



Antimicrobial Innovation Alliance

March 11, 2014

Washington, DC—The Antimicrobial Innovation Alliance (AIA) strongly supports the introduction of the Developing an Innovative Strategy for Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms (DISARM) Act of 2014 by U.S. Representatives Peter Roskam and Danny Davis.

Novel antimicrobial products, especially those targeting multidrug-resistant bacteria, face significant barriers to commercial return, including their use predominantly in acute care settings, episodic use and restrictions on use to minimize the development of resistance. This new legislation modifies an existing Medicare program and encourages innovation by reducing the market barriers for novel antimicrobial products. It is designed to pose little disruption to infectious disease clinical practice, urging these products to be used sparingly – but when they are needed; this modification will more appropriately reimburse the hospital.

“The emerging bacterial resistance in our healthcare facilities poses a major public health concern. Bacteria are becoming increasingly resistant to current therapies, which escalates the risk for patients and makes it more challenging for providers and the healthcare system. We believe it’s critical that we focus our efforts on developing new treatments. This legislation helps encourage manufacturers to develop more robust product pipelines that foster scientific advancement which, in turn, benefit patients,” said Marco Taglietti, MD, Executive Vice President, Drug Development and Research, and Chief Medical Officer at Forest Research Institute.

“Given the substantial unmet need regarding drug-resistant bacteria, which contribute to at least 23,000 deaths in the U.S. each year, it is critical that we refocus our efforts on developing new treatment options to eradicate resistant bacteria,” AIA Executive Director Barrett Thornhill said, “This legislation is a step in the right direction and will further incentivize innovation in the antimicrobial space.”

The Antimicrobial Innovation Alliance is a diverse coalition of pharmaceutical innovators, including early stage research firms through to global R&D and manufacturing companies. Established to address the unique challenges facing the research, development and commercialization of antimicrobial products, the AIA works with policymakers and others to address the threat of antibacterial resistance, now and in the future. Its members include Achaogen, Astellas US, AstraZeneca, Forest Laboratories, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck & Co. and The Medicines Company.

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