Wishing everyone a joyous season!

We would like to thank all of our colleagues and members of the AMR Global Health Academy. This has been an exciting year for us, especially with the launch of the Academy and the Newsletter. This will be the last newsletter for this year. See you in 2025!

Antimicrobial resistance takes center stage

The AMR Global Health Academy Newsletter

December 2024

Welcome back to the AMR Global Health Academy Newsletter. In this edition we cover the UNGA second High-level Meeting on AMR and feature partner project updates and numerous new articles on AMR. Plus, highlight upcoming events.

News Story

Political commitment at the United Nations General Assembly

The second High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance took place on 26 Sept 2024 as the principal official health-focused event during the UN General Assembly. The first High-Level meeting took place in 2016. A number of key links can be found **here**.

A **multi-stakeholder hearing** on Antimicrobial Resistance was held during the General Assembly of the United Nations in May 2024, as part of the preparatory process for the High-Level meeting. A **policy brief** was subsequently developed by the quadripartite group that highlighted key recommendations and priorities for the 2024 UNGA High-Level meeting. The five key recommendations include:

1. Implement measures for effective sub-national, national, regional, and global governance, leadership, and coordination
2. Allocate adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing for the AMR response

3. Commit to actionable targets and bolster monitoring and strategic information systems, to guide and accelerate the AMR response
4. Prevent the emergence and spread of AMR through system-wide transformation across human, animal, plant and environmental sectors
5. Urgently address the research and development (R&D) and access crisis across sectors

Based on these, a **political declaration** was developed in preparation for the High-Level Meeting that included a variety of commitments within the following areas:

- Governance
- Financing
- Access
- Coordinated Multisectoral Response
- Research and Development, Training, Innovation, and Manufacturing
- Surveillance and Monitoring

As reported by the **World Health Organization**, *global leaders have approved the above political declaration at the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), committing to a clear set of targets and actions, including reducing the estimated 4.95 million human deaths associated with bacterial antimicrobial resistance (AMR) annually by 10% by 2030.*

A number of interesting articles reporting on the High-Level meeting can be found at **World Economic Forum** and **Devex** as well as an *Editors in Conversation* **podcast** from the *American Society for Microbiology*.

Finally, in November, the 4th Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on AMR was **held** in Saudi Arabia. The meeting focused on how to implement the commitments made during the 2024 UNGA High-Level Meeting on AMR.

AMR **campaign** tools and materials were developed for World AMR Awareness Week 2024 that can still be useful in advocacy, communication, and fundraising efforts.
#AntimicrobialResistance, #AMR, #AMRsurvivors

Article Spotlight

Tackling antimicrobial resistance

A recent **commentary** was published in Lancet Microbe that highlighted **five proposed blind spots** within the AMR field that if of focus and prioritized could accelerate progress towards global goals and alleviate morbidity and mortality.

The five AMR blind spots include:

- That the largest AMR burden and crisis are in LMICs
- Efforts to curb the widespread antimicrobial abuse at the primary care level are scarce: more than 85% of antibiotic use is in the community
- Big dispensers of antibiotics include pharmacies and informal providers with little to no medical training
- Antibiotic abuse in livestock animals is substantially higher than that in humans
- The focus of AMR research is on developing new antibiotics while neglecting the need for diagnostics

In the lead-up to the multi-stakeholder meeting and UNGA High-Level meeting, this interesting opinion **piece** was published advocating for drug resistant TB to be considered a key strategy within the global response to antimicrobial resistance. In 2022, nearly half a million people developed multidrug resistant TB, which resulted in over 150,000 deaths. Integrating efforts through closer inclusion and coordination could lead to more efficient systems through leveraging resources and systems from both settings.

In Case You Missed It

ASLM's Mapping Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use Partnership (**MAAP**) project focuses on the response to the global threat of antimicrobial resistance, with the goal of improving laboratory capacity and diagnosis, as well as data and surveillance of AMR through a 'One Health' approach.

The **World Antimicrobial Resistance Congress** took place in September 2024 in Philadelphia, USA.

A recent systematic literature **review** looked at the rates of AMR in the African region.

Africa CDC hosted a **side event** at the first World One Health Congress in Africa (September 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa) that focused on AMR.

OpenWHO developed a **course**, *Antimicrobial Resistance in the environment: key concepts and interventions*. In this course, participants will learn why addressing AMR in the environment is essential and gain insights into how action can be taken to prevent and control AMR in the environment at the national level.

ASLM and Fleming Fund co-convened an UNGA **side event** focused on strengthening AMR surveillance systems across Africa and Asia.

Lancet Digital Health just published a **series** *Addressing antimicrobial resistance with digital approaches*.

Don't Miss

The US Presidential Advisory Council on Combatting Antimicrobial Resistance Bacteria will host an online and in-person meeting 28-29 January 2025 in Washington, DC. This meeting will seek input into the national action plan and how to sustain political momentum built during the UNGA High-Level Meeting on AMR. See **here** for details and to register.

