

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keep Antibiotics Working Coalition Members Join Top Physicians and Scientists to Address Link Between Antibiotic Resistance and Agricultural Misuse of Drugs

A public briefing in conjunction with Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and Sen. Olympia J. Snowe

Who: **Glenn Morris, M.D.**, Director, Emerging Pathogen Institute, University of Florida
Tara Smith, PhD, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, University of Iowa. Author of first US study to find MRSA in US pigs and pig farmers
David Wallinga, M.D., MPA, Keep Antibiotics Working Representative, Food and Health Program, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Where: Senate Dirksen 430

When: Tuesday, February 24, 2009
3:00-4:30pm
Light refreshments to be provided

What: Antibiotic Use in Animal Agriculture and Antibiotic Resistance: Is There a Link?

Antibiotics, the miracle drugs of the last century, are in danger of being lost as a result of overuse in both human and animal medicine. But an estimated 70 percent of antibiotics and related drugs are added to the feed and water of animals that are not sick. This practice furthers the development of drug-resistant bacteria, including those that cause human diseases like Salmonella poisoning and Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

This briefing will include presentation of the groundbreaking findings from a recent study by Tara Smith, the first of its kind in the US, which found MRSA in 49 percent of pigs and 45 percent of farmers on a sample of farms in Illinois and Iowa. This is only the latest in a mounting body of evidence about the dangerous linkages between the use of human antibiotics in animal agriculture and the deepening of the antibiotic resistance crisis.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact Angela Pauly at 202 478 6139, apauly@mrss.com

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About the Keep Antibiotics Working Coalition

KAW is a coalition of health, environmental, agricultural, environmental, animal welfare and science organizations, with over 9 million members, dedicated to the preservation of antibiotics for use in human and animal medicine.