



Communication from the Sustainability Task Force Tom Newman, MD, Chair

Statement on the Non-therapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Agriculture June 2013

Whereas:

- Eighty percent of antibiotics sold in the United States are used for animal agriculture, primarily for non-therapeutic purposes;^{1,2}
- Antibiotic resistance is increasing across the country;³
- There is a growing body of research that links antibiotic resistance to the overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture, presenting a serious risk to human health;^{4,5}
- There is a strong consensus among independent experts, including the U.S. Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Science and the World Health Organization, that antibiotic use in agriculture contributes to growing antibiotic resistance. More than 300 organizations, including the American Medical Association, American Public Health Association, and Health Care Without Harm, have advocated ending the non-therapeutic use of medically important antibiotics as feed additives;^{6,7,8}
- Non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock was banned in Sweden in 1980s, Denmark in the 1990s, and in the rest European Union in 2006, but multiple attempts to ban this practice in the US over the last 30 years have been thwarted by the factory farming and pharmaceutical industries;⁹
- Several hospitals and school systems across the country are already committing to procuring meat raised without non-therapeutic antibiotics;^{10,11}

Therefore, the UCSF Academic Senate:

- Calls on UCSF food services to phase out of all procurement of meat produced with the use of non-therapeutic antibiotics.
- Encourages the entire UC system, including all of the UC medical and academic foodservice facilities, to develop a timeline for a similar phase out.
- Encourages UCSF students, faculty and staff and the larger community to reduce or eliminate their own purchases of meat raised with non-therapeutic antibiotics.
- Encourages UCSF students, faculty and staff to become familiar with the significant risks imposed by the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in agriculture and to help educate the public and decision makers regarding the importance of reserving antibiotics for therapeutic use.

¹ McKenna, Maryn (2010), "Farm Animals Get 80 Percent of Antibiotics Sold in U.S.," *Wired*, <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2010/12/news-update-farm-animals-get-80-of-antibiotics-sold-in-us/>

² Press Release for Congressperson Louise M. Slaughter, May 13, 2011, http://www.louise.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2481:fda-reports-to-slaughter-over-70-percent-of-antibiotics-administered-to-animals-in-feed-&catid=95:2011-press-releases&Itemid=100071

³ The Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy, *Resistance Map*, <http://www.cddep.org/resistancemap/overview#.UMplAnfDF8M>

⁴ For a complete annotated bibliography, see http://www.keepantibioticsworking.com/new/KAWfiles/64_2_107403.pdf (93 references). One example is 2012 study that found a link between bacteria in chickens and antibiotic-resistant urinary tract infections in human populations: Bergeron, Catherine Racicot; Prussing, Catharine; Boerlin, Patrick; *et al.* (2012), "Chicken as Reservoir for Extraintestinal Pathogenic *Escherichia coli* in Humans, Canada," *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Emerging Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 415-421, http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/18/3/11-1099_article.htm.

⁵ Another example is a 2012 study that found evidence of a “bidirectional zoonotic exchange” of Methicillin Resistance between humans and livestock: Price, L.B.; Stegger, Mike; Hasman, Henrik; *et al.* (2012), “Staphylococcus aureus CC398: Host Adaptation and Emergence of Methicillin Resistance in Livestock,” *American Society for Microbiology*, Vol. 3, No 1, <http://mbio.asm.org/content/3/1/e00305-11>.

⁶ Institute of Medicine, Board on Global Health (2003). *Microbial Threats to Health: Emergence, Detection, and Response*, National Academy of Sciences Press, Washington, DC, <http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?isbn=030908864X>.

⁷ Joint WHO/FAO/OIE Expert Workshop on Non-human Antimicrobial Usage and Antimicrobial Resistance, Geneva, 1-5 December 2003, <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/micro/en/amr.pdf>.

⁸ *Joint Statement on Antibiotic Resistance from 25 National Health Organizations and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (2012), http://cddep.org/sites/cddep.org/files/etc_consensus_statement.pdf (May need to view this link with GoogleDocs.)

⁹ Consumer Reports. Meat on Drugs. June, 2012, available at: http://www.consumerreports.org/content/dam/cro/news_articles/health/CR%20Meat%20On%20Drugs%20Report%2006-12.pdf, accessed 1/21/13

¹⁰ Balanced Menus, Best Practices, Health Care Without Harm, <http://www.healthyfoodinhealthcare.org/balancedmenus.bestpractices.php>

¹¹ “Chicago Public Schools Largest District to Serve Chicken Raised Without Antibiotics,” Press Release for the Pew Charitable Trusts, Nov. 1, 2011, <http://www.pewhealth.org/news-room/press-releases/chicago-public-schools-largest-district-to-serve-chicken-raised-without-antibiotics-85899367477>