



Press Release:

CAM – an important role to play in combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Reference: EUROCAM's document "The role of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) in reducing the problem of antimicrobial resistance"(attached)

17 November 2014

To mark EU Antibiotics Awareness Day 18 November 2014, EUROCAM, the alliance of European umbrella organisations of patients, physicians and practitioners in the field of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM), has published its policy document "The role of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) in reducing the problem of antimicrobial resistance"

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is recognised by the WHO and EU as a major worldwide threat to public health. They have warned that, if measures are not taken immediately to counter AMR, the implications for human health will be devastating.

Unquestionably antibiotics have successfully reduced illness and death from serious infectious diseases. But the burgeoning problem of AMR compounded with the fact no new antibiotic has been developed since 1987 demands new thinking. Rather than focusing on destroying pathogens (pathogenesis), the vital role of the host's ability to counter them, based on good health and a properly functioning immune system, (salutogenesis) must now be emphasised.

CAM therapies by their individualised holistic approach and focus on assisting each person's innate self-healing and health-maintaining capacity, can make a significant contribution to reducing AMR, both in the healthcare sector and in animal husbandry.

EUROCAM calls for the potential of CAM in reducing the problem of AMR to be given serious consideration and for further research to be carried out in this area to determine in which conditions, both in human and veterinary healthcare, specific CAM modalities are particularly effective. Compared with other avenues, such as the identification and development of new antibiotics, such trials would be relatively easy and inexpensive to carry out. In return for this small investment, the potential rewards could be enormous.

Contact information

Dr Ton Nicolai EUROCAM coordinator & spokesman
at coordinator@cam-europe.eu or +31-650613430

CAM - for a healthier Europe

EUROCAM, Rue du Trône 194, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
T: +32 2 644 00 20 E: info@cam-europe.eu