# HEALTH CARE PROFILES

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ABX Project – Saskatchewan
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Type of Organization/Project
• Collaboration of health care organizations

Description
Objective:
• To identify the most effective and acceptable strategy to assist physicians and pharmacists in providing appropriate antibiotic treatment and to encourage patients to adhere to that antibiotic treatment.

Activities
• Received $300,000 in funding under the Health Transition Fund Secretariat.

Results:
• Participation in the project was offered to all physicians on intervention web sites.
• Participation by patients was offered when they went to fill a prescription. Only those who consented to participate received information.
• Pharmacists’ roles included collecting prescriptions, visiting physicians, and contacting patients for follow-up to filling out antibiotic prescriptions.
• Evaluation will be based on the number of prescriptions filled, the number of patients adhering to therapy, and the bacterial resistance data collected by physicians and hospitals.
• Report to be ready in March 2001.

Antimicrobial Resistance Committee Quebec
GRAM: Group Centre la Résistance aux Antibiens
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Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont
Montréal, Québec H1T 2M4
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Type of organization/Project
• Collaboration of health care organizations and private sector

Description
• The Association of Medical Microbiologists and Infectious Disease Specialists of Quebec formed the committee.
• The Committee is made up of sub-committees: Laboratory Surveillance; Planning and Implementation; and Antibiotic Use.
• The Committee consists of representatives of various health organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, and the Quebec Ministry of Health.

Results:
• Evaluation showed that 88% of physicians who returned the forms used some of the resource material. Sixty per cent of physicians believed that prescribing of antibiotics decreased.

Antibiotic Resistance Education Program
British Columbia
Dodie Katzenstein, Project Co-ordinator
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E-mail: dodie@interchange.ubc.ca

Type of Organization/Project
• Education project

Description
• Health education initiative designed to reduce risks associated with the emergence of antibiotic-resistance bacteria.
• Program started in 1997. Headed by Dr David Speert, Head, Division of Infectious and Immunological Diseases at the University of British Columbia, Department of Paediatrics.
• Project operated in collaboration with University of British Columbia, Department of Family Practice and the Institute of Health Promotion and Research.
• Funding has been provided by the Vancouver Foundation, the BC’s Children’s Hospital Foundation and the Peter Wall Institute or Advanced Studies. Budget of $100,000 over three years.

Results:
• Completed mail survey of 600 physicians to assess prescribing practices.
• Designed and distributed an education resource package to physicians.
• Introduced media campaign geared at reinforcing key messages.
• Created networks that incorporate new antibiotic resistance knowledge in training programs for medical students. Evaluated networks using a variety of quantitative and qualitative approaches, including feedback forms, a follow-up mail survey, and a review of government prescribing data.
**Antibiotic Safety Zone**

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**Activities**
- The “Antibiotic Safety Zone”, denoted by a distinctive logo, is a collective pledge to use antibiotics in accordance with a set of principles aimed at decreasing unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions.
- The “Antibiotic Safety Zone” principles are designed for households, daycare centres and medical offices and serve as a practical guide for physicians, patients, families and daycare centres.
- Private web site contains “Antibiotic Safety Zone” posters and information sheets for medical offices, daycare centre and patients. Posters and materials are available upon request.
- No proactive communications done.

**Categories**
- Optimal Use

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**Canadian Bacterial Surveillance Network (CBSN)**

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E-mail: amcgeer@mtsinai.on.ca  
Web site: http://microbiology.mtsinai.on.ca/research/gas.htm

**Type of Organization/Project**
- Surveillance network

**Description**
- Canadian Bacterial Surveillance Network (CBSN) is a subgroup of the Canadian Bacterial Diseases Network, (Canada-wide consortium of researchers whose work focuses on bacterial disease), which is one of the 15 federally funded networks of Centres of Excellence.
- The surveillance network comprises a group of more than 100 clinical laboratories across Canada who voluntarily share data and bacterial isolates for microbiological study.

**Objective**
- To monitor the prevalence, mechanisms and epidemiology of antibiotic resistance in Canada.

**Activities**
- Identify problems of emerging bacterial resistance and changing epidemiology and ensure that health care providers have the data needed to establish appropriate laboratory testing guidelines and patient management strategies.
- Since January 1995, it has performed population-based surveillance for a variety of bacterial pathogens in Metro Toronto/Peel Region (population 3.6 million).
- Surveillance has been on-going for pneumococci, group B streptococci, group A streptococci (as part of Ontario GAS Study), and is performed intermittently for Haemophilus influenzae, resistant Gram-negative bacteria, and some other pathogens.
- Most resistance data from this network are incorporated into the CBSN surveillance database.
- Completed associated studies of the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and management of severe disease due to GAS.
Health care profiles

Canadian Infectious Disease Society (CIDS)
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Web site: http://www.cids.medical.org

Type of Organization/Project
- National association

Description
- Objectives:
  - Dedicated to the promotion of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis and management of human infectious diseases.
  - Contribute to the health of people at risk of or affected by infectious diseases.
  - Promote, facilitate and support research and education in infectious diseases.
  - Develop guidelines and policies for the prevention, diagnosis and management of infectious diseases.
  - Encourage excellence in the infectious disease training of health care professionals through collaborations with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and other relevant organizations.
  - A resource to governments and other health related groups.

