

The Petri Dish

Welcome

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Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the Petri Dish, your monthly newsletter providing updates and bringing together the latest developments, discussions and opportunities from across the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) community.

This month, we presented our fifth seminar in our series, which brought Aqsa Hashmi and Abiodun Egwuenu, both Fleming Fund Fellowship Alumni, to the stage to talk about their Fellowship journey and the successes they have had since completing the fellowship. We are also delighted to announce the launch of our new Steering Committee, an important milestone in the development of our network. The Steering Committee will provide strategic direction, expert advice and support to help shape the future of our activities, ensuring that the voices and experiences of our community continue to inform our priorities.

There have been several important developments in the AMR landscape this month. The WHO continues to strengthen global and regional action against AMR. In August, Solomon Islands completed its latest Tracking Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self-Assessment Survey (TrACSS), contributing data across human, animal, agriculture, food and environmental sectors. This reflects the growing emphasis on coordinated, multisectoral approaches to AMR.

Additionally, the WHO's updated [Global Action Plan on AMR 2026–2036](#), adopted by Member States in May, provides the framework for global AMR action over the next decade. It places particular emphasis on prevention, surveillance, innovation, responsible antimicrobial use, sustainable financing and a coordinated One Health approach.

These developments demonstrate that AMR remains a rapidly evolving global challenge – but also highlight the opportunities created through collaboration, stronger surveillance, improved diagnostics, research and knowledge sharing. We hope you enjoy this month's AMR Petri Dish and, as always, welcome your contributions, ideas and opportunities to collaborate.

Best wishes,

Kerri Hill-Cawthorne
Senior Programme Manager
Fleming Initiative



Past and future events

Engagement recap

August Seminar: Stories from Fleming Fund Fellowship Programme



Our first
Steering
Committee
meeting

Upcoming events – register now!

September Seminar with Rod Card & Julius Sombie (17 Sep, 12.00 pm BST)



ESCMID Study Group for Mobile Elements and Plasmids Seminar: What drives the movement of antimicrobial resistance genes?



Network highlights

We are looking for some **photographs** across the Network for our future communications, promotional materials and presentation. **Please send any images** you are happy for us to use to: fellowship@fleminginitiative.org! We are particularly looking for:

Members in meetings



Profession in action



Congratulations



Dr Darshana Wickramasinghe was awarded the Governance award in Medway Foundation Trust 2026 Hospital award ceremony specially to appreciate the pathway relate to antimicrobial stewardship and leadership. Congratulations Darshana!

Involving the public in imagining an exhibition space for AMR

In October 2025, the Fleming Initiative ran two consultation workshops with 23 participants to inform our permanent AMR exhibition in the Fleming Centre. Because we recognise that AMR is a topic that can feel too complex or distant, and if we wanted to create a space that genuinely resonated with people and empowered them to take actions, we needed to understand what they wanted to know, feel, and do in that space.

Read more in our reflective [blog post](#).



Resources and opportunities

Public involvement spotlighted in policy discussion

To tackle antimicrobial resistance, we need society to understand why it matters, see how it affects people's lives, and feel empowered to be part of the solution.

Dr Emily Scott-Dearing, Public Engagement and Involvement Pillar Lead at the Fleming Initiative, joined the recent UK Parliamentary Roundtable on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). She highlighted the importance of moving beyond awareness towards meaningful public involvement, bringing together expertise from science, the arts, culture and public engagement to win hearts as well as minds. This means finding creative ways to make AMR relevant to people's lives, while also understanding what approaches can lead to changes in knowledge, attitudes and behaviour.

Read the full evidence report from the Roundtable [here](#).

New antimicrobial stewardship training module launched

Researchers at PGIMER, Chandigarh have contributed to the DMgtAsia programme, an initiative funded by the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills that aims to strengthen public health informatics capacity across Asia.

As part of the programme, the team helped develop a new Systems Approach for Antimicrobial Stewardship training module, designed to equip healthcare professionals and postgraduate students with the knowledge and practical skills needed to tackle antimicrobial resistance. The course uses systems thinking to explore the complex factors influencing antimicrobial use and stewardship, while highlighting the role of data in shaping effective policies and interventions.

