

RELEASE OF BEAM POSITION PAPER



[September 30, 2015] The BEAM Alliance (*Biopharmaceutical companies from Europe innovating in Anti-Microbial resistance research*) today announces the release of its position paper. This document sets out BEAM's objectives and presents the compiled pipeline of the companies composing the Alliance. More specifically, this position paper highlights the key actions the Alliance believes are needed in the immediate-near term in order to reinvigorate antimicrobial research across Europe. It also states the longer term plans & wider ambitions of the group.

BEAM members are key players in the field of antimicrobial research. Altogether, they are developing almost **100 new compounds to treat or prevent bacterial infections**. Ranging from antibacterial small molecules (e.g. small molecule antibiotics, antibiotic combinations, adjuvant therapeutic) to alternative strategies and bioproducts (e.g. phages, antibodies, peptides, medical devices, microbiome modulators, prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines), these products attest the dynamism of BEAM members pipelines and their efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance. Among them, the **20 products currently in clinical development** are hopes of better cures for patients with multi-resistant infections.

The clear direction of travel for all involved is to a **more attractive European antimicrobials R&D environment** that can effectively deliver solutions to ensure that a post antibiotic era soon becomes inconceivable once again. The commitment, ambition & combined resources of the BEAM Alliance are essential to address this significant challenge.

In their position paper, **the BEAM Alliance urges European and National public authorities to take three key short term complementary actions** with immediate effect:

- 1) The creation of a **specific fund dedicated to small and medium biopharmas** developing innovative antibacterial products. It would finance projects from discovery to clinical proof of concept, with a specific focus on "valley of death" i.e. preclinical and early clinical studies up to phase II studies;
- 2) The **enhancement of market incentives to increase the Return on Investment** for products tackling antimicrobial resistance through the creation of a special status. Tax breaks, along with extension of market exclusivity and revision of the pricing model, would reinvigorate the attractiveness of antibacterial R&D and tend to replenish the pipeline of antibacterial products;
- 3) The strengthening of the already existing actions of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to accelerate and **simplify regulatory pathways for products tackling antimicrobial resistance**.

This position paper is the first milestone of the BEAM alliance since its launch in June of this year. All of its members are delighted with this demonstration of the group's proactive foundation & willingness to practically & positively change the European antimicrobials landscape.

To see the position paper in full go to <http://beam-alliance.eu/assets/2015-Position-Paper.pdf>.

About anti-microbial resistance

Antibiotic resistance is a major global public health threat which claims at least 50,000 lives per year in the EU and the US alone¹. Its burden is even far heavier in economically poor and developing countries. Because antibiotics treat diseases that are now considered as common and benign, such as urinary tract infections and pneumococcal pneumonia, currently easily treatable conditions could again become lethal. By 2050, infectious disease could become a bigger global killer than cancer without progress towards a new generation of antibiotics according to the 2014 O'Neill report. As we use antibiotics, we unavoidably select resistant strains of bacteria. There will therefore always be a need for new anti-microbial treatments and for better use of existing therapies, which also means improved diagnosis and prevention. If nothing is done to thwart the progression of anti-microbial resistance, it will equate to a potential global economic burden of up to US\$100 trillion by 2050².

About the BEAM Alliance

BEAM represents European biopharmaceutical companies involved in developing innovative products to tackle antimicrobial resistance. BEAM collaborates with the existing community of stakeholders dedicated to implementing tangible strategies. BEAM gives its members a unique voice to propose and support policies and incentives in antimicrobial research and development in Europe. BEAM recommends bold incentives that warrant action by policymakers to stimulate much needed innovation.

List of BEAM Alliance Member Companies

ABAC Therapeutics, Abgentis, Absynth Biologics, Adenium Biotech, Aicuris, Alaxia, Allecra, Antabio, AntibioTx, Arsanis Biosciences, Auspherix, Bioversys, Biovertis / Morphochem, Cantab Anti-infectives, Da Volterra, Deinobiotics, Destiny Pharma, Discuva, Eligo Bioscience, Evotec, FAB Pharma, Helperby, IMMT, Immunsystem, Lamellar Biomedical, MaaT Pharma, MGB Biopharma Limited, Mutabilis, Naicons, Northern Antibiotics, Nosopharm, NovaBiotics, Olmix, Pherecydes, Polyphor, Procarta, Redx Pharma, Setlance, Setubio, TechnoPhage.

For further information, visit <http://beam-alliance.eu/>.

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¹ European Union et al., *The Bacterial Challenge: Time to React. A Call to Narrow the Gap between Multidrug-Resistant Bacteria in the EU and Development of New Antibacterial Agents* (Luxembourg: EUR-OP, 2009); 'Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States' (CDC, 2013), <http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/threat-report-2013/>.

² Jim O'Neill, 'Antimicrobial Resistance: Tackling a Crisis for the Health and Wealth of Nations', December 2014, http://amr-review.org/sites/default/files/RARJ2810_Review_Launch_Paper_09.12.14_WEB_OUTLINED.pdf.