

Redx backs global AMR event

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World leaders in science, public health and economics have gathered at the annual Bioinfect conference to share updates on the measures being taken to tackle the health threat posed by antibiotic resistance.

The event, which Redx co-founded, is now in its fourth year. The gathering at Alderley Park, Cheshire on November 3rd attracted Lord Jim O'Neill back as keynote speaker.

Antibiotic resistance was declared “the greatest and most urgent global risk” to public health as recently as September 21 when, at an extraordinary gathering at the United Nations, all 193 members signed a political declaration. It commits them to creating national plans for combating antibiotic resistance in medicine, agriculture, and the environment, and to reporting back to the General Assembly in 2018 on their progress.

Lord O'Neill, chair of the UK Review on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), used Bioinfect to sign off on an 18 month tenure in which he has helped the UK maintain a global leadership position the issue. His review team issued its final report in May.

Lord O'Neill told delegates that he's confident that AMR will remain high priority. His achievements include getting AMR on the agenda at the G20 summit chaired by China in September. Germany will host the summit in 2017 and continue to recognise AMR as a priority.



Ian Cooper, Redx Pharma; Chris Doherty, Alderley Park; Lord Jim O'Neill; Geoff Davison, Bionow; Andrew Wells, HGF Ltd

There is defined focus on working up a new model for support for new drugs in this area, he said. The UN declaration in September was a stand-out moment. It's only the fourth time in history of UN there's been a high level declaration about health. I like to describe that declaration as the end of the beginning – it was a really important moment.

Neil Murray, CEO of Redx Pharma said: We all owe a debt of gratitude for the work of the O'Neill review team. They have brought high definition and detail to the appalling consequences we will all face if this crisis is not tackled – and also set out insightful recommendations as to the way forward.