The Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA) participated in the White House Forum on Antibiotic Stewardship yesterday, June 2, 2015. APUA President, Dr. Stuart Levy, was joined by over 150 leaders from a variety of stakeholders including food companies, retailers, and human and animal health organizations all supporting this effort.

Each organization, including APUA, has pledged a commitment to implement changes to slow the emergence of resistant bacteria over the next five years. Much of APUA’s work coincides with the goals of the White House Forum on Antibiotic Stewardship—preserving recently developed antibiotics through means of stewardship so as to halt the progression of resistant bacteria.

APUA’s specific commitments to the White House Forum on Antibiotic Stewardship include:

- Fostering the development of a one health curriculum on prudent antibiotic use.
- Strengthening educational programs that inform physicians, veterinarians and members of the agricultural industry and the public about good antibiotic stewardship.
- Developing and piloting new interventions to address geographic, socio-cultural, policy, economic, and clinical drivers of the emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance and misuse or overuse of antibiotics.
- Eliminating the use of medically important antibiotics for growth promotion in food-producing animals.
- Advancing development and use of rapid and innovative diagnostic tests for identification and characterization of resistant bacteria.
- Improving International Collaboration and Capacities for Antibiotic Resistance Prevention, Surveillance, Control, and Antibiotic Research and Development.
- Promoting the generation and dissemination of information needed to effectively address antibiotic resistance.

APUA has long-recognized that the hurdles preventing the halting and reversal of antibiotic resistance will only be overcome by reducing antibiotic misuse. Thus the commitments made to the White House Forum on Antibiotic Stewardship include the fostering of an understanding of, and an obligation to control the quantity of antibiotics used in treating people, animals, aqua- and agriculture on a global level to reduce the pressures caused by antibiotic misuse.

A video of the forum can be found online along with a fact sheet provided by the White House. Both Dr. Levy and APUA along with Tufts University School of Medicine (Boston) commend the White House, President Barrack Obama, and the CDC for highlighting this issue and bringing forth commitments from major stakeholders.