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## Annual Report 2024

Dear members of the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics,

The year 2024 has seen encouraging progress in addressing antimicrobial resistance through new funding mechanisms:

The **United Kingdom** has translated its pilot project to a permanently adopted subscription model which allows all UK-countries to participate on a voluntary basis. For England, the model foresees an annual guaranteed revenue in four tiers spanning £5 up to £20 million yearly per eligible antibiotic depending on their value to the health care system. While this represents an appropriate contribution relative to England's market size, its effectiveness in incentivizing antibiotic research and development ultimately depends on complementary actions from other countries.

The **Italian government** has budgeted EUR 100 million in 2025 to finance annual guaranteed revenues of EUR 10-30 million for 4-5 important antibiotics each based on the different values they offer to the Italian health care system.

In **Switzerland**, the inclusion of articles 50a and 51a in the draft revision of the Epidemics Act represents a significant advancement for our health care system: they authorize the Federal Council to more systematically fund antibiotic research and development programs (article 50a) and support the remuneration of important Swissmedic-approved antibiotics under a Swiss guaranteed revenue or subscription model, concepts which the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics has been advocating since inception. The Federal Council's message is planned to be submitted to Parliament in the second half of 2025. A swift implementation of a subscription model approach would position Switzerland among the early followers of pioneering UK, ensuring Swiss patients gain reliable access to critical antibiotics while promoting responsible use that strengthens our health care system's resilience against antimicrobial resistance.

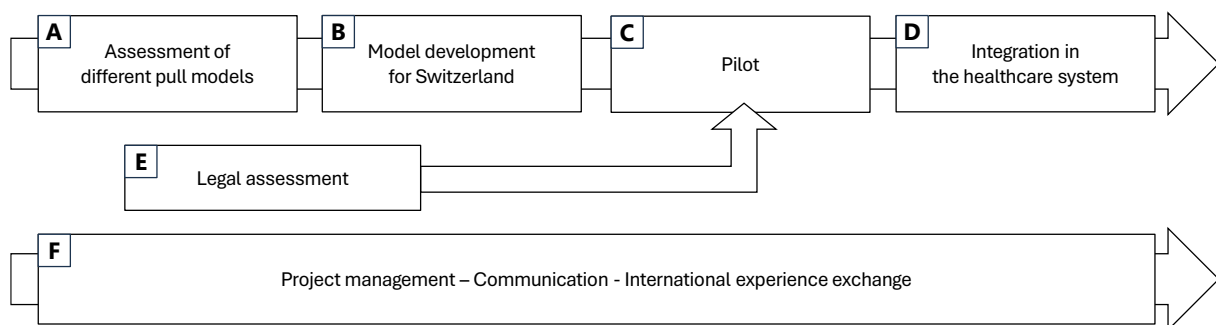
## Pull Project Update 2024

The Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics has made further progress in its Pull Project (see Figure 1) during 2024, advancing the implementation frameworks for an innovative antibiotic reimbursement model that aligns with article 51a of the draft revised Epidemics Act.

Concluding work of **Module A**, in March 2024 we published the **white paper** “Effective antibiotics for the Swiss health care system: today and in the future” ([dx.doi.org/10.48350/194363](https://dx.doi.org/10.48350/194363)). It provides a thorough evaluation of various pull-incentive models and establishes a rationale for implementing a subscription model in Switzerland, serving as an evidence-based resource for policymakers and stakeholders. The white paper has been well received across public administration, industry, and academic sectors both nationally and internationally, with several key stakeholders referencing our findings in policy discussions and using them as an input for evaluations of a potential subscription model in their own contexts.

Building on this foundation, we launched **Module B** which focuses on specifying structural elements for the practical implementation of a subscription model. Work package B2 aims to identify “**Swiss unmet medical needs and the causative pathogens**” – essential component of the eligibility criteria for antibiotics to qualify for remuneration under a future subscription model. The project work is supported by a team of distinguished clinical and scientific experts who have been dedicating their precious time to share their knowledge and experience to this undertaking on a generous voluntary basis. The Round Table’s board and operational team express their hearty thanks to these experts for their invaluable contribution. Work is progressing according to schedule, with a consultation planned in the third quarter of 2025 involving the project’s sounding board members and representatives of a broad panel of stakeholder groups including medical and pharmaceutical associations, scientific and patient organizations, public health bodies, Swiss political and administrative entities, international organizations, and industry. The final proposal is scheduled for submission to the Federal Office of Public Health in December 2025.

