

Newsletter 08.12.2019

Dear members and supporters of the of the Round Table Antibiotics (RTA),

First we want to remind you that the Round Table Antibiotics (RTA) which was formerly a non-structured group has been constituted as a formal Association on June 24th, 2019. The Association RTA has a website(www.roundtableantibiotics.ch) where you can find news and information on its governance and its activities as well the statutes. Membership of the Association is free of charge. To become a member or to confirm your membership (if not yet done) you are kindly asked to send an email¹ to rtantibiotics@bluewin.ch. Those who did not do that up to now, can do it at their convenience.

Importantly, in the future, information about the Association RTA and its meeting will be sent only to its members, so it would be useful to apply for membership.

On November 19th, the Executive Board (EB) met in Bern to discuss the evolution and the future of the Association. Since there was a proposal together with GARDP to organise an (inter)national conference on alternative financial model for innovative antibiotics pending with the FDFA (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs), we wanted to wait for the reply before contacting you again. Unfortunately the answer was again negative, stating that the initiative should be of the FOPH (BAG in German), which is not eager to do that...

In order to advance the activities of the Association as well its visibility, the EB came to the following conclusions:

- the focus of the Association will be mainly on Switzerland, however not ignoring the international perspective;
- the Association will develop with a large interaction with its members. The number of the EB members should be increased;
- the Association will work through Working Groups (WG) related to different topics (3 or 4) which have to be identified;
- In principle, each year a conference will be organised by one of the WGs, according to a topic of interest; the first one is anticipated in autumn 2020 at the earliest.

Examples of topics:

- financing R&D of new antibiotics / pull incentives;
- availability of antibiotics (vaccines as well) for the Swiss population;
- foster diagnostics for AMR
- communication in Switzerland to the general population / authorities / media;
- alternatives tools to fight AMR;
- how to sustain SME and academic research groups in Switzerland;
- collaboration with other platforms on antibiotics;

As stated, topics should be proposed by the members of the Association who are expected to engage and collaborate for their accomplishment.

Please, do not hesitate to communicate to rtantibiotics@bluewin.ch in case you would like to propose a topic and whether you would like to participate actively to it.

All this will be discussed at our incoming General Assembly, which will be held in Bern on 26 February 2020, 14h30, at sitem-insel (Freiburgstrasse 3).

We look forward to working together with you.

On behalf of the EB of the Association:

Jean-Claude Piffaretti, chair

¹ To become a member of the Association, an email indicating name, affiliation and contact data can be sent to rtantibiotics@bluewin.ch.