

# “SPARKing” New Antibiotic Drug Discovery

*SMI Reports: Strategies to Assist the Development of New Therapeutics and Drugs Showcased at Superbugs & Superdrugs 2018!*

LONDON, ENGLAND, UNITED KINGDOM, December 5, 2017 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Kathy Talkington, Project Director from Pew Charitable Trusts, will discuss the "Shared Platform for Antibiotic Research and Knowledge" when she presents a keynote on "SPARKing" new antibiotic drug discovery at SMI's 20th annual conference on [Superbugs and Superdrugs](#) next March in Central London.

With a background in managing and developing immunization and infectious disease programs and policies, Kathy Talkington is currently responsible for Pew's work on antibiotics. Pew seeks to address the growing threat of antibiotic resistance by spurring the innovation of new antibiotics and ensuring the appropriate use of antibiotics in both human health care settings and in animals.



"SPARK" is a ground breaking and dynamic platform that brings together antibiotic discovery data and cutting-edge analytics to help scientists tackle the scientific barriers blocking antibiotic discovery.

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All sessions, without exception, interest me a lot. The conference is focused and includes all relevant topics related to the discovery of new antimicrobial agents”  
*ABAC Therapeutics*

While the global threat of antibiotic resistance continues to rise, nearly every antibiotic in use today is based on a discovery from more than 30 years ago. SPARK will focus on the unique challenges of finding and designing antibiotics that can defeat drug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria, which are among the hardest-to-treat superbugs.

[Other presentations](#) in the featured spotlight on the development of new therapeutics and drugs will include:

- Use of the Parnas Platform to Enable High Quality Antibacterial Hit Finding presented by Domingo Gargallo-Viola, Chief Scientific Officer, ABAC Therapeutics
- Building a Detailed Computational Network Model of Cell Envelope Biogenesis: A Systems Biology Approach to Developing Antibacterial Drugs (Potentiators) presented by John George, CSO, Oppilotech
- Teaching Old Cephalosporin Dogs New Mechanistic Tricks against MDR Gram-Negative Bacteria Presented by Larry Sutton, Scientific Founder, Gladius Pharmaceuticals
- Novel Virulence Factors Of Acinetobacter Baumannii as Targets for Antibacterial Development presented by Daniel Zurawski, Head, Antibacterial Discovery and Development, Walter Reed Army Institute Of Research

SMi's 20th Annual conference on Superbugs & Superdrugs will take place on 19th & 20th March 2018 at the Copthorne Tara Hotel, Kensington in London, UK.

Further details including a full speaker line-up and detailed programme are available at [www.superbugssuperdrugs.com](http://www.superbugssuperdrugs.com)

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Contact Information:

For all media enquiries contact Teri Arri on Tel: +44 (0)20 7827 6162 / Email: [tarri@smi-online.co.uk](mailto:tarri@smi-online.co.uk)  
For exhibition and sponsorship enquires contact Alia Malick on Tel: +44 (0)20 7827 6168 / Email: [amalick@smi-online.co.uk](mailto:amalick@smi-online.co.uk)

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Teri Arri  
SMi Group  
2078276000  
[email us here](#)

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