Activities
- Original conceptualization and co-organizer of the Canadian consensus conference Controlling Antimicrobial Resistance: An Integrated Action Plan for Canadians, which was held in Montreal, May 28-30, 1997
- Conferences
- Pamphlets for education of patients and physicians
- Initiated and maintains InfectNet (www.infectnet.com), which is a web site containing information on important issues in infectious diseases including a section on antibiotic resistance.
- Developed a ‘non-prescription’ pad for use as a tool by physicians for not prescribing antibiotics; downloadable from the InfectNet web site
- Partner in National Information Program on Antibiotics (NIPA)
- Produce The Canadian Journal of Infectious Diseases which contains information on antimicrobial resistance and is mailed out to infectious diseases physicians, family practitioners and institutions
- Published a supplement to The Canadian Journal of Infectious Diseases entitled Antimicrobial Stewardship in Canadian Health Care Institutions in September 1998 (Volume 9, Supplement C, September 1999)
- Member of the Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance

Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS)
Ms Elizabeth Moreau, Communications Manager
2204 Walkley Road, Suite 100
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Tel: (613) 526-9397, Fax: (613) 526-3332,
Web Site: http://www.cps.ca/

Type of Organization/Project
- National association

Description
- A voluntary professional association, the Canadian Paediatric Society represents more than 2000 paediatricians, paediatric subspecialists, paediatric residents and other child health care providers.
- Partner in National Information Program on Antibiotics (NIPA).

Objectives:
- To promote quality health for children and youth.

Activities
- Position paper, "Antimicrobial Resistance: Implications for Therapy of Infections with Common Childhood Pathogens".
  - Paper includes a series of strategies that should be adopted to limit the spread of antimicrobial resistance among pathogens that infect children.
  - Strategies are all directed towards physicians and medical community.
- Developed Caring for Kids web site which contains fact sheet on antibiotics.
- Produces Paediatrics & Child Health which contains information on antimicrobial resistance and is mailed out to 15,000 paediatricians, child healthcare professionals and family practitioners.
- Prepared antibiotic tool kit for physicians which contains 100 pamphlets about antibiotic resistance, two compliance pads for patients taking antibiotics, and two ‘non-prescription’ pads with tips on coping with a virus. Kit materials explain the difference between bacterial and viral infections. Available on request for $5.00 ($4.50 for members)
- Member of the Canadian Committee on AntibioticResistance
Health care profiles

Do Bugs Need Drugs?

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Type of Organization/Project
• Private company

Description
• Educational program targeted at doctors, pharmacists, students
  and the public.
Objective:
• To optimize antibiotic prescribing for respiratory tract infections.
Activities
• Completed six month pilot project with three key messages:
  – Handwashing is the most effective way to prevent the
    transmission of RTIs.
  – Antibiotics are not effective for viral infections.
  – Antibiotics need to be used wisely.
The results of the pilot showed:
• 12% reduction in antibiotic prescriptions for respiratory tract
  infections compared with the year before.
• Significant improvement in use of first-line agents.
• Increased public awareness of the appropriate use of antibiotics and the
  importance of handwashing.
• Increased knowledge of physicians, pharmacists, and especially
  parents of students.
Future plans include:
• Expanded project for October 2000 to March 2001.
• Educational programs for physicians (including CME credit),
  pharmacists, dentists, continuing care, First Nations,
  occupational and public health, students, and daycares.
• Public awareness campaign and development of a web site.

Health and Community Services – St John’s Region

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Medical Officer of Health, Communications Department
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E-mail: dougscott@hcslr.nf.ca
Web site: http://www.commhealth.nf.ca

Type of Organization/Project
• Provincial government

Description
• Funded by the Regional Health and Community Service Board of
  Newfoundland and Labrador.
Objective:
• Committed to advocacy, partnership, and the provision of
  respectful, responsive services to promote the health and well being
  of people and their communities within our region.
Activities
• Affiliated with the Infection Control Committee of the Health Care
  Corporation of St John’s
• Web site contains:
  – Fact sheet entitled Antibiotics, which contains sections on using
    them wisely and the dos and don’ts of taking antibiotics.
  – Document entitled Guidelines for Control of Infectious Disease
    in School and At Home, which contains explanations of infectious
    diseases that are common in children as well as precautions that can be taken to prevent them.
Health Canada: Population and Public Health Branch (formerly LCDC)
Ms. Shirley Paton
LCDC Building, Tunney’s Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2
Tel: (613) 957-0326, Fax: (613) 998-6413,
E-mail: shirley_paton@hc-sc.gc.ca
Web site: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/lcdc/

