



Taking Infections Management and the Fight Against Sepsis and AMR to the Next Level – a Call to Action for a Pan-European One Health Strategy

The WHO Sepsis Resolution “Improving the Prevention, Diagnosis, and Clinical Management of Sepsis”, adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2017, highlights that **„sepsis continues to cause approximately six million deaths worldwide every year, most of which are preventable”**. The Report by the WHO Director-General from December 2018 to the WHO Executive Board on the need for **“Global action on patient safety”** considered sepsis to be one of the major challenges for patient safety, contributing significantly to the burden of harm because **“sepsis is frequently not diagnosed early enough to save a patient’s life”**.

Current estimates suggest that more than 3.4 million individuals develop sepsis each year in Europe, of whom 700,000 do not survive. An additional one-third of survivors die during the following year. In March 2018, we addressed the fight against sepsis on the European level with the Brussels Sepsis Resolution **“Sepsis – The Most Preventable Cause of Death and Disability in Europe - A Call for Action Across Europe to Decrease the Burden of Sepsis in Europe”**.

This resolution emphasizes the intrinsic and critical links between **antimicrobial resistance (AMR), infection control/prevention (ICP), and sepsis** and underlines that any comprehensive infection management strategies at the facility, national or international level must incorporate these three pillars: infection prevention and control, sepsis control and care, and the appropriate use of antimicrobials.

It is encouraging that the **European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance**, which was adopted by the European Parliament on September 13th, 2018, addresses the important link between AMR, IPC, and sepsis by referencing the WHO Sepsis Resolution. However, this is an isolated success – it is not the case for other pertinent global and regional action plans such as the “Global Action Plan Against AMR” and the “Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Wellbeing for all”.

Taking the fight against sepsis to the next level requires a One Health approach, because addressing the 3 pillars of infection management (AMR, IPC and sepsis) will strengthen each.



We call for a comprehensive One Health Pan-European Infection Management Strategy that:

- considers the intrinsic links between antimicrobial resistance, infection prevention/control, and sepsis control and care
- understands the importance of overcoming silos within systems by initiating dialogue between sepsis advocacy groups, sepsis survivors, experts and professional societies and representatives of the European Commission, Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the ECDC, and the WHO together with representatives and advocates of the AMR and IPC agendas
- promotes awareness of sepsis and the potential of sepsis prevention by increasing vaccination rates and access to clean care, and to clean water, sanitation and hygiene where these are lacking
- educates laypeople and healthcare workers about early recognition of sepsis
- fosters the improvement of sepsis diagnosis and management by evidence-based sepsis management, improvement methodologies and systems resource and design
- supports research and the better application of interoperability to existing national or regional patient-level datasets to better understand the epidemiology and burden of sepsis and AMR
- and considers that AMR, IPC, and sepsis control and care are collectively a major health threat which must become an integral and cohesive part of any national, regional, and global healthcare strategy