Dear Sir or Madam,

As you may know, antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the most important public health challenges of our time. Every year in France, 12,500 people pass away from infections caused by multiresistant bacteria.

It is also a major challenge in terms of sustainable development, even comparable to climate change. Indeed, as atmospheric pollution generated by Man, which is not bound to human frontiers, antibiotic resistance has no physical limits and directly impacts the whole planetary ecosystem.

Despite the emerging global acknowledgment of the issue by the highest health institutions and the progress allowed by the different policies implemented at the global, European and French levels, it will take more efforts to raise awareness on this considerable problem. Without practical measures and a total involvement from all, we could very well enter a post-antibiotic era in which frequent infections could become lethal again.

In front of such consequences, it is obvious that the answer can only be comprehensive: everyone can contribute to fighting AMR. Under the tutelage of the World Alliance against Antimicrobial resistance (WAAAR), an expert group gathered to develop a "manual" on policy to combat antibiotic resistance. Comprised of healthcare, environment and animal health experts, the group formulated several propositions which were presented in 2018 in the French National Assembly during an event sponsored by MP Éric Alauzet for World Antibiotic Awareness Week.

In 2019, the awareness-raising efforts of WAAAR did not stop. The association worked to implement its proposition and collaborated with healthcare professionals (specifically general practitioners) and elected representatives at the local and national levels. In order to confirm the institutional aspect of its action, WAAAR also renewed its event in the National Assembly on November 6, 2019 and presented this year’s actions to high-level decision-makers to ensure the adequate translation of its message in the political agenda.

Because AMR is a transnational challenge and it cannot be fought in a single country, WAAAR is happy to send you a paper copy of its Manual so that you may find in it a convenient way to spread the word about resistance and call on decision-makers, healthcare professionals and the general public at your level to play their part in the fight against AMR.

I hope you have a good read.

Best regards,

The WAAAR Executive Board,

Jean Carlet
President

Garance Upham
Vice-President

Vincent Jarlier
Vice-President

Jean-Pierre Hermet
Treasurer

Joël Leroy
Secretary General