



7 February 2018

Dear members of the boards of national CAM associations in France, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the UK.

Re: second update on international survey on URTIs

In my previous letter of 12 January I informed you about the international survey that aims to provide an overview of CAM expert knowledge/practical experience of the treatment of upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs). The survey is a part of the project "Appropriate use of antibiotics: the role of CAM treatment strategies," funded by the Joint Programme Initiative for AntiMicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR). For more details, please have a look at: <https://www.jpiamr.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Abstract-Appropriate-use-of-antibiotics-the-role-of-CAM-treatment-strategies.012.pdf>

Together with the results of a systematic literature review of CAM/IM treatments of infections, the outcome of the survey will be processed into an evidence and expertise-based decision-making tool (DMT), including guidelines on CAM/IM safe and effective treatments for upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) to be used in primary care.

In my previous letter I emphasised the importance for your members to participate in this survey. Unfortunately, the response is still much lower than we hoped for.

The results of the survey and the systematic review of CAM treatment of URTIs will be presented at a conference in Brussels, organised by EUROCAM on 6 June 2018. As I pointed out in my previous letter, this conference will be a unique opportunity for the community of CAM health professionals to demonstrate that CAM has a lot to offer in reducing the problem of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). For instance, the discussion with Dr Dominique Monnet, the Head of the Antimicrobial Resistance & Healthcare-Associated Infections Programme of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) at the conference will be crucial. The conference will be a milestone activity in a more long-term strategy to incorporate CAM into the AMR policy.

We therefore would like to ask you to send a reminder to your members, emphasising the importance of the survey and inviting them to participate. And please forward this letter to your members as well.

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The links to the online questionnaire can be found at the following URLs:

- Dutch: <https://q.mwm2.nl/yFdcqbv1sUuABCLXn3OBkw>
- English: https://q.mwm2.nl/XU_Ye41ziU-fwsKQimE5zQ
- French: <https://q.mwm2.nl/4UDnKAqrdUSm2U1LvrBsvA>
- German: <https://q.mwm2.nl/xyq0V0-i50yd0fqDqGjTw>

A special note for those CAM professionals who typically individualise their treatments, for instance in homeopathy: The questionnaire contains the wording “Please describe explicitly the CAM-specific subtype, in case you want to describe the treatment of one or more CAM-specific subtypes.” A CAM-specific subtype can be e.g. irritative cough with a dry tickle in the throat, aggravated by any temperature change, undressing or uncovering, bending head backwards, talking, and lying down. Here, for the sake of convenience, these professionals may want to fill in that the treatment choice entirely depends on the clinical picture of the individual patient.

On behalf of

EUROCAM

Dr Ton Nicolai

the international research consortium

Prof Dr Erik Baars