Figure 1: Pull project modules A-F



## WHO Good Distribution Practices (GDP) Compliance and Antibiotic Stewardship Practices

While our focus remains on developing innovative economic concepts to safeguard antibiotic supply and encourage development of novel antibiotics, the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics recognizes the global nature of antimicrobial resistance. In 2024, with dedicated funding from the Däster-Schild Foundation, we started a supplementary research project examining antibiotic distribution and stewardship practices among health care system stakeholders in Eastern Ethiopia. We owe big thanks to our member Jakob Zinsstag who offered this project to be conducted in the local organizational setting established by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute. This initiative provides valuable insights into antimicrobial resistance drivers in a resource-limited setting while allowing us to extend our expertise beyond our core activities. The cross-sectional study, conducted from November 2024 to February 2025 in collaboration with the universities of Lausanne (Pascale Vonaesch, Abdifatah Muktar Muhummed) and Jigjiga (Abdifatah Muktar Muhummed), surveyed 522 health care professionals and identified critical gaps in antibiotic management practices alongside encouraging levels of AMR awareness. The Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics will publish a report on these findings, while a scientific paper detailing the methodology and key insights is currently in preparation by our university partner for peer-reviewed publication.

## **Outreach Activities and Stakeholder Engagement**

In 2024, the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics expanded its outreach through several events and collaborative initiatives. Our annual Members Event in November 2024 at Swiss Re's Zurich premises focused on financing options for life-saving antibiotics, bringing together almost 50 participants from our membership and ecosystem. The Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics enhanced its policy engagement this year, with meetings with National Councillor Andri Silberschmidt and Councillor of States Mauro Poggia. A major milestone was our participation in a hearing by the National Council's Commission for Social Security and Health, where we provided expert testimony on antimicrobial resistance and countermeasures, including the subscription model, together with representatives of the Federal Office of Public Health. Our advocacy extended to formal contributions to public consultations on the revision of the Epidemics Act and the Federal Act on National Economic Supply which we submitted in March 2024.

We maintained an active presence in scientific and policy forums, presenting a poster at the AMR Conference in Basel, participating in a One Health meeting, and contributing to the FORAUS roundtable on AMR. Our communications program included quarterly newsletters and expert articles in professional publications. Throughout the year, we strengthened our international network through dialogue with other national pull-incentive initiatives and by organizing a webinar with the BEAM Alliance about the role of pull incentives in motivating market launches of antibiotics, featuring expertise from our organization. These activities have reinforced our position as a thought leader in innovative financing models for antibiotic development and antimicrobial stewardship.

## **Strategic development**

In November 2024, the Round Table's board engaged in another strategic review to ensure our organization remains effective in pursuing its mission and leveraging its unique position as a multidisciplinary platform while preserving its political independence. As key strengths the board acknowledged our focused expertise in antibiotics and reputation for producing high-quality analyses, exemplified by the white paper on pull incentives. The current high share of voluntary contributions presents a certain risk which forces the association to stringently prioritize its operations. On the other hand, with the Pull Project proceeding towards the implementation of the concepts defined in Module A new opportunities open for value-creating activities in collaboration with organizations responsible for the operation of the health care system, both in the civil and the military domains on the cantonal level.

## **Membership update**

In 2024 we have been delighted to welcome several professionals to our association. Our new full members include Malcolm Page (AMR research expert), Marie Petit (Villiger Valuation), and Christian Terreaux (OM Pharma SA). Joffrey Chadrin changed his membership from associate to full member. We also welcome our new associate members Gilles Aebischer representing OM Pharma SA, Ramiro Dip representing Swiss Re, and Benjamin Wyss from the University of Bern. All new members enhance our collective expertise in health care policy, economic valuation, pharmaceutical development, and public administration, reinforcing our ability to address the complex challenges of antimicrobial resistance from multiple perspectives.

## **Financial Support and Sponsorship**

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support received in 2024, which has been instrumental in advancing our work. The Federal Office of Public Health contributed 29'872 CHF to our activities. Corporate support came from GSK (10'000 CHF), Roche Pharma Schweiz AG (15'000 CHF), and A. Menarini GmbH (4'000 CHF). Foundation funding included 50'000 CHF from the Däster-Schild Foundation and 20'000 CHF from the Peter Bockhoff Foundation. Academic institutions also provided support, with 2'500 CHF each from the Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases of the University of Bern and sitem-insel. These contributions, totaling 133'872 CHF, have enabled us to pursue our mission of ensuring the development and availability of effective antibiotics for the Swiss health care system.

## Financial statement

The balance sheet (see Table 1) and the income statement (see Table 2) relate to the activities of the association which are financially compensated, i.e., they do not reflect the significant in-kind contributions. With income totaling 135'372 CHF, we generated a small loss of CHF 243. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our person responsible for finance & accounting, Barbara Leib, for setting up the financial report, and our auditor, Achim Kaufhold, who audited the accounts this year (see Figure 2).

