

# Antimicrobial Resistance

## Avoiding the Next Pandemic?

### What is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)?

Antibiotics represent one of the most powerful tools in healthcare, underpinning every aspect of treatment against life-threatening infectious diseases such as pneumonia, TB, HIV, and malaria, and enabling critical interventions like chemotherapy, and surgical procedures.

AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines – making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, and death. This rising resistance threatens to undermine modern medicine. Every year, 700,000 people across the world die from infections which are resistant to antibiotics. This is estimated to increase to 10million deaths each year by 2050.

AMR is a global public health issue requiring multiple solutions and a sustained, coordinated response.



### Why is the antibiotic pipeline insufficient?

Given the nature of resistance, we will always need new antibiotics. However, drug resistant bacteria are now developing faster than new antibiotics can reach the market. One of the biggest problem areas is the research and development (R&D) of new antibiotics. The high failure rate in antibiotic development leaves

just 40 antibiotics in clinical trials globally.

The result is a huge public health need for new antibiotics. However, antibiotics are not like other medicines, because companies are working to find new medicines that in some cases are intended to or will sit on the shelf and only be used against specific bugs, that are constantly evolving.

*Continued overleaf*

## What is the AMR Action Fund?

Putting in place the necessary policy reforms to support antibiotic innovation will take time. This is time the world doesn't have because the antibiotic pipeline is near collapse. Urgent action is needed now, so the pharmaceutical industry is stepping up. Last year, industry launched a \$1 billion pharmaceutical industry-led investment fund that aims to bridge the funding gaps facing antibiotic developers.

The AMR Action Fund will invest in smaller biotech companies focused on developing new antibiotics that address the highest priority public health needs, make a significant difference in clinical practice, and save lives. Governments across the globe need to be bold and ambitious in putting in place long-term market value solutions that can complement the AMR Fund.

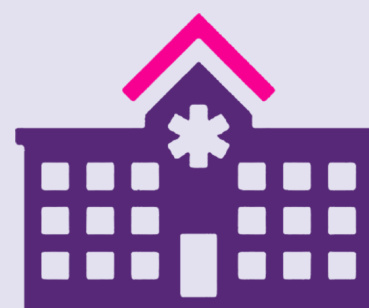
## What else are we doing about it?

The life sciences sector – including pharmaceutical companies – is key to discovering new antibiotics, but innovative solutions to support antibiotic innovation is required. There is an urgent need for policy reforms to create market conditions that enable sustainable investment in antibiotic innovation, including properly valuing and paying for new antibiotics. An AMR Project in NHS England is trialling a new subscription style model for antibiotics, where payment is based on the product's assessed value using a new comprehensive evaluation framework. This commenced in April 2022.

We must ensure that we evolve and learn from the project to find a sustainable, long-term solution is put in place for all new antibiotics which is fully and entirely value-based, and that the model works across the whole of the UK.



**Industry has invested \$1bn to kick-start the development of 2-4 new antibiotics**



**700,000 people die from antibiotics-resistant infections each year globally**

# Discussion on Antibiotics at the Welsh Parliament

**March saw the first ABPI Cymru Wales face-to-face event at the Welsh Parliament / Senedd Cymru in over two-years. We took the opportunity to launch our collaboration with Tenovus Cancer Care under the banner of #TogetherForAntibiotics.**

## What is #TogetherForAntibiotics?

Over the last year, ABPI has spoken to a wide range of charitable and research organisations for whom Antimicrobial Resistance (also

known as AMR) is an area of real concern. However, there are few organisations for whom it is their primary policy or campaigning focus – it is mostly a second-tier priority for the groups we spoke to, for which there may be no resource.

We decided to launch a public facing campaign, which governments and policymakers could support, that provides a platform for the breadth of organisations who understand AMR is critical to their purpose but are not currently prioritising in their advocacy.

## We want to highlight that:

- Antibiotics aren't just any other medicine.
- Without them, more illness and disease will become life-threatening.
- We must protect them from drug resistant infections.

Working with Tenovus Cancer Care, we have developed a series of bilingual, social media resources that you can use. <https://www.togetherforantibiotics.org.uk/resources/>



# Discussion on Antibiotics at the Welsh Parliament



Russell George MS introduces Judi Rhys (Tenovus Cancer Care) and Dr Rick Greville (ABPI) who discussed AMR



ABPI Tenovus Senedd Event



ABPI Tenovus Senedd Event

## Liz Treloar New Chair of the ABPI Wales Group



Liz Treloar – The New Chair of ABPI Cymru Wales Group

ABPI were delighted to announce that Liz Treloar, a Network Lead with UCB Pharma, has been elected as the new Chair of the ABPI Cymru Wales Group. Having spent the last 20 years working in the pharmaceutical industry in Wales and England, Liz's extensive experience in building networks across therapy areas, has enabled her to bring innovative solutions to patients.

