



Internal news and events

AMR Network Events 2020/21

Many thanks to [Professor Ed Watkins](#), [Dr Andy Jones](#), [Dr Chloe Onoufriou](#) and [Philippa Sams](#) for presenting at the final AMR Network event of the 2020/21 academic year. As we consider how to develop from a Network to an AMR Centre, there were some thought-provoking presentations and discussions around the challenges of interdisciplinary grant applications. Notably, these challenges are far from unique to antimicrobial resistance. The event considered:

- what could be learnt both from successful applications and those that had been rejected;
- the importance of developing strong and genuine interdisciplinary working and networks as a matter of course, and not just in response to a research call;
- insights into the external context, particularly the funding councils; and
- the support available within the University for making applications.

Thank you, again, to the speakers, [Professor Will Gaze](#) for chairing, and all those who contributed to an extremely engaging and interesting discussion, both through dialogue and the chat function.

AMR Network Events Calendar 2021/22

We are currently working on the AMR Network events calendar for next academic year. To help us plan this, a short questionnaire will be shared with AMR Network members shortly.

University of Exeter AMR Network - August

We recognise that many people will be taking leave at various points during August. Rather than add to the emails to wade through on return, the newsletter will take a break and return in September. If anything of particular interest or with an imminent deadline comes up, we will forward it as an email.

Thank you very much indeed to everyone who has joined and supported the University of Exeter AMR Network over the last twelve months. If you are able to take some time off over August, may you have a restful break.

Other internal news and publications

Update on the AMR Network Creative Fellow 2020/21

Our Creative Fellow, Simon Ryder, will soon be coming to the end of his fellowship. Many thanks again to all of you who have engaged with him throughout his fellowship; we hope you will agree that it has been an enlightening experience! Simon's project is titled *Babel Mind* and you can find out more about it on his website [here](#).

[Image: *Bacterial Garden* - artnucleus (Simon Ryder)]



Simon and his host (Dr Kelly Thornber) are now hoping to build upon this to co-develop a project examining interdisciplinarity in AMR research...so watch this space! Simon is also working with us on a photography project entitled "Researching Resistance", which will focus on fifteen researchers from different disciplines across our network. This will be made available online and exhibited in the Forum during the 2021 World Antibiotic Awareness Week (18-24 November). We also hope to tour the exhibition to other campuses, including the ESI at Penryn during 2022.

Many thanks to...

- the various members of the AMR Network who took part in *Babel Mind*;
- Dr Demelza Curnow, AMR Network Co-ordinator; and
- the MRC Centre for Medical Mycology which is co-funding the photography project.

Dr Kelly Thornber, July 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

Publications

Publication: Kelly Thornber and Emma Pitchforth: [Communicating antimicrobial resistance: the need to go beyond human health](#). *JAC-AMR* (in press; online availability imminent)

Publication: O. Goode, A. Smith, A. Zarkan, J. Cama, B. M. Invergo, D. Belgami, S. Cano-Muniz, J. Metz, P. O'Neill, A. Jeffries, I. H. Norville, J. David, D. Summers, S. Pagliara: [Persister *Escherichia coli* cells have a lower intracellular pH than susceptible cells but maintain their pH in response to antibiotic treatment](#). *mBio* 12

Publication: Pawel Sierocinski, Jesica Soria Pascual, Daniel Padfield, Mike Salter, Angus Buckling, [The impact of propagule pressure on whole community invasions in biomethane-producing communities](#). *IScience*

Studentship opportunity

Applications for 2022/23 **GW4 Biomed MRC Doctoral Training Projects** opened on the 12th July.

This is an exciting opportunity for PhD funding and for GW4 collaboration. There are three main themes within the programme:

- Neuroscience & Mental Health
- Infection, Immunity, Antimicrobial Resistance and Repair
- Population Health Sciences

In addition, there are cross-cutting themes:

- data science;
- interdisciplinary skills;
- translation/innovation; and
- in vivo skills.

Some key dates in the application process are:

- Fri 13th Aug 2021: Supervisor project proposal submission deadline
- Mon 11th Oct - Fri 3rd Dec 2021: Projects advertised for student applications
- Fri 26th Nov 2021: Student application deadline
- Wed 16th Feb – Thurs 17th Feb 2022: DTP interviews
- Wed 23th Feb 2022: Student shortlisting panel
- Thurs 24th Feb 2021 – Fri 1st Apr: Clearing period
- w/c Mon 26th Sept 2022: Local induction events
- Fri 1st Oct 2022: Official funding start date

Full information can be found on the [website](#). If you have any questions please contact Dr Kate Ellacott, k.ellacott@exeter.ac.uk or Dr Emma Pitchforth e.pitchforth@exeter.ac.uk – academic leads for Exeter.

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

GW4 AMR Alliance



External launch of the GW4 AMR Alliance - recording now available

If you missed the external launch event of the GW4 AMR Alliance, or would like to re-visit any part of it, the recording of the event is now available on the main GW4 website and can be accessed [here](#).

GW4 AMR Alliance – calling all disciplines!

A reminder about the opportunity to sign-up to the GW4 AMR Alliance. We are keen to hear from researchers either already working or with an interest in working in areas related to antimicrobial resistance. We welcome researchers working at any level and across all disciplines. We are particularly keen to encourage the participation of researchers working in social science, law, business, humanities and other under-represented disciplines.

How to join

Please sign up [here](#) to complete a short online registration form (this link can also be found on the [website](#) along with our Privacy Policy).

