

The Petri Dish

Welcome

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We are always looking for stories from Fellows and opportunities to share knowledge. If you have a story or articles you'd like featured in a future newsletter, please email us!



FlemingFellowshipScheme@mottmac.com



FlemingFund.org



Hello,

We are fast approaching the end of 2021 and I wanted to show you what we have achieved with the roll out of the Fellowships to date. As you can see on the table to the right, 178 Fellowships have been awarded. Next year we will start showing Fellowship Alumni as a separate figure.

This month, we have another packed issue for you with four Field Notes articles! Thank you to those who have sent them in and please do keep them coming so we can share your stories with the wider Fellowship community. It is interesting to see that the Fellows from Senegal and Malawi both have projects on resistance in *Escherichia coli* from humans and animals. Hopefully they can get together and compare notes with their mentors from Fondation Mérieux and the University of Edinburgh, respectively.

We also thought you might like to have a bit of fun with an end of year quiz. You can find the questions on p. 2. So, I hope that you manage to take a break before the start of 2022 and you can reflect on this year and realise how much we have all achieved individually, as well as collectively, to work towards a healthier world.

Very best wishes,



Professional Fellows – Cohort I		
Region	Fellowships Available	Fellowships Awarded
South East Asia	35	27
South Asia	42	39
East and Southern Africa	42	40
West Africa	23	22
Total	142	128
Professional Fellows – Cohort II		
South East Asia	8	7
South Asia	9	9
East and Southern Africa	8	5
West Africa	9	7
Total	34	28
Policy Fellows		
South East Asia	6	6
South Asia	6	5
East and Southern Africa	8	7
West Africa	4	4
Total	24	22
Total across all regions		
	Fellowships Available	Fellowships Awarded
	206	178

Upcoming Events

January Fellows Webinar – Wednesday 12th January, 08:30 GMT -

The Fellows webinar series returns in the new year with a celebration of the Nigeria Cohort I Fellows who have completed their activities.

The Nigeria Fellows will be sharing insights from their work and collaborative projects. The Technical University of Denmark and The UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England), will also speak on their experience as Host Institutions for these Fellows.

Invitations to the January webinar have been included with this issue of the Petri Dish. Please contact FlemingFellowshipScheme@mottmac.com with any questions on connecting to this event.

Quarterly Reporting Deadline – Monday 10th January 2022 - The deadline for all reporting for the October-December 2021 quarter is 10th January. Host Institutions please submit monitoring forms, financial reporting documents and updated asset inventories for relevant cohorts by this date.

Fleming Fellowship Satisfaction Survey - Fellows, Beneficiary Institutions and Host Institutions have now been sent the latest round of the Fleming Fellowship Scheme Satisfaction Survey. The survey focuses on the quality and relevance of the Fellowship Scheme, and responses feed into future development and refinement of the programme.

The deadline for all responses is **5:30pm on 28th January 2022** (in your local time zone). Please note that surveys have only been sent to active Fellows who have commenced their workplan activities. You can contact your Regional Fellowship Officer if you haven't received a survey or require any assistance.

2021 Fellows Symposium Feedback Survey - We will be closing the 2021 [Fellows Symposium feedback survey](#) at the end of the year.

The feedback survey is where you can share what you enjoyed in the 2021 Symposium, what could have been improved, and what you want to see in the 2022 event. It takes 5 mins to complete and can be submitted anonymously.

2021 Fellowship Quiz

Put your knowledge of the Fleming Fellowships to the test with this quiz!

1. Fleming Fellows are based in countries throughout Asia and Africa. Which country has the most Fellows (both past and present)?
2. There are almost 50 different kinds of Fellowships, from AMU/C Surveillance Animal Health, to AMR Lab Aquaculture. But what is the most common type of Fellowship?
3. At the 2021 Fellows Symposium, Dame Sally Davies used a metaphor with an animal to describe AMR. What was the animal in Dame Sally's metaphor?
4. The Fleming Fund is named after bacteriologist Alexander Fleming who discovered penicillin. What did Fleming win in 1945?
5. In which year did the World Health Organisation launch GLASS (the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System)?
6. Where is the most recent Fellow to join the Fellowships from?
7. How many Host Institutions are there in the Fellowship Scheme?
8. The last World One Health Congress was held virtually in 2020. What city is hosting the Congress in 2022?
9. Which Fleming Fellowship countries have the highest and lowest populations?
10. Which Host Institution has the greatest distance (in km) between its Fellowship countries?

Answers are on p. 3

ARE YOU ON THE FLEMING FUND MAILING LIST?

The Fleming Fund sends out monthly newsletters with more information on external events and achievements from across the programme, including Country and Regional Grants.

If you are not receiving these emails, you can sign up using [THIS FORM](#).



Information on Publications

As more Fellows seek to publish work in peer reviewed literature as part of their Fellowship activities, please adhere to the following guidance with respect to acknowledging support from the Fleming Fund.

Publishing work from Fellowship Activities

Fellows and mentors are free to publish work resulting from their activities on the Fleming Fund in peer reviewed literature without asking permission from Mott MacDonald or the UK Department of Health and Social Care.

For major publications or those with a significant message, please send a pre-publication copy to eileen.chappell@mottmac.com so that we can coordinate appropriate media coverage.

Acknowledgements

Publications must acknowledge the funding source (UKAid) and the Fleming Fund. If in doubt please contact our communications officer or your regional Fellowship Scheme Officer.

Budget Planning

Where potential publications have been included in a workplan, relevant fees should also be included in the budget to support publication. There is no additional Fleming Fund budget to cover unforeseen publication costs.

