



Internal news and events

AMR events programme

Our next event will be an expert panel on the subject of **AMR in Food Production Systems**. Final details are being confirmed and an invite will come out to all members of the Network shortly.

Many thanks, again, to Anne Leonard, Rebecca Helm and Jehangir Cama for presenting at the first AMR Network event – a jargon-free seminar – last month. Feedback from those who attended has been very positive and included some extremely helpful suggestions for further development.

Other internal news and events

AMR Creative Fellow: We have had a lot of interest in the call for a Creative Fellow to join our network for the autumn term, with over 40 applications. Many thanks to everyone who helped to disseminate this. We will send out more information on who is appointed and how you can get involved in the next newsletter.

Publication: Professor Alistair J P Brown and Professor Adilia Warris, co-directors of the MRC Centre for Medical Mycology, and Dr Raif Yucel, Head of the Cytometry Centre, are co-authors of a research article in the *Journal of Fungi* on "[Antifungal Activity of Antimicrobial Peptides and Proteins against *Aspergillus fumigatus*](#)".

Publication: Dr Lihong Zhang, Dr Uli Klümper and Professor William H Gaze, all members of the European Centre for Environment and Human Health, are co-authors in a new paper "[Impact of trimethoprim on the river microbiome and antimicrobial resistance](#)", *bioRxiv* preprint.

Publication: also from the European Centre for Environment and Human Health, Dr Isobel C Stanton, Alison Bethel, Dr Anne F C Leonard, Professor William H Gaze and Professor Ruth Garside have had a systematic map protocol published in the journal *Environmental Evidence*, "[What is the research evidence for antibiotic resistance exposure and transmission to humans from the environment? A systematic map proposal](#)".

Publications: two members of the Network have had AMR case studies published on the Microbiology Society website as part of their 75th Anniversary: "[Tackling antibiotic resistance the CRISPR way](#)" by David Walker-Sünderhauf and "[Antimicrobial Resistance in Aquaculture](#)" by Dr Kelly Thornber. The full collection of case studies can be accessed on the Microbiology Website [here](#).

Funding awarded: Dr Kelly Thornber, Professor Charles Tyler and Professor Steve Hinchliffe have received funding from the internal GCRF Food Systems Flexifund for a project "Promoting prudent pharmaceutical usage in Bangladesh aquaculture".

Platform launch: The Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health and The Exeter Centre for the Study of the Life Sciences (Egenis) have been leading a cross-college initiative from SSIS and HUMS to launch the platform "[Exploring Society With COVID-19](#)". Drawing on longstanding expertise in the social study of science and in the medical humanities at the University of Exeter, this digital platform draws together cutting-edge work on those societal changes, while also providing a platform for collaboration, and for seeing connections across

boundaries. This platform aims to engage members of the public in humanities and social science research, by offering routes to contact researchers, to participate in projects, and to offer their own research questions and priorities. For more information, to provide feedback and to engage with this work, please contact the organising team as indicated on the site: blogs.exeter.ac.uk/covidsociety

External news and events

Events: the [JPIAMR](#) is running two live webinars to highlight and clarify the importance of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) research in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic and future viral pandemics:

- **June 25th 12:00-13:00 (UK time):** "Have antibiotics been appropriately used in the COVID-19 pandemic?"
[Registration details](#)
- **June 25th 13:30-14:30 (UK time)** "Facilitating AMR research in the COVID-19 pandemic."
[Registration details](#)

More information on the moderators and panellists for each event is available [here](#).

Funding news and calls: [Pfizer and International Society for Infectious Diseases: AMS in Africa and Middle East](#)

The 2020 Grant Challenge will provide funding to support research projects focused on the implementation and/or assessment of antimicrobial stewardship programmes throughout Africa and the Middle East. Up to \$100,000 USD of funds to support two-year initiatives. **Deadline: 4 August 2020**

External publication: Jordt, Stalder, Kosterlitz, Ponciano, Top and Kerr, "[Co-evolution of host-plasmid pairs facilitates the emergence of novel multidrug resistance](#)" published in *Nature Ecology & Evolution*

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 – or support work on – antimicrobial resistance.



Dr Kin Wing (Ray) Chan is a Postdoctoral Research Associate from the Department of Geography. He is currently working with Professors Henry Buller and Steve Hinchliffe on a research project named 'Diagnostic Innovation and Livestock', which concerns the drivers for the uptake of the rapid diagnostic technologies in order to reduce antimicrobial usages on farm animals in the UK. His research draws further insight from science and social science studies to understand the drivers and perceptions of farmers and veterinary surgeons in the UK and China on the usages of antimicrobials on food animals. Ray is currently participating in the GW4 AMR Crucible, working with GW4 institutes to initiate research partnership with institutes in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong to tackle the global challenges of AMR. His full profile can be viewed [here](#).



Dr Vicki Dunn has a background in environmental microbiology and works within Research Services as a Research Development Manager. Her role is to provide support to academics applying for external research funding. This encompasses a range of activities including horizon scanning for funding opportunities, building collaborations, signposting to key individuals and services, putting together budgets and writing aspects of applications. Vicki has worked with a number of disciplines across the University, including Humanities, Engineering and the Medical School and is now based in the Bio-Environment and Health Cluster where she primarily supports colleagues in the MRC Centre of Medical Mycology. She is the Research Services lead for AMR and works in collaboration with the AMR network to further its strategic aims. Her full profile can be viewed [here](#).



Dr Stefano Pagliara is a Senior Lecturer in the Living Systems Institute. His research focuses on the heterogeneity in cellular responses to environmental cues with an emphasis on antibiotic accumulation in gram-negative bacteria. Besides standard microbiology techniques and omics approaches, he develops bespoke microfluidic devices. Such devices allow accurately controlling the microenvironment surrounding the cells and perform a series of functional assays on the very same individual cell. He is keen to apply these approaches to clinically and environmentally relevant samples in collaboration with members of the AMR Network. His full profile can be viewed [here](#).