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CONGRESS SPOTLIGHTS EFFORTS TO MITIGATE PATIENT INFECTIONS CAUSED BY ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT BACTERIA

Florida Manufacturer of Hospital Decontamination Equipment Provides Solution

WASHINGTON, D.C. – At a hearing of the Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee entitled “Antibiotic Resistance and the Threat to Public Health,” experts discussed causes of antibiotic resistance and solutions.

Testimony focused on drug-resistant bacteria caused by the over-use of antibiotics to treat human illnesses and non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in agriculture, as well as the need for more investment in antibiotic development and other proven mitigation solutions.

In prepared testimony, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Thomas Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., outlined his agency’s Public Health Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance, including, “reducing the spread of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms in institutions, communities, and agriculture.”

“Dr. Frieden’s call to reduce pervasiveness of germs in environments is a first step in reducing deadly infections by killing bacteria on surfaces before they enter a person’s body,” said Kurt Grosman, CEO of Zimek Technologies.

Zimek, based in Tampa, Florida, manufactures decontamination equipment used by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, first responders, healthcare providers, transit systems and local law enforcement agencies. The devices “micronize” disinfectants that can quickly and automatically decontaminate facilities, equipment and vehicles. The germ-killing, revolutionary micro-mist can permeate crevasses and hidden surfaces where super-germs are untouched by standard sanitizing methods.

Mr. Grosman continued, “We applaud Chairman Frank Pallone of New Jersey and Ranking Member John Shimkus of Illinois as well as Doctors Frieden and Fauci for spotlighting the alarming prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. We share their concern and look forward to being part of the solution.”

Zimek Advisory Board member and recognized scholar on drug-resistant bacteria, Dr. Brad Spellberg, M.D., said, “In the face of this growing threat, it’s incumbent upon the medical and research communities to explore every credible tool for combating dangerous, life threatening bacteria, many of which have grown resistant to antibiotics. Zimek’s technology provides us with a new and powerful addition to our arsenal.”

In addition to advising Zimek, Dr. Spellberg is a medical doctor, renowned researcher, UCLA professor, and author of the 2009 book, “Rising Plague: the Global Threat from Deadly Bacteria and Our Dwindling Arsenal to Fight Them.” He joined Zimek’s Advisory Board to support the company’s innovative approach to combating dangerous pathogens.

The Congressional hearing, “Antibiotic Resistance and the Threat to Public Health,” took place on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. The hearing explored the phenomenon of antibiotic resistance and the effects it has on human health. Doctors Thomas Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Anthony Fauci, M.D. Director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, testified.

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