



Round Table Antibiotics

c/o sitem-insel, Freiburgstrasse 3
3010 Bern, Switzerland

www.roundtableantibiotics.ch

Minutes of the 1st GA of the Round Table Antibiotics (26.02.2020)

Venue: sitem, Bern, 14h30 - 16h15

Present: 18 members (15 natural persons, 3 legal persons)

Members excused: N. Müller, J. Schrenzel, P. Nordmann, D. Paris, R. Zbinden, J. Zinstag, M. Tanner, T. Cueni, G. Di Nepi

Invited: M. Seeger, leader of the Antibiotics Platform; will become member during the assembly

1. Welcome and Introduction

J.-C. Piffaretti (JCP) announces that he is stepping down as president and that R. Blankart (RB) will take over this function, provided the General Assembly (GA) elects him. M. Seeger (MS) has been invited as the leader of the Antibiotics Platform and will present it later, during the General discussion.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last General Assembly

There is no approval of the minutes since this is the 1st GA.

3. EC's annual activity report and outlooks, including WGs

JCP recaps shortly what has been done by the Executive Committee (EC) members, including during the period before the structuring of the Round Table Antibiotics (RTA) into an Association. A number of meetings have been held with decision-makers (including several federal counsellors) and other organisations with the aims of raising consciousness on the antimicrobial resistance economic issue as well as promoting the awareness of a new financial model to bring innovative antibiotics to the market. The outcome of these intensive efforts has been frustrating: although the validity of these ideas has been recognized and appreciated, there has been no willing to concretely support that. At this point, the EC had the feeling that the RTA was in a crossroad and that new action lines had to be identified that preferably would not be much considered by the numerous initiatives occurring nowadays in the field of antimicrobial resistance, both at the national and international levels. It was thus decided to build a website to increase visibility, to enlarge the EC, as well to constitute Working Groups (WGs) related to issues not generally considered by other organisations.

The RTA website can be found at www.roundtableantibiotics.ch: suggestions for improvement or publication of significant news or papers are welcome.

Discussion on the proposals of WGs

The following WGs have been proposed to the GA:

- WG1: Financial models, pull incentives (to be led by R. Blankart)
- WG2: Drug shortage / Health economics (to be led by S. Mühlebach)
- WG3: Antimycotics (to be led by K. Mühlethaler)

After presentation of their ideas by the anticipated leaders, their WGs haven discussed and well appreciated by the audience and the topic accepted. Priority aspects will be given to the economic issues.

Other topics have been suggested and will be evaluated by the EC (however, the number of WGs is limited by the current human and financial availability):

- A kind of platform should be established joining the academic organisations, the big enterprises as well as the SME to share the infrastructure (mainly expertise and knowhow, beyond money) to help the SME to pursue the development of interesting drug leads. Switzerland is indeed a very appropriate place for this!
- The issue of generating funds for the RTA must be considered: money is important for actions to be fulfilled!

4 . Report of the treasurer and Accounts

The treasurer presents the annual accounts (attachments): on December 31, 2019, due to donations and administrative expenditures, the balance is CHF 460.00. (on February 25, the balance is CHF 1'455.00).

The report is accepted unanimously by the GA.

5. Annual budget

Due to the present limited funds, there is no budget.

6. Modification of the Statutes

The modifications of the following articles of the Statutes are proposed by the EC:

Art. 4

“All financial inflows shall be approved by the Executive Committee (EC) prior to acceptance” (to be deleted)

Art. 8

The GA...”appoints the members of the EC and elects President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer” (insertion of a Vice-President)

Art. 14

“The EC consists of maximum five ten members who are elected by the General Assembly” (increase of the number of EC members)

The modifications of the Statutes are accepted unanimously by the GA.

7. Election of the members of the EC, as well of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer

The EC proposes the following members to be part of the EC:

- Bea Heim
- Rudolf Blankart
- Stephen Leib
- J.-C- Piffaretti
- Giacomo di Nepi (new)
- Stephan Felder (new)
- Mark Jones (new)
- Stefan Mühlebach (new)

These members are accepted unanimously by the GA.

In addition, Marc Creus (Juvabis) and Markus Seeger (leader of the Antibiotics platform) are elected as members of the EC.

The EC proposes these members of the new EC to the following functions:

- Rudolf Blankart: President
- Bea Heim: Vice-President
- Stephen Leib: Treasurer
- J.-C- Piffaretti: Secretary

These members are accepted unanimously in their function by the GA.

8. Election of the Account-auditor

Achim Kaufhold is elected unanimously as Account Auditor.

9.General discussion (including collaborations)

Markus Seeger, leader of the Antibiotics platform, presents this organisation not yet formally structured.

In 2015, biotechnet and the NTN SwissBiotech (which does not exist anymore) founded this platform dedicated to antibiotics. The mission of the Antibiotics platform is to bundle the existing expertise of antibiotic research in Switzerland with a focus on the discovery and development of novel antibiotics to treat multidrug resistant bacteria. Networking activities facilitated through the Antibiotics platform will lead to novel research co-operations between industry and academia. Together, its members belonging to Industry and Academia strive to innovate antibiotic development.

It is decided to develop collaboration between RTA and the Antibiotics platform. MS is joining the RTA as a member and RB will interact closely with the platform. MS will study how RTA can join the platform.

10. Others

None. The GA is closed at about 16h15.

JCP/RB, 02.03.2020