

Copper's Key Role in Infection Control and Preventing the Spread of Antibiotic-resistant Microbes

Brussels, May 16th 2011: Copper's important role in infection control and halting the spread of antibiotic-resistant organisms will be highlighted by two globally-renowned researchers at the first International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control, organised by the World Health Organization and to be held in Geneva from 29th June to 2nd July 2011.

Dr Michael Schmidt of the Medical University of South Carolina, USA, will present his findings from a three-centre clinical study where key touch surfaces were replaced with antimicrobial copper in intensive care units to assess impact on surface contamination and patient outcomes. This study, funded by the US Department of Defense, has already demonstrated a greater than 90% reduction in microbial contamination on copper compared to standard healthcare materials, and will report the first ever data on infection rates and patient outcomes from a challenging clinical environment equipped with copper surfaces.

Professor Bill Keevil, of the University of Southampton, UK, will be making a poster presentation on his research into the mechanism by which copper exerts its antimicrobial effect on antibiotic-resistant organisms. He concludes that the rapid and complete destruction of pathogens could prevent mutational resistance from developing, and also help reduce the spread of antibiotic resistance genes to receptive and potentially more virulent organisms, as well as genes responsible for virulence.

At the associated exhibition, an Antimicrobial Copper stand will support these presentations, providing scientific reports and information on the practical aspects of specifying and deploying antimicrobial copper. Samples of touch surface products in a range of colours and finishes will be on display. Video highlights from the University of Southampton live broadcast, showing MRSA dying rapidly on a copper coupon and surviving on stainless steel, will be shown and experts will be on hand to answer both scientific questions and those of practical implementation in the healthcare environment.

For more information about copper's antimicrobial properties, and case studies of healthcare facilities around the world taking advantage of it, visit www.antimicrobialcopper.com.

		
<p>Dr Michael Schmidt Medical University of South Carolina, US</p>	<p>Professor Bill Keevil University of Southampton, UK</p>	<p>Copper coupon under a microscope</p>

Notes for Editors:

1. The three medical centres in the United States where Department of Defense-funded trials have taken place are:
 - Medical University of South Carolina
 - Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
 - Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center
2. Interviews with Dr Schmidt and Professor Keevil can be arranged during or after the conference by getting in touch with Irina Dumitrescu at id@eurocopper.org or +32473871500

About The European Copper Institute

The European Copper Institute (ECI) is a joint venture between the world's leading mining companies, custom smelters and semi-fabricators (represented by the International Copper Association, Ltd) and the European copper industry. Its mission is to promote copper's benefits to modern society across Europe through its headquarters in Brussels and its network of eleven national Copper Development Associations. www.eurocopper.org

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