Global Stakeholders Join Forces in the Fight Against Antimicrobial Resistance

New Framework Provides Recommendations for Optimizing Diagnostic Solutions to Combat AMR

Davos-Klosters, Switzerland - AdvaMedDx, the association representing manufacturers of diagnostic tests to promote wellness, improve patient outcomes, and advance public health, today announced a global stakeholder initiative to optimize the use of diagnostic tests in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The initiative comes as current trends project antimicrobial resistance could cause up to 10 million deaths annually by 2050.

The global initiative is based on a stakeholder statement of commitment that serves as a framework for collaborative action, outlining specific goals for leveraging existing diagnostic solutions and investing in improvements and access. All interested stakeholders are invited to join the effort and commit to:

- Building a long-term economic case for diagnostics as a public good in the fight against drug-resistant infections;
- Establishing public-private partnerships to develop health systems and create wide-scale access to diagnostics;
- Working to ensure effective global utilization of diagnostics; and
- Advocating for research and development investments, funding, simplified regulatory processes and sustainable reimbursement policies to encourage development.

AdvaMedDx would like to recognize the close collaboration with the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) and others in supporting and promoting the launch of this global commitment. A number of additional global stakeholders also have signed on to the commitment, including international diagnostics associations and companies dedicated to developing solutions to tackle this global health crisis: British In Vitro Diagnostics Association; CBDL; MedTech Europe; Abbott; Alere; Amplex Diagnostics GmbH; BD; Beckman Coulter; bioMerieux; Bio-Rad; Cepheid; CIGA Healthcare; Erba Molecular; Hologic; Mast Group Ltd; Micronics; Mologic; Momentum Bioscience; Oxford Impedance Diagnostics; Philips Healthcare; QuantumDx Group Ltd; Roche and Thermo Fisher Scientific.

"Diagnostic tests are an underutilized resource in the fight against antimicrobial resistance," said Andrew Fish, executive director of AdvaMedDx. "Today's commitment is an important first step in helping to educate health care providers and patients on the value of diagnostic tests, improve access, reform regulatory barriers and create incentives to increase the use of these tests around the globe.

"Michel Sidibé, executive director of UNAIDS, said "We must galvanize action in both private and public sectors to accelerate the uptake of diagnostics, including for HIV and TB testing and treatment monitoring. Quality care, including timely diagnosis, should be ensured for everyone to save lives and to prevent widespread resistance. This is essential if we are to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3.3 including ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

"The commitment statement outlines future goals and highlights the immediate benefits of leveraging existing diagnostic tests. Diagnostic tests have the capacity to reduce inappropriate antibiotic use by identifying non-bacterial infections, expedite diagnosis and treatment decisions through point-of-care tests, and guide antimicrobial treatment selection through antibiotic susceptibility tests. Additionally, diagnostic tests support early detection and diagnosis of drug-resistant infections, enable effective disease surveillance and outbreak monitoring, and help prevent the spread of resistant organisms.

"The adoption and innovation of diagnostic tests is now more important than ever," noted Vincent A. Forlenza, chairman, CEO and president of BD. "As an early supporter of this effort, we're committed to partnering with other organizations and health care providers in an effort to improve access to this life-saving technology.

"The announcement was made during a satellite event at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. The panel discussion convened industry leaders and global experts on antimicrobial resistance to discuss the growing public health crisis and the critical role of diagnostic solutions in combating it. Dame Sally Davies, chief medical officer of the United Kingdom, delivered the keynote address.

"Antimicrobial resistance is the biggest threat to global health-it could halt the progress of over a century of modern medicine, " said Davies. "Rapid point of care diagnostics are critical to the fight against drug resistant infections. Identifying the cause of an infection - bacterial, viral, fungal - will improve prescribing decisions and reduce unnecessary prescribing. The world needs to be committed to supporting the development and use of new diagnostics."

About AdvaMedDx

AdvaMedDx member companies produce advanced, in vitro diagnostic tests that facilitate evidence-based medicine, improve quality of patient care, enable early detection of disease and reduce overall health care costs. Functioning as a division of AdvaMed, AdvaMedDx is the only multi-faceted policy organization that deals exclusively with issues facing in vitro diagnostic companies both domestically in the United States and abroad. For more information, visit http://advameddx.org/.

About BD

BD is one of the largest global medical technology companies in the world and is advancing the world of health by improving medical discovery, diagnostics and the delivery of care. The company supports the heroes on the frontlines of healthcare by developing innovative technology, services and solutions that help advance both clinical therapy for patients and clinical process for healthcare providers. BD and its 65,000 employees have a passion and commitment to help enhance the safety and efficiency of clinicians' care delivery process, enable laboratory scientists to accurately detect disease and advance researchers' capabilities to develop the next generation of diagnostics and therapeutics. BD has a presence in virtually every country and partners with organizations around the world to address some of the most challenging global health issues. By working in close collaboration with customers, BD can help enhance outcomes, lower costs, increase efficiencies, improve safety and expand access to healthcare. In 2017, BD welcomed C. R. Bard and its products into the BD family. For more information on BD, please visit bd.com

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