Liz's pharmaceutical career began with Pfizer in 2002, as a representative. In her current role as a Network Lead at UCB Pharma, Liz is responsible for gaining optimal access, for UCB's portfolio of innovative medicines. UCB is a global biopharmaceutical company dedicated to discovering and developing treatments that aim to transform the lives of people living with neurological and immunological conditions.

Liz has been an active member of ABPI Wales Group for the past 18 months and is looking forward to working with industry members across Wales, to continue to strive for the best possible patient outcomes. Liz lives just over the border in Worcestershire, with her fiancé and son and is proud to be chairing an organisation focussed on promoting the collaboration of industry members with Welsh Government and NHS Wales to help improve the health of the people of Wales.

# The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and its management, on health and social care in Wales

## *ABPI Cymru Wales Response*

### **ABPI Cymru Wales has submitted a response to the Welsh Parliament Health and Social Care Committee on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and its management, on health and social care in Wales.**

The Life Sciences sector in Wales employs around 11,000 people in well-paid, high-quality jobs and has exports of approximately £980m<sup>i</sup>. Two ABPI members have significant manufacturing facilities in Wales: Norgine<sup>ii</sup> (in South Wales) and Ipsen<sup>iii</sup> (in North Wales). Other members have field presence across Wales, and some are working collaboratively with the Welsh Government, NHS Wales, third sector and/or academia<sup>iv</sup>.

Since the start of the pandemic, the pharmaceutical industry has been committed to working with governments and partners around the world to make COVID-19 treatments and vaccines available and affordable for the patients that need them<sup>vi</sup>. Working collaboratively<sup>vii</sup>, we have aimed to support the health and social care systems across Wales, with priorities focussed on:

- Researching and developing safe and effective treatments and vaccines for COVID-19
- Securing the supply of medicines for patients
- Supporting the NHS in responding to the crisis, by drawing on our member's expertise

Looking to the future, the ABPI and our members will continue to support the NHS in Wales, and our colleagues across all related sectors, to mitigate and recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During its ongoing inquiry, we have asked the Committee to consider:

- The important role that could be played by the greater integration of clinical research for all patients; to expand adoption of clinical research across service delivery and initiate new trials at pace within NHS Wales, making it a more attractive place to undertake clinical research in the future<sup>viii</sup>.
- Asking the Welsh Government to ensure that the impact of clinical, geographical, and behavioural changes in their policies fully consider the impact on the supply of medicines; that the vital role pharmaceutical companies can play is reflected in routine stakeholder engagement, ensuring early, advance notice of anticipated changes to medicines or vaccines supply requirements.
- The role that progressive regulation alongside safe and effective changes in clinical practice can play, where innovative medicines used early in treatment pathways have been advocated to slow and prevent disease progression and/or minimise patients requiring secondary care support.
- Encouraging Welsh Government to provide ongoing support for the widespread use of new, innovative treatments, embedding them at pace and scale to provide

greater options for patients whilst increasing service effectiveness and efficiencies.

- The role that could be played by collaborations between NHS Wales organisations, ABPI members, and other pharmaceutical companies; the additional expertise and resources available to improve effective delivery of services on the road to our recovery and the introduction of improved services for the future.

### **New Opportunities Ipsen Pharmaceuticals (Wrexham)**

Ipsen is creating a large number of high-skilled jobs at its North Wales operation in Wrexham as part of an expansion fueled by strong export sales. Our Research and Development (R&D) and manufacturing operation in Wrexham produces medicines to treat neurological conditions.

As a result of the expansion and growing global orders, we're now recruiting for new staff in roles including in manufacturing, engineering, quality, manufacturing science and technology, supply chain, R&D, and finance.

If you are interested in being part of an exciting growing company then have a look at the Ipsen careers page [Careers at Ipsen | Ipsen Job Opportunities](#)



# REMARKABLE ROUTES

## Women in STEM

Technocamps is a wide-reaching digital programme with hubs in all Welsh universities whose main goal is to support digital upskilling across Wales by providing workshops, training, and events for pupils, teachers and businesses in Wales. ABPI have been working with Technocamps over the last twelve-months, to help support some of their programmes here in Wales.

