



Global Advocacy and a New Antibiotic in the Fight Against AMR

Welcome to
**The AMR Global
Health Academy**
July/August 2024

Welcome to the bimonthly AMR Global Health Academy Newsletter, July/August edition. The AMR Global Health Academy serves the global health professional and antimicrobial steward in low- and middle-income countries with a free online educational curriculum designed to advance AMR knowledge and best practices. Every two months we share important updates from the AMR field, especially as it relates to AMR testing, diagnostics, and surveillance. We also present AMR problem-solving case studies and feature laboratories and AMR champions battling real-world AMR problems.



News Story

New resolution on antimicrobial resistance from the World Health Assembly



During the 77th World Health Assembly, delegates approved a [resolution](#) to accelerate national and global responses on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). As reported in the [May/June AMR Newsletter](#), it is estimated that 1.3 million deaths per year are attributable to AMR globally. The resolution welcomes the [WHO strategic and operational priorities to address drug-resistant bacterial infections, 2025-2035](#) and encourages Member States to apply the four strategic priorities, one of which includes universal access to affordable, quality diagnosis.

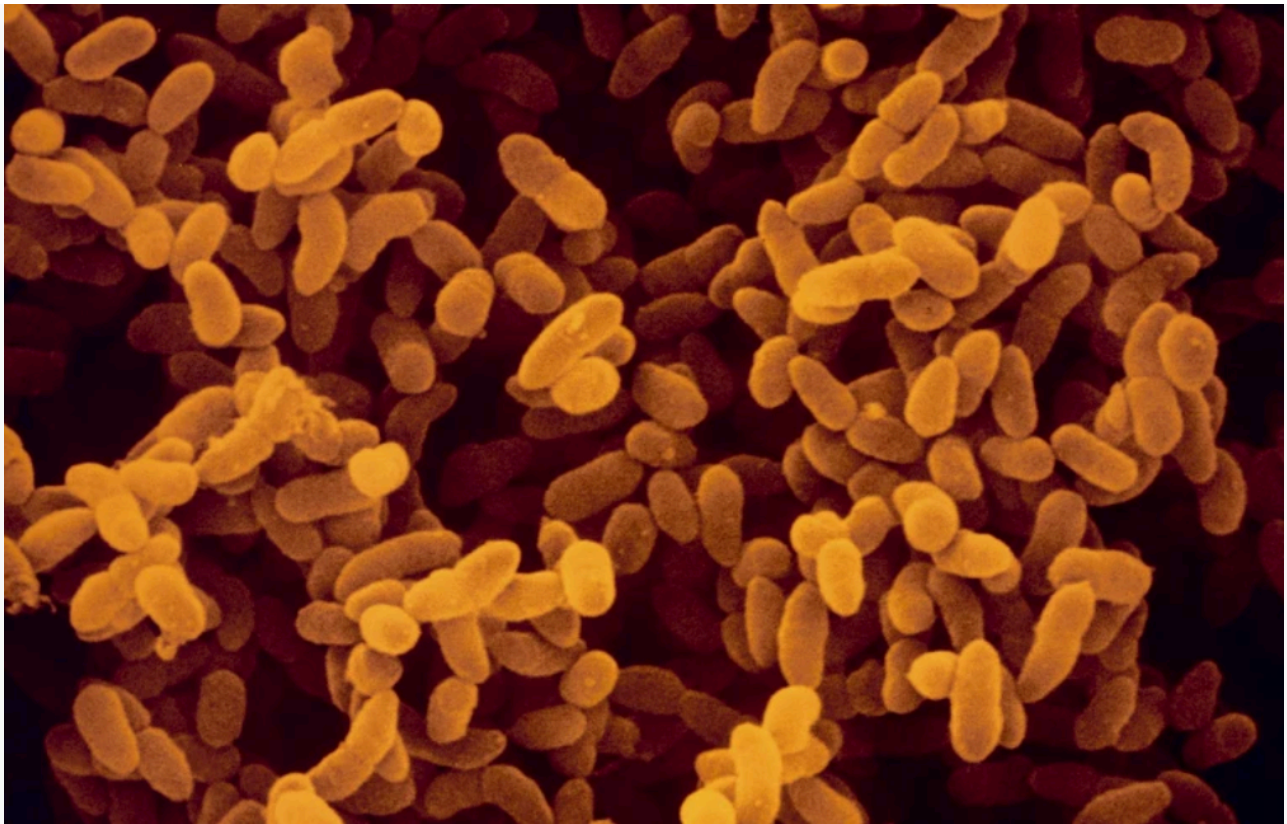
The resolution includes several, specific diagnostics-related interventions, including urging Member States to:

