



*a joint project on* **ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE IN PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE**

## **FAQ'S**

### **What was the purpose of this task force?**

The task force was formed in order to help advise the federal government on a research agenda and to help publicly disseminate information on the use of antibiotics in production agriculture. Further, the task force accepted the responsibility and challenge of being an integral partner with the federal government and other stakeholders in the future reduction and mitigation of antibiotic resistance.

### **Who was on the task force?**

Co-Chaired by Dr. Lonnie King, Dr. Lonnie King, a former dean of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and former senior Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) official and Dr. Robert Easter, president emeritus of the University of Illinois, the task force was comprised of representatives from U.S. agriculture colleges/land-grant universities and veterinary colleges as well as key representatives from the production animal agriculture community and the pharmaceutical industry. In addition, representatives from Mexican and Canadian research universities served on the task force, which also convened with federal government officials while developing the recommendations outlined in the report.

### **How does the task force's work relate to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) report "Combating Antibiotic Resistance"?**

The expertise, capacity, and missions of AAVMC and APLU member colleges and universities complement the recommendations outlined in the "Combating Antibiotic Resistance" report. In addition to conducting cutting-edge research on antibiotic resistance, our institutions are educating future generations about this growing threat to human and animal health. The task force is not just discussing theoretical solutions to the problem; it is putting a plan in place to operationalize the findings of the PCAST report through research, education, and outreach programs.

### **How was this task force different than the numerous other groups focused on the issue of antibiotic resistance?**

The joint APLU | AAVMC Task Force on Antibiotic Resistance in Production Agriculture represented a truly remarkable collaboration that builds upon the efforts of producer, veterinary medical, public health and consumer groups to address the antibiotic resistance problem. The recommendations outlined in this report, and subsequent action now being taken, represent how our universities and colleges can add value to the National Action Plan and how our organizations can become strategic

partners to ensure that our collective health is improved by addressing antibiotic resistance.

### **What's the difference between the task force and the recently established Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistance Bacteria?**

The Presidential Advisory Council is comprehensively focused on the multi-faceted origins of the antibiotic resistance problem. In addition to experts on the role production agriculture may play in the development of the problem, the Presidential Advisory Council also includes physicians, biomedical scientists and officials with expertise in the role factors like over-prescription of antibiotics and patient non-compliance may play in the problem. While the Presidential Advisory Council functions as an overarching advisory body for federal government action, the APLU | AAVMC Task Force has created a very specific plan with dozens of detailed recommendations for research and educational programs and is taking action to implement the plan.

### **Will the federal government listen to the task force's recommendations?**

Our universities and colleges have enjoyed a productive and collegial relationship with government agencies and federal researchers for decades. Our recommendations are built upon this strong partnership and past success. Our universities employ some of the leading scientists and experts in the world and possess the necessary laboratories, programs and personnel to make an important contribution. The Task Force on Antibiotic Resistance in Production Agriculture was acutely aware of the need to engage with federal government officials and has worked diligently since its formation in Fall 2014 to include representatives from the USDA, FDA and CDC when developing its recommendations.

### **What's next?**

The APLU | AAVMC Task Force was sunset upon publication of this report; however, an Executive Team including the APLU, AAVMC, the program manager and a few other strategic partners will continue to function to help ensure that implementation – including the development of education, outreach and research programs – is achieved. President Obama's appointment of APLU | AAVMC Task Force Co-Chair Dr. Lonnie King as Vice Chair of the President's Advisory Council will assure that key decision makers within the Administration have full access to the recommendations made in the Task Force report.