

Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics December 2024 Newsletter

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The Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics team wishes all readers and their families and friends

a relaxing break over the turn of the year.

We are looking forward to meeting and working with many of you in 2025!



Our Activities

Robert-Koch-Foundation award for Hospital Hygiene and Infection Prevention assigned to the Swiss physician and RTA Board Member Andreas Widmer



Award ceremony. Second from left: Prof. Andreas Widmer

On 8 November 2024, the [Robert-Koch-Foundation](#) assigned its prestigious award for Hospital Hygiene and Infection Prevention to the Swiss physician **Andreas Widmer**, a leading expert in hospital hygiene and infection prevention, for his significant impact on infection prevention in Germany, Switzerland, and globally. Andreas Widmer is the founder and president of Swissnoso, a Swiss association dedicated to reducing

hospital infections and multi-drug-resistant pathogens. The Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics (RTA) congratulates its board member Andreas Widmer to this prominent recognition of his significant scientific work which he managed to get implemented in hospital practice and maintain there.

Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics (RTA) - Annual Event



On 4 November 2024, about 50 members and partners of the RTA convened at the Swiss Re premises in Zurich to attend the RTA's second annual event that was dedicated to discussions about "Financing and reimbursement options to secure availability of life-saving antibiotics".

Prof. Dr. Dr. med. Silvio Brugger from the university hospital Zurich shared insights into the clinical challenges arising when dangerous nosocomial pathogens threaten the survival of vulnerable patients undergoing highly specialised medical procedures. The challenges are exacerbated when

last resort antibiotics are not authorised in the country (here: in Switzerland) and can only be made available via exceptional and lengthy importation procedures. This "wake-up" speech was followed by presentations and a panel discussion that assessed alternative financing instruments for their applicability and effectiveness in addressing AMR and discussed reasons why, despite the undisputed need for novel antibiotics, their adequate and sustainable financing remains difficult. The full programme and more details about the presentations can be found [here](#).

Online meeting of AMR initiatives



On 14 October 2024, the RTA organised an online meeting of international public and private organisations engaging in AMR countermeasures, including representatives of the Australian AAMRNet, the AMR-team of the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, the German DNAMR, the European BEAM Alliance, the UK-based ARMoR, and the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health.

A keynote lecture was provided by Sophie Cooper (NICE) and David Glover (NHS England) on the recently established permanent UK Antimicrobial Products Subscription Model. This fully delinked model pays for antibiotics based on value to patients and the NHS with long-term contracts (up to 16 years), quarterly paid fixed maximum annual contract values of GBP 5.9, 11.8, 17.8 or 23.7 million per year as determined by NICE committee assessment. There are product- as well as company-specific eligibility criteria for participation in the model (e.g. activity against WHO priority pathogens, particularly critical ones and commitments to secure supply, stewardship, performance measures and environmental manufacturing standards). Please also see the [NHS/NICE webinar slide deck](#).

International Policies and News

EU's HERA facilitating and securing access to antibiotic Vaborem and Diphtheria Antitoxin



On 4 December 2024, the Head of the European Commission's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), Laurent Muschel, announced that under the **EU Revenue Guarantee Programme** a EUR 40 million contract was awarded to the Italian pharmaceutical company Menarini. During the 49-months

pilot, Menarini will provide their antibiotic Vaborem (Meropenem/Vaborbactam) to any hospital in the participating 21 EU Member States within 48 hours. Notably, limited access to antibiotics is not only an issue to low- and middle-income countries but also to smaller EU Member States. (See links to European Health Summit 2024 [programme](#), [video](#) and [summary](#))

Already in October 2024, HERA has signed a **joint procurement framework contract** with Scandinavian Biopharma Distribution AB for the supply of 1,600 vials of Diphtheria Antitoxin that can be jointly purchased by the eight participating Member States. HERA set up this joint procurement facility because the very low number of manufacturers (due to a decrease in diphtheria cases worldwide) makes it more difficult for Member States to access the product. (See [HERA news](#))