



Accelerating global antibacterial innovation to combat AMR

Richard Alm

Global mortality caused by bacterial infections in 2019

- Estimated 7.7 million deaths
 - More than 1 in 8 of all global mortality
- Top 5 species accounted for 55% bacterial deaths
- Rates of mortality extremely unbalanced





Source: Lancet (2022) 400:2221-2248



Antibacterials are essential for life-saving medical procedures



Cancer

9.8M people chemotherapy/yr globally. Infection is the 2nd leading cause of death for people with cancer



Transplants

>170,000 globally/yr. Patients are vulnerable to infection from surgery & suppressed immune system



Dialysis

4.35M people with kidney disease receive dialysis or a kidney transplant, many require antibiotics



Sepsis

11M people die of sepsis/yr (1 in 5 global deaths). Without effective antibiotic treatment, sepsis can lead to tissue damage, organ failure and death



Surgery

Surgical site infections require antibiotics. Globally, 1 in 5 births are by cesarean section/yr



Disease

Chronic conditions increase risk of infection. Many meds lower ability to fight infection. >460M people with diabetes

ANTIBIOTICS ARE THE FOUNDATION FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

CARB-X





A global non-profit partnership replenishing the clinical pipeline of innovative products to prevent, diagnose and treat the most dangerous drug-resistant bacterial infections





BILL& MELINDA GATES foundation novo nordisk foundation





CARB-X now operating at global scale

- Accelerates translational R&D projects into human clinical trials
- Support development of therapeutics, preventatives and diagnostics
- Selects R&D projects through **public funding calls**
- Focus on performance characteristics, pathogens and infectious syndromes with highest morbidity and mortality rates attributable to/associated with AMR globally
- Requires stewardship and access obligations
- Provides non-dilutive funding plus a multi-layered support model
- Requires product developers to cover a **cost-share** to ensure sustainability





Targeting the Deadliest Global Threats



* As of 31 March 2025

CARB-X supports a diversity of innovative approaches

Profile of the **42** projects progressing in current portfolio

- 15 therapeutics
 - 8 non-traditional projects (e.g. proteins, peptides, anti-virulence, engineered bacteriophage)
 - 2 therapeutics post-IND
- 16 preventatives
 - 11 vaccines (covering 6 different pathogens)
 - 1 microbiome-modifying LBP
 - 1 CRISPR-phage in clinical studies
 - 2 antibody; 1 slow-release formulated peptide
- **11** rapid diagnostics
 - 5 for BSI (4 direct from whole blood)
 - 4 for STI
 - 2 novel-specimen LRTI



Detailed pipeline https://carb-x.org/portfolio/portfolio-pipeline/



CARB-X is supporting a fragile AMR ecosystem



Source: CARB-X EOI applications (2016 – 2024) (n = 1733)

CARB-X

 Almost 1 in 2 applications are from companies with <10 employees

- 85.6% companies are private
- Large companies not solely AMR focused

Significant attrition observed

- Typically have single asset/small portfolios
- Many (37.1%) of early company applicants (2016-2019) no longer exist
- Small groups carry risk around less breadth of discipline expertise
 - CARB-X support teams include technical expertise



A Comprehensive and Layered Support Model



CARB-X

BOSTON

9

Portfolio Acceleration Tools



CARB-X

10 BOSTON UNIVERSITY

2025 Funding Themes



Therapeutics for infections caused by Gram-negative pathogens

- Direct-acting small molecules
- IV/oral preferred
- Eligible TPPs: LRTI, UTI, diarrheal diseases

Diagnostics for typhoid fever for low-resource settings

- To support diagnosis of acute typhoid fever
- Primary healthcare level setting preferred
- Ease of use, high performance, and affordability prioritized

Key dates for cycle 1 • EOI portal live: 16 April 2025 @ 10:00 ET

• EOI submission deadline: 30 April 2025 by 23:59:59 ET

CARB-X



Summary

- Significant need for push incentives, more can be done as demand for funding is still extremely strong – CARB-X just one link in the chain.
 - Critical phase of development is significantly underfunded
 - Also need pull incentives to change the way antibiotics are reimbursed
- Small groups performing majority of the work increase the fragility of the pipeline and AMR ecosystem.
- Global investments in product developers with stewardship and access obligations required.
- Funding calls target focused areas of greatest global unmet medical needs.
- Model of additional wrap-around support is well-received and multiple Portfolio Acceleration Tools used to provide additional benefit to funded groups and ecosystem.





15 Phase 1 (Tx & Pv

5 Verification &

42 active

>10 advanced

development

Acknowledgements



Thank you ralm@bu.edu

Sign up for CARB-X newsletter/funding round announcements at <u>www.carb-x.org</u>



