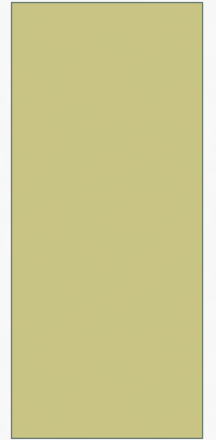


ETHICAL ASPECTS OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

PUBLIC HEALTH ETHICS
BENEDIKT SCHMIDT
UNIVERSITY OF BASEL



REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF ANTIBIOTICS

- Requires important value judgements
 - *When choosing which antibiotic to use, is the physician's main (or only) moral duty towards the patient's current need or toward potential future patients?*
 - *What kind of good are antibiotics?*

DRUG AND DIAGNOSTIC DEVELOPMENT

- Responsibility for development of new antibiotics
 - *Who should have access to antibiotics? Anyone who can afford buying them while respecting intellectual property?*

IGNORANCE AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

- *Which measures are ethically justifiable to change people`s behaviour?*

AGRICULTURAL AND FARMING PRACTICES

- factory farming in its current form is only possible due to the widespread use of antibiotics
- *Should we ban antibiotics in farming?*

PRIORITIES AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

- Prioritization of:
 - Pathogens
 - Populations
 - Antibiotics of last resort
- *If resistance to antibiotics of last resort is likely to emerge quicker the more equally we provide access to them, would this justify restricting access to those who need them most?*

OBLIGATIONS TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

- *Should we place patients at additional risk in order to preserve effective antibiotics?*

LITERATURE

- Jasper Littmann, A. M. Viens. „The Ethical Significance of Antimicrobial Resistance.“ *Public Health Ethics*, November 2015: 209-224.