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New collaboration on basic research of bacterial resistance - Roche supports CEM/NET initiative

The spread of multidrug-resistant pathogens is beginning to become a major problem in several countries. The urgent need for improved surveillance is well-recognized by the World Health organization (WHO). A group of concerned experts - microbiologists and infectious disease specialists from Southern and Eastern Europe - decided to form CEM/NET, an independent initiative to help confront this problem. The Network of Epidemiology for Tracking Antibiotic Resistant Bacterial Pathogens in Southern and Eastern Europe (NET) and the Center for Molecular Epidemiology (CEM) in Lisbon, Portugal, is chaired and coordinated by Prof. Herminia de Lencastre, Ph.D., Head of the Molecular Genetics Unit at the Institute of Biotechnology (ITQB/IBET), Universidade Nova de Lisboa, in Portugal. At this time, colleagues who signed up for NET are from ten countries in Southern and Eastern Europe.

This new collaborative initiative on surveillance and basic research on bacterial resistance should supplement and encourage similar programs worldwide. CEM/NET will be supported by research partners in the pharmaceutical industry. Roche has a strong and long standing commitment to antibacterial research and has followed CEM/NET with lively interest. The unit of antibacterial research of F.Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd in Basel and of Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. in Nutley, N.J., therefore decided to sponsor the CEM/NET initiative by a yearly renewable grant. This was announced at the first international workshop of CEM/NET, May 27-31, 1995, in Lisbon.

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