The Petri Dish

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Welcome

Welcome to the October AMR Petri Dish Newsletter!

As we approach the final months of 2026, international developments have continued to reinforce the importance of translating global commitments into meaningful progress for tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at national and local levels.

A key development came from the Pan American Health Organization, where health leaders approved a new Plan of Action on Antimicrobial Resistance 2027–2031, aiming to strengthen surveillance, laboratory capacity, infection prevention and control, responsible antimicrobial use and access to diagnostics and vaccines across the Americas.

Meanwhile, new research published this month highlighted the challenges of diagnosing and responding to AMR in conflict-affected settings, reinforcing the importance of equitable access to diagnostics, resilient health systems and context-specific AMR interventions. See more in our publication list.

Looking ahead, World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW), taking place from 18–24 November, will provide an important opportunity for our community to raise awareness, share expertise and promote practical action. As always, we look forward to hearing about your plans for the week.

Within the Network, our collective expertise and connections remain vital to advancing AMR solutions. By strengthening collaboration, sharing learning and supporting one another to translate evidence into policy and practice, we hope the Network can help ensure that AMR knowledge leads to meaningful and lasting impact.

Best Wishes

Kerri Hill-Cawthorne
Senior Programme Manager
Fleming Initiative

Past and future events

Engagement recap

October Seminar: World AMR Awareness Week and communicating AMR

Upcoming events – register now!

October Seminar with Randa Ahmad from National One Health Alliance (19 Nov, 10.00am GMT)

Network highlights

We are looking for some photographs across the Network for our future communications, promotional materials and presentations. **Feel free to email us any images** you are happy for us to use! Examples:

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!

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 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 want to collate the work our members have been doing and celebrating this growing community of dedicated AMR professionals with a wider audience across Fleming Initiative and our partners' channels. And we would love to include and amplify your voices, your stories, your inspiring careers in the field.

Please email us if you would like to participate.

National One Health Alliance Raises Awareness on Rabies and Antimicrobial Resistance

The National One Health Alliance (NOHA) continues to promote community awareness of Rabies and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) through youth engagement, public education, and the One Health approach.

As part of these efforts, NOHA participated in the Children's Festival at Zaha Cultural Center – Khalda, Amman, engaging children through interactive activities on rabies prevention, safe and responsible interaction with animals, zoonotic diseases, and responsible antimicrobial use. During the festival, NOHA was recognised by Her Royal Highness Princess Aya bint Faisal for its participation and contribution to community awareness. This recognition highlighted the importance of youth-led initiatives in promoting One Health and public health awareness.

On 1 October 2026, NOHA further extended its community outreach through an awareness session at Mahis Comprehensive Health Center, organised in collaboration with local health and community committees. Delivered by veterinarian Dr Randa Ahmad, the session addressed rabies prevention and AMR, emphasising responsible health practices, prevention, and community participation.

Through these activities, NOHA continues to empower children, young people, and communities with practical knowledge about rabies prevention and AMR, demonstrating how coordinated action across human, animal, and environmental health can contribute to healthier and safer communities.

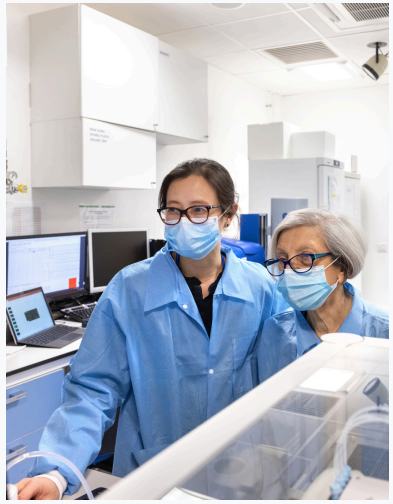
Resources and opportunities

CARB-X Announces 2nd Application Intake for 2026 Funding Round

The CARB-X 2026 funding round includes four distinct product themes: direct-acting therapeutics for infections caused by Gram-negative bacteria, target-based therapeutics for the CARB-X Novel Chemistry for AMR Challenge, non-vaccine approaches to prevent neonatal sepsis, and diagnostics for neonatal sepsis.

Applicants from around the globe are encouraged to apply, especially from areas where the burden of antibiotic resistance is high. Academic centres and non-commercial developers are also encouraged, if they can demonstrate similar capabilities expected of a drug development industry partner.

Expressions of Interest for the second cycle of the 2026 funding round will be accepted from November 10–23, 2026.



Target Product Profiles and minimal entry criteria for all funding themes are available on CARB-X.org. Make sure to read the Frequently Asked Questions and the informational slides prior to submitting your application, and email carbxptl@bu.edu if you have any questions.

WAAW 2026 Campaign Guide

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), collectively known as the Quadripartite, have jointly developed a campaign guide to support WAAW 2026 to provide key information and practical resources such as campaign theme, stakeholder actions-to-take, social media resources and access to multilingual communication materials.

Tip on leadership presented by amphealth

Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.

Peter Drucker
Social Ecologist and Leadership Philosopher

Register your WAAW activities with the Antibiotic Guardian

You are invited to register activities carried out during or around European Antibiotic Awareness Day/WAAW.

You can also access free educational, awareness-raising materials for developing your local activities here.

Call for applications to AMR policymaking course

Join the AMR Policy Accelerator for an 8-session online course in early 2027 that focuses on the evidence and tools needed to translate AMR priorities into practical policy action. It is designed for professionals from One Health sectors who want to better understand how policy decisions are made and influenced. Participants can take away the skills needed to better understand, assess, and advance AMR policy in their institutional and national contexts. Register here.

New publications

- The Lancet Commission on 21st century global threats to health
- Asia-Pacific countries sharpen plans to fight antimicrobial resistance, but most remain unfunded
- One Health in action: regional innovations and shared challenges in addressing antimicrobial resistance
- 2026 Antimicrobial Resistance Benchmark Report

Conferences

- International Congress for Infectious Diseases (ICID) (10-13 November, Madrid, Spain)
- The Federation of Infection Societies (FIS) (24-26 November, Glasgow, Scotland)
- AMR Conference (23-24 March 2027, Basel, Switzerland): Abstract submissions 16 November-15 January 2027
- Congress of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) (9-13 April 2027, Stockholm, Sweden): Abstract submissions 7 October-18 November; Registration opens 28 October
- 11th Symposium on Antimicrobial Resistance in Animals and the Environment (ARAE) (25-27 May 2027, Montreal, Canada): Abstract submission by 15 December

Let us know if you are attending **the 4th MSPP Plenary Annual Assembly in Rome, Italy on 16-18 November and/or the high-level meeting in Abuja, Nigeria on 6-8 December.** We look forward to connecting with you there!

We are looking for members of our network to support with developing our new digital platform that could strengthen knowledge sharing and connection across the AMR community. Are you interested in participating? Let us know by replying to fellowships@fleminginitative.org

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!

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