**Type of Organization/Project**
- Federal government

**Description**
- New branch of Health Canada which consolidates the Health Promotion and Programs Branch with the former Laboratory Centre for Disease Control (LCDC), and with the laboratories in Winnipeg and Guelph. This branch conducts some activities through the Bureau of Microbiology which is responsible for developing and using cutting edge laboratory technologies to define emerging infectious diseases and to enhance surveillance, prevention, investigation and control of infectious disease of national and international public health importance.
- The Nosocomial Infections/Antibiotic Resistance and Molecular Typing Section of the Bureau has three main areas of responsibility. One of these areas is concerned with the emergence of multi-drug resistant organisms.

**Objectives:**
- To direct the implementation of policies, programs and systems relating to prevention, health promotion, disease surveillance, community action and disease control.

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Manitoba Antimicrobial Research Laboratories (MARL)
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**Type of Organization/Project**
- Academia

**Description**
- To conduct laboratory surveillance across Canada.

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**Type of Organization/Project**
- Private company

**Description**
- Founded in 1978 as a specialized infectious disease reference laboratory with a focus on rare and emerging infectious and immunological diseases.
- Serves the North American healthcare community from American-based facilities in Virginia and California as well as internationally through a Netherlands office.
- Employs traditional microbiological and immunological test methods as well as new molecular technologies to provide in-depth diagnostic services for a variety of infectious agents.

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Activities
- Activities involve the investigation of infectious and non-infectious diseases and injuries, the study of their associated risk factors, and the evaluation of related prevention and control programs.
- National epidemiological/microbiological surveillance projects within the Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) on the antimicrobial resistant organisms. The CNISP is a collaborative effort involving the Canadian Hospital Epidemiology Committee (CHEC), a subcommittee of the Canadian Infectious Diseases Society and the Bureau of Infectious Diseases within Health Canada. Participates in international health surveillance programs, playing an interface role between the Canadian public health system and the global public health community. The collaboration with partners takes the shape of a vast public health intelligence network made up of Advisory committees, Expert and Scientific Working Groups and topic specific Surveillance Networks involving public health officers, epidemiologists, public health and hospital laboratories, health professionals, and academics.
- Conducts research and publishes reports on controlling antimicrobial resistance.
- Hosts conferences and annual meetings of the CNISP
- Co-organizer of consensus conference, Controlling Antimicrobial Resistance: An Integrated Action Plan for Canadians, which was held in Montreal, May 28 to 30, 1997.
- Member of the Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance

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Manitoba Antimicrobial Research Laboratories (MARL)
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E-mail: dhoban@hsc.mb.ca

**Type of Organization/Project**
- Academia

**Description**
- To conduct laboratory surveillance across Canada.

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Herndon, Virginia USA 20171
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E-mail: jweslock@thetsn.com,
Web site: http://www.thetsn.com

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**Type of Organization/Project**
- Academia

**Description**
- To conduct laboratory surveillance across Canada.

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Web site: http://www.thetsn.com

**Type of Organization/Project**
- Private company

**Description**
- Founded in 1978 as a specialized infectious disease reference laboratory with a focus on rare and emerging infectious and immunological diseases.
- Serves the North American healthcare community from American-based facilities in Virginia and California as well as internationally through a Netherlands office.
- Employs traditional microbiological and immunological test methods as well as new molecular technologies to provide in-depth diagnostic services for a variety of infectious agents.
**Newfoundland Optimal Antibiotic Project**

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**Type of Organization/Project**  
Coalition of provincial private and public sector

**Description**  
A collaboration with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association, the Newfoundland Pharmacy Association, the Department of Health and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers of Canada in conjunction with Abbott Laboratories.

**Objectives:**  
- To reduce and optimize antibiotic use in the province of Newfoundland.  
- To evaluate the efficacy of strategies aimed at improving prescription of antibiotics.

**Activities**  
Completed project that:  
- Surveyed the diagnosis and the treatments of infections in general practice.
  
- Distributed [Ontario Antiinfective Guidelines](#).  
- Disseminated posters to doctors’ offices and to pharmacies throughout the province warning of the improper use of antibiotics.  
- Presented speaking tour by Dr Hutchinson.

