



APUA Ecology Program

Mission

The mission of the Ecology Program is to bring an ecological perspective to the policy debate on antibiotic resistance in order to promote human, animal, and environmental health.

Objectives

- Document the cumulative health effects of antibiotic use in human and veterinary medicine, agriculture, aquaculture, household products, etc.
- Inform stakeholders and encourage communication and collaboration in formulating effective public policy.
- Provide unbiased and comprehensive information resources to the public in order to raise awareness of antibiotic resistance and the threat it poses to human and environmental health.

Recent Projects

- **Facts about Antibiotics in Animals and their Impact on Resistance (FAAIR).** The purpose of FAAIR is to bring scientific evidence to the policy debate surrounding the use of antibiotics in food animal production. The FAAIR project published a comprehensive report in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases* in Spring 2002.
- **FAAIR II.** This project focuses on obtaining improved antibiotic usage estimates in US food animal production to guide regulatory decision-making. FAAIR II involves collaboration with an expert panel composed of representatives from academia, food producer organizations, public interest groups, veterinary professional associations, public health agencies, and the pharmaceutical industry. Both FAAIR and FAAIR II were supported by The Joyce Foundation.
- **Swine Health Demonstration Project.** APUA is providing support to researchers at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine on a CDC-funded swine health demonstration project. The project examines microbiological characteristics and health in swine herds raised without antibiotics. APUA will also develop educational and outreach materials to inform stakeholders and the public of the project's results and significance.
- **USDA-ARS Regional Comparison of Antimicrobial Resistance in the Environment.** Ecology Program Staff are collaborating with USDA-ARS to provide water samples and fecal samples from veterinary clinics in the Boston metropolitan area for analysis of bacterial resistance profiles.
- **Environmental Impact of Antibiotics (EIA).** EIA launched a national public awareness campaign including the initial development of the Ecology Web site and the publication of articles about the ecology of antibiotic resistance in the scientific literature and lay press. This project was supported by The Nathan Cummings Foundation.

APUA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving control of infectious disease worldwide through more appropriate use of antibiotics and reduction of antibiotic resistance. For more information about Ecology and other APUA Programs, please see our website:

<http://www.apua.org>