
Dear Sir/Madam

Inquiry into the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 1999 Joint Expert Technical Advisory Committee on Antibiotic Resistance

Australia currently has no coordinated system of resistance surveillance in animal bacterial isolates of significance to human health. In a small study funded by Pfizer Animal Health, The University of Adelaide has commenced a surveillance programme for two important pathogens affecting both human and animal health, Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus. We have set up a network consisting of all 22 Private (mainly working with isolates from dogs, cats and horses), State (mainly working with isolates from food animals) and University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories (VDLs) who will send isolates to The University of Adelaide for resistance typing (at the moment most VDLs store these isolates for 2-3 weeks and are then discarded). The study commenced on the 1st Feb 2013.

The sole selection criterion for inclusion in the study is the isolate must be in the opinion of the referring laboratory a cause of an infection in an animal species. We will report back to each laboratory on the accuracy of their individual reports and the data generated for 3000 isolates will give us the first estimate of Australia-wide resistance prevalence in animal isolates to such important human drugs as fluoroquinolones, 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins and carbapenems as well as the other major classes of antibiotics. The data generated potentially could be compared with current AGAR data generated for human isolates. The network has now been established, ongoing government funding would ensure that the Private, State and Government VDLs continue to provide isolates for surveillance purposes into the future.

Pfizer Animal Health have contributed funds to an 2013 ARC Linkage project with the University of Adelaide to continue the programme for the next three years. The application is currently under review.

Please contact me if you require further information

Sincerely

Dr Darren Trott
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