



Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
Académie canadienne des sciences de la santé

e-Blast April 2017

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Standing Committee on Annual Meeting Planning



Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to advise you that **registration for the 2017 Forum and Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences is now open and accommodation is available at special group rates.**

This year's event is being held in Ottawa at the Fairmont Château Laurier, 1 Rideau Street on **Thursday September 14th and Friday September 15th, 2017**. The preliminary program is attached.

STRATEGIES TO CONTROL THE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE TSUNAMI: IS CANADA DOING ITS PART?

Forum Co-Chairs: Drs. **John Prescott** (U Guelph) and **John Conly** (U Calgary)

Our 2017 Forum focus on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is designed both to educate Fellows about the issue and to debate whether Canada is doing its full part in addressing AMR. We've designed it to maximize the interactions of the Fellows. Let's use our collective expertise to engage with the many dimensions of AMR and to contribute to the essential elements of a national action plan.

Modern medicine is inconceivable without the availability of effective antimicrobial drugs. The continuing global emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistant bacteria and of resistance genes threatens humanity. If antimicrobial resistance (AMR) continues on its current trajectory, the United Kingdom's O'Neill Report suggests that resistant bacterial infections will be the biggest single cause of death in 2050. This would be one person dying every three seconds. In a "post-antibiotic era" world, even routine surgeries and minor infections could become life-threatening. The World Health Organization in 2015 developed a global action plan on antimicrobial resistance to focus world attention on the issue, and the G7 and other countries are committing significant resources to the threat.

Addressing the complex problem of AMR requires a concerted and multi-pronged global effort by many countries, including ours. The O'Neill Report suggests that we preserve our existing drugs by reducing demand through a global awareness program, improving sanitation, reducing unnecessary use in agriculture, reducing environmental spread, improving surveillance of resistance and of use, developing rapid diagnostics for targeted use of antimicrobials, developing and using vaccines and alternatives to antimicrobials, and increasing human resources in infectious

SECRETARY'S NOTE



Please remember that we rely on our Fellows, to keep us abreast of their own news and that of their colleagues. We look forward to hearing from you throughout the year and to receiving photographs that we can publish in the Newsletter to promote and celebrate our collective success!

Sincerely,

Kishor Wasan

Kishor.Wasan@usask.ca

Contact

Canadian Academy of
Health Sciences (CAHS)
180 Elgin Street, Suite 1403
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 2K3

Phone **613-567-2247**
Fax **613-567-5060**

diseases. The Report also suggests increasing the supply of new antimicrobials effective against drug-resistant bacteria by innovation including providing the economic incentives for innovation. The final innovation recommended is building a global coalition for action through the G20 countries and the United Nations. The total cost of innovations recommended to combat AMR is US\$40 billion over 10 years, a contrast with the US\$100 trillion which the Report estimates that rampant resistant bacterial infections could cost by 2050.

In Canada, the Canadian government announced a federal framework for action on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) with three pillars: surveillance, stewardship, and innovation. Subsequently, the federal government has worked with the provinces and territories, and with stakeholders, to develop the pan-Canadian framework for action that will form the basis of a future pan-Canadian action plan. The pan-Canadian framework, which is expected to be announced this May, takes a One Health approach that integrates the human and animal dimensions of AMR, with a focus on surveillance, infection prevention and control, stewardship, and research and innovation. The future action plan will be developed through the voices of everyone involved in the issue. Many groups are mobilizing for action. Let's get involved!

Background reading

World Health Organization Global Action Plan on AMR:

<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/global-action-plan/en/>

AMR Review: The O'Neill Report: <https://amr-review.org/>

- **Event Registration:** Event registration is \$325.00 plus \$125.00 for the Banquet. A late registration fee of \$375.00 is applicable effective September 1, 2017. *Cancellations are subject to a non-refundable \$60.00 administrative fee. Please be advised that the University of Toronto has implemented a new and improved meeting registration system. With this, however, has come the need to build **new profiles** so please do not be concerned when you are prompted to do so.*
[To Register Now Click Here](#)
- **Accommodation:** A block of Fairmont rooms are being held at the Fairmont Château Laurier on Wednesday, September 13 and Thursday, September 14, 2017 at the rate of \$259/per night plus applicable taxes. [To Make Your Hotel Reservation Now Click Here](#)

Gavin C E Stuart

Chair, Standing Committee on Annual Meeting Planning