

December 7, 2015

The Honorable President Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Message from Stakeholders Urging Finalization and Release of CARB Economic Incentives Working Group Recommendations**

Dear Mr. President,

We, the undersigned organizations representing medicine, public health, industry, and patients, are deeply concerned about the alarming rise of antimicrobial resistance and the decreasing availability of effective therapies to treat antibiotic-resistant infections. More and more patients are contracting serious and even deadly infections that are difficult and sometimes impossible to treat, resulting in longer hospital stays, complications of other medical treatments such as surgery or chemotherapy, and even deaths. Patients with weakened immune systems, such as those with HIV/AIDS, preterm infants, cancer patients, transplant patients, the elderly, or patients treated in intensive care units are at heightened risk, but even healthy young people are contracting and dying from resistant infections.

We therefore welcomed the National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (CARB Action Plan), including the announcement that a CARB Economic Incentives Working Group (EIWG) had been convened to analyze potential economic incentives to attract more private investment in the development of antibiotics and other innovative products to prevent, diagnose and treat resistant infections and slow the emergence of resistance. As we understand, several U.S. agencies involved with the EIWG have been working over the past few months to prepare recommendations to the President.

**We urge you to quickly finalize and release the report publicly so that stakeholders can have an opportunity to review the recommendations and provide input. If there is no plan to release the report, we request confirmation from the White House along with an explanation about why this aspect of the CARB Action Plan will remain unfulfilled.**

In its September 2014 report, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) acknowledged that the 2011 Generating Antibiotic Incentives Now (GAIN) Act was a good first step but that additional "push" and "pull" mechanisms are necessary to spur antibiotic development. We agree that economic incentives are critical to ensuring there is a diverse and robust pipeline of antibiotics and other novel products, and that better efforts are necessary to preserve the effectiveness of both existing and novel therapies so that they continue to benefit patients in the future. We are very interested to see the EIWG's analysis of PCAST's recommendations and other proposals, including the idea of R&D tax credits for companies pursuing qualified drugs, biologics and diagnostics to stem resistance.

We are encouraged that White House staff is moving forward with other commitments in the CARB plan and we eagerly await recommendations from the EIWG.

We would greatly appreciate an update on the progress of the EIWG report and an expected release date, if any. Please direct any responses or questions to John Billington at [jbillington@idsociety.org](mailto:jbillington@idsociety.org).

Sincerely,

AdvaMedDx

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Bovine Practitioners

American College of Rheumatology

American Thoracic Society

American Urological Association

Antimicrobial Innovation Alliance (Achaogen, Allergan, Astellas, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, The Medicines Company, Merck & Co., Inc., Microbion Corporation, Shionogi, Spero Therapeutics, Tetrphase Pharmaceuticals, Zavante Therapeutics, Inc.)

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Biotechnology Innovation Organization

Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention

Da Volterra

Infectious Diseases Society of America

Making-A-Difference in Infectious Diseases (MAD-ID)

March of Dimes

Merck & Co.

Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition

National Association of County and City Health Officials

NovaDigm Therapeutics, Inc.

HIV Medicine Association

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society

The Pew Charitable Trusts

Renal Physicians Association

Research!America

Society of Critical Care Medicine

Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists

Trust for America's Health

UPMC Center for Health Security

**Cc:**

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