The 9th AMR Conference 2025 is 25-26 February 2025 in Basel, Switzerland. Click **here** to register.

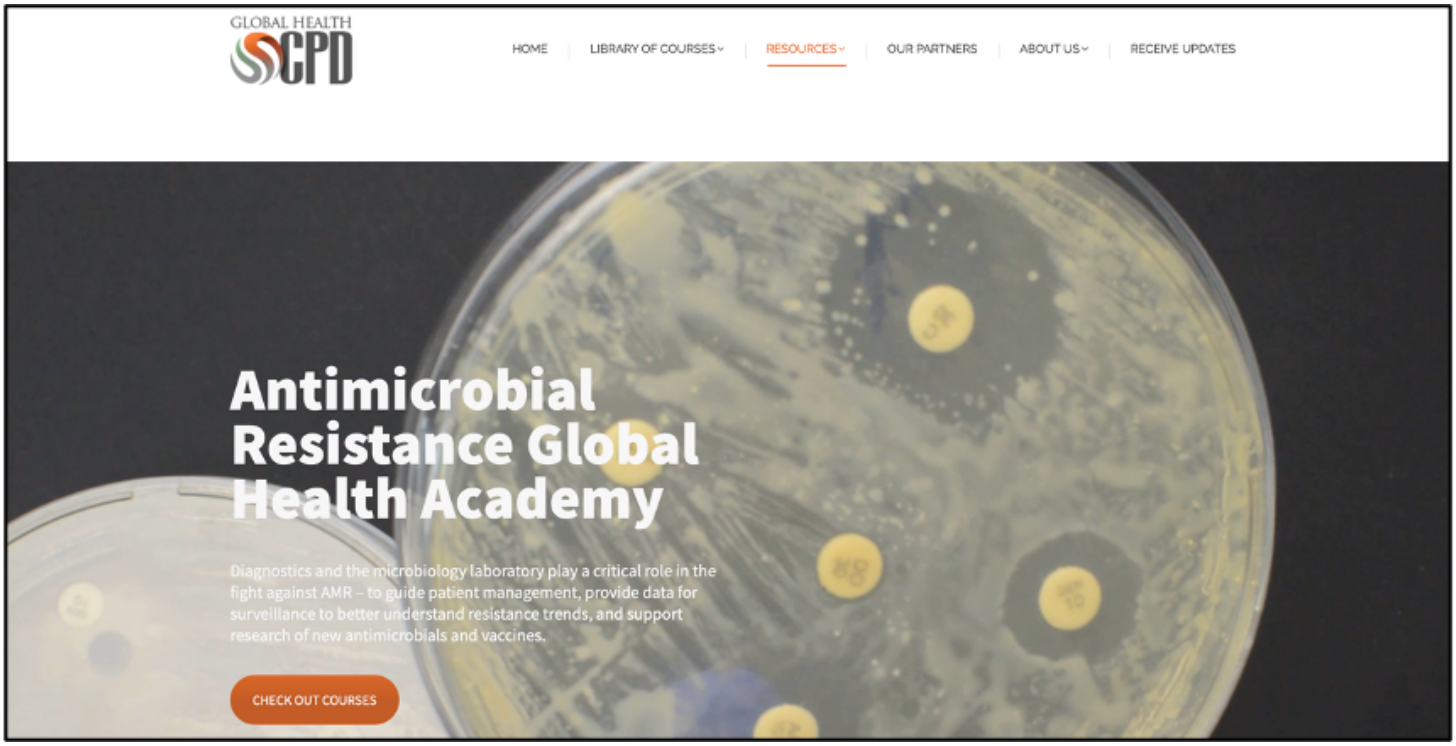
The annual meeting of the European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases is 11-15 April 2025 in Vienna, Austria. See **here** for details.

The AMR Global Health Academy is profiling its Scientific Advisors through LinkedIn. Follow us **here**.

What's Next

As we wrap up 2024 with such a focus on the need for stronger surveillance, the AMR Global Health Academy is gearing up to launch our next course - **Building Capacity for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Low- and Middle-Income Countries** - January 2025 (English, French, Portuguese, Spanish). But, for our Academy members (YOU!) we are giving a sneak preview of this 2 week course in English. Feel free to check out Week 1 **here**.

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. Courses and activities are available in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.



Here are some of our courses:

- **Microbiology Laboratory Testing to Address AMR**, describes AMR tests and methodologies to strengthen the capacity and standards of AMR laboratories and surveillance programs.
- **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 **AMR Problem Solving Case Studies Series**, provides the learner real world problems to apply their skills and critical thinking.
- In the **AMR Case Studies Series**, faculty share how our courses have impacted their programs.

To join the AMR Global Health Academy, enroll in any of the Global Health Continuing Professional Development (GHCPD) free online AMR courses.

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