meet, discuss and work towards the shared objective of addressing the gap between the needs and availability of antibiotics. Projects include identifying knowledge gaps and mapping the need of various antibiotics in the Swedish context, generating new knowledge to inform rational and individualized use of antibiotics, and analysing costs related to shortages and mapping delivery chains to support the implementation of measures against shortages. PLATINEA is also promoting international collaboration, for instance among the Nordic countries, to develop joint policies to improve access to antibiotics.

Link to Website: [PLATINEA](#)



SwedenBIO

SwedenBIO is the national trade organisation for life sciences in Sweden. SwedenBIO's member companies develop biotechnology, diagnostics, pharmaceuticals and medical devices or are experts in business development, IP and law, among others. One of SwedenBIO's working groups is the **Working Group on Pandemic Preparedness** that highlights the role of the life science industry in pandemic preparedness, raise awareness of infectious diseases with a focus on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and support the funding of infectious disease interventions. The members are active in many different areas that relate to the fight against infectious diseases and include vaccine development and production, antiviral and antimicrobial agent development, and diagnostics. SwedenBIO's Pandemic Preparedness group is active on international networks such as BEAM Alliance, International Council of Biotech Associations and EuropaBIO. On a national level the group is an active part of The Swedish Industry Alliance together with Lif – the research pharmaceutical companies, Swedish Medtech, Swedish Labtech and FGL (the association for generic medicines and biosimilars).

Link to Website: swedenbio.se/en/



“The most important in the context of AMR is the implementation of pull incentives to encourage the development and marketing of new innovative products that can contribute to solving the threat of AMR, since the current pipeline is very thin and fragile.”

Helén Fält

Chairwoman of Sweden Bio's
working group Pandemic
Preparedness