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“Every time an antibiotic is used inappropriately, the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) can accelerate. The misuse of antimicrobials is mainly a consequence of individual behaviours that originate from inadequate awareness and understanding of the severity of the consequences. If the use of antibiotics increases by one daily dose per 1,000 people, the prevalence of resistance increases by ~1.5% (1). Currently, the main focus seems to be on research and development for new medicines and diagnostics, while the focus on activities to raise awareness and increase knowledge is sometimes overlooked. This is unfortunate, as raising awareness is key in the fight against AMR.

One of the most significant actions in tackling the AMR threat is raising the awareness and knowledge of people living with cancer about infection prevention and control (IPC), the need to address AMR, and improving their behaviour towards antimicrobial consumption. People living with cancer should be informed and involved in the decision-making process related to the treatment of infections. This way, their concerns on AMR and antibiotic misuse will be heard and duly addressed by their health-care professional.

Simultaneously, training on AMR for the health workforce needs to be strengthened and reinforced. This training needs to be provided not only at the primary health-care level but also at cancer care centres.

In the end, we should not forget about raising awareness of AMR among politicians, policy-makers, and hospital administrators as well. We must convey the message that not addressing AMR will have a substantial direct and indirect cost on our health and economy, and we must adopt evidence-based standards and guidelines on IPC and addressing AMR on a global level now.”

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Dr Hadi graduated from the University of Aleppo – Faculty of Medicine in Syria and completed his post-graduate training at the University of Iowa, USA.

1. Davies D & Verde E. (2013). Antimicrobial Resistance: In Search of a Collaborative Solution - World Innovation Summit for Health. World Innovation Summit for Health. Retrieved 3 August 2022, from <https://www.wish.org.qa/reports/antimicrobial-resistance-in-search-of-a-collaborative-solution/#:-:text=This%20report%20focuses%20on%20how,across%20species%20and%20national%20borders.>