



November 24, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt
On behalf of the EU Presidency
Swedish Government Offices
SE-103 33 Stockholm, Sweden

Dear President Obama and Prime Minister Reinfeldt:

On behalf of Trust for America's Health (TFAH), I am writing to urge you to develop a **“Global Commitment to Develop 10 New Antibacterial Drugs by 2020”** to address increasing bacterial resistance and a stalled antimicrobial drug pipeline. We applaud your recent decision to develop a Transatlantic Task Force to tackle this growing public health threat.

TFAH is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority. Our 2008 report, *Germes Go Global: Why Emerging Infectious Diseases are a Threat to America*, highlighted the worldwide danger posed by resurging and emerging infectious diseases combined with declining investment in the tools to fight them. We are already seeing the effects of this convergence, through the emergence of highly drug resistant tuberculosis, the escalation of resistant staph infections, and the spread of previously eradicated diseases. These infections have a disproportionate impact on impoverished populations and will only worsen as misuse of antimicrobials, climate change, weaponization of germs, and globalization make humans more vulnerable to infectious diseases.

TFAH's report also found that financial incentives are critical to support the research pipeline of new antimicrobial pharmaceuticals. Developing new antibacterials and vaccines requires public-private partnerships to spur innovation and overcome the risk associated with developing a potentially low-profit product. The U.S. and E.U. are in a unique position to have a profound impact on the future of global infectious disease prevention and treatment. We urge you to commit to the “10 x 20 Initiative” to develop 10 new antibacterial drugs by 2020 and to include an Antibacterial Drug Pipeline Work Group as part of the Transatlantic Task Force. The Work Group would be made up of experts seeking to identify policy options to stimulate development of novel antibacterial drugs.

We thank you for your commitment to fighting one of the chief global health threats of our time. Richard Hamburg, TFAH's Deputy Director, is our organizational contact, and can be reached at (202) 223-9876 or rhamburg@tfah.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Levi".

Jeffrey Levi, PhD
Executive Director
Trust for America's Health

cc: Melody Barnes, The White House
Robert Madelin, EU Commission
Heinz Zourek, EU Commission
Jose Manuel Silva Rodriguez, EU Commission
Robert J. Guidos, Infectious Diseases Society of America