

Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics

September 2025 Newsletter

Contents

Our Activities	2
Visit of Sandoz' manufacturing site for penicillins in Kundl (Austria)	2
Compliance with Good Distribution Practices and antimicrobial stewardship in Eastern Ethiopian health care institutions	3
Policies and News	3
“Push” and “Pull” articles in the revised Epidemics Act	3
Conferences and Events	4
17 November 2025: SPEARHEAD and beyond: Sustaining the fight against antimicrobial resistance	4
26 November 2025: 30th Annual Swiss Symposium in Pharmaceutical Medicine: Racing Against Resistance: The Future of Antimicrobials	4

Our Activities

Visit of Sandoz' manufacturing site for penicillins in Kundl (Austria)



In 2023, the consumption of penicillins (ATC code J01C) in Switzerland ranked first among the antibiotic classes, accounting for 43% of total consumption in the hospital, and 44% in the outpatient setting¹.

In the recent decades, many manufacturing plants in the Western world have been closed, except for Sandoz' fully integrated site in Kundl which was even extended with a 200 mEUR investment supported by the Austrian government and the Tirol country (Bundesland).

China dominates the global manufacturing of amoxicillin, while India is about to follow suit.

This and the fact that 90% of all amoxicillin used in Switzerland is sourced from the Kundl site provided compelling reasons for a group of interested individuals from Switzerland to travel to Kundl. We wished to gain first-hand insight into what it takes for a European manufacturer for penicillins to stand firm against the strong Asian competitors – and impacts of Russia's war in the Ukraine.

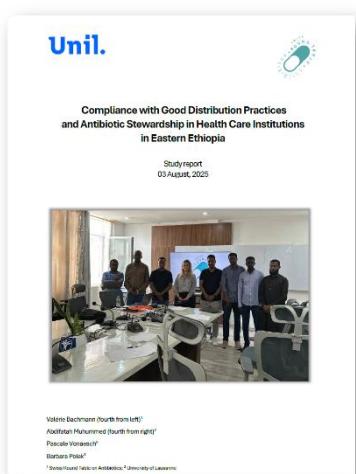
While the competitors benefit from less stringent regulations, lower HR costs, and conducive industrial policies, the Russian attack on Ukraine had a major impact on the prices of gas and sugar, the two main cost drivers of penicillin production. Such challenges do not allow time for lamenting but rather inspire the Kundl team to excel in creativity and continued innovation along the entire value chain: Soaring prices of Ukrainian sugar led to its partial replacement by liquid lactose supplied by a near-by industrial dairy plant. *Penicillium chrysogenum* likes it even more than glucose! And why not train the fungus to shape its mycelium for easier industrial processing? Cost containment opportunities are looming everywhere, and the Kundl team has the mindset to detect and exploit them.

Nevertheless, while innovation is of eminent importance it cannot fully compensate the immense pressure on the margin. This is where the political debate has to start: Regional manufacturing of essential drugs reduces market volatility and greatly enhances security of supply. However, this comes at a cost.

Are European health care payers ready to honour security of supply of essential drugs? Is politics willing to include patient benefit in the balance rather than just the costs of the drugs? Could it be justified for public money to be invested in security of essential drug supply – as the Austrian government and the Tirol country have successfully demonstrated? More than 100 countries, including Switzerland, benefit from the Austrian investment.

¹ Federal Office of Public Health and Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office; *Swiss Antibiotic Resistance Report 2024, Usage of Antibiotics and Occurrence of Antibiotic Resistance*, November 2024 (SARR 2024)

Compliance with Good Distribution Practices and antimicrobial stewardship in Eastern Ethiopian health care institutions



This study report is the result of collaboration between the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics, Swiss TPH, the University of Lausanne and the University of Jigjiga. We assessed compliance with WHO Good Distribution Practices and antibiotic stewardship in public and private hospitals providing primary to tertiary care in urban and rural areas in the Somali region of eastern Ethiopia.

The results are intended to support the health care facilities in their preparations so that manufacturers make their new antibiotics available to patients in this country.

This study was funded by the Däster Schild Foundation.

The study report can be downloaded from the RTA website
[Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics | Downloads](#)

Policies and News

“Push” and “Pull” articles in the revised Epidemics Act



By publishing the message on the revised Epidemics Act in August 2025 the Federal Council launched its parliamentary debate.

Two “twin” articles are of particular relevance in combating antimicrobial resistance: Article 50a enables the lowering of barriers to innovation during research and development of antibiotics and thus provides a “push” incentive. Article 51a will enhance the market framework for selected antibiotics with “pull” incentives encouraging their launch on the small Swiss market.

If adopted as described in the Federal Council’s message, these articles will enable Switzerland to live up to its potential as a significant player in containing the global rise of antimicrobial resistance and a powerhouse in antimicrobial research & development. The foreseen maximum guaranteed revenue for eligible antibiotics represents Switzerland’s “fair share” of the total revenue to be generated across the G7 countries, all EU member states, and Switzerland, proportional of the total GDP of these countries.

Getting access to more new antibiotics, and a reduced risk of losing existing antibiotics because of insufficient revenue will benefit the Swiss patient population and economy and sends an encouraging signal to other countries. The Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics along with other organisations which have been advocating for a better framework for antibiotics in Switzerland for many years will stand by the parliamentary discussions.

Conferences and Events

We would like to draw your attention to the following events in the WAAW-month of November:

17 November 2025:

SPEARHEAD and beyond: Sustaining the fight against antimicrobial resistance

This final event of the four-year project journey will showcase the key results and lessons learned.

09:00 – 18:00 CET

Venue: Swiss Re Centre for Global Dialogue, Gheistrasse 37, CH-8803 Rüschlikon

Programme and registration: [SPEARHEAD and beyond: Sustaining the fight against antimicrobial resistance | Swiss Re](#). Entry free of charge

26 November 2025:

30th Annual Swiss Symposium in Pharmaceutical Medicine: Racing Against Resistance: The Future of Antimicrobials

09:00 – 17:15 CET

Venue: Musikschule, Florhofgasse 6, Zürich

Programme and registration: <https://www.annual-meeting.ch/programme>