

# ReAct

Action on Antibiotic Resistance

## What?

Action on Antibiotic Resistance, or ReAct, links a wide range of individuals, organisations and networks around the world taking concerted action to respond to antibiotic resistance.

**Our Vision** is that current and future generations of people around the globe will have access to effective treatment of bacterial infections.





# Why?

Infections caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria increasingly defy standard treatment. Only limited progress has been made in countering this serious though largely “faceless” threat affecting all communities around the globe and increasing the toll from infectious diseases.

Yet, as the impact of antibiotic resistance continues to grow, there is paradoxically a downward trend in the development of new antibiotics.

Without urgent action current trends could well lead to effective antibiotics disappearing from our midst, with horrific consequences for public health everywhere.

The world may be on the verge of running out of effective treatments for bacterial infection.

# Mission

ReAct believes:

- that antibiotics should be used appropriately, their use reduced when of no benefit and their correct and specific use increased when needed;
- that hospital and community infectious diseases should be prevented through improved infection control and better hygiene and nutrition;
- that awareness of ecological balance is needed as part of an integral concept of health;
- that the root causes of antibiotic resistance, as well as effective responses, are social, political and ecological as much as scientific and technical.

# How ?

ReAct seeks to achieve its goals by:

- stimulating, organising and supporting political, professional and community action;
- making the burden of antibiotic resistance more visible to policy makers and the public;
- advocating that governments set up effective systems to reduce this burden;
- encouraging and supporting processes of consumer and health care worker empowerment;
- building alliances and linking to campaigns with related and shared goals, such as those tackling HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria as well as those working on patient safety and the rational use of medicines;
- promoting strategies for the development of new antibacterials and complementary technologies;
- promoting new ways of approaching the problem of antibiotic resistance, including a new understanding of the fundamental relationships, both beneficial and harmful, among humans and microbes.

A red pennant-shaped graphic pointing to the left, containing the word 'When?' in white text.

# When?

In May 2004, individuals from all continents and from a diverse range of backgrounds gathered at the Dag Hammarskjöld Centre in Uppsala, Sweden.

They concluded that there was an urgent need for a supportive function that could link the networks, individuals and institutions engaged in the issue, to catalyse the global action needed. As a consequence, ReAct was created.

That meeting and a following, larger seminar in September 2005, were organised by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, IHCAR (Department of Public Health Sciences, Division of International Health) of the Karolinska Institutet and STRAMA (the Swedish Strategic Programme for the Rational Use of Antimicrobial Agents).

ReAct believes the time to act is now.

# Where?

ReAct has a global secretariat drawing on people from different parts of the world, with various professional backgrounds.

Currently ReAct has an office in Uppsala, Sweden and can be contacted at:

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