**Results of the project included:**  
- Antibiotic prescriptions in the province were down about 12% for the year ending September 1998 compared to the previous year.  
- Total outpatient prescriptions reduced 20% in St John’s year ending March 1998 versus year ending March 1997.  
- Put forward a proposal for an ongoing program that would monitor and research both antibiotic consumption and antibiotic resistance, and inform Newfoundlanders of the proper utilization of these agents.  
- The proposal includes measurement of resistance in normal and clinical bacteria, measurement of antibiotic use, determination of optimal population consumption of antibiotics, and evaluation of strategies for achieving optimal consumption.
Health care profiles

Partners for Appropriate Anti-infective Community Therapy (PAACT)
PAACT Steering Committee
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John Pilla, Dr Walter Rosser
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E-mail: paact@umshhealth.com

Type of Organization/Project
• Collaboration of private and public sector.

Description
• Project funded by the Ontario provincial government, Health Transition Fund (HTF), Health Canada, and private pharmaceutical companies.

Objectives:
• To reduce and improve the use of antibiotics by changing prescribing patterns
• To develop a primary care guideline implementation network

Activities
• A multiphase education project directed at physicians and the public:
  – Phase 1: rural pilot
  – Phase 2: urban pilot
  – Phase 3: seven sites
  – Phase 4: 15 regions across province

Public interventions implemented in conjunction with local public health units include:
• Town hall meetings

Pediatric Investigators Collaborative Network on Infections in Canada (PICNIC)
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IWK-Grace Health Centre
Dalhousie University
8 East Research Laboratories
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Tel: (902) 428-8498, Fax: (902) 428-3217,
E-mail: joanne.langley@dal.ca,
Web site: www.picnic-canada.org

Type of Organization/Project
• Collaboration of health professionals

Description
• PICNIC is a group of Canadian investigators with a special interest in pediatric infectious disease problems
• Consists largely of specialists in childhood infectious diseases based at university-affiliated hospitals.

Objective:
• To promote, facilitate and engage in collaborative research that will advance understanding of the pathogenesis, causes, natural history, diagnosis, management and most importantly, prevention, of infections that affect the fetus, newborn, infant, child and adolescent.

Activities
• Performs a variety of collaborative studies about paediatric infections, including some related to resistance.
• Promotes, facilitates and engages in collaborative research on infections in children in which results are published.
• Presents abstracts at national and international meetings.
• Maintains web site.
Quality Management Program-Laboratory Services (QMP-LS), formerly Laboratory Proficiency Testing Program (LPTP)

Ms Christine Fleming, Technologist
(Bacteriology, Mycology and Parasitology)
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E-mail: fleming@lptp.on.ca,
Web site: http://www.lptp.on.ca/

Type of Organization/Project
• Collaboration of provincial professional association and provincial government

Description
• Formed in 1974 through an agreement between the Ministry of Health of Ontario and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA).

STOPSUPERBUGS.COM
Dr Don Renaud BSc Pharm, Vice-President
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E-mail: drenaud@solutionsinhealth.com,
Web site: http://www.stopsuperbugs.com

Type of Organization/Project
• Web site

Description
• Educational tool to guide individuals on the issues of antibiotic use and resistance in the community. This site focuses on the DaimlerChrysler/Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) union initiative to address the lack of understanding on antibiotic use and resistance.

Activities
• The STOPSUPERBUGS, denoted by a distinctive logo, is being promoted through a program with DaimlerChrysler and the CAW to its members and retirees. As well, the program is being focused on the Essex County (Ontario) community at large to raise the awareness of overuse of antibiotics and the increase in the phenomena of resistance in the community.

• This campaign is designed to raise the awareness of the issues surrounding the proper use of antibiotics. The goal of the program is to remove the pressure of patient demand or expectation for antibiotics for viral infection situations. This potential 30% of antibiotic prescriptions can be affected by educating the public to trust the physician when an antibiotic is given and when an antibiotic is not given.

• The web site acts as a support for the active programs in several communities across Canada. The site features categories such as MRSA and VRE, which are distributed to laboratories as part of the survey assessment process.

• Started collecting data on resistance in Enterobacteriaceae.

Community And Hospital Infection Control Association – Canada (CHICA-Canada)

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Web site: http://www.chica.org/

Type of Organization/Project
• National association

Description
• A national, multi-disciplinary, voluntary association of professionals. CHICA - Canada is committed to improving the health of Canadians by promoting excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control by employing evidence based practice and application of epidemiological principles.

Activities
• Focuses on education, communication, standards, research and consumer awareness.

• Assists in the development of guidelines for prevention and control of the spread antibiotic resistant organisms in health care settings and in disseminating this information to health care professionals.

• Involved in federal and provincial groups attempting to augment infection control resources to control resistance.

• Produced a series of posters and videos (“Sudsy” products) encouraging hand washing for educational settings, public health groups, families and youth.