

## **New BEAM Alliance Position Paper calls out stakeholders to rapidly provide market-based solutions supporting SME-driven innovation against antimicrobial resistance**

- **Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are being considered as the major innovators in the field of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). But, facing unprecedented challenges to fund R&D activities and commercialize new drugs, the whole AMR-focused SME landscape is at stake**
- **Awareness has been raised at high political level; still, solutions are slow to emerge. Already complex from a scientific standpoint, the situation is worsened by inadequate prescription practices and commercialization constraints**
- **Numerous models have already been designed, providing some pieces of the puzzle. Stakeholders at the national and global level must rapidly redouble their efforts to design and implement a path forward.**

**Paris (France), November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019** - In 2019, the collective fight to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has had its ups and downs. Announcements from national governments (US, UK, Sweden) to modify regulations or test new business models have been applauded. On the other hand, the demise of the US-based *Achaogen* company has shed light to the remaining hurdles faced by SME developers of AMR products.

Taking advantage of the **World Antibiotic Awareness Week** (WHO) and of the **European Antibiotic Awareness Day** (Nov 18, 2019), the European BEAM Alliance, representing 70 'Biotech companies from Europe innovating in AntiMicrobial resistance research', today released a position paper to highlight the need for quick and massive efforts towards the support of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as the major but fragile innovators in the field.

The document oversees six (6) key actionable areas as to how sustainably incentivize the development of AMR products in a context of market failure. The BEAM Alliance particularly demands that policymakers understand the specific nature and needs of SMEs to design effective PULL mechanisms.

1. Align antimicrobial value and pricing with the true societal benefit
2. Enable appropriate reimbursement paired with appropriate antimicrobial use
3. Guarantee a minimal market footprint at product launch
4. Foster financial contributions from medical areas benefiting from antimicrobial use
5. Guarantee an acceptable investment profile supporting early R&D
6. Encourage innovative and diversified interventions against AMR.

Marie Petit, coordinator of the BEAM Alliance, says: *"SMEs in the AMR field are true pioneers! Despite a much-underserved ecosystem to fund and perform R&D, they fight to make the difference. They are bringing hope but are facing tremendous hurdles not faced in any other therapeutic area. New policies are urgently awaited to properly revive the AMR-based ecosystem, but they should be laser focused on SMEs need. It is the best way to truly support innovation and offer a sustainable solution to the threat of resistance"*.

"Today's modern medicine would in large parts not be possible without working antibiotics. Antibiotic resistance is a formidable threat to the achievements in healthcare of the last century.



After most large pharma companies have abandoned the field, SMEs drive the innovation and have adequate answers to win the fight with novel therapies overcoming antibiotic resistance. However, investment into the field must be reinvigorated by immediate action from political leaders ensuring adequate pricing for life saving and appropriately used drugs.” adds Marc Gitzinger, CEO of BioVersys AG, Switzerland, Vice-President of the BEAM Alliance.

Clive Mason, Senior Director at Summit Therapeutics, UK, Member of the Management Board of the BEAM Alliance comments: *“SMEs are working hard to deliver new solutions against the growing AMR threat. It is time to act and safeguard the innovation potential brought by current product pipeline. It is of the utmost importance to rapidly provide a signal to R&D-supporting investors that the market issues have been acknowledged and are being addressed.”*

To have full access to the **BEAM Alliance position paper 2019**, you can click [here](#).

#### **About the BEAM Alliance:**

The BEAM Alliance (Biotech companies from Europe innovating in **Anti-Microbial** resistance research) represents 70 European SMEs that develop solutions to fight antimicrobial resistance at a European and national level. The BEAM members are collectively developing over 140 new, diversified R&D projects focused upon prevention, diagnosis and cure of microbial infections. The goal of the BEAM Alliance is to maintain and promote awareness of SME-driven innovation in the field and to support policymakers in understanding economic business models around AMR. The BEAM Alliance closely cooperates with all stakeholders dedicated to the fight against AMR. Although being a member of and closely collaborating with the AMR Industry Alliance to curb antimicrobial resistance, the BEAM Alliance is advocating for the specific SME needs with regards to investment in R&D to meet public health needs with new innovative diagnostics and treatments.

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