Kevin Outterson, Professor of Law, Boston University and Executive Director, CARB-X

"Cancer and chemotherapy treatments can suppress the immune system and can expose patients to health care-associated sources of infection. Because of this, cancer patients may be more susceptible to getting infections, which is their second leading cause of death. Bacteria and fungi develop resistance to the drugs we use to control them, eventually rendering antibiotics and antifungals powerless to stop infections. Investing in new treatments for infections is critical to make chemotherapy and surgery safer, and increase the rates at which cancer patients survive.

Innovation is robust for cancer, with thousands of products in development. But for bacterial and fungal infections, the pipeline is remarkably thin. Due to microbial evolution, every successful antibiotic and antifungal needs to be replaced in future generations. The unique aspects of this process of resistance has led to calls to revolutionize how we pay for antibiotics, de-linking reimbursement from volume and paying instead based on social value. These concepts have been put into place now in the United Kingdom, and have been endorsed by the G7 Health Ministers in 2022. The time to act is now, if we want to survive both cancer and infections."

Professor Outterson teaches health-care law at Boston University, where he co-directs the Health Law Programme. He serves as the founding Executive Director and Principal Investigator for CARB-X, a >US$ 800 million international public-private partnership to accelerate global antibacterial innovation. Key partners of CARB-X include the US Government – Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) – Wellcome in the United Kingdom and the German government – the Global AMR Innovation Fund and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research – and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Professor Outterson's research focuses on the law and economics of AMR, particularly push and pull incentives for antimicrobials. He has served as a senior author on many key research reports on antibiotic innovation, including Chatham House, ERG , DRIVE-AB, and the Lancet Commission. Professor Outterson received the 2015 Leadership Award from the Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics for his research and advocacy work. He has testified before the US Congress, Parliamentary working groups in the United Kingdom, the World Health Organization (WHO), and state legislatures. Since August 2016, he has led CARB-X, the world's most innovative antibiotic accelerator.