



Internal news and events

AMR Network Events 2020/21

Thank you to the [MRC Centre for Medical Mycology](#) for this week's "Fungal Fusion" event. It was great to see so many people attending this interactive session.

Next AMR Network event: Wednesday 21 April, 12:15pm (finishing by 1:45pm)

In April, we are delighted to be welcoming an external guest, **Professor Clare Chandler**. Clare is a professor in Medical Anthropology and also director of the Antimicrobial Resistance Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. This Centre works to inspire innovation through interdisciplinary engagement and Clare's own work is characterised by her strong commitment to strengthening the quality, diversity and community of social research in global health. You can read more about [Clare](#), the [Anthropology of Antimicrobial Resistance Research Group](#) which she leads and the [LSHTM Antimicrobial Resistance Centre](#).

Clare will be in conversation with [Professor Rich Smith](#), professor of Health Economics and the Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor of the College of Medicine and Health at the University of Exeter. Rich has pioneered research on the economics – especially macro-economics – of AMR over the last 25 years and contributed economic analyses to high-profile reports both within the UK and internationally. There will also be the opportunity for Q&A.

This promises to be an extremely interesting event and all are welcome so please do share this invitation with colleagues. The link to attend is [here](#) or, alternatively, can be forwarded to you as a calendar invite on request to AMR-Network@exeter.ac.uk (An invite for this event was sent to the Network at the beginning of February.)

Forthcoming AMR events

The full list of dates for the year is available on the [AMR Network webpage](#) and details are published there as they are confirmed. Information on past events and previous newsletters for the Network can also be accessed on the site.

Coming up this year are:

- Wednesday 19 May – GW4 AMR Alliance external launch
- Thursday 17 June – guest speaker
- Tuesday 20 July – collaborative opportunity

All events start at 12:15pm and finish by 1:45pm.

Get involved: if you are interested in presenting at one of the AMR Network events, or if you would like to chair one of them, please get in touch with us via the AMR-Network@exeter.ac.uk email address.

Other internal events/local initiatives

[Cornwall Science Community](#) is running a regular series of virtual café science talks. These relatively short (~20 min) talks leave a lot of space for Q&A and lead to some really great discussions.

If you are at all interested in being a speaker in one of these events and discussing your research with the general public in a friendly environment, please get in touch with David Walker-

Sünderhauf ds498@exeter.ac.uk. These talks are very flexible in terms of topic, timing and format – we have previously had panels of multiple speakers too! For more information and a flavour of past talks, please visit the [Virtual Café Sci page](#) of the website or send David an email.

News

Optimising Prescribing Feedback conversations – project update

This ESRC Impact Accelerator Award (IAA)-funded project, led by the University of Exeter with Queen's University Belfast and St Helens & Knowsley NHS Trust, has focused on the implementation of prescribing feedback conversations that, when optimised, can enhance prescribing development in health practitioners and improve antimicrobial stewardship and patient care.

The project team worked with external partners who included representatives from medical education, policy-making and clinical practice, and engaged with a wide community of key stakeholders, including patients, pharmacists, doctors, nurses, educational programme directors and policy makers.

Project outcomes and resources are available on the [project website](#) and include:

1. The previous research lead up to this IAA study, including a process map of antibiotic prescribing in hospitals and a video describing a study led by Karen Mattick, professor of medical education from the University of Exeter, to evaluate whether prescribing feedback could reduce prescribing errors.
2. A prescribing 'toolkit' for policy makers and clinical practitioners, bringing together all of the resources produced through the IAA project, including:
 - A document outlining patient expectations of prescribing, including conceptions of good prescribing, and barriers and enablers to giving feedback to prescribers.
 - A briefing paper aimed at patient safety specialists and key prescribers, summarising the evidence on prescribing feedback education interventions, and suggesting practical steps to implement prescribing conversations in practice.
 - A synthesis of the research on the costs and benefits of prescribing education interventions, illustrated by case studies.

- A self-assessment tool, called the Enabling Safe Prescribing COversations (ESAPCO) checklist for use by interested stakeholders, to help implement prescribing conversations in practice.
- 3. An online journal article problematising the term feedback and inviting comment from the wider medical education community.
- 4. The final report for the project, which was completed in January 2021.

If you have project updates or resources that you think might be of interest to other members of the Network, we would be pleased to highlight them through this monthly newsletter – contact us on AMR-Network@exeter.ac.uk

GW4 AMR Alliance website

The GW4 AMR Alliance website will shortly be going live. The AMR work of the four university partners – Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter – is complementary and we want to ensure that the full breadth and diversity of the Alliance’s work is illustrated on the website. If you have any images that illustrate your AMR-related work and which could contribute to the image bank of the AMR Alliance, please could you get in touch either via AMR-Network@exeter.ac.uk or d.curnow@gw4.ac.uk

Please ensure that any photographs you share do not have copyright issues for use on the GW4 website and, if they include people, that you have fulfilled any requirements around their consent for use of their image – thank you.

Publication: Dr Jehangir Cama is a co-author in a newly-published policy paper, [To Push or To Pull? In a Post-COVID World, Supporting and Incentivizing Antimicrobial Drug Development Must Become a Governmental Priority](#), published by *American Chemical Society (ACS) Infectious Diseases*

Don't forget to use **#ExeterAMR**

External news and events

Funding opportunity

Citizen science for food standards challenges: Funding is available for pilot projects investigating the Food Standards Agency’s (FSA’s) areas of research interest themes. Projects must use citizen science research methods and be in collaboration with members of the public. Partners from outside academia can be included. Projects should be 6-9months in duration and funds of up to £40,000 (fEC can be requested).

