

KASIC NEWSLETTER

Issue Four, Volume One

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ASP SPOTLIGHT

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Office Hours

Looking to chat with an expert? Office hours may be right for you!

Office hours are hosted virtually every Thursday afternoon from 12:00 – 1:00 pm EST and are open to anyone interested in antimicrobial stewardship

[Click to Add Office Hours to your Calendar!](#)

*Pictured Top: UofL Health – Jewish Hospital
Pictured Below: Dr. Audry Hawkins*



What got you interested in antimicrobial stewardship?

I fell in love with infectious diseases on rotations as a student. No matter what specialty you are in, you will encounter infections and the way you treat one patient impacts the future treatment of others. The big picture goal that we work towards as stewards provides the opportunity to make a widespread impact that can last generations.



What has been one of your biggest success in antimicrobial stewardship?

Empowering others to be stewards. I often say as ID pharmacists we can't save the world on our own, but through consistent education and reinforcement we can equip our colleagues with the best tools to be front line stewards. It is extremely fulfilling when these efforts come to fruition.

What has been one of your biggest barriers? How did you overcome?

One of the biggest barriers I face is overcoming practice based on historic teachings and comfort. In a specialty with an ever-changing landscape, standard of care can change rapidly and implementing it can be difficult. To overcome this, I have found it is important to address the historic data and provide new age context to put into perspective why new avenues were explored.

What are you most excited about working with KASIC?

Working with others who are equally as passionate about antimicrobial stewardship and improving outcomes across our state. Expanding access and knowledge on antimicrobial stewardship resources will contribute to our universal goal of anti-infective preservation for the future.

Antimicrobial Stewardship Legislation: Pioneering Antimicrobial Subscriptions to End Upsurging Resistance (PASTEUR) Act

It is estimated that over 35,000 deaths associated with antimicrobial resistance occur annually in the United States.¹ Although mortality is expected to climb with increasing antimicrobial-resistance, there are significant barriers preventing much-needed investment in the creation of new antimicrobials. Current reimbursement is based on the volume of drugs being used.¹ However, novel antimicrobials are often reserved to prevent emergence of pathogen resistance making it difficult for pharmaceutical companies to recoup development costs. Even companies that have successfully obtained FDA-approval for novel antimicrobials have been forced to declare bankruptcy.¹ Good stewardship practices, though a necessary measure against the development of antimicrobial resistance, imperil the antibiotic pipeline as they are antithetical to profit-driven behaviors. As it stands, current reimbursement models incentivize the overuse of novel antimicrobials instead of promoting optimal clinical practices.

The Pioneering Antimicrobial Subscriptions to End Upsurging Resistance (PASTEUR) Act was reintroduced to Congress by U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and Todd Young and Representatives Mike Doyle and Drew Ferguson in June 2021. This Act would establish a subscription program to encourage innovative antimicrobial drug development, facilitate appropriate use of antibiotics, and create oversight to ensure domestic availability when necessary.¹ The bipartisan, bicameral legislation is championed by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), and the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP), as well as a plethora of diverse medical associations across the country.¹

The legislation would alleviate market pressures preventing novel antimicrobial development by creating a subscription-like model – pharmaceutical companies creating new antimicrobial doses would receive a predetermined amount of money for their product regardless of how many doses of the medicine were needed by subscribers.¹ The act also includes mechanisms to promote appropriate usage, including grants to support antibiotic stewardship in hospitals and enhanced support for tracking and reporting.¹ Grant priority will be given to hospitals without existing stewardship programs, hospitals in rural areas, critical access hospitals, hospitals serving tribal populations, and safety-net hospitals. The PASTEUR Act also outlines guidance for the creation of the Critical Need Antimicrobial Advisory Group comprised of no fewer than 6 health experts and no fewer than 5 patient advocates. This Advisory Group would, along with other professional societies, act as consultants to ensure that guidance on the appropriate use of diagnostic approaches

Article Written by Jordan Arnold, PharmD Candidate 2024

¹ 2019 antibiotic resistance threats report. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/biggest-threats.html>. Published November 23, 2021.

² 2019 antibiotic resistance threats report. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/biggest-threats.html>. Published November 23, 2021.

³ Skerrett P. Congress: Confront the Superbug Crisis and pass pasteur. STAT. <https://www.statnews.com/2022/11/21/congress-confront-the-superbug-crisis-and-pass-pasteur/>. Published November 18, 2022.

⁴ Skerrett P. Congress: Confront the Superbug Crisis and pass pasteur. ST. AT.

⁵ <https://asm.org/ASM/media/Policy-and-Advocacy/121420-S-FAR-PASTEUR-Senate-support-letter.pdf>.

⁶ Confront the Superbug Crisis and pass pasteur. STAT.

⁷ Putting the Current Market Structure for Antimicrobials Out to PASTEUR? Center for Global Development

⁸ Th St Congress Session H. R. 3932. <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr/3932/BILLS-117hr3932h.pdf>. Accessed January 2, 2023.

Need help with recommendation tracking, analysis, and reporting?

KASIC has you covered! Prospective audit and feedback is a lot of work. And it's even more work to track, analyze, and report recommendation rates and acceptance rates, but is critical to benchmarking and goal-setting. Can't tracking and reporting be easier? Well now it can with KASIC! Utilizing REDCap, KASIC can provide a recommendation tracking tool that is quick and easy to fill out. Furthermore, KASIC can provide data analysis and reporting at your convenience. And maybe best of all, the tool can be tailored to your specific institutional needs! Alleviate yourself of some antimicrobial stewardship administrative burdens and engage KASIC today!

[Click to Request More Information](#)

Recent Weekly KASIC Education Pearls

- Why Question a Quinolone?
- Surgical Prophylaxis: Timing is Everything
- What is a MIC?
- MIC: From Lab to Chart

KASIC seeks to provide quick, practical educational pearls to antimicrobial stewards throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Don't see the pearl you're looking for?

[Request a Pearl Topic Here!](#)

Norton Infectious Diseases Institute Grand Rounds Educational Series

Every Wednesday from 12:00 – 12:30 PM

[Click here to Add Grand Rounds to your Calendar!](#)

January 11th, 2023:

Kentucky Notifiable Diseases with Carrell Rush

January 18th, 2023:

Premier on Germicides with Hudson Garrett, PhD, MPH

January 25th, 2023:

Community-Acquired Pneumonia: Short and to the Point! with Sarah Moore, PharmD, BCIDP