



Dear ReAct friends,

In this second newsletter from ReAct, Action on Antibiotic resistance, we have compiled a report from our activities at the WHA in May together with a short briefing on an upcoming ReAct publication and the International Seminar and Workshop in Ecuador, June 9 – 13.

### **ReAct at the World Health Assembly, Geneva, 2008**

Following up on our activities in 2007, ReAct was attending the World Health Assembly (WHA) again this year. Relationships with friends and partners from the World Health Organisation (WHO), Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other health organisations were strengthened, and new contacts were made with the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) and the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), to mention some.

Before the WHA, ReAct participated in the NGO Briefing Meeting hosted by the Third World Network. A short presentation about ReAct was held and followed by discussions with various actors, such as Health Action International, WHO, World Council of Churches, about how to push the issue of antibiotic resistance forward from now on.

ReAct also attended the WHPA Conference on Regulation. The WHPA includes The World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses, International Pharmaceutical Federation and the World Dental Federation. It represents more than 23 million health professionals globally. At this conference, different aspects of the role and future of health regulation was presented and several hundred persons from all over the world attended.

A very successful reception was held at Restaurant Nomades. About 35 persons came to mingle and to share knowledge and experience. Interesting discussions took place about ReAct, antibacterial resistance, rational use of drugs, and about possibilities for future collaboration. Among the guests were representatives from the WHO, WHPA, FIP, Commonwealth Pharmacists Association, World Council of Churches, Peoples Health movement, Health Action International, Third World Network, International Pharmaceutical Students Federation, Swedish Medical Association, World Medical Association, Korean Pharmaceutical Association and the Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society.

It is clear that a lot of people and organisations are aware that resistance is a serious threat, but at the same time it is also clear that there is still a wide know-do gap.

Last but not least, a special thanks to the World Council of Churches for including ReAct in their delegation!

[More about ReAct at the WHA 2008 on the ReAct web page>](#)



## **Upcoming ReAct publication**

In a few weeks time the British Medical Journal will publish a discussion paper from ReAct titled **“Antibiotic resistance - continued complacency or action? “**

It deals with the need for a fundamentally changed view of antibiotics, which must be looked upon as a common good. The summary points of this article are that:

- antibiotics have revolutionised the treatment of infectious diseases and is a prerequisite for many of the advanced technologies in today's healthcare;
- preserving their effect is fundamental: a new paradigm where antibiotics are considered as a non-renewable resource is needed;
- the know-do gap in relation to control of bacterial resistance to antibiotics must urgently be addressed on international, national and individual levels;
- despite the rapidly growing problem of antibacterial resistance, there is a paradoxical decline in research and development of new antibiotics.

## **ReAct seminar & workshop in Ecuador, June 2008**

In collaboration with PAHO, an international ReAct seminar & workshop will take place in June in Cuenca, Ecuador. The main objective is to analyse the problem of antibacterial resistance in Latin America from a holistic perspective of the ecosystem, in the context of the right to health and the political and economic conditions of the Latin American people. An other important issue will be to establish an outline of actions and define strategies of integration between scientific and academic institutions, state institutions, and social and community organisations to contain antibiotic resistance.

### **9 – 10 June, International Workshop, (non-public seminar)**

**“Containing antibacterial resistance: Reflecting, sharing and harmonising for a coordinated action”**

*A two day workshop, to be held in the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the University of Cuenca, Ecuador. About 50 people will participate including health professionals, policy makers, and representatives of communities and civil society.*

### **11 – 13 June, Open International Seminar**

**“Recovering the health of the ecosystems to contain bacterial resistance”**

*A three day open seminar, to be held in the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the University of Cuenca, Ecuador. About 300 people from different backgrounds will participate including practising professionals in human and animal health, political actors, representatives of communities and civil society organisations.*

[More about the event on the ReAct web page>](#)