

Robert R. Redfield, MD  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Rd  
Atlanta, GA 30329

April 8, 2020

Dear Dr. Redfield,

The undersigned organizations are writing to request that a portion of the \$4.3 billion appropriated to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by Congress as emergency supplemental funding be used to expand stewardship and data collection on antibiotic use as well as surveillance of secondary bacterial infections and resistance related to COVID-19.

While there is still much to learn about COVID-19, evidence has emerged of secondary infections among coronavirus patients. It is unclear exactly how significant secondary bacterial infections will be in this pandemic, but serious viral respiratory infections typically pose risk that increases when patients need to be hospitalized or placed on a ventilator. In a recent study of 41 patients, 10 percent had secondary infections.<sup>1</sup> Of those, 31 percent were admitted to intensive care units.<sup>1</sup> Another report on 191 patients found that 50 percent of those who died had a secondary bacterial infection, and ventilator-associated pneumonia occurred in 31 percent of the patients requiring invasive mechanical ventilation.<sup>2</sup>

It is crucial that antibiotics are used appropriately to ensure optimal patient outcomes and to protect antibiotics' effectiveness from the development of resistance. This is particularly critical now, as antibiotic use may increase if secondary bacterial infections are found or suspected in patients with COVID-19. Funding can support implementation of antimicrobial stewardship programs (newly required by CMS at hospitals) to curb inappropriate antibiotic use. Additionally, while progress has been made in the number of health care facilities voluntarily reporting antibiotic use and resistance data, additional effort is needed to achieve the stated goal for 95% of hospitals to report these data by 2020.

We are excited to see emergency supplemental funding for COVID-19 be directed to CDC to support federal, state and local public health agencies' response to the coronavirus. We hope that expanding antibiotic resistance surveillance and antibiotic stewardship activities during this critical time will help to detect, prevent and treat potentially resistant secondary infections in COVID-19 patients.

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<sup>1</sup> Huang C, Wang Y, Li X, Ren L, Zhao J, Hu Y. Clinical features of patients infected with 2019 novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China. *The Lancet*. 2020;395:497-506. doi:[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30183-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30183-5).

<sup>2</sup> Zhou F, Yu T, Du R, Fan G, Liu Y, Liu Z. Clinical course and risk factors for mortality of adult inpatients with COVID-19 in Wuhan, China: a retrospective cohort study. *The Lancet*. 2020;395(10229):1054-1062. doi:10.1016/s0140-6736(20)30566-3.

Sincerely,

Accelerate Diagnostics  
Amplix Pharmaceuticals  
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics, & Policy (CDDEP)  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Food Animal Concerns Trust  
Melinta Therapeutics Inc.  
Research!America  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
Small World Initiative  
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists  
Spero Therapeutics  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society  
Making-A-Difference in Infectious Diseases  
Microbion Corporation  
Qpex Biopharma  
The American Thoracic Society  
The Antimicrobials Working Group (Amplix Pharmaceuticals, Cidara Therapeutics Inc., Entasis Therapeutics Inc., Iterum Therapeutics Ltd., Melinta Therapeutics Inc., Nabriva Therapeutics US Inc., Paratek Pharmaceuticals Inc., Qpex Biopharma Inc., SCYNEXIS Inc., Summit Therapeutics plc, VenatoRx Pharmaceuticals Inc. and X-Biotix)  
The BEAM Alliance  
The Emory Antibiotic Resistance Center  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future  
The National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
Treatment Action Group  
Tufts Center for Integrated Management of Antimicrobial Resistance (CIMAR)