



## Internal news and events

### AMR Network Events 2020/21

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Speed Collaborating event in December. All who attended enjoyed the opportunity to talk to others working across a range of areas related to the challenges of antimicrobial resistance. We are planning to organise a similar event later in the year.

#### Next AMR Network event: Tuesday 9 February 12:15-1:15pm

The next AMR Network event will be at **12:15pm** on **Tuesday 9 February** when we will have another two speakers in the “jargon-free” series. If you haven’t been to one of these yet, the format is that speakers from different disciplines will each present for about 15 minutes on an area of their work that relates to antimicrobial resistance, and then there is the opportunity for Q&A at the end. The main rule is no jargon so these talks are relevant whatever your background. In February, we will hear from:

- [Dr Christina Coelho](#) (Mycology)
- [Dr Michiel Vos](#) (Microbiology)

Please note: this event will finish slightly earlier than usual to enable people to attend the Exeter Microbiology Symposium in the afternoon (see below).

#### Forthcoming AMR events

- Thursday 18 March – Fungal Fusion with colleagues from the [MRC Centre for Medical Mycology](#).
- Wednesday 21 April – re-scheduled date: [Clare Chandler](#), Professor of Medical Anthropology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Director of the LSHTM Antimicrobial Resistance Centre, in conversation with [Professor Rich Smith](#), UoE College of Medicine and Health
- Wednesday 19 May – “jargon-free” webinar
- Thursday 17 June – guest speaker
- Tuesday 20 July – collaborative opportunity

All events start at 12:15pm and finish by 1:45pm. See the [AMR Network webpage](#) for more information.

**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](mailto:AMR-Network@exeter.ac.uk) email address.

#### Other internal events

[Dr Anne Leonard](#), NERC Innovation Fellow, is the Featured Environment & Sustainability Institute (ESI) Academic for January. On **Monday 25 January 2021, 1pm-2pm**, she will be delivering the **ESI State of the Art** talk on the title *Interdisciplinary approaches to understanding the spread of microbes and antimicrobial resistance in aquatic environments*. For more information on the talk and how to join, please see [here](#).

The **University of Exeter Microbiology Symposium** is taking place every afternoon from **Monday 8 February – Wednesday 10 February 2021**, running **1.30pm-4.30pm** each day. The sessions comprise six speakers, each presenting for half an hour, and drawn from a range of specialisms including microbiology, mycology, bioinformatics, evolutionary biology and applied geomicrobiology. It will be livestreamed to the [ESI Facebook page](#) and full details of the programme are available [here](#).

## News

Many thanks to [Dr Kelly Thornber](#) who set up this AMR Network and has now stepped back to focus on her research work. In just a few months and alongside her own research, she has established a calendar of monthly events, a regular newsletter, and developed the Network which now numbers nearly 150 people, both internal to the University and closely associated with it. She was also instrumental in getting a creative fellow for the Network and setting up other creative projects to promote AMR awareness. In particular, Kelly has driven the distinctive interdisciplinary ethos of the Network: we are extremely grateful to her and delighted that she will still be actively involved as a member of the network.

Have a look at our [new website](#), showcasing some of our leading academics and the groundbreaking work they are doing to help the global fight against antimicrobial resistance.

**Publication:** Professor Henry Buller is one of the co-authors in [A participatory, farmer-led approach to changing practices around antimicrobial use on UK farms](#), *Journal of Dairy Science* (on-line)

**Publication:** Steve Hinchliffe, Charles Tyler, and David Verner-Jeffreys are co-authors with Andrea Butcher, Muhammed Meezanur Rahman and James Guilder in [Production without medicalisation: Risk practices and disease in Bangladesh aquaculture](#), *The Geographical Journal* (on-line)

**Publication:** Stefano Pagliara is a co-author with Rhia Stone, Urszula Łapinska, Muriel Masi, Joanne Blanchfield, Matthew Cooper and Mark Blaskovich in [Fluorescent macrolide probes – synthesis and use in evaluation of bacterial resistance](#) *RSC Chemical Biology* 1, 395-404 (2020)

On 20 January 2021, [Professor Steve Hinchliffe](#) will be talking at the Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main on the title *The next pandemic is bacterial: on drug resistance and postcolonial global health*.

*Abstract:* Drug resistant infections are intricate with the exercise of power. Rather than ‘superbugs’ being the vital signs of recalcitrant forms of life that withstand biomedical technique, antimicrobial resistance emerges within and through social and medical power’s infinitesimal mechanisms. In this paper, approaches to antimicrobial resistance that involve identification and targeting of unruly people and microbes are eschewed in favour of approaches that understand resistance as embedded within a milieu of social and material processes. The latter provide impetus to challenge the assumptions and norms of global health. Mobilising accounts of postcolonial health as well as post-colony microbes, the paper argues that the tendency to treat resistance as material and social recalcitrance, and to assume that its singularity provides the basis for a unified

and corrective approach, irrespective of milieu, health practices or ecologies, risks reproducing a form of human triumphalism and exceptionalism that resistance itself should have us pause to question.

