



Statement of AdvaMedDx

Public Meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council for Combatting Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

September 29, 2015

Good afternoon. My name is Tharini Sathiamoorthy, and I am here representing AdvaMedDx. AdvaMedDx represents the world's leading manufacturers of medical diagnostic tests, including those that are front line tools in the fight against antibiotic resistance.

We commend the Administration for its focus on antibiotic resistance and its strategy to combat antibiotic resistance. Diagnostic manufacturers are developing critical tests to help reduce the threat of antibiotic resistance. These tests can be used to identify, monitor, track and follow the implementation of appropriate infection control procedures.

AdvaMedDx has made a commitment to the Administration to participate in educational efforts with stakeholders and policy makers to raise awareness of – and to help catalyze action on – the growing public health threat of microbial drug resistance.

We commend the establishment of the Presidential Advisory Council on Combatting Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria to address this serious global public health threat. However, we are disappointed that the recently announced members of the Advisory Council do not include any members with background and expertise in the development, commercialization, and global distribution of critical diagnostic tests for infectious pathogen identification and differentiation, and drug susceptibility or resistance testing.

We request that the Administration rectify this critical oversight by appointing an additional Council member with commercial diagnostics manufacturing perspective and expertise.

The exclusion of a diagnostics representative on the Advisory Council creates a fundamental gap, as diagnostic tests will be a critical component in any strategy to help reduce the threat of antibiotic resistance. These innovative tests can help prevent resistance and improve the judicious use of antibiotics, especially in outpatient/point of care settings where they typically are overused. Proper utilization of diagnostic tests enables the appropriate administration of antibiotics, thereby reducing potential misuse of antibiotics.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Administration and other stakeholders in this effort.