Many thanks and we look forward to you joining us. If you have any queries, please do contact the AMR Alliance team at amr@gw4.ac.uk



External news and events

Sector news: The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has launched a [new centre of innovation to tackle antimicrobial resistance and tuberculosis](#).

Upcoming event: On 24 November 2021, the last day of the World Antimicrobials Awareness Week 2021 (WAAW 2021), the AMR Insights Ambassador Network will have their first, annual WAAW event: **AMRelay 2021**. This will be a 24-hour, online event consisting of various contributions by individuals, organisations, companies, networks and consortia involved in curbing antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The theme is “**Joining Forces**”. For more information, including a form for expression of interest to contribute, visit the [AMRelay webpage](#).

Events to re-visit: the World Health Organization ran a series of webinars earlier this month to support implementation of National Action Plans on Antimicrobial Resistance. If you missed them, they are now available on the WHO website [here](#).

Publications of interest

The third joint inter-agency report on antimicrobial consumption and resistance in bacteria from humans and animals from the ECDC, EFSA and EMA [has recently been published](#).

Biruk Alemu Gameda, Ayalew Assefa, Megarsa Bedasa, Jaleta Kebede Amenu, Barbara Wieland. [Antimicrobial resistance in Ethiopia: A systematic review and meta-analysis of prevalence in foods, food handlers, animals, and the environment](#). (*Science Direct*)

Zahra Sadouki, Timothy D McHugh, Rob Aarnoutse, Julio Ortiz Canseco, Christopher Darlow, William Hope, Jakko van Ingen, Christopher Longshaw, Davide Manissero, Andrew Mead, Ludovic Pelligand, Lynette Phee, John Readman, Mike M Ruth, Joseph F Standing, Neil Stone, Emmanuel Q Wey, Frank Kloprogge. [Application of the hollow fibre infection model \(HFIM\) in antimicrobial development: a systematic review and recommendations of reporting.](#) (*Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*)

B. Godman, A. Egwuenu, M. Haque, O.O. Malande, N. Schellack, S. Kumar, Z. Saleem, J. Sneddon, I. Hoxha, S. Islam, J. Mwita, R.C.R.M. do Nascimento, I.P. Dias Godói, L.L. Niba, A.A. Amu, J. Acolatse, R. Incoom, I.A. Sefah, S. Opanga, A. Kurdi, I. Chikowe, F. Khuluza, D. Kibuule, O.O. Ogunleye, A. Olalekan, V Markovic-Pekovic, J.C. Meyer, A. Alfadl, T.N.T. Phuong, A.C. Kalungia, S. Campbell, A. Pisana, J. Wale, R.A. Seaton. [Strategies to improve Antimicrobial Utilization with a Special Focus on Developing Countries.](#) (*Life*)

Jane Robertson, Vera Vlahović-Palčevski, Kotoji Iwamoto, Liselotte Diaz Högberg, Brian Godman, Dominique L. Monnet, Sarah Garner, Klaus Weist, ESAC-Net Study Group, WHO Europe AMC Network Study Group, Reinhild Strauss, Narvina Sinani. [Variations in the Consumption of Antimicrobial Medicines in the European Region, 2014–2018: Findings and Implications from ESAC-Net and WHO Europe.](#) (*Frontiers in Pharmacology*)

Spotlight on...

Dr Maxwell Barnish is a Research Fellow in the Peninsula Technology Assessment Group (PenTAG) at the University of Exeter. He works within a policy-focused research stream commissioned by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to inform policy decisions regarding which medicines and other health technologies to recommend for routine NHS commissioning in England and Wales. He also participates as a Co-investigator in a programme of work commissioned by NHS England looking at managed and interim access arrangements for pharmaceuticals. He leads theoretically-informed evidence synthesis projects on the political and governance determinants of population health. In 2019-2020, he participated in the GW4 Alliance Crucible leadership development programme and was a Co-investigator on a Crucible-funded project looking at gamification in the context of sheep lameness. His full profile can be viewed [here](#).



Dr Wolfram Möbius is a Lecturer at the Living Systems Institute and the Department of Physics & Astronomy at the University of Exeter. Wolfram came to appreciate and study the world of microbes and their evolution during his time as a postdoc in the US, following a degree in physics and PhD work on physical aspects of chromatin constituents in Germany. Wolfram joined the University of Exeter as a Research Fellow in 2017. There, he started a research group whose core interest is the role of environmental constraints on the evolution of populations, microbial and otherwise. They investigate these questions using theory, simulations, and in the laboratory using a bacteriophage model system. Participation in the GW4 Crucible in 2020, which focused on AMR, and follow-up project work allowed him to start exploring how physical and chemical constraints might affect evolution of AMR within biofilms. His full profile can be viewed [here](#).



Dr Bryony Williams is a Senior Lecturer in Biosciences and based in the Living Systems Institute (LSI). Her research career has focused on the Microsporidia which are an unusual group of eukaryotes that live inside the cells of animals. These parasites infect a broad range of economically important hosts (including humans) by rapidly expelling a fine hollow tube to pierce the host cell and inject their cell into the host cytoplasm. Bryony has worked with Cefas (Centre for Environment, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Science) to better understand the origins and cell biology of Microsporidia that infect edible crustacea and with an EU consortium to understand the risk that these pathogens might pose to the growing insect rearing industry. Her full profile can be viewed [here](#).



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