

1st Global Forum on Bacterial Infections

Balancing Treatment Access and Antibiotic Resistance



NEW DELHI CALL TO ACTION ON PRESERVING THE POWER OF ANTIBIOTICS



1st Global Forum on Bacterial Infections: Balancing Treatment Access and Antibiotic Resistance was jointly organised by the Center for Disease Dynamics Economics and Policy with Public Health Foundation of India at New Delhi, 3-5 October, 2011. This was a meeting for researchers to present new data on antibiotic access and resistance, and for policymakers, clinicians, public health program managers and researchers to debate policy innovations in low- and middle-income countries.

During this conference, Prafull D. Sheth, FIP Vice-President, was invited to chair a session on the role of pharmacists and informal drug dispensers in combating antimicrobial resistance. Kwame Ohene Buabeng (Ghana), Richard Valimba (Tanzania) and Paul Lalvani (India) were the speakers in the session. They shared country experiences on: 1) pharmacists and licensed chemical sellers in the fight against antibiotic resistance, 2) how engaging private sector drug dispensers can improve antimicrobial use in community and 3) rational dispensing of antibiotics in resource limited settings. The panel debated that although pharmacists have knowledge of microbial resistance, do they understand the extent of AMR in their setting.

The conference concluded with *New Delhi Call to Action for Preserving The Power of Antibiotics*:

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5 OCTOBER, 2011

The 1st Global Forum on Bacterial Infections has been convened by the Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership to address the challenge of insufficient antibiotic access in many developing countries against the background of increasing drug resistance globally. We hereby recognise that:

- Antibiotics - a precious, life-saving, common property resource - are a bedrock of modern medicine; their usefulness must be preserved to protect human and animal health.
- Antibiotic resistance increases the prevalence and severity of bacterial infections, and adds to suffering and death around the world.
- Antibiotic resistance is a critical global concern that affects all countries regardless of economic status or geography.
- Antibiotic resistance requires an immediate, sustained, multi-sectoral, global response based on national commitments and including measures to 1) prevent bacterial infections and their spread 2) ensure access to appropriate drug prescribing, dispensing and use, 3) strengthen and enforce regulation to ensure drug quality, 4) implement surveillance for resistant bacteria and for antibiotic use patterns, 5) stimulate R&D for new antibiotics and 6) discourage sub-therapeutic use of antibiotics in animal feed for growth promotion.

Therefore, we call for action to:

- Extend access to effective antibiotics to those who would otherwise be ill or die from severe bacterial infections.
- Prevent as many infections as possible through vaccines, infection control and other proven measures.
- Achieve a balance within our own countries between access to effective antibiotics and interventions to reduce unnecessary use.
- Advocate for a global response supported by national governments, international organizations, academia, the pharmaceutical industry, professional associations, consumer and advocacy groups and the wider health care community, sharing information and strategies, to reduce the need for antibiotics and use them effectively when they are needed.

1st Global Forum

Balancing Treatment Access and Antibiotic Resistance

3-5 October 2011

India Habitat Centre
New Delhi, India



Chris Basking

Richard Valimba

Paul Lalvani

Prafull Sheth



PUBLIC HEALTH
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