The antibiotic discovery accelerator (ABX); catalysing antimicrobial discovery from academia through industry into the clinic

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The high failure rate of newly discovered antibiotics matched with the pace of AMR evolution, necessitates a unified effort to prime the development pipeline with potential antibiotics of the future. The Antibiotic Discovery Accelerator (ABX) Network (https://www.antibioticdiscovery.com/) was established in 2018 to facilitate collaboration between UK based researchers engaged in antibiotic R&D. The network was conceived to help researchers overcome some of the bottlenecks in the process through collaboration with other groups. There is a focus on supporting the development of early career researchers, growing the next generation of antibiotic R&D leaders. There are now over 100 researchers registered with the network. After the inaugural ABX meeting at the Eden Project, Cornwall, in 2019, there followed 2 virtual meetings and the next physical meeting is in July at the John Innes Centre, Norwich.

The network has seeded a number of now successful collaborations but needs support to grow further, maximising interaction between groups to accelerate UK antibiotic R&D and broadening the expertise into fields outside laboratory-based discovery and development activities. This includes academic researchers in other disciplines but also commercial stakeholders, policy makers and patient groups.