



## Foreword

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**The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and the UICC-led Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance and Cancer Care are honoured to publish this AMR Control Supplement entitled *The Challenge for the Cancer Community*.**

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) or drug resistance is one of the most important global health issues today. The World Health Organization has identified AMR as a serious threat to global health, development and food security. Antimicrobial resistance can negatively affect cancer care outcomes and very often does. In fact, as many as one in five cancer patients undergoing treatment needs to be hospitalized due to infection, and antibiotics are the main line of defence for these patients. Unfortunately, drug-resistant pathogens are rapidly emerging, and our antimicrobials (including antibiotics) are simply not effective any more against these resistant organisms. The result is that treatments for infection are losing their effectiveness and the great advances made in treating cancer are currently being undermined.

The situation will only get worse unless action is taken. As a head and neck surgical oncologist for 30 years, and President of UICC, I know the terrible impact that drug-resistant infections have on a patient's treatment journey. Along with treatment delays, longer stays in the intensive care unit and increased treatment costs, patients also face a fatal outcome if drug-resistant infections are not treated

successfully. The global threat of AMR has evolved very rapidly due to a number of reasons, including a lack of awareness of the scale and potential impact of drug resistance, irrational prescriptions by prescribers, and a lack of access to treatments. Furthermore, low- and middle-income countries also face the highest burden of AMR due to limited access to the right treatments.

We can take steps to address AMR for better cancer care outcomes. This supplement will provide guidance for the cancer community on key topics that must be addressed and show the steps we can take to address this threat.

I am delighted to present this important publication, and thank the authors of the chapters and the UICC-led Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance and Cancer Care for their commitment to this issue, for reviewing the articles, and also for contributing to this supplement. ■

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