



7 June 2013

## **Society for General Microbiology Note for Parliamentarians**

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### **Responding to the challenge of antibiotic resistance**

#### **About the Society for General Microbiology**

The Society for General Microbiology (SGM) is a membership organisation for scientists who work in all areas of microbiology. It is the largest learned microbiological society in Europe with a worldwide membership based in universities, industry, hospitals, research institutes and schools.

#### **Summary**

The Chief Medical Officer recently highlighted the urgent nature of antimicrobial resistance. Undoubtedly, the solution is a complex, and international one; antimicrobial resistance is as much an industrial and innovation policy issue, as it is a health concern. But we believe the problem is tractable given sufficient research effort; with the right approaches, it can be solved. We therefore support moves to develop a cross-sector antimicrobial resistance research strategy that builds on existing initiatives and UK research excellence.

#### **Recommendations for tackling antimicrobial resistance**

##### **Actions by Society for General Microbiology**

- Continue to highlight the issue of antibiotic resistance among microbiologists, other scientists and the general public through conferences, publications and public engagement.
- Encourage and facilitate conversations between academia and industry, funders and other stakeholders to develop strategies to address the challenges of effective antimicrobials.
- Bring together microbiologists from all sub-disciplines to encourage new approaches in overcoming antibiotic resistance.

##### **Actions by others**

- Identify specific funding streams for research on the mechanisms of antibiotic resistance and novel antimicrobial drugs/therapies.
- Government incentives for industrial development of new antibiotic agents.
- Encourage a broad-based and interdisciplinary UK research community to research old and new approaches to overcoming antibiotic resistance such as the study of natural products, the particular problems of Gram-negative pathogens, and use of combination therapies.

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