

# Global Microbial Identifier – an introduction

Alisdair Wotherspoon

GMI Steering Committee member

UK Food Standards Agency

[alisdair.wotherspoon@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alisdair.wotherspoon@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)



# Meetings so far – the seeds of GMI



1st meeting  
– Brussels.  
Sept 2011

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting –  
Washington  
Oct 2011

3<sup>rd</sup> meeting -  
Washington  
March 2012

4<sup>th</sup> meeting –  
Washington  
Sept 2012



# Global Microbial Identifier

- A “grand Challenge” approach – building a data resource to enable early identification, support optimal responses, prevent epidemics and reduce the socioeconomic burden of disease.
- Knowledge sharing on a global scale – both to answer immediate questions and to generate new knowledge



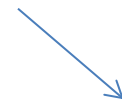
# GMI Vision and objectives

- A focussed, collaborative and inclusive approach to develop a global system to aggregate, share, mine and use microbiological genomic data to address global public health and clinical challenges
- Such a system should promote equity in access and use of the current technology worldwide, enabling cost-effective improvements in plant, animal, environmental and human health.
- Recent advances make this a realistic goal and to operate in real time.
- Utilising rapid and robust sequencing technology underpinned by bioinformatics and “end-user friendly” reporting could be accessed both for single clinical tasks (simple microbiological identification) as well as for national and international public health surveillance and outbreak investigation and response.

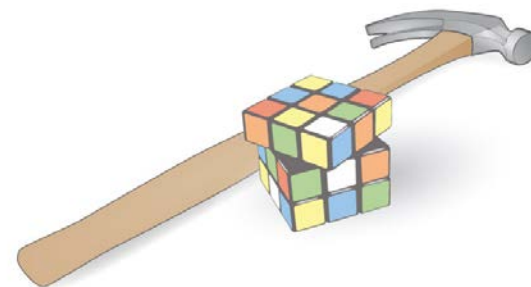


# The end of the beginning – moving on





**SOLVE** problems





# PROBLEM SOLVING

Have you got a problem?

Do what you can where you are with what you've got. (Theodore Roosevelt)



