



Institutional Position on Antimicrobial Resistance

October 11, 2023

WHEREAS, Resistance to antimicrobials, including antibiotics, occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of the spread of disease, severe illness and death;

WHEREAS, the spread of antimicrobial resistant organisms is a serious local, national and global threat to public health;^{i,ii}

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than 2.8 million infections and 35,000 deaths are caused by antibiotic resistant organisms in the United States each year;ⁱⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, the United Nations reports that antimicrobial resistance constitutes a growing global threat to child survival, growth and development;^{iv}

WHEREAS, human action, such as inappropriate antibiotic use and overuse of antibiotics in food-producing animals, accelerates the spread of antibiotic resistant organisms;^{v, vi, vii}

WHEREAS, despite new antimicrobials, resistant organisms continue to emerge and threaten our ability to treat common infectious diseases;^{viii}

WHEREAS, the risk of infection is higher for infants and children and treatment options are more limited due to antimicrobial resistance;^{ix}

WHEREAS, the majority of current research for novel pharmaceuticals against antibiotic resistant organisms is focused on adults,^x and

WHEREAS, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago recognizes antimicrobial resistance as a core patient safety issue for children.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago supports policy and program initiatives that:

- 1) Promote appropriate antimicrobial use in human medicine;



- 2) Eliminate routine antimicrobial use in food-producing animals;
- 3) Strengthen antimicrobial resistance tracking and monitoring;
- 4) Require transparency in antimicrobial use practices in humans and animals; and
- 5) Support research and development of novel antimicrobials.

ⁱ [Political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance](#). 2016. Available from: http://oiebulletin.fr/?attachment_id=9250

ⁱⁱ Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in 2019: a systematic analysis. *Lancet* 2022 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)02724-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)02724-0)

ⁱⁱⁱ Biggest Threats and Data: 2019 AR Threats Report. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2020. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/biggest-threats.html>.

^{iv} The Urgent Threat of Drug-Resistant Infections: A UNICEF Guidance Note on Antimicrobial Resistance. 2023. Available from: <https://www.unicef.org/documents/urgent-threat-drug-resistant-infections>

^v Barlam, T.F., et al. Implementing an Antibiotic Stewardship Program: Guidelines by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America. *Clin Infect Dis*, 2016. 62(10): p. e51-77. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciw118>

^{vi} Browne AJ, et al. Global antibiotic consumption and usage in humans, 2000–18: a spatial modelling study. *Lancet Planet Health* 2021.

^{vii} Ending Non-Judicious Use of Antibiotics in Agriculture, Infectious Diseases Society of America. 2009. Available from: https://www.idsociety.org/policy--advocacy/antimicrobial-resistance/Antibiotics_in_Agriculture/.

^{viii} Kumarasamy KK, et al. Emergence of a new antibiotic resistance mechanism in India, Pakistan, and the UK: a molecular, biological, and epidemiological study. *Lancet Infect Dis* 2010;10:597-602.



^{ix} World Health Organization: Children's immature immune systems threatened by increasing 'superbugs'. 2020. Available from <https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/children-s-immature-immune-systems-threatened-by-increasing-superbugs>.

^x WHO releases priorities for research and development of age-appropriate antibiotics. 2023. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news/item/24-03-2023-who-releases-priorities-for-research-and-development-of-age-appropriate-antibiotics>.