



nature publishing group



► **COVER:** 'Field of resistance' by George Marshall, inspired by the Review on p928.



DAVID O'CONNELL



SUSAN JONES



SHEILAGH MOLLOY



SHARON AHMAD

Most readers would agree that devising and implementing effective solutions to the problem of antibacterial resistance is a key unmet medical need. Unfortunately, this ever-increasing threat to public health has been accompanied by both a marked decline in the level of industrial research that is aimed at discovering novel antibacterial agents and an increase in drug-development timelines from discovery to market. Consequently, prolonging the clinically useful life of current anti-infective drugs, and introducing appropriate chemical modifications that delay the onset of resistance in new antibiotics, would be a useful strategy to address the dearth of antimicrobial therapies. On page 958, Martínez, Baquero and Andersson propose methodological guidelines that should allow researchers to predict the development of resistance to an antibiotic before its therapeutic introduction. The authors argue that this strategy of 'resisting resistance' will be important in achieving the efficient control of infectious diseases.

As a therapeutic class in the fight against infectious diseases, vaccines are generally considered to be the health-care intervention that provides the best value. Indeed, vaccines have been highly effective in eliminating or significantly decreasing the occurrence of many diseases. Poliomyelitis is one such disease in which vaccination has been hugely successful in reducing global incidence. However, as pointed out by Chumakov and colleagues (page 952), the remarkable 50-year-long decline in the incidence of poliomyelitis has stalled in the past 7 years, and an urgent re-assessment of the polio-eradication and post-eradication campaign strategies is needed. In their Opinion, the authors propose that poliomyelitis vaccination programmes should be continued into the foreseeable future and that high levels of population immunity be maintained.

EDITORIAL OFFICES

LONDON NatureReviews@nature.com
The Macmillan Building, 4 Crinan Street,
London N1 9XW, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7843 3620;
Fax: +44 (0)20 7843 3629
CHIEF EDITOR: David O'Connell
SENIOR EDITORS: Susan Jones, Sheilagh Molloy
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sharon Ahmad
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Asher Mullard
COPY EDITOR: Gillian Young
ART EDITOR: George Marshall
EDITORIAL SUPPORT MANAGER:
Elinor Faulkner
SENIOR COPY EDITOR: Carrie Patis
ART CONTROLLER: Susanne Harris
SENIOR ART EDITORS: Vicky Askew,
Patrick Morgan
MANAGING PRODUCTION EDITOR:
Judith Shadwell
DEPUTY PRODUCTION EDITOR:
Simon Fenwick
PRODUCTION CONTROLLER: Natalie Smith

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS: Laura Firman,
Robert Monk
WEB PRODUCTION MANAGER, UK:
Alexander Thurrell
MARKETING MANAGERS: Kellie Lane,
Amy Mauer

MANAGEMENT OFFICES

LONDON nature@nature.com
The Macmillan Building, 4 Crinan Street,
London N1 9XW, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7833 4000;
Fax: +44 (0)20 7843 4596/7
OFFICE MANAGER: Sheryl Ocampo
PUBLISHER: Hugh Blackbourn
MANAGING DIRECTOR:
Steven Inchcombe
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, NATURE PUBLICATIONS:
Philip Campbell
ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:
Jenny Henderson, Tony Rudland
EDITORIAL PRODUCTION DIRECTOR:
James McQuat

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR:

Yvonne Strong
DIRECTOR, WEB PUBLISHING:
Timo Hannay
HEAD OF WEB PRODUCTION:
Jeremy Macdonald

NEW YORK nature@natureny.com
Nature Publishing Group,
75 Varick Street,
9th floor, New York,
NY 10013-1917, USA
Tel: +1 212 726 9200;
Fax: +1 212 696 9006

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER:
Howard Ratner

DIRECTOR OF NEW TECHNOLOGY:
Greg Suprock

HEAD OF WEB SERVICES:
Anthony Barrera

NATUREJOBS PUBLISHER: Ben Crowe

**HEAD OF NATURE RESEARCH & REVIEWS
MARKETING:** Sara Girard

TOKYO nature@natureasia.com
Chiyoda Building 5F, 2-37-1 Ichigayatamachi,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0843, Japan
Tel: +81 3 3267 8751; Fax: +81 3 3267 8746
ASIA-PACIFIC PUBLISHER: Antoine E Bocquet
MANAGER: Koichi Nakamura
ASIA-PACIFIC SALES DIRECTOR:
Kate Yoneyama
SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER:
Peter Yoshihara
MARKETING/PRODUCTION MANAGER:
Takesh Murakami
INDIA SA/12 Ansari Road, Daryaganj,
New Delhi 110 002, India
Tel/Fax: +91 11 2324 4186
SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER, INDIA:
Harpal Singh Gill

Copyright © 2007 Nature Publishing Group
Research Highlight images courtesy of
Getty Images unless otherwise credited.
Printed in Wales by Cambrian Printers
on acid-free paper