



## The drugs don't work!

Frank O'Riordan  
Antimicrobial Pharmacist  
MUH/SIVUH

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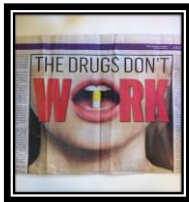
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“The threat of untreatable infections is real. Although previously unthinkable, the day when antibiotics don't work is upon us. We are already seeing germs that are stronger than any antibiotics we have to treat them.”

- Arjun Srinivasan, MD, Associate Director for Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Programs, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

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## Introduction

- Antibiotic use and resistance
- Consequences of antibiotic resistance-post antibiotic era?
- What can we do about it

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## Antibiotics



- Alexander Fleming's accidental discovery of penicillin
- Average life span USA extended by 10 years
- Common yet frequently deadly illnesses such as pneumonia and tuberculosis (TB) could be treated effectively
- A small cut no longer had the potential to be fatal if it became infected, and the dangers of routine surgery and childbirth were vastly reduced.

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*"Penicillin should only be used if there is a properly diagnosed reason and, if it needs to be used, use the highest possible dose for the shortest time necessary. Otherwise antibiotic resistance will develop"*

Alexander Fleming, 1945

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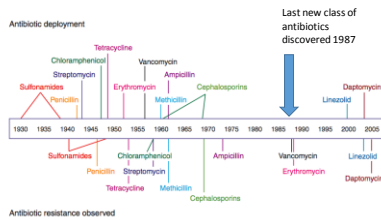
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## Antibiotic discovery and resistance timeline




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### Scale of antibiotic use

- 100,000 million kg antibiotics produced since 1941
- 50% human use
  - 80% community
  - 20% hospitals
- 35-50% of hospital patients are prescribed an antibiotic of which 50% could be classed as inappropriate
- 50% agricultural use
  - 20% therapeutic
  - 80% prophylactic/growth promotion

Harrison and Lederberg, Antimicrobial Resistance 1998

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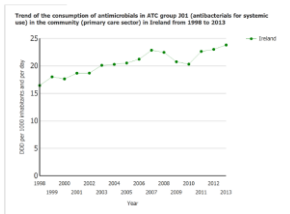
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**Trend of antimicrobial consumption of Antibacterials For Systemic Use (ATC group J01) in the community (primary care sector) in Ireland from 1998 to 2013**




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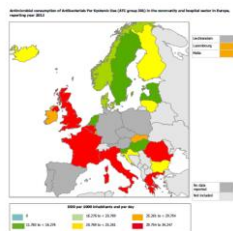
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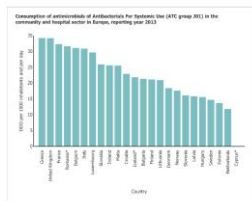
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**Geographical distribution of antimicrobial consumption of Antibacterials For Systemic Use (ATC group J01) in the community and hospital sector in Europe, reporting year 2013**



**Consumption of antimicrobials of Antibacterials For Systemic Use (ATC group J01) in the community and hospital sector in Europe, reporting year 2013**




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Meanwhile in the bacterial world




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Lots of resistant bugs around!!




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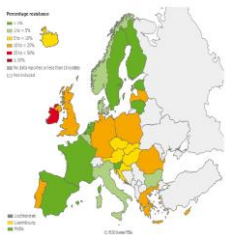
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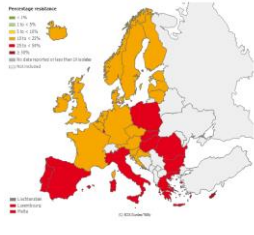
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Proportion of vancomycin resistant (R) enterococcus faecium Isolates in Participating Countries in 2013



Proportion of Fluoroquinolones Resistant (R+I) Escherichia coli Isolates in Participating Countries in 2013




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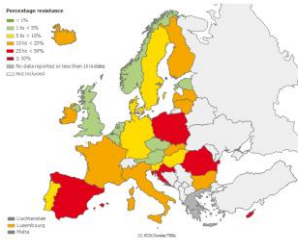
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Proportion of Penicillins Resistant (R+I) *Streptococcus pneumoniae* Isolates in Participating Countries in 2013




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### Consequences of antimicrobial resistance

- Treatment failures with empiric antibiotics
  - Increased morbidity/duration of illness
  - Increased mortality
  - Increased healthcare costs
- Empiric use of broader spectrum antibiotics
  - Further selection of resistance
- Return to pre-antibiotic era?
  - High mortality from primary infectious diseases
  - Loss of high-tech medicine

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### MRSA in Ireland report

- Prolonged hospital stays increase the chances of acquiring a HAI
- Patients who acquire a HAI will spend on average an extra 11 days in hospital and these patients are 7 times more likely to die than uninfected patients
- Cost of treating HAI annually in Ireland is estimated at €230 million

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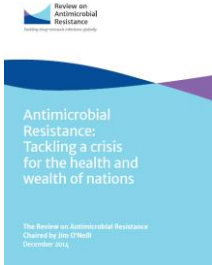
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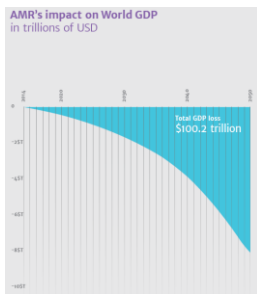
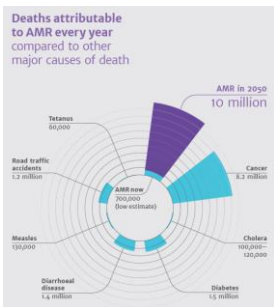
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### Medical consequence of no action

- Previously treatable infections will no longer be so
- Surgical procedures e.g. hip and knee replacement will become too risky to carry out
- Innovations in cancer treatments and radical surgical procedures will no longer be possible due to the risk of untreatable infections in immunocompromised patients

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### Post antibiotic era?