[Dr Aimee Murray](#) has a new blog on antimicrobial resistance in the environment published on the Microbiology Society website as part of its 75th anniversary activities. You can read Aimee's blog [here](#).

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

## External news and events

### Funding opportunity

UKRI has now announced this [JPI Antimicrobial Resistance funding opportunity](#) that is being offered by 30 organisations including UKRI's MRC, BBSRC and NERC to understand the impact of interventions or to design, test or compare new interventions to reduce the transmission of antibiotic resistance. Projects must focus on at least two of the One Health areas: human health, animal health and environmental health and you must apply as part of a transnational consortium of three to seven partners. Funding is available for three years and UKRI will support between five and seven projects that are within MRC's, BBSRC's or NERC's remit.

There is a live Webinar on January 28th at 2.00pm to learn more about the call including an introduction to the Partnering Tool - register [here](#).

If you considering making an application, please could you contact Dr Vicki Dunn ([V.E.Dunn@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:V.E.Dunn@exeter.ac.uk)), Research Development Manager and the lead for AMR within Research Services.

### External events

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Antimicrobial Resistance Centre will be hosting **Addressing Antibiotic Use Roundtable** on **Wednesday 24 February**, 12 noon – 2.00pm. This online event is free and open to all – details available [here](#).

AMR Insights has published its AMR Program 2021. This includes the [Virtual AMR Innovation Mission UK 2021](#) on **10-12 May 2021**. Details of the full programme available [here](#).

### Recent publications

Iruka N Okeke, Nicholas Feasey, Julian Parkhill, Paul Turner, Direk Limmathurotsakul, Pantelis Georgiou, Alison Holmes, Sharon J Peacock: [Leapfrogging laboratories: the promise and pitfalls of high-tech solutions for antimicrobial resistance surveillance in low-income settings](#), published in *BMJ Global Health*, Volume 5, Issue 12

Jim O'Neill: [The economics of responding to pandemics](#), published in *The Article*

Caroline E Wagner, Joseph A Prentice, Chadi M Saad-Roy, LuoJun Yang, Bryan T Grenfell, Simon A Levin, Ramanan Laxminarayan: [Economic and behavioural influencers of vaccination and antimicrobial use](#), published in *Frontiers in Public Health*

Laura J V Piddock: [Tackling the drug-resistance pandemic – 2020 and beyond](#), *Viewpoint* published on the *REVIVE* website

## Spotlight on...

**Dr Jamie Harrison** is currently a post-doctoral bioinformatician working for the University of Exeter Sequencing Service on the Streatham campus. He has a wide variety of experience in the use of bioinformatics to interrogate sequence data. During his PhD, he focused on using next generation sequencing to investigate the genomics of bacterial pathogens, after which he spent four years working at the University of Exeter Medical School in the group researching the genetics of complex traits. This used bioinformatics and statistical genetics approaches to interrogate BIG data sets, for example UKBiobank, to uncover subtle links between genetics and various human traits and diseases. For the last year, he has been working for the University of Exeter sequencing service which has afforded him the unrivalled opportunity to get involved in a wide of bioinformatic projects from across biosciences and the Medical School. One these projects focused on assessing the AMR potential in aquatic samples, marking his entry into fascinating new area of research. Jamie has experience in a wide range of bioinformatic techniques used to interrogate next generation (and third generation) sequencing and has almost boundless enthusiasm. He would be delighted to hear from anyone with a potential opportunity to collaborate.



**Dr Sahran Higgins** is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Exeter. Sahran is a landscape ecologist working at the intersection of ecology and humans and brings a broad ecological background to her current role where she explores the environmental, spatial and temporal factors that may contribute to the risk of human exposure to AMR at a landscape and catchment scale (funded through [ENSURE](#) and the BBSRC-funded project researching AMR in livestock systems, “the Argentinian project”). This is achieved by combining GIS methods with primary and secondary datasets and data analysis in R. She holds a PhD in Evolutionary Ecology and has a public sector background in freshwater ecology. Her research to date has focussed broadly on the interactions between humans and nature, spanning microbial to landscape seeking to understand how human health interacts with ecological complexity and in understanding the nexus between ecosystem services, climate change and health. In addition, Sahran also holds an Impact Fellow position in the Environment and Sustainability Institute (UoE) exploring the ecological impacts of reconnecting a river to its natural flood plain as part of a site-level habitat improvement project (ESIF-funded [StARR](#)). Her full profile can be viewed [here](#).



**Dr Felicity Thomas** is a Senior Research Fellow in the Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health, and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Culture and Health based at Exeter University. With a cross-disciplinary background spanning anthropology, geography, public health and international development, her research examines how lived experiences of health inequalities can inform the development of more effective, ethical and sustainable health care policy and practice. Much of her work focuses on understanding patient decision-making over medication use, and how cultures of (over) prescribing, selling and consuming medicines become bound up with political and moral agendas. Felicity has written on the impacts of medicine ‘misuse’ on the environment, and was co-author (with Dr Katie Ledingham, Professor Steve Hinchliffe and Professor Mark Jackson) of a [WHO policy brief](#) on the cultural contexts of antibiotic resistance. Her full profile can be viewed [here](#).



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