



Griffin House, 53 Regent Place, Birmingham, B1 2JS Tel: 0121 236 1988
Email: enquiries@bsac.org.uk Website: www.bsac.org.uk Charity No: 1093118 VAT No: 442 5855 40

Press Release

Doctors and Academics join forces to lead the way to tackle the lack of new antibiotics

World Health Day - 'Combating antimicrobial resistance' - April 7th 2011. Antibiotics are essential to 21st century medicine. According to the WHO infections still account for 16.9% of all deaths and have significant morbidity (>20% of disability-adjusted life years). In developing countries infections affect even more people. Resistance gives rise to untreatable diseases in those most at risk of infection – e.g. the young and elderly and those with underlying co-morbidities such as diabetes –and so threaten the United Nations Millennium Development Goals set for 2015. Modern medicine, including many surgical procedures and cancer chemotherapy, requires antibiotics so this too is at risk.

The BSAC leads doctors and academics in an initiative to make new antibiotics. 'This issue needs tackling in several ways – from understanding the basic biology of how bacteria become resistant to drugs, making new molecules that kill resistant bacteria, reducing the costs of developing new drugs, and improving the process that regulates and licenses new drugs so that they reach the patient' says Prof. Piddock, President, BSAC.

It is commonly believed that antibiotics should be easily and cheaply available but people are unaware of the looming problem of the lack of new drugs. The BSAC recently reported on why there are so few new antibiotics and as part of the new initiative on Thursday 14th April will join forces with other medical charities for which the practise of medicine in their patients is most threatened.

For more information, please contact Tracey Guise, British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy. Tel: 0121 236 1988.

Notes to editors

- **BSAC, British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy.**
- **Podcast of recent 17 minute talk by Prof. Piddock is available at:**
http://www.online-web-presentations.com/BSAC_SpringMeeting2011/ [final presentation]
- **Link to executive summary of report:**
<http://www.bsac.org.uk/Resources/BSAC/The%20Urgent%20Need%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>
- **Professor Piddock is available for interview. Please contact the University of Birmingham press office to arrange.**
Tel: 0121 415 8134.