



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*ABX CROSSROADS to Convene National Dialogue on Antibiotic Resistance in Healthcare Symposium in Nashville designed to increase awareness, advance solutions to address healthcare crisis*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (Oct. 5, 2015) – Healthcare and infection control experts from across the country will gather in Nashville on November 6 for the inaugural ABX CROSSROADS, the premier event to explore problems facing healthcare providers in the “post-antibiotic era.”

ABX CROSSROADS will draw on experts from various healthcare fields to examine the clinical, financial and operational challenges associated with the alarming increase in multi-drug resistant organisms (MDROs) or “superbugs.” Pharmacists, hospitalists, infection control specialists and healthcare administrators will meet at the Hutton Hotel for the day long symposium to share knowledge, learn best practices and gain skills necessary to become change agents of antimicrobial stewardship.

Infections caused by methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), vancomycin resistant enterococcus (VRE), *Clostridium difficile* (C. diff) and carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) have had a negative impact on patients, physicians and healthcare organizations alike. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates as much as half of the antibiotics prescribed in the U.S. are clinically unnecessary. As a result, medications that were highly effective just 20 years ago no longer work in the clinical setting. Antibiotic-resistant germs now cause more than two million illnesses and at least 23,000 deaths each year in the U.S. alone. And direct costs associated with antibiotic resistance are estimated to be as high as \$20 billion annually – with indirect costs and loss of productivity adding as much as \$35 billion more.

In response to the growing crisis, the White House issued a National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria earlier this year with a number one goal to “slow the emergence of resistant bacteria and prevent the spread of resistant infections.”

“Antibiotic resistance is a crisis that affects millions of Americans every day, and hospitals, long-term care facilities and health systems are quite literally on the front line of the battle,” said Dennis Grimaud, CEO of Diatherix Laboratories LLC, a CLIA certified, molecular diagnostic laboratory and lead sponsor of the event. “An inclusive, productive discussion on this topic is eminently needed. We are proud to be at the forefront of the national movement of antimicrobial stewardship – and plan to sustain the dialogue moving forward.”

ABX CROSSROADS issues a call-to-action for participants to join the fight against MDROs and relay key messages to other healthcare providers, promoting implementation of preventive measures throughout various healthcare settings.

To register for ABX CROSSROADS, or to learn more about the event, visit [www.ABXCROSSROADS.com](http://www.ABXCROSSROADS.com) . Become part of the national dialogue on antibiotic resistance by following ABX CROSSROADS on Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube or Vimeo.

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