The world is running out of antibiotics, WHO report confirms

A new WHO report “Antibacterial Agents in Clinical Development - an analysis of the antibacterial clinical development pipeline” shows a serious lack of new antibiotics under development to combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance. Most of the drugs currently in the clinical pipeline are modifications of existing classes of antibiotics and are only short-term solutions. The report found very few potential treatment options for those antibiotic-resistant infections identified by WHO as posing the greatest threat to health, including drug-resistant tuberculosis which kills around 250,000 people each year. In addition to multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, WHO has identified 12 classes of priority pathogens – some of them causing common infections such as pneumonia or urinary tract infections – that are increasingly resistant to existing antibiotics and urgently in need of new treatments.

As part of the work to counter this threat, WHO and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi) set up the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP) which has recently received new funding pledges (see below).

New treatments alone, however, will not be sufficient to combat the threat of antimicrobial resistance. WHO works with countries and partners to improve infection prevention and control and to foster appropriate use of existing and future antibiotics.

Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership: More than Euro 56 million raised to fund initiative to fight antibiotic resistance

Germany together with a number of countries and foundations have pledged EUR 56.5 million to help develop new treatments to fight against antibiotic resistance, during a fundraising event for the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP), hosted in Berlin on 4 September. Funding will support GARDP’s four programme areas: sexually-transmitted infections, Antimicrobial Memory Recovery and Exploratory programme, neonatal sepsis and a paediatric Antibiotic Platform. More [here](#).
The WHO Regional Office for Europe has produced a fact sheet on sustainable development goals: health targets - Antimicrobial Resistance. Antimicrobial resistance can compromise the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, affecting health security, poverty, economic growth and food security. Action is necessary across sectors and settings to mitigate, prevent and control antimicrobial resistance. The fact sheet illustrates the links between antimicrobial resistance and Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 12 and 17.

**World Sepsis Congress Spotlight: Maternal and Neonatal Sepsis**

On September 12th, 2017, the World Health Organization and the Global Sepsis Alliance hosted the 'World Sepsis Congress Spotlight: Maternal and Neonatal Sepsis' - a free online congress shining a spotlight on this neglected aspect of sepsis. In four distinctive sessions, 25 renowned experts from all over the world gave 12-minute presentations on all facets of maternal and neonatal sepsis, as well as gave updates on sepsis in general. All talks will be released on the Alliance's YouTube Channel and on Apple Podcasts. A release schedule will be available soon. Subscribe now to be notified once the talks are out.

**Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) update**

Enrolment update: 56 countries have expressed interest in enrolling in GLASS, of which 47 are fully enrolled.

**Final DRIVE-AB conference**

The final DRIVE-AB conference, “Revitalizing the antibiotic pipeline: Stimulating innovation while driving sustainable use and global access”, was held in Brussels, Belgium, 5-6 September 2017. The conference focused on the consortium's research results and recommended options to drive investment in antibiotics that included a combination of incentive mechanisms along with finance and governance options to support their implementation. The feasibility of DRIVE-AB's recommendations and the opportunities and barriers to their implementation across global settings was discussed. Participants also had the opportunity to view twenty-five scientific posters summarizing the details of the consortium's research results. The DRIVE-AB consortium will consider the feedback resulting from the conference discussions as they finalize the policy report, which will be freely and publicly available in early 2018. To read more or to view posters and slide sets from the conference, please see the DRIVE-AB website.

**World Antibiotic Awareness Week: 13-19 November 2017**

This year's theme: Seek advice from a qualified healthcare professional before taking antibiotics. Antibiotics are a precious resource, so it is important to get the right advice before taking them. This not only ensures you and your family get the best treatment, but responsible use of antibiotics will also help reduce the threat of antibiotic resistance.

**How can you get involved?**

WHO, alongside FAO and OIE, is developing a range of materials which will be available to the public in October. In the meantime, you can continue to spread the word and start planning now by:

i) Organizing events or activities in your workplace, community, school, university etc

ii) Spreading the word - get active on your social media accounts and involve your networks

iii) Reaching out to your local government representatives, local leaders or influencers and encouraging them to take action on antibiotic resistance

iv) Leading by example: ensure you only take antibiotics if prescribed by a qualified healthcare professional, practice good hand hygiene, and never share or use leftover antibiotics

In October, you will be able to download the materials here.

**BMJ collection: Antimicrobial resistance in Southeast Asia**

The BMJ’s collection on "Antimicrobial resistance in South East Asia" is a series of 15 articles highlighting how antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has become a critical political, social, and economic problem in the WHO South East Asia region where there is possibly the highest risk globally for emergence and spread of
Editors’s picks

Changing behaviors for antibiotic prescription practices.

A study in *JAMA Internal Medicine* reports on a successful behavioral approach to influencing antibiotic prescription practices in two Dutch hospital centers. After one year of the behavioral interventions, appropriate prescribing increased from 64 to 77 percent, based on analysis of 7,000 patient experiences. The results are consistent with other studies of behavioral approaches to antibiotic stewardship.

