

Oral Comments before the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology

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My name is Nicole Mahoney and I am the Director of Government Affairs and Regulatory Policy at Cubist Pharmaceuticals. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on PCAST's important work to address the growing threat of antibiotic resistance.

Cubist is a global biopharmaceutical company with a growing commitment to public health through its leadership in the discovery, development and commercialization of novel antibiotics to treat serious and life-threatening infections caused by drug-resistant bacteria. The company hopes to deliver at least four new antibiotics in support of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) goal of 10 new antibiotics by 2020. Approximately 75% of the Cubist's employee base is focused on the research, development, commercialization and support of antibiotics, and the company expects to invest approximately \$400M on antibacterial R&D in 2014.

As you already know, over the last decade, the emergence of multi-drug resistant pathogens has increased but the number of new antibiotics developed and approved has declined leaving patients and providers with fewer treatment options. While there is a pressing need for new antibiotics, economic, regulatory and scientific circumstances make their development challenging for companies. Congress took action to address some of these challenges through the Generating Antibiotic Incentives Now (GAIN) Act which was passed in 2012. GAIN was an important first step in revitalizing the antibiotic pipeline, but as was mentioned today, more needs to be done to encourage investment and innovation in the field.

It is clear that a combination of incentives and reforms are needed to spur development and fix the broken market for antibiotics and we commend your efforts to identify meaningful solutions. We thank you for considering additional market-based incentives, reimbursement reform and greater investment in fundamental research in order to replenish the antibiotic pipeline. We extend an offer to work with PCAST if we can be of assistance and look forward to this important report.