

THREAT OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Prof. Stephan Harbarth

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Synopsis: “Antimicrobial resistance could cause 10 million deaths a year by 2050.” Sounds familiar? That is because this prediction has been quoted repeatedly by lay media, experts and public health agencies, since first published in the 2014 report by Lord Jim O’Neill and his team: “Antimicrobial Resistance: Tackling a crisis for the health and wealth of nations”. Frequently, only this specific, frightening conclusion is reproduced from the report, unaccompanied by caveats or confidence intervals. I acknowledge that there is a large clinical and public health burden associated with antimicrobial resistance that this burden is likely to increase over time, and that urgent action is required.

However, I contend that unreliable, global estimates like those provided by O’Neill potentially undermine, rather than support, the fight against a post-antibiotic era. In my presentation, I will scrutinize the estimations of the burden of AMR provided by various studies and sources and highlight methodological challenges and uncertainties behind these estimates. These uncertainties need to be addressed in order to produce more reliable, detailed, and actionable results. In particular, I will present data of a recently published epidemiologic study (A Stewardson et al. EuroSurv 2016) conducted by an international research group (incl. colleagues from Australia) that may better inform infection control policy making.

Bio

Stephan Harbarth earned in 1993 his medical degree from Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany, and completed his residency in internal medicine and tropical medicine at Munich University Hospitals.

After serving as a clinical fellow in the Infectious Diseases Division and Infection Control Program in the Department of Internal Medicine at Geneva University Hospitals, Dr Harbarth completed his master’s degree in epidemiology at Harvard University in Boston.

He is board certified in infectious diseases and was appointed associate professor at the University of Geneva in 2010. Dr Harbarth’s work has garnered several awards.

*For catering purposes, please RSVP by
Monday 28th November to:*

contact@aushsi.org.au

Details

Date: Monday 5 December 2016

Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Venue: Seminar Room, Level 4, IHBI QUT

Followed by drinks in the Atrium



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