More about the programme and its training opportunities at: dmgtasia.org

Free online AMR professional development programme

Developed by the Open University and the Fleming Fund, the new programme offers 29 flexible online courses and a practical toolkit designed to help professionals strengthen their knowledge, develop new skills and improve AMR surveillance practice in their own contexts.

Topics covered include the biology and global drivers of AMR, antimicrobial use in human and animal health, laboratory methods, antimicrobial susceptibility testing, quality assurance, surveillance systems, epidemiology, data management, policy and governance, and the application of a One Health approach to tackling AMR. Learners can follow role-specific pathways tailored to laboratory professionals, clinicians, veterinarians, policymakers, epidemiologists and data scientists, earning digital badges and certificates as they progress.

Since its launch, the programme has supported thousands of learners worldwide and continues to strengthen AMR surveillance capacity. Explore the free courses and learning pathways [here](#).

World AMR Awareness Week 2026

World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) – 18 to 24 November – is a global campaign to raise awareness and increase understanding of AMR and to promote global action to tackle the emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

WAAW 2026 will campaign around “**One Health, one action: Prevent AMR now**”. Our world is more connected than ever. The medicines that save lives, the food we produce, the economies we depend on, and the health of our environment are all connected. When drug-resistant pathogens emerge and spread, they impact our health, animal health, food security, economies, and sustainable development. Their emergence and spread are also influenced by the health of our environment. AMR is no longer a future challenge; it is a global threat. Read more [here](#).

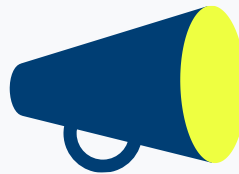
Let us know your plans for this WAAW!

We also want to spotlight your stories with us...

2026 has been a big year for us, with the launch of the Fleming Initiative Alumni Network – our first step towards building a strong global community of multidisciplinary, multi-sector and multi-professional people committed to tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through collaboration, innovation and coordinated action.

This WAAW, we want to help more people, understand the value of staying connected beyond a fellowship and how shared learning and collaboration can strengthen AMR responses around the world. We are inviting members of the Network to record a short video introducing yourself, sharing your role in tackling AMR, and reflecting on your experience with the Alumni Network so far. Your story could help inspire others and showcase the people driving change in AMR.

Please [email us](#) if you would like to participate.



New publications

- [Roadmapping the Future of AI-Enabled AMR Research: A Landscape of Community Priorities](#)
- [Infectious Diseases Society of America 2026 Guidance on the Treatment of Antimicrobial-Resistant Gram-Negative Infections](#)
- [Guidance on delivery of the antimicrobial prescribing targets of the UK AMR national action plan](#)
- [UKHSA launches toolkit for tackling AMR inequalities](#)
- [Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance in the WHO African Region: Progress, Challenges, and Strategic Priorities for the Future](#)
- [Strengthening Antimicrobial Stewardship in Nigeria: Qualitative and Quantitative Insights into Barriers, Enablers, and Implementation Strategies \(2015–2025\)](#)
- [Antibiotic resistance is spreading through South Africa's water systems: study explains how](#)
- [Factors influencing antimicrobial stewardship implementation in healthcare facilities in four countries of Southeast Asia: a mixed-methods study \(2022–23\)](#)
- [AI-Driven Workflow for Automated Colorimetric Isothermal Amplification for Robust Pathogen Detection on Portable Devices](#)





Conferences

- World One Health Congress (WOHC). (4-7 September, Lisbon, Portugal)
- World Health Summit (11-13 October, Berlin, Germany)
- International Congress for Infectious Diseases (ICID). (10-13 November, Madrid, Spain)
- The Federation of Infection Societies (FIS). (24-26 November, Glasgow, Scotland)
- Congress of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID). (9-13 April, Stockholm, Sweden)

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Healthcare leaders are in a special position to envision the future, mobilise people and synergise human skills and AI to benefit our patients.

Tip on leadership
presented by



Ong Ye Kung
Minister for Health,
Singapore

Thank you!

We would love to hear more from fellows and mentors and include you in The Petri Dish, so if you have any encouraging or interesting stories, thoughts, or learnings related to AMR, please do share them with us via fellowship@fleminginitiative.org

Your experiences and insights are invaluable!