Developing New Animal Pharma Products – 
Relevance to antibiotic stewardship in animal agriculture

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Overview: Structure of today’s presentation

- The role of antibiotic alternatives in stewardship
- Examples of alternatives reducing need for antibiotics
- Challenges & opportunities of current alternatives
- Summary & take-home messages
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Animal pharma products are important stewardship tools

Antibiotic stewardship

- Keep antibiotics effective
  - humans
  - animals
- Avoid unintended consequences
  - human health
  - animal health
  - food safety & environment
Antimicrobial resistance threatens the efficacy of antibiotics

AMR is a threat to human health, veterinary medicine & animal agriculture

- At least 2 million antibiotic resistant infections & 23,000 resulting deaths / year (CDC estimates)
- Emergence of AMR in companion animal pathogens after antibiotic treatments (e.g., tertiary teaching hospitals) well-documented
- Studies have demonstrated emergence of AMR in pathogens from livestock species (although data availability more limited)

**Source:** Cameron, A., McAllister, T.A., 2016. Antimicrobial usage and resistance in beef production. *Journal of Animal Science and Biotechnology* 7, 68.
Antibiotic use restrictions are on the rise in the U.S. and globally, creating a growing demand for alternatives

- Implementation of FDA policy eliminated growth promotion uses & placed feed and water uses under veterinary oversight
- Market-based antibiotic use restrictions (e.g., ‘no antibiotics ever’ policies) are on the rise
- Countries such as Brazil & China have limited colistin use in animal agriculture
- The World Health Organization has issued guidelines for the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture

In December 2016, 33 percent of U.S. broiler chicken were in NAE programs

Source: https://www.wattagnet.com/articles/30116-one-third-of-us-broilers-raised-antibiotic-free
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Vaccines effectively reduce antibiotic use & improve productivity

Proof-of-concept studies have demonstrated value of vaccines as antibiotic alternatives

- Experts consider vaccines feasible & effective antibiotic alternatives
- Vaccines can reduced antibiotic use (e.g., in salmon, swine and poultry)
- Studies have demonstrated vaccination can lead to improvements in productivity (e.g., mortality, daily weight gains) and be cost-effective

Source:
Several other alternatives besides vaccines also hold promise

Growth promotion & disease prevention alternatives

- More products have shown efficacy for growth promotion & disease prevention than for treatment
- Currently more products exist with proven efficacy for chicken than for other species
- Alternatives often have a narrower spectrum of action & lower efficacy than traditional antibiotics
- Efficacy often varies across trials for largely unknown reasons

Source: http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2017/07/alternatives_to_antibiotics_in_animal_agriculture.pdf
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Developing antibiotic alternatives has unique challenges

Alternatives are diverse & often more complex than antibiotics

- Promising antibiotic alternatives are a heterogeneous group of products
- Many alternative products consist of large molecules or complex mixtures of living organisms
- The mechanism of action varies across products & is in several cases poorly understood
- Producers will likely use multiple products together, with largely unknown & hard-to-predict results

Source:
http://www.pewtrusts.org/~/media/assets/2017/07/alternatives_to_antibiotics_in_animal_agriculture.pdf
The need for antibiotic alternatives is not adequately met

Finding alternatives for priority diseases is of key importance

- A few priority diseases drive the majority of antibiotic use
- Commercial vaccines are available for many priority diseases
- Many current, commercially-available vaccines have severe limitations
- Other promising alternative approaches exist but often require further research

Source: http://www.pewtrusts.org~/media/assets/2017/07/alternatives_to_antibiotics_in_animal_agriculture.pdf
Veterinary vaccines can become effective antibiotic alternatives

Scientific progress in 4 key areas can make vaccines effective antibiotic alternatives

- **Safety improvements** *(e.g., vectored vaccines & new adjuvants)* to minimize unintended consequences

- **Efficacy improvements** *(e.g., combination/recombinant vaccines & protocol optimization)* to generate robust & durable protection against broad range of pathogens (including in very young animals)

- **Easier administration** *(e.g., new oral vaccination strategies & increased stability)* to permit easy mass vaccination

- **Cost reductions** to make use economically feasible and cost-effective

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Summary & key take-home messages

- Safe & effective alternatives are central stewardship tools
- Growing demand for safe & effective alternatives
- Vaccines & other alternatives reduce antibiotic need
- There is an unmet need for antibiotic alternatives
- Developing antibiotic alternatives poses challenges
- New research provides strategies for better alternatives
Contact me with questions & to learn more about our research

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It was on a short-cut through the hospital kitchens that Albert was first approached by a member of the Antibiotic Resistance.

Source: http://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.0050112