- Strengthen the capacities and standards of laboratories, including in respect of a trained workforce and systems of surveillance for antimicrobial resistance; to participate in the WHO's Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS);
- Promote timely and equitable supply of quality and affordable essential vaccines, diagnostics and antimicrobials, and ensure their appropriate use including by applying the WHO Access, Watch and Reserve (AWaRe) list; to strengthen diagnosis, infection prevention and control and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in health care facilities; to support access to services by patients; and to undertake all the above-mentioned actions in accordance with national context;
- Support innovative initiatives that foster research and development for new vaccines, diagnostic tools, antimicrobials, therapeutics, and alternatives to traditional antibiotics, including basic, applied and implementation research and research on novel approaches to infection prevention and control and antimicrobial stewardship;

A second UN General Assembly [High-Level Meeting](#) on AMR will take place in September 2024.

Article Spotlight

New, potential antibiotic for fighting AMR



Gram-negative bacteria such as *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (artificially coloured) are often resistant to multiple antibiotics, but they succumb to a new compound called lolamicin. Credit: Dr Tony Brain/Science Photo Library

A recent study and news story published in [Nature](#) has received significant buzz. Researchers have studied a new antibiotic, lolamicin, and found that in mice the drug can effectively fight several bacteria without impacting or affecting the natural and helpful gut bacteria – as many antibiotics tend to do. The antibiotic is specific to gram-negative bacteria, which allowed for the maintained microbiome, and was effective against a panel of more than 130 multidrug-resistant isolates.

Though a thrilling new finding, particularly considering the paucity of new classes of antibiotics active against gram-negative bacteria, additional research is necessary. For example, understanding the potential for drug resistance as well as the tolerability and effectiveness in humans would be key next steps.

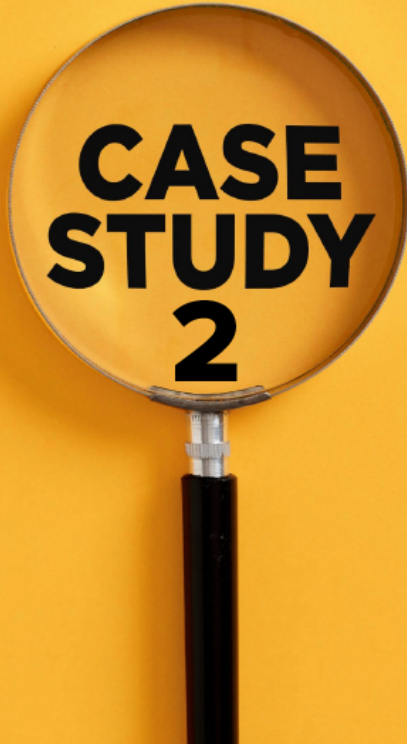
Creating AMR awareness

The Global Health Continuing Professional Development (GHCPD) course, [Microbiology Laboratory Testing to Address AMR](#), describes AMR tests and methodologies to strengthen the capacity and standards of AMR laboratories and surveillance programs.

The GHCPD course, [The Laboratory in the Prevention and Control of Healthcare-associated Infections: Making healthcare facilities safer](#), discusses infection prevention

and control (IPC) effects on health care facilities and antimicrobial resistance.

The [GHCPD platform](#) consistently presents new research and innovations in diagnostics and testing.



Want to test your knowledge in AMR?

See case study 2 here to solve a puzzling case of interesting blood culture results from a patient presenting at the emergency room department with a fever in a West African country.

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Case 1 Survey Responses and Analysis

Thank you to all who participated in our first AMR problem solving case study! In this case, we investigated a hospital ICU patient in India with *Acinetobacter baumannii* complex ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP). We summarize the steps we took to identify the organism and guide treatment. [Click here](#) to see.

Don't Miss

Sysmex Astrego has won the £8m [Longitude Prize](#) on AMR for the PA-100 AST System, a

point-of-care test that supports the identification of the most common uropathogenic bacterial species in fresh urine and their resistance profile.

WHO has released an updated [WHO Bacterial Priority Pathogens List](#), 2024.

Find the US-CDC's Lab Assessment of Antibiotic Resistance Testing Capacity (LAARC) [Toolkit here](#). The User's Guide and Questionnaire is available in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

WHO announces the members of the first [Task Force](#) of Antimicrobial Resistance survivors.

To join the AMR Global Health Academy, enroll in the Global Health Continuing Professional Development (GHCPD) free online [AMR courses here](#).

What's Next

The global community, countries, and researchers should continue to work together in an effort to combat AMR. Continued advocacy, collaboration, and innovation may allow for continued optimism to turn into success.



Support for this initiative has been provided through an unrestricted educational grant from bioMérieux.

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