



THE ETHICS OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Symposium at the Brocher Foundation

27-28 of March 2014

We would hereby like to invite you to a two-day symposium on the ethical implications of antimicrobial resistance, hosted by the Brocher Foundation.

The registration fee for this event is CHF 150. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. In addition, participants will have to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. Please register through the Brocher Website (the link is provided on the next page).

Initially hailed as ‘miracle drugs’, antibiotics have been the most powerful instrument in our arsenal against infectious diseases. However, the rapid emergence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) over the past decades has limited the effectiveness of antibiotics and presents health care systems with serious challenges. The threat of untreatable bacterial infections and has prompted the World Health Organization and the EU to warn of the dawn of a post-antibiotic age. AMR does not only pose a health risk, it also leads to increasing health care costs and complicates the management of health care associated infections. This is exacerbated by a lack of research into new antibiotics and the widespread use of antibiotics in animal farming.

While the topic of AMR is widely discussed in the medical literature, its ethical implications have so far received comparatively little attention. However, the emergence of AMR raises a number of complex ethical problems. These relate to issues as diverse as the containment of highly drug-resistant infections, the fair use of scarce antibiotics, and the use of antibiotics in farming. Moreover, AMR raises a set of specific questions about intergenerational justice and the preservation of life-saving treatments for future generations.

This symposium provides an opportunity for scholars and practitioners to come together and discuss the normative complexities of one of the major social and bio-medical challenges of the 21st century.

Speakers include:

Jonathan Anomaly (Chapel Hill)
Joana Coast (Birmingham)
Michael Millar (London St. Barts)
Kevin Outterson (Boston)
Andreas Reis (WHO)
Ross Upshur (Toronto)
James Wilson (UCL)

Organisers:

A.M. Viens (Southampton)
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Jasper Littmann (UCL)
(j.littmann@ucl.ac.uk)

Venue, accommodation and conference registration

The Brocher Foundation lies a short ride outside of Geneva and overlooks the lake.



Recommended accommodation:

Hotel Longemalle (preferential rate: CHF 250)

13 Place Longemalle, CH-1204, Geneva

+41 (0)22 818 62 62

www.longemalle.ch/en.php

Hotel Bel-Esperance (preferential rate: CHF 120)

Rue de la Vallée 1, Geneva

+41 22 818 37 37

www.hotel-bel-esperance.ch

To register for the symposium, please visit the Brocher Foundation website:

<http://www.brocher.ch/en/events/70/the-ethics-of-antimicrobial-resistance-symposium/>

For more information, you can contact A.M. Viens (a.m.viens@soton.ac.uk) or Jasper Littmann (j.littmann@ucl.ac.uk)

Brocher Foundation

Route d'Hermance 471, CP 21 CH - 1248 Hermance , Switzerland, www.brocher.ch/en/

Day 1 (March 27)

12.00 Welcome Lunch

13.00 Ross Upshur, 'Integrating Public Health Ethics and Ecology in Antibiotic Stewardship: Time for a New Look at an Enduring Problem?'

14.00 Kevin Outterson, 'Ethical Issues in the Legal Ecology of Antimicrobial Resistance'

15.00 Coffee Break

15.30 Mike Millar, 'Obligations to Control the Spread of Antibiotic Resistance?'

16.30 James Wilson, 'On Rationing Antibiotic Effectiveness: When is it Ethically Acceptable to Deny Current Individuals Access to Effective Antibiotics in Order to Preserve Antibiotic Effectiveness for the Future?'

18.30 Conference Dinner

Day 2 (March 28)

09.30 Joanna Coast, 'Economic Considerations in Responding to the Challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance'

10.30 Andreas Reis, 'Ethical Issues Raised by MDR/XDR-TB'

11.30 Coffee Break

12.00 Jonny Anomaly, 'What's Wrong with Factory Farming?'

13.00 Lunch and Goodbye