



Prof. Dr. Alex Friedrich

alex.friedrich@umcg.nl

Chair and head of department, Faculty of Medical Sciences,
University of Groningen.

Medical Microbiology and Infection Prevention UMCG.

Focus: Sustainability

General introduction

Future welfare and health are closely related to the degree of sustainability in societal development. A typical example is prevention, you need to invest today in order to obtain benefits or avoid damage in future. Sustainability comprises different dimensions:

- a) knowledge development,
- b) knowledge transfer/human resources, and
- c) sustainable funding.

Optimally, research institutions transform financial resources into knowledge by training young investigators. Innovation transforms knowledge into financial resources again, which should be reinvested into an innovation fund.

For success you need to formulate a clear societal challenge and the measurable sustainability-goal you want to achieve. For successful implementation a metacompetent approach is needed, along with connectedness with the regional real-world, scientific autonomy and credibility, good entrepreneurship and international visibility.

The metacompetent aspect combines cross-disciplinary and cross-sectorial collaboration, e.g. all-non-medical knowledge, needed to solve antibiotic resistance. Importantly, interventional network modelling, machine learning and big-data analysis is an important new research field that needs to be developed.

The Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health is this very hub bringing all these aspects together. Research is used as a tool for changing regional reality by including regional non-academic partners in study activities and by this way democratizing research. Sub activities are defined, and metacompetent and cross-sectorial consortia start working, exchanging their knowledge and experience in regular public fora.

This allows regional reality to become a scalable prototype for other regions to follow and to reach out for broader implementation nation- or EU-wide.

Expected impact in five years' time

Within our goal of sustainability we identified antibiotic resistance as the major societal challenge for the next twenty years. This is confirmed by the recently published World Economic Report, showing that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major threat worldwide. Second, we set measurable goals. We will invest in systemic prevention in order to maintain healthy life years by avoiding prolonged illness burden due to life-threatening infections in citizens living in the Dutch-German border region. Main actors will be scientists, health professionals and small medium enterprises in this region.

The focus in the next five years will be the microbiological comparison of AMR in the border regions, interventional modelling of the epi-network and the development of appropriate infection prevention, including prevention-economic models. These topics will be covered by different young investigators in collaboration with partners such as public health.

The existing EU-funded projects could partly be integrated into these activities and combined with new regional and international partners. The Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health will build the forum to merge the different networks in an efficient way. Public and private national and international funding into the independent Aletta Jacobs innovation fund is an important way of long-term financing.

Projects that have already made an impact

1. The EU-funded EurSafety Health-net (www.eursafety.eu) project that created a network of quality of hospitals, GP's, public health services and nursing homes, fostering infection prevention. EurSafety Health-net was one of the two projects that in 2013 and 2015 allowed the Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland to become a top-ranked European region within the European Initiative on Active and Health Ageing.
2. The EU-funded project EurHealth-1Health (www.eurhealth-1health.eu) is a collaboration of experts and scientists of the medical, veterinary and environmental (water) sector to understand antimicrobial resistance and identify novel intervention points to reduce antimicrobial resistance. Here, cross-sectorial research, knowledge exchange and training is performed. A link to the Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health has been put on the website.
3. Health-i-care (www.health-i-care.eu) is an EU-funded project bringing together thirty consortia consisting of SME's, scientists and health care professionals. The consortia are developing innovative solutions (e.g. diagnostic tests, disinfectants and e-health solutions) for improving the prevention of infections and resistance. A link to the Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health has been put on the website.

Relevant events

- In order to link our activities, a meeting between the Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health, health-i-care and the Gesundheitswirtschafts Euregio could be organized in March 2018.
- The Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health could be presented in a key-note at the EurHealth-1 health meeting and the health-i-care innovation forum in Duisburg in May 2018.

Requirements

We need contacts with geo-health science, mathematical modellers, health-economics and political science.

Wil je meer informatie of direct aansluiten bij dit thema?
Neem dan contact op via onderstaande gegevens met:

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