

CAN YOU TAME THE NHS 'DRAGONS' IN THE AMR-INNOVATION 'DEN'?

An imaginative new event-concept will help kickstart the urgent need to identify innovative technologies that will support the NHS in meeting the major challenges of tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

In a series of 10-minute face-to-face presentations, commercial-organisations and enterprises will be able to directly 'pitch' their AMR ideas and innovations to the NHS 'Dragons' – an elite panel of leaders from NHS England, NHS Improvement and the NHS Academic Health Science Network (AHSN). Participating-presenters will also be eligible to receive bespoke assistance and a financial award from the AHSN.

The NHS Panellists will include, amongst others, **Sharon Lamont** (Head of AMR: NHS England) **Linda Dempster** (Head of Infection Prevention & Control: NHS England & NHS Improvement) and **Paul Clarke** (Head of Facilities Management Services at Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board)

The **AMR-Innovation 'Den'** will be staged on 13th February 2020 - as an exciting additional-feature of **IPC/AMR 2020** - <https://infectioncontrol2020.co.uk/> - NHS England's annual infection-prevention and control conference, which will bring together some 500 NHS senior healthcare professionals, with responsibility for HCAI (healthcare-associated-infection) and AMR, in acute hospitals and community-health facilities, across the UK - as well as the implementation of new technological solutions to the ever-increasing threat of antibiotic armageddon.

Keynote-speakers at IPC/AMR 2020, at Birmingham's National Conference Centre, Birmingham, include **Professor Stephen Powis** (National Medical Director: NHS England); **Linda Dempster** (Head of Infection Prevention & Control: NHS England & NHS Improvement); and **Jon Otter**(renowned microbiologist).

- **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AMR-INNOVATION 'DEN' - AND THE IPC/AMR 2020 CONFERENCE - call or email Knowlex's Head of Healthcare, Adam Dakri, at 0161 696 4868 / adam.dakri@knowlex.co.uk**

THE AMR CHALLENGE FACING THE NHS

The increasing rates of AMR is one of the major threats to human health. In January 2019, the UK government published a 5-year action plan and a 20-year vision, building on the achievements of the 2013-2018 5-year plan. Current plans include reducing drug-resistant infections by 10% by 2025, reducing antibiotic use in humans by 15%, and reducing gram-negative blood-stream-infections.

Failure to address the problem of AMR could result in an estimated 10 million deaths every year globally by 2050.

The burden of infections caused by antibiotic resistance continues to rise, highlighting the necessity for effective prevention. Tackling AMR in human health alone requires changes in infection prevention and control, prescribing, diagnostics and data – this will enable us to prevent infections, ensure we use right antibiotics at the right time and that the enablers for doing this are in place.

Comprehensive infection prevention and control measures are vital to reducing the development and spread of antimicrobial-resistant infections. It is time to move to a whole health system approach that spans across the whole patient pathway.

NHS England and NHS Improvement have identified five key challenges:

1. **Training and Education of health and social care workers** - including advice and guidance, antimicrobial stewardship programmes, hand hygiene, checklists and education messages on AMR to prevent the spread of infection and reduce the need for antibiotics; and of the general public on inappropriate antibiotic use and the dangers of misuse and self-care advice including good hygiene practices such as hand washing.
2. **Diagnostic tests - including at point of care across the pathway that meet national and international standards** – a need for rapid diagnostic tools to help health professionals identify an infection within minutes – with evidence of the benefit to patients and value to health and care systems.
3. **Encouraging responsible antibiotic prescribing** – there is a need to improve effective prescribing to help GPs, pharmacists and hospital prescribers to reduce antibiotic prescribing.
4. **Encouraging adequate hydration** – ensure hydration in patient groups at high risk such as those with a urinary tract infection and in the elderly population.
5. **Surveillance programme and improved data systems** – the linking of data to be able to understand the existing challenge and pathways of AMR including patient access points and prescribing habits to more effectively target interventions.

Dr Sharon Saint Lamont, Head Antimicrobial Resistance at NHS England and NHS Improvement said: *“This call is addressing very real challenges faced by the NHS and social care today. The situation is becoming critical. If we don’t act now, in 30 years’ time people will die from everyday infections that are no longer treatable and surgery may be too great a risk without effective antibiotics. We’re hopeful that the solutions exist, whether they’re new innovations or existing technologies applied to different settings but with the potential to be modified and adapted into a healthcare setting.”*