**Role Models:** Technocamps, like the ABPI, are passionate about encouraging young people (especially girls) into Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. It is widely recognised that women are underrepresented in STEM industries, and Technocamps are aiming to redress the balance. The Girls in Science and Technology (GiST) programme sees Women in STEM talking to schoolgirls about their careers and showcasing the opportunities that are open to them. ABPI were delighted when Dr Jen Harris was invited to be one of Technocamps Role Models and deliver a presentation at their GiST event on International Women's Day this year. You can watch it here: [Meet Dr Jen Harris | #InternationalWomensDay 2022 - YouTube](#)



*Dr Jennifer Harris, Director of Research Policy*

*Marvellous, Jen and Victoria talk to Laura Roberts as part of the Technocamps*



**Technotalks:** Technotalks is hosted by the Technocamps South-East Wales Regional Co-ordinator, Laura Roberts, who chats to different people in the (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) STEM industry about their jobs. She asks them about their current role, how they ended up where they are, and how the listener can get into that industry

too. In the final episode of this Technotalks series, Laura chatted to Marvellous Ugoji, Dr Jennifer Harris, and Victoria Barrett about their unusual education and career routes into their current roles with the ABPI. You can listen to the podcast in full here: <https://open.spotify.com/show/4UFdwzHMhLRnOONrau16Pc>

# technocamps

We're delighted that Technocamps will be joining ABPI at our Drop-In Session at the Welsh Parliament / Senedd Cymru on the 11th of May 2022.

If you want to find out more, please get in touch.

# WOMENSPIRE 2022

## ABPI Collaboration with Chwarae Teg Enters Fifth Year

For the fifth-year, ABPI will be sponsoring the Chwarae Teg Woman in STEM Award at the Womenspire Ceremony in September. Joe Ferris, the Operations Manager at ABPI Cymru Wales was asked by Chwarae Teg about the ABPI, and why they are supporting the Awards. You can read more below:

### Tell us about your organisation:

The ABPI exists to make the UK the best place in the world to research, develop and use new medicines and vaccines. We represent companies of all sizes who invest in discovering the medicines and vaccines of the future. Our members supply cutting edge treatments that improve and save the lives of millions of people. We work in partnership with Governments and the NHS so patients can get new treatments faster and the NHS can plan how much it spends on medicines. Every day, we partner with organisations in the life sciences community and beyond to transform lives across the UK.

**Why are you supporting the awards?** This is our fifth year supporting the Chwarae Teg "Womenspire" awards and we are delighted to be partnering with them again in 2022. This year, the ABPI is continuing to highlight the work we, and our members, do in partnership with others to support women and girls in STEM. This is particularly true of our relationships across the NHS, to research, develop and deliver life-changing medicines and vaccines for patients.

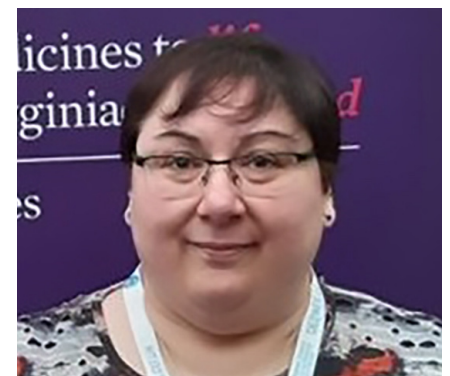
As the trade association for the research-based pharmaceutical industry in the UK, we work at the heart of policy development and decision-making to ensure that patients benefit from the latest and most advanced medicines and vaccines; with scientists currently researching and developing over 7,000 innovative medicines globally. Our member companies are distributed throughout the nations of the UK and are a major part of a broader life sciences sector that employs over 250,000 people across 6,300 businesses.

**Why does gender equality matter to you?** Many roles in the pharmaceutical industry require science or engineering qualifications, but companies also recruit people without a science background into roles in sales and marketing, IT, human resources, training, finance, and many administrative areas. The actual path that individuals have taken to get into their current role, and how they see their future career developing, is highlighted in over 80 case studies on the careers section of our website (<https://www.abpi.org.uk/careers/>). These include undergraduates doing a work placement, people who joined a company straight from

school and have studied part-time once employed, and others who have had several role changes in their career to date.

It is important to the ABPI that the pharmaceutical industry can recruit the very best people for these roles, regardless of gender.

**Why do you support the work of Chwarae Teg?** We recognise that Chwarae Teg has been working to help ensure that women in Wales can enter the workplace, develop their skills, and build rewarding careers, since its establishment in 1992. Chwarae Teg's work with the Welsh Government, academics, and industry to influence the development of policies has been influential in opening new and exciting careers for women across the country.



ABPI Cymru Wales Operations Manager, Joe Ferris

- i <https://shubwales.com/>
- ii <https://norgine.com/>
- iii <https://www.ipsen.com/>
- iv <https://www.abpi.org.uk/media/8107/abpi-cymru-wales-spring-bulletin-2020-for-publication.pdf>
- v <https://www.abpi.org.uk/covid-19/>
- vi <https://www.ifpma.org/resource-centre/pharma-joins-global-pledge-committing-to-work-together-to-beat-covid-19/>
- vii <https://www.abpi.org.uk/covid-19/what-are-pharmaceutical-companies-doing-to-tackle-covid-19/>
- viii <https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s101374/C18%20-%20Association%20of%20the%20British%20Pharmaceutical%20Industry.pdf>

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Bringing medicines to life  
Dod a meddyginiaeth i fywyd

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