

# BIA submission to the Health Select Committee inquiry on AMR

## June 2018



**Written evidence submitted by the UK Bioindustry Association to the Health and Social Care Select Committee inquiry into how the Government is responding to the challenge of Antimicrobial resistance (AMR).**

### 1. Executive Summary

- The BIA, the UK innovative life science trade Association, has engaged on this agenda nationally and internationally for five years
- Progress has been made on improving the knowledge and understanding of AMR
- Not enough progress has been made to create a vibrant market for novel antibiotics so that biotech investors actively seek out opportunities in this area.
- This needs to be addressed in the updated government strategy
- BIA SME member companies working in this space could give compelling oral evidence of innovation

### 2. Who we are

- 2.1 The BIA is the trade association for innovative life sciences in the UK. Our goal is to secure the UK's position as a global hub and as the best location for innovative research and commercialisation, enabling our world-leading research base to deliver healthcare solutions that can truly make a difference to people's lives.
- 2.2 Our members include:
- Start-ups, biotechnology and innovative life science companies
  - Pharmaceutical and technological companies
  - Universities, research centres, tech transfer offices, incubators and accelerators
  - A wide range of life science service providers: investors, lawyers, IP consultants, IR agencies
- 2.3 We promote an ecosystem that enables innovative life science companies to start and grow successfully and sustainably.

### 3. Summary

- 3.1 The BIA has worked in partnership with the UK government on this agenda for the last 5 years. As an Association of developers of novel treatments, we have focused on the 3<sup>rd</sup> strategic goal of the plan – policy to stimulate the development of new antibiotics, diagnostics and novel therapies.

- 3.2 We believe that good progress has been made on improving the knowledge and understanding of AMR. However despite this, policy has not developed to create a vibrant market for novel antibiotics so that biotech investors actively seek out opportunities in this area.
- 3.3 There remain too few biotech players in AMR R+D for the global need.
- 3.4 We are currently working on a new document that captures the vibrancy of the UK SME sector working in this space and sets out where policy incentives are still needed to increase the flow of capital into novel development in this area. We hope to have this document ready by October and would be happy to share a working draft with the committee clerk in advance, in September, if useful.
- 3.5 The BIA would welcome the opportunity to showcase for the committee some of the small companies working on innovation in this space and explain the challenges they face. We would be happy to organise them as part of an oral evidence session. These companies include those working at the cutting edge of genomics, diagnostics as well as drug development.
- 3.6 Given our work on this is in development what follows are some early thoughts on the question the committee asks, which we will be fleshing out across a similar timeframe to the committee themselves.

#### 4. What results have been delivered by the UK AMR 2013-2018 strategy?

- 4.1 In the strategy, industry was asked to do the following (*progress by industry is reported in italics*)
- 4.2 Pharmaceutical, bio-pharmaceutical and diagnostics manufacturers and trade associations need to improve the knowledge and understanding of AMR by:
- supporting and providing resources for training and education of healthcare and other professionals. *The BIA has made AMR a key topic at national as well as international biotech events*
  - engaging in activities to increase awareness to effect behaviour change and conserve and steward the effectiveness of existing treatments by promoting the practice of responsible use through the responsible provision of medicines, for example, by making current veterinary antibiotics available in pack sizes that facilitate and encourage appropriate use. *The BIA were founding supporters of the industry “Davos declaration” and have worked with the IFPMA globally on this agenda*
  - stimulate the development of new antibiotics, rapid diagnostics and novel therapies by:
    - improving collaborative working to ensure excellent science is developed and has a clear route for translation
    - developing a European product development partnership scheme for antimicrobial drugs
    - developing new treatments for all infections, particularly bacterial, from rigorous identification of new targets through to new paradigms for treatment. *This is what several BIA members are endeavouring to do as their core business*
    - utilising the ‘Innovative Medicines Initiative’ (IMI), which may facilitate stimulating the development of new antibiotics, rapid diagnostics and novel therapies. *This has proved a useful scheme, although not as SME friendly as some had hoped, and UK company engagement is now at risk as a result of Brexit*

- developing new vaccines targeted at multi-resistant organisms
- increasing involvement in genomic diagnostics and the improvement of companion diagnostics for drug development in this field. *This is what several BIA members are endeavouring to do as their core business*

## **5. What should be the key actions and priorities for the Government's next AMR strategy, due to be published at the end of this year?**

- 5.1 To enable private capital, at risk, to support an appropriate level of R+D needed by this agenda it is important that the upcoming UK government plan prioritises an international push for market incentives of both push and pull varieties.
- 5.2 The UK government should lead the way with its own incentives package, appropriate for the UK market, so as to be able to maintain the credibility of its global leadership push on this agenda, and to make the UK the natural launch home for novel AMR agents, given the UK strong record on custodianship.

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