



May 15, 2009

Chief Executive Officers

Stuart B. Levy, President
Thomas F. O'Brien, Vice President
Kathleen T. Young, Executive Director

Board of Directors

Stuart B. Levy, Chairperson
Sherwood Gorbach
Gordon W. Grundy
Bonnie Marshall
Mark Nance
Thomas F. O'Brien
Arnold G. Reinhold
Dennis Signorovitch
Philip D. Watson

Scientific Advisory Board

Jacques F. Acar, France
Werner Arber, Switzerland
Fernando Baquero, Spain
Michael L. Bennish, South Africa
Otto Cars, Sweden
Patrice Courvalin, France
Jose Ramiro Cruz, Guatemala
Iwan Darmansjah, Indonesia
Julian Davies, Canada
Abdoulaye Djimde, Mali
Stanley Falkow, USA
Paul Farmer, Haiti
Walter Gilbert, USA
Herman Goossens, Belgium
Sherwood L. Gorbach, USA
Ian M. Gould, Scotland
George Jacoby, USA
Sam Kariuki, Kenya
Ellen L. Koenig, Dominican Republic
Calvin M. Kunin, USA
Jacobo Kupersztoch, USA
Stephen A. Lerner, USA
Jay A. Levy, USA
Donald E. Low, Canada
Scott McEwen, Canada
Jos. W.M. van der Meer, The Netherlands
Richard P. Novick, USA
Ayo Oduola, Switzerland
Iruka Okeke, USA & Nigeria
Maria Eugenia Pinto, Chile
Vidal Rodriguez-Lemoine, Venezuela
José Ignacio Santos, Mexico
Mervyn Shapiro, Israel
K. B. Sharma, India
Atef M. Shibl, Saudi Arabia
E. John Threlfall, United Kingdom
Alexander Tomasz, USA
Thelma E. Tupasi, Philippines
Anne K. Vidaver, USA
Fu Wang, China
Thomas E. Wellems, USA
Bernd Wiedemann, Germany

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing on behalf of the global Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA) to express our strong support for the President's call to increase foreign aid dollars dedicated to control of acute bacterial diseases. While millions of U.S. dollars have been invested in laboratories and treatments for HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria, resource poor countries have little funding and capacity to detect and diagnose the more common acute bacterial infections such as pneumonia which are the leading causes of death in children under 5 in resource poor countries.

The generous PEPFAR funding for HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria programs has produced significant results and saved many lives. By increasing allocation of funding for diagnosis and treatment of respiratory and diarrheal diseases, we have the opportunity to readily avoid millions of preventable deaths. The November 2008 JAMA article by Dr. Emmanuel, et al, supports this case.

We suggest continuing generous PEPFAR funding while investing more to improving the treatment of bacterial infections. Increasing laboratory capacity to diagnose bacterial diseases and to determine which antibiotics are effective would result in more targeted and effective treatment. Doctors in developing countries are now forced to resort to unguided empirical treatment of bacterial infections. This 'blind therapy' for bacterial disease results in treatment failures and over use of antibiotics and anti-malarials as well as in increases in antimicrobial resistance.

APUA is working to document these issues further with funding from the Gates Foundation in Zambia and Uganda. We would be to happy work with you and others in the administration to ensure appropriate allocations through USAID and other agencies to address this public health funding deficit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kathleen T. Young
Executive Director

Stuart B. Levy, MD
President

Attachment: JAMA article

cc: Susan Foster PhD, APUA; Thomas O'Brien MD, APUA; Anibal Sosa MD, APUA; Ezekiel Emmanuel MD, NIH; Kathleen Sebelius, HHS; Colleen Denny, NIH;