

The Petri Dish

Welcome

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Welcome

Welcome to the launch of the new version of the Petri Dish, now hosted by the Fleming Initiative. We are excited to see how this monthly newsletter shapes how we collaborate, innovate, and drive meaningful impact together. This initiative brings together a diverse community of professionals, researchers, and partners united by a shared commitment to tackling antimicrobial resistance through smarter data, stronger connections, and forward-thinking solutions. Whether you are joining us as a long-time contributor or a new participant, we are delighted to have you as part of this growing network.

We are also excited to share that [we have signed](#) a Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Health and Social Care, formalising the transition of Fleming Fund Fellowship Alumni Network.

In the coming months, this newsletter will serve as your gateway to programme updates, insights, success stories, and opportunities to engage. From highlighting groundbreaking work across the network to sharing practical resources and upcoming events, our goal is to keep you informed and inspired. We encourage you to actively participate, share your expertise, and help shape the direction of this collaborative effort as we work together to make a lasting difference.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact fellowship@fleminginitiative.org and spread the word of this new [initiative](#).

Best wishes,



Kerri Hill-Cawthorne
Senior Programme Manager for the Fleming Initiative

Meet the team

Mike Cooper, Fleming Fellowship Programme Coordinator

Firstly, I would like to welcome you all to the network, I look forward to getting to know you all. Some of you may know me from supporting the Phase II Fleming Fund Fellowships for Nigeria and Sierra Leone. I will be your point of contact at fellowship@fleminginitiative.org for any support you may need. I am looking forward working alongside you all and see the development of the network!



Mikayla Hu, Communication and Events Officer

Welcome to our new Alumni Network! As I support communications with our members, I am really excited to see this community grow and to share valuable opportunities with all of you. I also manage the Fleming Initiative's social media channels, and we'd love for you to connect with us and be part of the conversation there too.



Join our Alumni Network Group on LinkedIn!

We'd love for you to join our [Alumni Network LinkedIn Group](#), a space to stay connected, share updates, and discover opportunities within the community. We hope to keep the conversation going and engage with fellow alumni, so do come and be part of it!

Past and future events

Monthly Recap

March Townhall: Introduction to the Fleming Initiative Alumni Network



April Seminar: Optimised antimicrobial prescribing with Dr Steve Aston



April Townhall: Monthly recap and interactive survey



Upcoming events – register now!

May Townhall: Monthly recap and updates. Click on the button to register

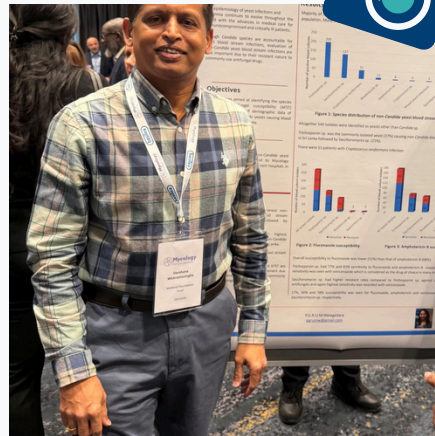


May Seminar: Speaker and topic will be confirmed via email. Click on the button to register



Network highlights

Dr Darshana Wickramasinghe received a “Highly Commended” recognition at the Healthcare Awards at Medway Foundation Trust, Gillingham, Kent, UK, for Quality Improvement work, particularly in Antimicrobial Stewardship activities in my role as Antimicrobial Stewardship Lead. Dr Wickramasinghe also attended the Mycology Fungal Update 2026 Conference held at the Royal College of Physicians, London, on 27–28 March 2026, which provided valuable insights into current developments in fungal infections, resistance control, stewardship and management.



Dr Darshana Wickramasinghe at the Mycology Fungal Update 2026 Conference



Upon completing his fellowship in 2023, **Kauke Bakari Zimbwe** developed a proposal to study antimicrobial use, consumption, and resistance patterns at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital, despite lacking funding for personal projects. This led to six publications, including a point prevalence survey on prescribing patterns, Daily Defined Dose analysis for consumption, and WHO/INRUD indicators for inpatient antimicrobial use. He also conducted a cost analysis of antibiotic procurement investigated drug resistance, and analysed 3 years of resistance data. These efforts refreshed the Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) committee at the hospital, supported protocol reviews, and laid the groundwork for AMS in critical areas like transplants and cancer treatments. Today, Zimbwe is pursuing a PhD on strengthening AMS for children with cancer in Africa, aiming for a sustainable, health-system-based model in Tanzania.



In February 2026, several Fleming Fund fellows joined CAMO-Net to attend the AMR 2026 Summit in Sydney, Australia. The three-day meeting focused on how global commitments

on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) can translate into delivery, with discussions spanning data, financing, stewardship, and implementation. Read more [here](#).

Resources and opportunities

In February 2026, the **Fleming Initiative** co-hosted a three-day summit in Sydney, Australia called “**AMR 2026: Securing a future where antimicrobials still save lives**”. This included more than 290 attendees from 37 countries. The [AMR 2026 Summit Report](#) is now live, with detailed summaries from over 25 sessions, capturing the most important discussions, along with practical actions you can implement immediately in your own context.

World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) have recently published their latest [Scientific and Technical Review](#). The current issue of WOAH’s Scientific and Technical Review revisits AMR more than a decade after its last dedicated issue, offering a timely and comprehensive update on the science, policy and practice shaping the global response.

The **2026 Vivli AMR Surveillance Data Challenge** is now open! This global competition invites researchers, students, and data scientists to analyse AMR surveillance data from the [Vivli AMR Register](#) – one of the most comprehensive datasets of its kind, covering 89 countries and spanning over 20 years of research. Teams of 2–5 are encouraged to apply. The Expression of Interest deadline is May 26, 2026. [Learn more and apply](#).

Funding opportunity from the Wellcome Trust: [Infectious Disease Clinical Trial Award: Optimising interventions for impact](#). The call, delivered in partnership with the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Research, is seeking teams based in Africa, South Asia, or Southeast Asia to lead a clinical trial that optimises licensed pharmaceutical interventions for infectious diseases, generating evidence that can inform changes to policy and practice. The application deadline is Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

New publications

- [The Lancet Commission on Sepsis: transforming sepsis care and outcomes](#)
- [The dual role of azoles: lifesaving antifungals and drivers of resistance – a One Health perspective](#)
- [Addressing Anti-Microbial Resistance in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Global Priority](#)
- [Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance](#)

We also encourage to share your publications with us so we can highlight your work across the network.

Tip on leadership

“

In a complex environment, influence comes not from authority alone, but from orchestrating the conditions in which people themselves generate the adaptive work needed for progress.

”

Ronald Heifetz, physician and co-founder of the Center for Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School

Quote presented by



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!

