



The British Society for
Antimicrobial Chemotherapy



NEWS RELEASE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE and BRITISH SOCIETY FOR ANTIMICROBIAL CHEMOTHERAPY

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Antimicrobial Stewardship

Launch date: 28th September 2015

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/antimicrobial-stewardship>



@asmoooc | #AbxSteward

Antimicrobial resistance is a threat so important that the World Economic Forum has placed it on the global risk register alongside terrorism and global warming. It directly contributes to at least 50,000 lives each year across Europe and the US alone, with many hundreds of thousands more dying in other areas of the world - reliable estimates of the true burden are scarce.

In addition there are very few new antibiotics in development and although there are initiatives in place to regenerate antibacterial drug discovery and development it will be many years if not decades before these efforts bear results. It is essential therefore that the effectiveness of existing antibiotics is protected.

Now the University of Dundee, working in collaboration with the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC) through a partnership agreement with the FutureLearn platform, is offering a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) offering healthcare professionals around the world access to education on antimicrobial stewardship.

MOOCs are web-based, free-access learning courses that offer university-level courses. Dundee and BSAC's programme is a six week course that begins in September 2015, and will be repeated regularly. Learners can register their interest at - <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/antimicrobial-stewardship>

The course, which will launch 28 September 2015, will help deliver the urgent action needed to reduce antibiotic resistance through education of healthcare professionals, patients and public. Global appetite is such that over 8,500 pre-registrations have been received from learners.

The free Antimicrobial Stewardship course on FutureLearn will enable healthcare professionals to understand what stewardship is and how it can be applied in practice. Participants will interact with colleagues globally and develop skills that will support responsible prescribing, improve infection control practices and improve patient outcomes within their own specific health care locality. The course is designed to meet the needs of practitioners across the globe in differing healthcare system and settings.

Karl Leydecker, Vice-Principal for Learning & Teaching at the University said, *“Our purpose as a University is to transform lives locally and globally, and this course, centred on the global healthcare issue of antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic use, is one way we can do that.”*

Professor Dilip Nathwani OBE, President of BSAC, Honorary Professor of Infection at the University of Dundee and Consultant Physician in NHS Tayside, said, *“Free online courses offer an innovative way to educate healthcare professionals across the globe on the issue of antimicrobial resistance and how we can best tackle it, including making better and more effective use of antibiotics- the concept of antimicrobial stewardship. The course has been developed by a training faculty comprising experts from different professional societies and organisations internationally, and this diversity of experience and skills will ensure both generic and local training needs are addressed. The MOOC, which is free at the point of access, will deliver a multifaceted and interactive course to meet the needs of a broad range of health care professionals and policy makers.”*

Tracey Guise, Chief Executive Officer for the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, said, *“The Society is delighted to be collaborating with Dundee in the development and delivery of this landmark course on FutureLearn. This open access resource that has the potential to offer significant improvements in global healthcare. We know that there are a lot of institutions investing time, energy and expertise in delivering education on antimicrobial resistance to their local communities. The MOOC will harness this expertise and produce a global course, allowing local resources to be directed at delivering stewardship programmes rather than designing and continually updated them.”*

Professor Peter Davey, Lead for Clinical Quality Improvement in the University’s Medical School, said, *“This course will help deliver examples of best practice to an international audience, particularly those involved in healthcare or with prescribing responsibilities, but also for those in the general public who simply want to learn more about the issues.”*

Simon Nelson, Chief Executive of FutureLearn, said, *“I’m delighted that in welcoming the University of Dundee to the FutureLearn partnership, we can also offer a platform to connect healthcare professionals around the world to discuss the critical issue of antibacterial resistance, and to disseminate vital information from the University and BSAC.”*

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

The **University of Dundee** is internationally recognised for the quality of its teaching and research and has a core mission to **transform lives** across society. Dundee is the top ranked University in the UK for biological sciences research, according to the Research Excellence Framework 2014, the major survey of research quality. The University is the central hub for a multi-million pound biotechnology sector in the east of Scotland, which now accounts for 16% of the local economy.

More than 17,000 students are enrolled at Dundee, helping make the city Scotland's most student-friendly. With high-quality teaching, world-leading research, and a £200 million investment in a compact, friendly campus with an unrivalled position in the heart of the city centre, the University of Dundee has been rated number one in Scotland for the past six years in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey.

See www.dundee.ac.uk for further details

The **British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy** (BSAC) is an inter-professional organization with over 40 years of experience and achievement in antibiotic education, research and leadership and is dedicated to saving lives through appropriate use and development of antibiotics now and in the future. BSAC publishes the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, the leading international journal in its field, and leads Antibiotic Action, a UK led global initiative that seeks to ensure effective antibiotics are researched, discovered and developed for all who need them. The Society engages with a wide range of stakeholders to improve and promote understanding of antimicrobials, including peer organizations, parliamentarians, policy-makers, students and healthcare trainees, scientists, researchers and journalists. www.bsac.org.uk

FutureLearn is private company wholly owned by The Open University, with the benefit of over 40 years of their experience in distance learning and online education. FutureLearn has 40 partners from the UK, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East, including many of the best UK and international universities, as well as institutions with a huge archive of cultural and educational material, such as the British Council, the British Library, the British Museum, and the National Film and Television School. FutureLearn also works with range internationally renowned organisations - from professional bodies such as the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), to businesses like the BBC and Marks & Spencer, to the UK Government. www.futurelearn.com

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