

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.¹ Of those, 31 percent were admitted to intensive care units.¹ 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.²

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.

¹ 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).

² 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)