Call for consultants

1. Gender, Equity and Human Rights focus for the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance.

The AMR Secretariat is seeking an individual to make recommendations on enhancing the focus on Gender, Equity and Human Rights (GER) in WHO support to Member States on implementation of the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance.

2. Technical note on the application of molecular methods: The AMR Secretariat Surveillance team is seeking applications for the production of a draft technical note on the application of molecular methods to support implementation of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) surveillance.

For Terms of Reference and how to apply, please click here.

Fleming Fund Technical Advisory Group: call for expressions of interest

The UK Department of Health wishes to establish a Technical Advisory Group to support the implementation of the Fleming Fund to 2021-2022. It wishes to draw on a range of expertise relevant to all aspects of implementation of the Fleming Fund. The deadline is 20 Oct 2017. More information here.

AMR. The articles cover topics such as risk assessment of antibiotic resistance; policies to promote appropriate antibiotic use; assessing containment of AMR; developing a national strategic plan; policy interventions in food animal production; residues in the environment; communication activities; surveillance; infection prevention and control; research; and drug resistance in malaria, tuberculosis and HIV. The collection also features a visual summary of the risks of emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance by Chereau and colleagues.

4th World Veterinary Association Global One Health Summit: Antimicrobial Resistance - From Awareness to Action

On 29 August 2017, during the 33rd World Veterinary Association Congress in Korea, a special half-day session was dedicated to antimicrobial resistance, with the support of WHO, FAO and OIE. About 100 people took part, including veterinary practitioners, academics, policy makers and representatives of the livestock and pharmaceutical industries and NGOs. Active dialogue by the panels clearly indicated an already high level of awareness of the issue among veterinary circles, including veterinary students. Participants discussed what actions the veterinary society should take to ensure the efficacy of antimicrobials for humans and animals. There were calls for further promotion of cross-sectoral cooperation, noting that international, national and local level cooperation is indispensable for effective action.

Online Community of Practice to support National Action Plan implementation: upcoming discussion series

The AMR NAP online discussion forum/Community of Practice plans to hold a series of time-limited discussions on the following topics over the next six months (September 2017 – March 2018):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion topic</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. What makes a good AMR national action plan (NAP)?</td>
<td>25-29 Sept 2017</td>
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<td>2. The situation analysis: Does it have an impact on the implementation of NAPs?</td>
<td>23-27 Oct 2017</td>
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<td>3. Monitoring progress in NAP implementation</td>
<td>20-24 Nov 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Engaging faith-based and civil society organizations to address AMR</td>
<td>22-26 Jan 2018</td>
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<td>5. How can the WHO country office support action on the AMR national action plan?</td>
<td>19-23 Feb 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Getting AMR into national plans and budgets</td>
<td>19-23 Mar 2018</td>
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Please click here to register: [https://ezcollab.who.int/amr-nap](https://ezcollab.who.int/amr-nap).
Resources

• For information regarding national action plans on antimicrobial resistance and supporting documents and tools, click here.

• Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) documents and tools.

• For information on infection prevention and control, click here.

• To access the WHO/UNICEF WASH in Health Care Facilities knowledge portal, click here.

• For information on antimicrobial resistance and the food chain, click here.

• For AMR activities at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), click here.

• For AMR activities at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), click here.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 12-25</td>
<td>72nd session of the UN general Assembly (UNGA 72)</td>
<td>UN Headquarters, New York, USA</td>
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<td>Sept 24-25</td>
<td>Training workshop for national focal points on the Global AMR Surveillance System (GLASS)</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 26-28</td>
<td>Training a pool of WHONET “super users” from Eastern Mediterranean Region countries</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 26-28</td>
<td>WHO meeting on development &amp; implementation of national action plans to contain AMR</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
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<td>Oct 9-13</td>
<td>Regional hands-on training in standard laboratory methods</td>
<td>Christian medical College, Vellore, India</td>
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<td>Oct 12-13</td>
<td>A call to Action on AMR. Organised by UK Government, Royal Thai Government, UN Foundation and wellcome. Contact: <a href="mailto:AMRCallToAction@wellcome.ac.uk">AMRCallToAction@wellcome.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 15-17</td>
<td>World Health Summit. Information here</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 16-17</td>
<td>Interagency Coordination Group (IACG) on AMR: face-to-face meeting</td>
<td>OIE Headquarters Paris, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 13-15</td>
<td>Ad-hoc working group meeting on the implementation of antimicrobial stewardship programs in hospitals</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 13-19</td>
<td>World Antibiotic Awareness Week</td>
<td>Worldwide</td>
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Please let us know of your upcoming events for inclusion in the newsletter. We also welcome your suggestions and comments. For all communications, please contact the Secretariat at whoamrsecretariat@who.int. Responsibility for newsletter contents rests with the AMR Secretariat Director: Marc Sprenger.

Newsletter editor: Breeda Hickey.