

NEWS RELEASE

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<http://www.AROsCalgary2014.ca>

Infectious diseases and infection control experts gather in Calgary to address growing challenge of antibiotic resistance

Calgary will host a major conference June 18-20, 2014 on antimicrobial-resistant organisms (AROs). Two dozen leading clinicians, scientists and others from Canada, the US, and Europe will present the latest evidence and best practices, focusing on whether – and how – hospitals should screen patients for AROs, as part of the broader effort to identify and contain them.

The Canadian Consensus Development Conference on Surveillance & Screening for Antimicrobial-Resistant Organisms (AROs) is sponsored by Alberta Health, to provide evidence to help the Ministry update its existing standard for screening. The new standard will be applied province-wide through Alberta Health Services (AHS).

Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Jim Talbot says the conference is important in two ways: “First, we need a provincial approach, using the best evidence to help us do the best we can for every patient. And second, AROs are a challenge for every health system, not just our own, so by supporting the conference we’re making the evidence and expert advice we receive through the conference available to our colleagues across Canada and internationally.”

The conference is supported by the Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Canadian Patient Safety Institute, and Accreditation Canada as “Scientific Sponsors.” It features 25 expert speakers, as well as a distinguished “Jury” chaired by Dr. Tom Marrie, Dean of Medicine at Dalhousie University, which will release a Consensus Statement at the end of the conference summarizing the evidence and making recommendations for policy and practice.

The program was created with advice from a Scientific Committee chaired by Dr. John Conly from the University of Calgary. “We’ve been overwhelmed by the support we’ve received from colleagues across North America and beyond,” says Conly. “People have been just remarkably willing to help, because it’s such an important challenge for all of us.”

The conference takes place at the Hyatt Regency and is organized by the Institute of Health Economics. It opens at 8:00 am Wednesday, June 18 and wraps up at 11:30 am Friday, June 20.

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