

Press release, 1 March 2018

SME financing and market access hurdles in the focus of AMR conference

- 200 experts followed invitation of BEAM Alliance and BIOCOM AG to build a discussion platform for most important AMR related challenges
- 50+ speakers and 20+ posters showcase new financing instruments, novel antimicrobials, clinical insights, diagnostic approaches and new platform technologies as well as an outlook for further match-making activities of the sector
- BEAM Alliance highlights strong clinical pipeline of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the AMR field and urges the need to improve the ecosystem for innovative R&D

Berlin, March 1. Novel strategies tackling the growing burden of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are in the focus of 11th Berlin Conference “Novel Antimicrobials & AMR Diagnostics”, which brings together 200 experts in Berlin on March 2. More than 50 international speakers discuss clinical, financial and technological challenges of novel approaches in the AMR field with a special emphasize in financing (e.g. CARB-X, GARDP, EIB, World Health Organization, Novo Holdings, Novartis Venture Fund, WIF, FIND Diagnostics), business strategies (Basilea, Janssen Diagnostics, Curetis, Abbott, GNA Biosolutions), clinical development (Polyphor, Debiopharm, Septeos) and science (e.g. AMR Centre, Institut Pasteur, University of Uppsala, German Centre of Infectious Diseases, Fraunhofer Society, Leibniz Association).

About 20 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and seven start-ups present their insights during the four parallel sessions of conference, particularly highlighting the potential of innovative concepts to combat multidrug-resistant pathogens. “With the largest pipeline of innovative products, SMEs are the major innovation engine to provide patients with effective drugs in the fight against AMR. However, to ultimately revive antibacterial R&D, further specific support of SME-driven innovation is key,” says Mark Jones, Head of Project Management at Swiss Basilea Pharmaceuticals, Switzerland, and Secretary of BEAM Alliance. BEAM Alliance is representing 42 European SMEs in the AMR field and co-organised the event together with Berlin-based BIOCOM AG. “With the Berlin Conference, we want to discuss the specific needs and challenges of innovative SMEs in the AMR field with the most relevant stakeholders,” says Marie Petit, coordinator of the BEAM alliance. “The Berlin Conference is the first discussion platform highlighting major business relevant topics of AMR innovation such as financing, clinical development and market access. We are very proud to have a delegation of Novo Holdings presenting the first AMR-focused venture fund to the public as well as representatives of WHO and UNCTAD talking about activities on match-making investors and pharma industry that will feed into the World Investment Forum 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland,” says Sandra Wirsching, responsible for the program of the Berlin Conference at BIOCOM AG. “At the same time, the event allows new insights into technological advancements, promising start-ups and new scientific approaches.” Peter Beyer, Senior Advisor in the Department of Essential Medicines & Health Products at World Health Organisation (WHO), says: “There are many challenges in the AMR field. With respect to R&D, the recent WHO clinical pipeline analysis shows that we will not get the new antibiotics we need to overcome the increasing resistance, particularly to treat infections caused by gram negative bacteria. The most innovative approaches are often driven by SMEs and we need to support their stronger engagement. We are glad that GARDP is partnering with an SME to develop a new first in class treatment against drug resistant gonorrhoea.” Jean-Pierre Paccaud, Director Business Development at Global Antibiotics Research and

Development Partnership (GARDP), says: “Considering today’s antibiotic pipeline, it is clear that early stage R&D is crucial. GARDP’s not-for-profit partnership model works from any entry point along the drug discovery pipeline through to patient access. We see industry, including SMEs, as key partners in achieving our long-term vision to deliver new drugs and therapeutic approaches while integrating stewardship and sustainable access.” Kevin Outterson, Executive Director, CARB-X, US, says: “CARB-X is designed to help small research companies with innovative antibacterial products. We have admired BEAM’s work for some time now and are eager to share with the conference the details of our new 2018 Funding Rounds.” Christoph Spennemann, leading the program on investment and Intellectual Property at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), says: “It is important to identify investors to assist SMEs in their R&D. We should inter alia be looking out for non-traditional investors such as health insurances and hospital owners, who have an economic interest in reducing resistances. Second, there needs to be a global debate on how to reconcile the industry’s need for ROI with the need to make new antimicrobials accessible to patients, especially in developing countries, where currently more people suffer from lack of access to antibiotic treatments than from resistance. The World Investment Forum 2018 will provide a match-making platform between developers of novel AMR treatments and interested funders to address these issues.

About the BEAM alliance The BEAM Alliance (Biopharmaceutical companies from Europe innovating in Anti-Microbial resistance research) plays a key role working on a European and national level to represent the interests of its 42 members. The BEAM members are collectively developing almost 120 new compounds focused upon the cure and prevention of bacterial infections. They cover the whole range of pharmaceutical drug development from small molecule antibiotics, antibiotic combinations, phages, antibodies, prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines, peptides, prebiotics, other bioproducts, adjunctive therapies and medical devices, thus representing the large majority of all European companies actively working on AMR. The goal of the BEAM alliance is to maintain and promote awareness of SME-driven innovation in the field and to support policymakers in understanding economic business models around AMR. The BEAM alliance closely cooperates with all stakeholders dedicated to the fight against AMR. In 2017, BEAM published a position paper presenting a set of guidelines on how to more effectively reinforce and support antibacterial R&D by SMEs. www.beam-alliance.eu

About the 11th Berlin Conference “Novel Antimicrobials & AMR Diagnostics” The “Berlin Conference on Life Sciences” was started eleven years ago as a BIOCOM event to discuss promising developments in the biotech and pharma business in Europe. For the second year in a row, the Berlin Conference addresses the AMR market and its challenges. The one-day-event aims at building a broad discussion platform for relevant stakeholders in the field to help accelerating innovation. BIOCOM is a Berlin-based publishing house with German and European business magazines in the life sciences. The event is supported by Boehmert & Boehmert (Germany), Flanders Investment and Trade, the British Department of International Trade, the German Fraunhofer Society, the European Consortium ENABLE, the German network Glyconet as well as from the companies Resistell (Switzerland), FASTinov (Portugal) and Adrenomed (Germany). BIOCOM also supports the event with its quarterly journal European Biotechnology Magazine.

www.berlin-conferences.com

www.biocom.de

www.eurobiotechnews.eu

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