



PEOPLE
AGAINST
CANCER

Finding the Best
Cancer Treatment

MRSA CURE IS FOUND 1000 FT UNDER THE SEA

May 27, 2005

The Mirror

SCIENTISTS have found a bug that kills MRSA - at the bottom of the sea.

And they hope it will lead to new drugs to combat the hospital superbug, which infects 100,000 patients in Britain every year and kills an estimated 5,000.

The breakthrough came in bacteria found living 1,000ft down in sediments on the bottom of the Sea of Japan. One group, called actinomycete, produce their own antibiotic compound, called abyssomicin C - and tests showed it killed MRSA.

The Newcastle University team who made the discovery are so confident of success that they have formed their own company to research and develop new drugs.

Microbiologist Dr Jem Stach said it was a potential first step to halting the apparently relentless advance of MRSA.

Some strains of the superbug are immune to the most powerful antibiotics now in use. But the sea bacteria can also control these.

Dr Stach, of the Institute for Research on Environment and Sustainability in Newcastle, said: "The antibiotic is effective. It kills MRSA."

He added: "We want to know the genes responsible for the production of the antibiotic. "Then the bacteria can be grown on a commercial scale."

Dr Phil Williamson, of the Natural Environment Research Council, which funded the research, said: "We are confident this chemical is safe and may be used against MRSA." "If you have something which is targeted against a particular kind of bacteria then it does not kill anything else."

"This has been on the ocean floor for thousands of years so we know that MRSA has not met this new molecule before and so is not resistant to it." "The potential for this is huge and there is already great interest and appetite for it."

But the development of new drugs could take several years.

Dr Williams said: "We must go through the various stages of development to come up with a commercially viable drug, like penicillin, which you can produce in a tube."

<<The Mirror -- 05/27/05>>

604 East Street - P.O. Box 10 - Otho, Iowa 50569 USA – Phone: 515-972-4444 - Fax: 515-972-4415
<http://www.PeopleAgainstCancer.net/> - info@PeopleAgainstCancer.net