Changes within the AMR Secretariat

Following the Director-General's announcement in December 2016, we sadly said farewell to Dr Keiji Fukuda, Special Representative for Antimicrobial Resistance. Dr Fukuda has been appointed as Professor of Public Health at Hong Kong University School of Public Health. The Director-General and all the staff in the AMR Secretariat congratulate Dr Fukuda on his new appointment, which recognizes his remarkable contribution to global health over many years at WHO, and previously at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

With the departure of Dr Fukuda, the Director-General announced the appointment of Dr Hajime Inoue as her Special Representative for Antimicrobial Resistance. Dr Inoue will also maintain his current function in overseeing and coordinating WHO preparation and engagement in upcoming high-level political and economic fora. Dr Inoue has previously worked in the secretariat of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, and has served as a member of the governing bodies of WHO, the Global Fund, UNAIDS and IARC. The AMR Secretariat will continue to be led by the Director for Antimicrobial Resistance, Dr Marc Sprenger.

Infection prevention & control priorities in low-resource settings

The Guidelines on Core Components of IPC Programmes at the National and Acute Health Care Facility Level were launched in November 2016. Implementation of the Guidelines will require strategic, realistic decision-making and adaption for successful adoption. The WHO IPC Global
Unit is now working with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop practical manuals for the field implementation of the Core Components for IPC programmes. To progress this work, an expert meeting was held in Geneva, December 2016. Meeting participants, drawn from a wide range of low- and middle-income countries provided valuable inputs and identified next steps with a timeline of work going through to July 2017. The core components and the implementation tools being developed will be powerful advocacy tools to continue to elevate the importance of IPC in combatting AMR.

A clean show of hands from participants at the expert meeting on “Infection prevention and control priorities for field implementation in low-resource settings”, Geneva, 15-17 December 2016

2nd Meeting of GLASS Collaborative Platform

A successful meeting took place in Geneva mid-December, immediately following the meeting that established the AMR Surveillance and Quality Assessment Collaborating Centres Network. Lively discussions on a variety of AMR technical challenges took place. These included feedback on a draft protocol for a GLASS rapid alert component; surveillance of emerging AMR in fungi causing invasive infections in humans; detection of colistin resistance among Enterobacteriaceae; and application of molecular methods to support AMR surveillance. The report of the meeting will be available shortly on the website.

Participants at the 2nd meeting of the GLASS Collaborative Platform, 15-16 December 2017, Geneva


7th AGISAR meeting

The 7th Meeting of the Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR) took place on 17-20 October 2016 in Raleigh, USA. During the meeting, AGISAR revised the list of critically important antimicrobials for human medicine; initiated the development of a WHO guideline on the use of antimicrobials in food producing animals; finalized the new edition of WHO AGISAR guidance document on integrated surveillance of AMR; and started to develop a global integrated surveillance protocol for ESBL-producing E.coli using a "One Health" approach. More information here.

Editor’s Picks


This guideline, aligned to GLASS procedures, has been developed specifically for implementation in low- and middle-income countries.

2. World’s first e-learning course for teaching diagnosis of fungal infection

A microscopy training course in 4 key modules. The course is designed to teach the identification of fungal infection by direct (wet) microscopy and by histology in a full range of tissue specimens. All that is required is a simple microscope. More here.

Driving change in antimicrobial stewardship in a low-resource setting

In 2012, Barbados’ 600-bed acute care hospital recorded an outbreak of Carbapenemase Resistant Klebsiella pneumonia. In low resource settings, outbreak events often highlight the fragility of the healthcare system and serve as a driver for change. At the time, the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) programme comprised one nurse. In response, the IPC Department was increased to five persons including and headed by an Infectious Diseases specialist.

By 2015, the IPC team had sufficient data to convince the Board of Management that an antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) programme was necessary and would have minimal cost implications for the hospital. The AMS team undertook to demonstrate: (i) a 6-12 month decrease in the overall cost of antibiotics, and (ii) a reduction in hospital length of stay. With support and mentorship from PAHO/WHO, activities to achieve these goals included a gap analysis, assessment of laboratory and pharmacological capacity, staff training, and a targeted approach starting in the intensive care units. Within three months, the team was able to demonstrate that AMS cut costs and improved diagnostic stewardship in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. Other benefits that accrued were a stronger relationship between laboratory and medical staff; greater public awareness through the use of television; and targeted awareness raising on AMS to commerce, agriculture and veterinary medicine.

Within six months, the hospital was willing to define clear job descriptions for the hire of two Clinical Pharmacists. Following Barbados’ success, several other Caribbean countries have sought assistance in developing their AMS programmes.

The full text of this article will shortly be available on the AMR website.

Delegates at the 2016 Caribbean IPC Week, at which the presentation on antimicrobial stewardship was given by Dr Corey Forde, Lead, Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Barbados.
Resources

- Antimicrobial resistance: aide-memoire. Click here.
- Antimicrobial resistance for policy makers. Click here.
- Antimicrobial resistance: A manual for developing national action plans and supporting documents and tools. Click here.
- Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) documents and tools.
- For information on infection prevention and control, click here.
- For information on antimicrobial resistance and the food chain, click here.
- For AMR activities at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, click here.
- For AMR activities at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), click here.
- Information on HIV drug resistance available here.
- Information on anti-malarial drug resistance and containment available here.
- For information on multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), click here.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17-19</td>
<td>One health NAP meeting for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam</td>
<td>Hanoi, Viet Nam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 18-20</td>
<td>Programme budget and administration committee meeting</td>
<td>WHO HQ, Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 23-Feb 1</td>
<td>Executive Board meeting 140th Session</td>
<td>WHO HQ, Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 24-27</td>
<td>Africa Region NAP meeting</td>
<td>Harare, Zimbabwe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 28-Apr 1</td>
<td>WPRO NAP meeting</td>
<td>Manila, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates TBD</td>
<td>STAG teleconference</td>
<td>WHO HQ, Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 27-28</td>
<td>GLASS 2nd Member State consultation</td>
<td>Stockholm, Sweden</td>
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Please let us know of your upcoming events for inclusion in the newsletter. We also welcome your suggestions and comments. For all communications, and if you would like to subscribe to the newsletter, please contact the Secretariat at whoamrsecretariat@who.int. Responsibility for newsletter contents rests with the AMR Secretariat Director: Marc Sprenger.

Newsletter editor: Breeda Hickey.