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### So what can we do about it

- New antibiotics-20 by 2020
- Antimicrobial stewardship-We all need to make better use of the antibiotic resources we already have



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### Why has the pipeline of new drugs run dry?

- Scientific difficulties in developing new antibiotics
- Financial and regulatory hurdles
- Lack of incentive
- Patients will only receive short courses
- Once developed specialists will restrict use
- Resistance will eventually develop
- Patent will run out

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ARTICLE

doi:10.1038/nature14008

A new antibiotic kills pathogens without detectable resistance

Laney L. Ling<sup>1\*</sup>, Teija Schneider<sup>2,3\*</sup>, Aaron J. Peoples<sup>4</sup>, Amy L. Sperring<sup>1</sup>, Lisa Engels<sup>1,5</sup>, Brian P. Connor<sup>6</sup>, Aysha Muehle<sup>1,6</sup>, Bill Schaefer<sup>1,6</sup>, Colin R. Hughes<sup>1</sup>, Clara Kowalec<sup>1</sup>, Michael Jones<sup>1</sup>, Grace Lashover<sup>1</sup>, Victoria A. Struelens<sup>1</sup>, Chadwick R. Colwell<sup>1</sup>, Janita R. Palla<sup>1</sup>, K. Ashley Tomasz<sup>1</sup>, William P. Millett<sup>1</sup>, Anthony G. Smit<sup>1</sup>, Ashley M. Jahn<sup>1</sup>, Chan Chen<sup>1</sup> & Kim Lewis<sup>1</sup>

Antibiotic resistance is spreading faster than the introduction of new compounds into clinical practice, creating a public health crisis. Most antibiotics were produced by screening soil microorganisms, but this limited resource of culturable bacteria was overexploited by the 1960s. Synthetic approaches to produce antibiotics have been unable to replace this platform. We utilized bacteria to make up approximately 99% of all species in a reservoir treatment, and are an unpaired source of new antibiotics. We developed a new method to grow microbial organisms by culturing them in a medium by using specific genetic factors. Here we report a new antibiotic that we term sitafloxacin, discovered in a screen of nonclassical bacteria. Sitafloxacin inhibits cell wall synthesis by binding to a highly conserved motif of lipid II (precursor of peptidoglycan) and lipid III (precursor of cell wall teichoic acid). We did not observe any markers of high-level resistance of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* to sitafloxacin. The properties of this compound suggest a path towards developing antibiotics that are likely to avoid development of resistance.

Ling et al., Nature

Antimicrobial stewardship



Patient related factors –major drivers of inappropriate antimicrobial use

- Self medication
- Prescribers perceptions regarding patients expectations
- Patient compliance
- Hospital use of antibiotics

### Inappropriate use and prescribing of antibiotics is causing the development of resistance

Inappropriate use includes:

- not taking your antibiotics as prescribed
- skipping doses of antibiotics
- not taking antibiotics at regular intervals
- saving some for later

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### Inappropriate prescribing

Inappropriate prescribing includes:

- unnecessary prescription of antibiotics
- unsuitable use of broad-spectrum antibiotics
- wrong selection of antibiotics and inappropriate duration or dose of antibiotics

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### Prudent Antimicrobial Use

- Develop policies and guidelines on the management of infection
- Support continued professional development
- Reduce inappropriate antimicrobial prescribing
- Use clinical governance arrangements to support improved antimicrobial prescribing
- Identify good prescribing practice
- Put strategies in place to help optimise concordance
- Monitor antimicrobial prescribing

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### 3 things to remember if you are prescribed an antibiotic

1. Take them exactly as prescribed.
2. Make sure you finish the full course, *even if you begin to feel better*, to get rid of the bacteria completely.
3. Do not 'save' left over antibiotics for the next time you, your child, or any other family member is sick.

Medication prescribed for you now may not be the right medicine for you again or for another person.

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### HALT study

Table 7.4.2 Antimicrobials prescribed for the respiratory tract in GN-12m.

Antimicrobial name	Number of prescriptions (%)	Antimicrobial name	Number of prescriptions (%)
<b>Treatment for RTI</b>		<b>Prophylaxis against RTI</b>	
Amoxicillin and enzyme inhibitor	57 (43.5)	Amoxicillin and enzyme inhibitor	4 (28.6)
Amoxicillin	23 (17.6)	Azithromycin	3 (21.4)
Clarithromycin	18 (13.7)	Clarithromycin	2 (14.3)
Ciprofloxacin	5 (3.8)	Other	5 (35.7)
Doxycycline	3 (2.3)		
Cefaclor	2 (1.5)		
Cefuroxime	2 (1.5)		
Piperacillin and enzyme inhibitor	2 (1.5)		
Ceftriaxone	2 (1.5)		
Erythromycin	2 (1.5)		
Levofloxacin	2 (1.5)		
Other	13 (9.8)		

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### What to prescribe?

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### Conclusion

- Antimicrobial resistance is a significant problem facing the world with the very real prospect of a situation where 'the drugs don't work'
- Antimicrobial stewardship is a key element in preserving the effectiveness of the antibiotic resources we already have
- Antimicrobial stewardship is everybody's responsibility

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Thank you for your time



*"Don't forget to take a handful of our complimentary antibiotics on your way out."*

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