There are four high-level priorities, the second of which is particularly relevant to the AMR Network:
Priority two: assuring food safety and standards

1. How can the impact of chemical contaminants (including nanomaterials and microplastics) in food be assessed and minimised?
2. How can the FSA better understand and reduce the impact of foodborne pathogens?
3. How can the FSA improve the evidence base concerning antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and food?
4. What is the role of food safety and standards in nutrition and health?

The funders are BBSRC and ESRC in conjunction with the FSA. The call opened on 18 March and closes on **4 May 2021**. More details are available from UKRI [here](#).

Publications

World Health Organisation: [A call to action: rethinking policy priorities the light of pandemics.](#)

Five months since it was first convened, the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development has delivered this call to action, the first outcome of its work. It provides guidance on how we should prioritise health and sustainable development now to set our systems and societies for future generations.

[Leveraging Vaccines to Reduce Antibiotic Use and Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance: A World Health Organisation Action Framework](#) published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases (Oxford Academic)*

In this recent paper published *Clinical Infections Diseases*, researchers from the World Health Organisation (WHO), Wellcome Trust, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and CDDEP have developed an Action Framework to guide use of vaccines to prevent AMR. The framework proposes the prioritisation and development of vaccines to reduce antibiotic use, as well as looking at the importance of data collection and analysis to quantify the role of vaccines to mitigate the impact of AMR from the research, health, and economic perspectives.

CDDEP is also hosting a webinar on ***How can vaccines address the AMR problem?***

Details: Thursday 25 March 2021, 1.30-2.30pm (GMT). You can register [here](#).

Nga T T Do, Huong T L Vu, et al: [Community-based antibiotic access and use in six low-income and middle-income countries: A mixed-method approach](#) published in *The Lancet Global Health*

Alice C Tompson, Clare I R Chandler: [Addressing antibiotic use: insights from social science around the world](#), available via LSHTM Research Online

Other events

Professor Pontiano Kaleebu: Confronting epidemics from a laboratory in Uganda.

Professor Pontiano Kaleebu is the Director of the Medical Research Council/Uganda Virus Research Institute and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Uganda Research Unit (MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit) based in Entebbe and is Director of Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI). In this open lecture, he will reflect on his career.

Details: Tuesday 23 March 2021, 5:30-6:30pm, online. Webinar link [here](#).

Antimicrobial Resistance Research: call for participants

Researchers at the University of Birmingham and University Hospitals of Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust are currently running a research project titled: Preventing Anti-Microbial Resistance: Whose responsibility is it? The aim of the research is to explore the views of key policy stakeholders and healthcare professionals on where responsibility lies for preventing anti-microbial resistance (AMR), to improve the evidence-based for effective implementation of AMR policies. They are currently looking for healthcare professionals working in the UK to complete a short questionnaire (10 minutes) about their experiences of managing AMR. If you can help, either by completing the questionnaire or forwarding to relevant networks, they would be very grateful.

The link to the survey is [here](#).

Spotlight on...

Dr Erum Erum is a Biomedical Science lecturer in University of Exeter Medical School and a lead for Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) across the College of Medicine and Health. With a cross-disciplinary background in biochemistry, biophysics, genetics and biomedical engineering, her current research interest lies in discovering alternative of antibiotics to combat AMR. Erum was awarded her PhD by the University of Central Lancashire where she investigated the structure-function relationship and mechanism of action of antimicrobial peptides against various bacterial strains at various pH environment. Previously, she worked as a lecturer in Shah Abdul Latif University, Pakistan, where she led research in the field of fermentation biotechnology to produce industrial relevant enzymes from fungal species cost-effectively using agricultural waste. Her full profile can be viewed [here](#).



Dr Daniel Padfield is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Exeter working with Michiel Vos at the Cornwall campus. Daniel is a microbial ecologist whose work has concentrated on how environmental change - commonly temperature - alters the interplay of ecological and evolutionary dynamics in microbial communities. He does this by combining theory and simulations with experimental evolution experiments. Originally concentrating on primary producers, in his first postdoc he looked at host-parasite interactions and temperature, the understanding of which is key to predicting the consequences of novel host-parasite interactions that will occur in a warmer world. His current work with Dr Vos is bioinformatics based, where sequencing will be used to look at how adaptive radiations Myxobacteria happen in the natural environment. He is passionate about open science and reproducible analyses and is an expert in organising and manipulating large datasets and doing statistics in R. He has authored multiple R packages and would be delighted to help with any projects or problems with analyses. His full profile can be viewed [here](#).



Dr Isobel Stanton is a molecular microbiologist who undertook her PhD at the University of Exeter Medical School European Centre of Environment and Human Health from 2015 to 2019 before becoming a Research Fellow in the same department until December 2020. During her PhD, Isobel investigated the selection of antimicrobial resistance at low antibiotic concentrations to determine if concentrations of antibiotics similar to those found in the natural environment are able to increase resistance bacteria and genes. During her Research Fellow post, Isobel undertook work compiling a systematic map investigating the current available research on whether AMR is able to transmit from the natural environment to humans resulting in either colonisation or infection of AMR bacteria. Since leaving the University of Exeter at the end of 2020, Isobel is now working at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. She is completing a rapid evidence review for the Welsh Government on AMR in freshwater and testing school, prison and care home wastewater for the presence of SARS-CoV-2.



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