



THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

September 17, 2014

To: Energy and Commerce Committee Members

From: Majority Staff

Re: 21st Century Cures: Examining Ways to Combat Antibiotic Resistance and Foster New Drug Development

On Friday, September 19, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing entitled “21st Century Cures: Examining Ways to Combat Antibiotic Resistance and Foster New Drug Development.” The following provides background on the hearing.

I. WITNESSES

Witnesses are by invitation only and will include:

Panel I

- Dr. Janet Woodcock, Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Panel II

- Dr. Kenneth J. Hillan, Chief Executive Officer, Achaogen, Inc.;
- Dr. Barbara E. Murray, President, Infectious Diseases Society of America;
- Mr. Kevin Outtersson, Professor of Law, Boston University School of Law;
- Dr. Adrian Thomas, Vice President, Global Market Access and Public Health, Janssen Global Services, LLC;
- Mr. Allan Coukell, Director, Medical Programs, Pew Health Group, The Pew Charitable Trusts; and,
- Dr. John H. Powers, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, George Washington University School of Medicine.

II. BACKGROUND

Antibiotics have been used in medicine since the discovery of penicillin, and they have yielded tremendous benefits for public health. Because most bacteria and other microbes multiply rapidly, they quickly evolve and develop resistance to antibiotics. This antibiotic resistance poses a severe threat to public health. The nation's ability to combat this threat is limited because the antibiotics pipeline is almost bare.

In an effort to incentivize antibiotic drug development, Congress included the Generating Antibiotics Now Act ("GAIN") in the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act ("FDASIA"), which was signed into law July 9, 2012. GAIN grants sponsors an additional five years of exclusivity if they develop a qualified infectious disease product.

Antibiotic development remains a priority as there are 2 million infections and 23,000 deaths each year caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria.¹ During this hearing, the Subcommittee will examine ways to combat ongoing drug resistant health threats.

III. CONCLUSION

Should you have any questions regarding the hearing, please contact Robert Horne, Carly McWilliams or John Stone at (202) 225-2927.

¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/p0916-untreatable.html>