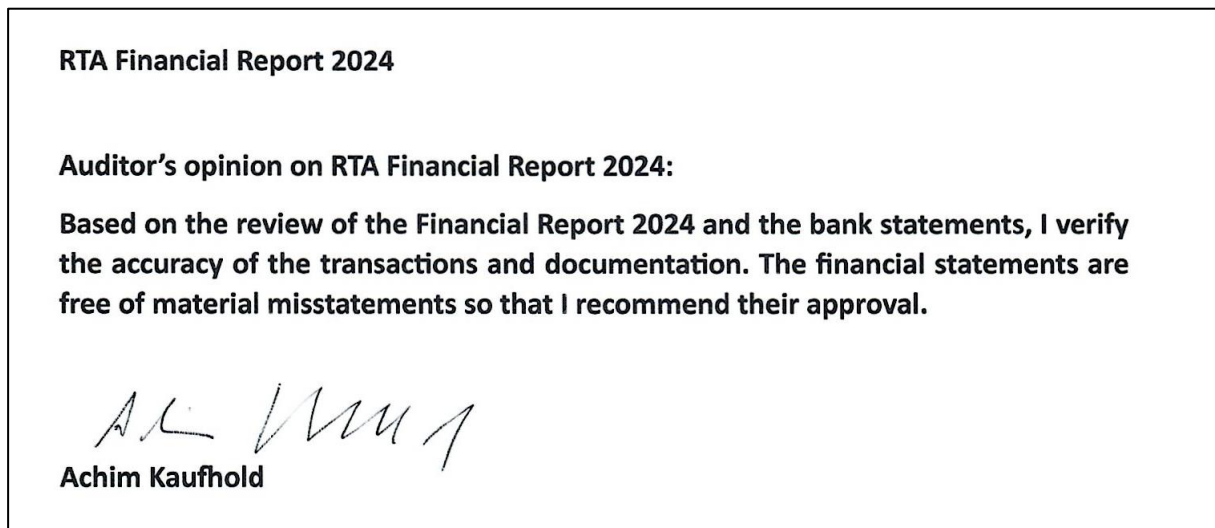
Table 1: Balance sheet

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>31.12.24</b>	<b>31.12.23</b>
1020	Postfinance account	51'753.01	46'413.14
1100	Due from Sponsors or Debtors	--	977.75
1300	Prepaid expenses	432.40	215.27
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>52'185.41</b>	<b>47'606.16</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		<b>31.12.24</b>	<b>31.12.23</b>
2300	Transitory liabilities open bills	14'141.19	6'318.60
2600	Provisions	35'000.00	38'000.00
2800	Foundation Capital	2'000.00	2'000.00
2970	Profit (Loss) carried forward	1'287.56	1'073.47
	Profit and Loss	-243.34	214.09
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>52'185.41</b>	<b>47'606.16</b>

Table 2: Income Statement

<b>EXPENSES</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
4000	Projects	7'632.50	38'413.64
4100	Workshops/Events/Communication	4'206.72	3'029.05
4200	LMIC Project	2'064.98	--
5000	Salaries	74'463.80	32'056.70
5700	Social securities	20'110.20	8'985.10
5800	other personnel expenses	1'536.05	1'054.05
6500	Office Supplies	104.20	66.50
6530	Accounting, Administration	5'325.00	6'225.00
6540	Expenses Board /General Assembly	2'062.95	2'623.00
6550	Office Rental Cleaning Insurance	6'670.77	1'629.83
6570	Website & IT	9'932.47	12'545.94
6600	Marketing & Communication	60.00	16'847.10
6700	Mandatees & Consulting	1'383.70	--
6900	Financial costs	62.00	110.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>135'615.34</b>	<b>123'585.91</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
3300	Fees	--	6'600.00
3500	Grants, Sponsoring	135'372.00	116'500.00
3600	Donations	--	700.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>135'372.00</b>	<b>123'800.00</b>
	Profit and Loss	-243.34	214.09

Figure 2: Auditor's opinion



### **Outlook**

As we look toward 2025, the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics stands at a critical juncture: As the time of start-up funding is coming to an end the association needs to establish a sustainable basis of voluntary personnel and financial resources that support the desired level of activity. The workshop following the General Assembly will provide an opportunity to elicit members' and guests' advice to this effect. We call upon all members to consider increased engagement in the coming year, whether through personal contributions of time and expertise, facilitating institutional support, or helping to secure additional funding. Your active participation in our working groups, public events, and advocacy efforts will be essential in the further pursuit of our mission. The urgency of our work has not diminished—the need for innovative economic models to ensure antibiotic availability continues to grow. With your collective support we remain committed to advancing the implementation of pull incentives for antibiotics in Switzerland, contributing to a health care system that appropriately values these essential medicines and enhances their development and launch on the Swiss market.

### **Acknowledgement**

The progress on the Pull Project has only been possible thanks to insights, experience, advice, constructive feedback and work contribution by numerous members of the association and stakeholders from our ecosystem across health care, industry, academia, and government. Their collaborative spirit embodies the multidisciplinary approach that is essential to addressing the complex challenge of antimicrobial resistance. We would also like to express our gratitude to the members and further individuals and organizations who contributed to the association's advocacy activities in 2024 by facilitating our events and acting as moderators, speakers and panelists. We are particularly grateful to the National Council's Commission for Social Security and Health for the opportunity to present our expertise in antimicrobial resistance countermeasures. Finally, we thank the Federal Office of Public Health and Parliamentary partners for their continued dialogue and consideration of innovative approaches to ensure the long-term availability of effective antibiotics for the Swiss health care system.

Yours sincerely,



Rudolf Blankart

*President of the Swiss Round Table on Antibiotics*