



Internal news and events

New AMR events programme

Based on your survey responses, we are planning an events calendar for the forthcoming year. We will have one event a month, lasting up to 90 minutes, which will always have an online option to allow everyone to participate irrespective of their location. The events will vary each month and will cycle between the following formats:

- **Jargon-free seminars** –To raise awareness of the different areas of research being carried out. Three speakers for 15-20 minutes each, followed by Q&A. We will prioritise early career researchers and ensure they are from a range of backgrounds. Rule: no jargon/acronyms!
- **Expert panel** –To promote interdisciplinary discussion on a broad AMR topic. Four leading academics from different disciplines will each speak for 10 minutes, to provide horizon scanning on their specialism: what are the research gaps, opportunities for interdisciplinary activity, and likely/known forthcoming calls for funding applications. These will be followed by a chaired panel discussion.
- **Pitch forum** – To create interdisciplinary collaborations and ideas for future calls on a specific topic. We will identify topics that are likely to come up in future funding calls, and up to 10 people will be given the opportunity to pitch their relevant work or an idea for 3 minutes.
- **Guest speaker** – To create better links with external organisations, particularly industry/government, and support interdisciplinary working. Based on the topics identified as likely to come up in future funding calls, we will invite an external guest speaker to speak for 30 minutes, followed by Q&A.

First event: Jargon-free seminar 12.15pm - 1.30pm on Wednesday 3 June

Many thanks to our first set of speakers:

Dr Jehangir Cama (Mathematics): Industry Research Fellow working on antibiotic transport in bacteria.

Dr Rebecca Helm (Law): Senior Lecturer, working on using law and policy to appropriately guide behaviour in society.

Dr Anne Leonard (Biosciences): Research Fellow working on ecology and transmission of environmental AMR.

An invite to this event will come out to all AMR Network members shortly.

Other internal news and events

Publication: Dr Aimee Murray published an opinion paper in *Frontiers in Microbiology* "[The Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 Outbreak: Global Implications for Antimicrobial Resistance](#)".

Publication: Professor Jason Reifler published a research article in *Social Science and Medicine* "[Shifting medical guidelines: Compliance and spillover effects for revised antibiotic recommendations](#)".

Widening participation workshop: Dr Andy Jones (see Spotlight section below) is in the primary stages of organising workshops with schools in the Ted Wragg Multi-Academy Trust in Exeter. These workshops will be directed toward education concerning AMR, but also making pupils aware of their own potential career pathways. By working closely with schools, it will be possible to direct these events toward widening participation strategies. Andy is aiming to organise the first workshop for November 2020 (either virtually or face-to-face). Please contact him if you'd like to get involved, can offer any advice, or just want to know more about the workshops. His email address is aj359@exeter.ac.uk.

External news and events

AMR community Needs Assessment [Survey](#) for a Digital Platform: JPIAMR is seeking feedback from AMR stakeholders to guide the development and implementation of the Digital Platform for the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance Virtual Research Institute (JPIAMR-VRI).

For those who aren't aware of [JPIAMR](#): this is a global collaborative platform, engaging 28 member nations to curb antibiotic resistance (AMR) with a One Health approach. The initiative coordinates national funding to support transnational research and activities within the six priority areas of the shared JPIAMR Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda – therapeutics, diagnostics, surveillance, transmission, environment and interventions. Exeter University's Prof Will Gaze coordinates a JPIAMR environmental surveillance network with >20 partners from ~15 countries including representatives from UK government agencies and members from LMICs in SE Asia and Africa.

External publication: Antimicrobial resistant enteric bacteria are widely distributed amongst people, animals and the environment in Tanzania. [Subbiah et al.](#) (*Nature Communications*)

External publication: Childhood vaccines and antibiotic use in low- and middle-income countries. [Lewnard et al.](#) (*Nature*)

Spotlight

Continuing spotlights on members of the network, here are three more profiles of staff from different areas of the University who all have an interest around antimicrobial resistance.



Dr Andy Jones is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the department of Theology and Religion and a member of the international research project [God and the Book of Nature](#). His research is informed by interdisciplinary approaches, focusing on how it is helpful to examine developments in contemporary science from historical, philosophical, and theological perspectives. He has a particular interest in immunology and conceptions of the body and is keen to build relationships with members of the AMR network to help understand how scientific research can both contribute to, and be supported by, philosophical conceptions of the body. Andy is currently involved in collaborations through the GW4 AMR Crucible workshops, looking at how interdisciplinary perspectives can contribute to novel strategies for education, policy, and public understanding. His full profile can be viewed [here](#).

Professor Adilia Warris is a paediatric infectious diseases specialist with a specific interest in medical mycology. She is co-director of the MRC Centre for Medical Mycology at the University of Exeter. Adilia's research profile has a strong translational focus and specific areas of interest include antifungal resistance and antifungal stewardship. Development of azole-resistance in *Aspergillus fumigatus* and in-host adaptation is a specific focus of her research. She leads multicentre clinical studies to assess antifungal prescribing practices and the development of antifungal resistance (projects: PASOAP, EUROCANDY). She is actively involved in the development of national and international guidelines focussing on the management of invasive fungal infection in neonates and children. Her full profile can be viewed [here](#).



Dr Lihong Zhang is a molecular microbiologist within The European Centre for Environment and Human Health. He has over 15 years' experience of research in a wide range of microbiological research fields, including environmental microbial ecology, medical bacteriology, gene regulation of pathogenic bacteria, mobile genetic elements and antibiotic resistance genes in natural and human-polluted environments. He balances theoretical knowledge with considerable practical expertise in relevant techniques and technologies to address current knowledge gaps in this field, and is very keen to further establish and improve a wide range of advanced analytical methodologies and technologies. His full profile can be viewed [here](#).