

December 14, 2015

Martin J. Blaser, MD  
Chair, Presidential Advisory Council on  
Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria  
c/o Assistant Secretary for Health  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 715H  
Washington, DC 20201

Lonnie J. King, DVM., MS, MPA, ACVPM  
Vice Chair, Presidential Advisory Council on  
Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria  
c/o Assistant Secretary for Health  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 715H  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Drs. Blaser and King:

On behalf of our 158,000 members, we respectfully ask you to appoint a dentist (or dental organization) with the appropriate clinical and scientific credentials to formally advise the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. It is vital for the council to understand the role of antibiotic prescribing in dentistry and the many ways the dental profession can inform the council's work.

In 2011, dentists prescribed 10 percent of all antibiotics—the fourth largest prescribing specialty behind family practitioners (24 percent), pediatricians (12 percent), and internists (12 percent).<sup>1</sup> Considering the high rate of antibiotic use in dentistry, it is essential for medicine and dentistry to work in harmony to minimize their overuse, misuse, and abuse.

Unfortunately, the high rate of use of antibiotics in dentistry is poorly recognized (or perhaps underappreciated) by other health professions. An appropriately credentialed dentist could provide substantive advice, information, and recommendations on the interprofessional challenges and opportunities to control antibiotic-resistance threats.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you (or testify) to discuss the role of antibiotic prescribing in the dental practice, and how dentistry can inform the council's work. In the meantime, we respectfully ask that you appoint a dentist (or dental organization) with the appropriate clinical and scientific credentials to formally advise the council.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert J. Burns at 202-789-5176 or [burnsr@ada.org](mailto:burnsr@ada.org).

Sincerely,

/s/

/s/

Carol Gomez Summerhays, D.D.S.  
President

Kathleen T. O'Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H.  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> Hicks LA, Bartoces MG, et al., U.S. Outpatient Antibiotic Prescribing Variation According to Geography, Patient Population, and Provider Specialty in 2011, *Clin Infect Dis* 60, no. 9 (March 5, 2015): 1308-1316.