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ReAct
Action on Antibiotic Resistance

ReAct Quarterly

No 2/2009

Fight AMR Save medicines for our children

The need to preserve effectiveness of available antibiotic is still crucial for improving global child health. **Fight AMR – Save medicines for our children** is a joint ReAct and Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN) campaign intended to stimulate both global and local actors to take concrete action to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR).



[Join the campaign on Facebook>](#)



The World Health Assembly, Geneva 2009



Lome, Togo May 2009

Based on the [Moshi Declaration](#), the campaign encourages political leaders, policy makers, funding agencies, health training institutions, health care providers, patients, the general public and the media to join forces.

It requests us all to play a role in supporting and promoting rational use of medicines and other interventions that can be used to contain the development of resistance and save medicines for future generations.

The campaign was launched during a seminar targeting WHO staff, CSO representatives and country delegates at the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva in May this year.

The importance of the campaign and the direct consequences of resistance on child health were illustrated by a presentation by Dr Florence Najjuka from Makerere University Uganda during the WHA launch. In her study of patients at the Makerere University Hospital, almost half of the patients could not be treated with available antibiotics due to resistance against these medicines.

"86 percent of these patients were new borns. A significant number of these babies died. Ten years ago these lives could have been saved, but today the remaining treatment options are way to costly for most parents," says Dr Najjuka.

The WHA launch was accompanied by events in a number of places around the world, for instance in India, Moldova, Togo, Tanzania and Malawi.

These activities were carried out by member organizations of the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN) and targeted governments, health workers, kindergarten and school children as well as the general public.

[EPN campaign material>](#)
[Presentations from WHA launch>](#)

**Ecumenical
Pharmaceutical
Network**





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ReAct Latin America hosted successful seminar on infectious diseases and bacterial resistance

Over 400 participants attended the 3-day seminar Infectious diseases; diagnostics, treatment and rational use of antibiotics held at the Medical School of Azuay in Ecuador earlier in June this year.

The seminar targeted medical students and health professionals, and was arranged by ReAct Latin America and the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of Cuenca in Ecuador.

“In the Andean region, as well as in the rest of Latin America and the world, inadequate use of antibiotics is often related to poor access to scientific update for health professionals”, says Javier Peralta, scientific coordinator of ReAct Latin America.

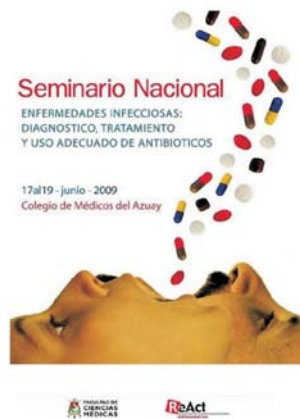


Javier Peralta,
scientific coordinator,
ReAct Latin America

“For a large part of the practicing physicians, a majority of the information on medicines and antibiotics comes from the pharmaceutical industry.

Understandably, that information aims to increase the sale of drugs, not to improve the prescription habits.”

[Read more in the report from the seminar](#) > (spanish only)



Following the successful national seminar, a one-year post graduate course on infectious disease control and rational antibiotic use is planned in collaboration with PAHO and a number of other institutions.

Initially, the course will target Ecuadorian medical students and practicing physicians, but the goal is to develop a distance learning module that can be used in whole Latin America, and possibly be developed and adapted for other regions as well.

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New publications

Cure with Care in Chinese

Cure with Care is an easy-to-read booklet exploring some of the reasons for rapid spread of the problem and ways in which it can be tackled.

The book is available in English but has now also been translated to Chinese. It is aimed at policy makers and health officials everywhere but could also be used as an introductory text on the subject for all concerned.



[Chinese version](#) >
(pdf 2 MB)

[English version](#) >
(pdf 3 MB)

Memorybook from Cuenca

Restablecer La Salud de Los Ecosistemas Para Contener La Resistencia Bacteriana (*Restore the Health of the Ecosystems to contain Bacterial Resistance*); a memory book with outcomes from the workshop and seminar in Cuenca in June 2008.

The book approaches the multiple facets of antibiotic resistance from an ecosystematic perspective.



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