



Internal news and events

AMR Network Events 2020/21

The next AMR Network event will take place via Teams on **Tuesday 15 September**, 12:15pm-1:45pm, and will be an expert panel forum on the subject of **AMR in food systems**. Chaired by [Professor Rich Smith](#), Deputy PVC for the College of Medicine & Health and Professor of Health Economics, the panel will comprise:

- [Daniel Bebber](#), Associate Professor in Ecology
- [Will Gaze](#), Professor of Microbiology
- [Steve Hinchliffe](#), Professor of Human Geography
- [Harry G West](#), Professor of Anthropology

An invite will be sent out shortly to all Network members.

Dates for the coming term are:

- Wednesday 14 October – jargon-free seminar. Speakers will include Simon Ryder, Creative Fellow
- Thursday 12 November – pitch (up to ten speakers with three minutes each to pitch their work and/or ideas)
- Wednesday 8 December – guest speaker

All events will start at 12:15pm and will finish by 1:45pm. We are currently revising the [AMR website](#) and, once this work is complete, an events schedule for the year will be published there and updated with details as the year progresses.

Research impact: Congratulations to [Professor Will Gaze](#), [Dr Aimee Murray](#) and [Dr Isobel Stanton](#) - the new [EU Water Framework Directive Hazardous Substances Watch List](#) has just been published with two new antibiotics included, one of which is based on their data.

Microbe Talk: As part of the 'Sustainable Future' policy project, the Microbiology Society's policy team have produced three special episodes of Microbe Talk to explore the role of microbiology in addressing some of the world's biggest challenges. [Dr Anne Leonard](#) was recently one of the guests

invited to speak about her work. The interview with Anne can be accessed [here](#) (beginning at ~15:00mins).

Publication: [Dr Tatiana Dimitriu](#), Andrew Matthews and [Professor Angus Buckling](#) have a paper published by *bioRxiv* on "[Increased copy number couples the evolution of plasmid horizontal transmission and antibiotic resistance](#)".

Creative Fellow

Our Creative Fellow [Simon Ryder](#) is excited about beginning his fellowship in September, and has been getting creative even whilst on holiday (see his [blog on "meshworks"](#), relating to the book *Lines: A Brief History* by the social anthropologist Professor Tim Ingold of Aberdeen University). Simon will be initially contacting a small selection of you for a 30-minute informal chat about your work to get a feel for the different perspectives of the AMR issue. He will then present his initial thoughts and plans for his fellowship as a speaker at our Jargon-Free Seminar event on 14th October. If you would like to be one of his initial contacts then please let us know by replying to this email.



AMR-related PhD students and post-docs

Many thanks to Jamie Harrison, Matt Lloyd Jones, Hazel Parker and Macaulay Winter for recently joining a discussion on how the Network could support research students and early career researchers. Following this, part of our work over the next year will be looking at how we can help develop a network of peer-supporters across the research student and ECR communities, increase opportunities for researchers at these stages to showcase their individual skillsets and research interests, and provide information on career opportunities that are related to AMR and outside of higher education providers.

Please could all PIs encourage their team members (including post-docs and research students) to join the mailing list

Research student activity: [David Walker-Sünderhauf](#) and [Cara Patel](#) participated in the 3rd Annual online [National PhD Training Programme in AMR](#). They made show reel videos (in lieu of posters). Cara showcased some lab work from her PhD project in a "Day in the life" style video. David gave a talk on AMR plasmid removal from a bacterial community using a mobile CRISPR tool.

External news and events

The UKRI AMR team is running a community-led consultation to shape a ~£40M bid to a future wave of UKRI's Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF)

Participation is invited from anyone eligible to receive grant funding from UKRI. Researchers outside the AMR field with relevant expertise (eg climate change economists) are strongly encouraged to

participate, as well as Early Career Researchers. You can choose to register on one or more of the webinars:

1. Wednesday 2 September, 1.00-2.30pm: Introduction to consultation
2. Tuesday 8 September, 10.30am- 12noon: Economics and public policy
3. Friday 11 September, 10.00-11.30am: Alignment and differentiation with Hemingway grant and opportunities arising
4. Wednesday 16 September, 3.00-4.30pm: discussion, including on what other research areas have to offer AMR, to help shape the remainder of the consultation and webinar topics.

