

## ANTIBIOTIC SURGE MAY LEAD TO MORE ALARMING 'SUPERBUGS'

### Drug-resistant 'superbug' gene found in animals and in some people

A UK government-commissioned review published in [The Lancet Infectious Diseases](#) this week revealed that world is "on the cusp of a post-antibiotic era". Scientists warn that some strains of [bacteria](#) are resistant to drugs, making some infections untreatable. Scientists raised the alarm after the discovery in China of a gene that makes bacteria resistant to all known [antibiotics](#). They also warned that spread of the resistant bacteria globally is likely.


A [professor](#) who collaborated on the study warned: "If this mutation becomes global, which is a case of when not if, and the gene aligns itself

with other antibiotic resistance genes, which is inevitable, then we will have very likely reached the start of the post-antibiotic era."

The resistance can be partially attributed to over-prescribing of antibiotics. In fact, over 95% of patients who ask for antibiotics received one. Doctors were often "caught between a rock and hard place" because it may be safer to give antibiotics if it was not clear if the patient had a viral or bacterial infection.

Dr Keiji Fukuda, from the WHO, said: "The findings of this survey point to the urgent need to improve understanding around [antibiotic resistance](#). "One of the biggest health challenges of the 21st Century will require global [behavior change](#) by individuals and societies."

### @SICMGMT TWEET OF THE WEEK

 This October was the warmest on record, NOAA data shows. 7 months in 2015 have been warmest ever. <http://cnn.it/1QvvUQQ>

## ON THE MENU: GENETICALLY MODIFIED SALMON

For the first time ever, the [Food and Drug Administration](#) approved a genetically engineered food – an Atlantic salmon dubbed "Frankenfish" – for human consumption. It is the first such [approval](#) of a food whose DNA has been scientifically altered.

The salmon, named AquAdvantage Salmon, grows faster than farmed salmon due to a gene inserted for faster and year-round growth.

Activist groups have expressed concerns that genetically modified (GM) foods may pose risks to the environment or public health. Others have said that the approval will "bring healthy and nutritious food to consumers".

Several grocery chains have already come out and said they will not carry the GM fish.

[READ MORE](#)

### THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

**120,000**

VW owners in the USA have signed up for gift cards from the company.

**20400**

is the ISO number for a proposed sustainable procurement standard, developed by a committee of 35 countries.

**70,000**

US Dollars is the price for one kilo of rhino's horn (*subscription required*).

**60,000**

public and private companies are now covered by the RepRisk ESG database.

**15,000**

Ebola survivors, who need medical and psychological support, are the priority for the UN.

**56**

billion US Dollars is the estimated cost of eliminating TB.

**15**

billion Euros is the investment in renewable energy projects by 2020, promised by BNP. Furthermore, funding coal extraction is to cease.

**1**

tonne of CO2 per passenger is the average carbon emission for a transatlantic flight.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ACTION PICKS UP

Early next year the [PRI](#) and [UN Global Compact](#) will work together and with a consultant to produce a joint publication on investor-corporate engagement on companies' anti-corruption measures.

Meanwhile, Vanguard has revealed that the US index fund giant (with USD 3trn in assets) has backed management at around half of all recent shareholder proposals at company AGMs on environmental and social issues.

More movement: CMI2i Proxy, a European corporate governance advisory firm, found that 90% of investors see risk management as key, compared to 30% of companies. Moreover, investor-to-investor communications is "increasing substantially" and that 94% of investors have been contacted by other shareholders (*subscription required*).

## GRAPHIC OF THE WEEK: AIRLINE FUEL EFFICIENCY



Transatlantic airline fuel efficiency ranking, 2014  
[\(link\)](#)

## CYBERSECURITY IS EXPERIENCING A HUMAN CAPITAL SHORTAGE

Following on the heels of "cybersecurity awareness month" recent forecasts are warning that organizations may face a shortage of [cybersecurity](#) professionals amidst an environment that is demanding

the companies improve their cyber defenses. One [writer](#) argues that they are just looking in the wrong places. It is not a stand alone discipline but rather a discipline in a computer field, he says.

## CHECK IT OUT

World Risk Report – Fact Sheet

This recent report addresses the consequences of possible extreme natural events in 171 countries  
[Link to Report Here](#)



## WHAT WE'RE READING



Merrill Lynch  
Impact Investing:  
The Performance Realities  
[\(link\)](#)

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

You heard it in Norway first: fruit is the new bacon. A Norwegian hotel chain will no longer serve greasy foods (and anything containing palm oil) for breakfast to encourage a climate-friendly, healthy lifestyle. [READ MORE](#)

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