[Professor Will Gaze](#) is on the steering committee and notes how important it is that the University of Exeter, and members of the AMR Network in particular, engage with this consultation: “This consultation will help shape the nature and substance of the next £40m cross-council AMR call and is also a great opportunity to hear some high-profile speakers on AMR.” Full details are available [here](#).

UKRI and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have a call out for international partnerships on Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases

UKRI and NSF, in collaboration with a number of other partners, have announced a call for international partnerships involving researchers from the UK and US, China and/or Israel under the Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases programme (EEID). The central theme of submitted projects must be the quantitative or computational understanding of pathogen transmission dynamics.

The proposal deadline date is **18 November 2020**. More details are available on the UKRI (BBSRC) site [here](#) with full information on the scope of the call on the [NSF website](#).

JPIAMR workshop: In 2021, JPIAMR, with the support of the European Commission, will launch a new call for projects in the area of AMR transmission and interventions. In order to refine the scope of this action, JPIAMR in collaboration with the French National Research Agency (ANR) is organising an online workshop specifically focused on this research area. It is taking place on 3-4 September 2021 and you can register [here](#).

AMR Insights is advertising a number of events, including:

- [AMR Innovation Mission UK 2020/2021](#) – online kick-off on 15 October 2020
- [Emerging Antimicrobials and Diagnostics in AMR 2020](#) – an opportunity to learn about the latest AMR technologies and explore partnering and networking possibilities. This two-day event is planned to take place in Amsterdam on 18-19 November 2020 with online contingency plans if covid-19 prevents a physical meeting. Registration will open at the end of August.

Spotlight

Dr Emma Pitchforth is Senior Lecturer and Senior Research Fellow in Primary Care at Exeter. Her research in the last 20 years has involved health services, policy and systems research in diverse healthcare settings. Her background is in public health but Emma draws on social science disciplinary and methodological perspectives in her research and enjoys the interdisciplinary approach of global health research, including for antimicrobial resistance. She is currently PI on an AHRC-funded project, 'AMR Historical Foresight', that is using historical and comparative approaches to inform future AMR policy. She is Co-I on an MRC funded project entitled 'One Health drivers of antimicrobial resistance in Thailand' and a BBSRC funded project, 'A new conceptual framework for considering AMR in agricultural and natural environments in LMICs'. Her full profile can be viewed [here](#).



Dr David Richards is an MRC Career Development Fellow based in the Living Systems Institute. After an undergraduate in physics, a PhD in string theory and a year tutoring at AIMS (a mathematics institute in Cape Town), he discipline-hopped to use mathematics and physics to investigate various areas of biology and medicine. His work has involved branching in the filamentous bacteria *Streptomyces*, telomere bouquet formation during meiosis, the accuracy of cell motion in chemotaxis, and the effect of ion channel noise in cells of the pituitary gland. He currently works on various aspects of phagocytosis (the way that immune cells engulf and destroy particles such as bacteria), the dynamics of peroxisomes (tiny organelles within cells) and how plant cells respond to fungal attack. His MRC fellowship is based around using a joint experimental-modelling approach to study the role of both the cell and the target particle during phagocytosis including, for example, the dependence of phagocytic uptake on target shape and size. His full profile can be viewed [here](#).



Professor Charles Tyler is a reproductive physiologist, ecotoxicologist and environmental biologist. His research spans investigations into the mechanisms of endocrine disrupting chemicals and nanoparticle ecotoxicology, population level effects of environmental contaminants in wildlife, principally fish, and sustainable aquaculture. Much of his research involves applying molecular techniques to understand how the mechanisms through animal physiological processes are disrupted by environmental contaminants and includes the development of novel transgenic fish. His interests in antibiotics, and pharmaceutical more generally, are centred around aquaculture practices and



chemical impacts on ecosystems. He has a deep passion for wildlife and his research projects also include studies into the natural ecology of insects, fish, and birds. Charles is co-director of the Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture Futures, the RCUK's Aquaculture Research Collaborative Research Hub UK, and the GW4 Water Security Alliance. Charles also plays leading roles in various strategic research partnerships with external partners including AstraZeneca and the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences. His full profile can be viewed [here](#).



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