Post-Publication

Please share a copy of your publications with us.

We are very happy to receive notifications of your publications for inclusion in the Petri Dish and, where possible, provide a link.



2021 Fellowship Quiz - Answers

1. Fleming Fellows are based in countries throughout Asia and Africa. Which country has the most Fellows (both past and present)?
A: Nigeria, 15 Fellows
2. There are almost 50 different kinds of Fellowships, from AMU/C Surveillance Animal Health, to AMR Lab Aquaculture. But what is the most common type of Fellowship? **A: AMR Surveillance, Human Health, 27 Fellows**
3. At the 2021 Fellows Symposium, Dame Sally Davies used a metaphor with an animal to describe AMR. What was the animal in Dame Sally's metaphor? **A: A lobster**
4. The Fleming Fund is named after bacteriologist Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin. What did Fleming win in 1945? **A: The Nobel Prize in Medicine**
5. In which year did the World Health Organisation launch GLASS (the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System)?
A: 2015
6. Which country is the most recent Fellow to join the Fellowships from?
A: Nepal
7. How many Host Institutions are there in the Fellowship Scheme? **A: 13**
8. The last World One Health Congress was held virtually in 2020. What city is hosting the Congress in 2022? **A: Singapore**
9. Which Fleming Fellowship countries have the highest and lowest populations? **A: Indonesia and Timor-Leste**
10. Which Host Institution has the greatest distance (in km) between its Fellowship countries? **A: Fondation Mérieux - Laos and Senegal (12508.14 km between capital cities)**

Field Notes

Indonesia Cohort I Fellows visit the Netherlands

In November, four Cohort I Fellows from Indonesia travelled to the Netherlands for training and in-person learning activities throughout the country. The trip and activities were organised by Host Institution, the Erasmus Medical Centre (MC).

During the trip, Fellows were able to meet with their mentors and visit the labs, universities and institutions where they work.

The first day was spent at Radboud University in Nijmegen. Prof. Heiman Wertheim gave Fellows an informative tour of the facility, including the lab, and explained Laboratory Information System. The Fellows also discussed AMU while at Radboud University.

The following day focussed on animal health. Mentor Jaap Wagner introduced the Fellows to the vet school at Utrecht University and provided an overview of the department's research. They spoke with faculty members on AMU data collection

and analysis in the Netherlands, antimicrobial stewardship in animal husbandry, and veterinary microbiology. Fellows also visited a dairy and pig farm, as well as an equine clinic.

Next, the Fellows visited RIVM, the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment. Here, mentor Carolien Ruesen guided the Fellows through the RIVM labs and joined in a round table discussion with Fellows and other RIVM researchers on a project looking at preparedness and rapid response to colistin resistance in the Netherlands.

The final days of the visit were spent at Erasmus Medical Centre. During this time, Fellows visited labs and took part in a sequencing workshop. While at Erasmus Medical Centre, the Fellows also tuned into the 2021 Fleming Fellows Symposium and were able to listen to the panels and participate in group discussions together.



Visiting a Lab at Erasmus MC, clockwise from left: Titiek Sulistyowati, Juliëtte Severin (mentor), Hans den Boer (AMR Technician), Nunu Triwijayanti, Dinarti Kardono, and Tri Pudy Asmarawati (photos from Erasmus MC)



Fellows visit RIVM, from left to right: Tri Pudy Asmarawati, Carolien Ruesen (mentor), Dinarti Kardono, Nunu Triwijayanti, and Titiek Sulistyowati. (photos from Erasmus MC)

Field Notes

Senegal Fellows progress with training in France

The Senegal Fleming Fellows have been very productive this autumn. During a visit to France, they took part in three training courses organized by their Host Institution, Fondation Mérieux and its partner organisations.



Senegal Fellows attend the Leadership One Health/Global Health Course, organised by VetAgro Sup in Lyon, France. From left to right : Anta Diagne, Gerome Sambou, Aissatou Ahmet Niang, Leadership Trainer, Seynabou Lo, Bissoume Sambe and Alpha Diallo. (Photo from VetAgro Sup)

This programme included a bioinformatics training course co-organized by Fondation Mérieux and ANSES (the French National Agency for Food, the Environment and Work), in Lyon. The general objectives of this course were to understand the various 'Next Generation Sequencing' (NGS) techniques, use basic bioinformatics systems with the help of the Galaxy platform, and analyse Illumina and MinION sequencing data on bacterial isolates.

The Fellows also took part in the “2nd Antimicrobial Course: a One Health Challenge” organized by the Mérieux Foundation and the Université de Paris at Les Pensières-Center for Global Health. The course advocates for the value of a One Health approach to fight against AMR, and builds capacity for critical decision making in lower and middle-income countries through education, partnerships and networks.

Rounding out the programme was a “Leadership One Health/Global Health” course organized by the VetAgro Sup institution in Lyon. This training course aimed to strengthen skills, leadership and cooperation in the fight against antimicrobial resistance. Fellows also learned how to implement One Health projects in a world of transition.

Before leaving, the Fellows shared their feedback on the courses they took part in and their overall experience in France; “It was a real cocktail of positive vibes, thank you,” said one Fellow.

On their return to Senegal, some Fellows were able to follow “Afro-ACDx”, the first advanced course on diagnostics on the African continent in French, organized by the Fondation Mérieux in Saly, Senegal. They also took part in an online course titled “Autogenous vaccines: use and regulation” organized by VetAgro Sup.

The Fellows also have continued to work on a collaborative project entitled “Characterization of resistant strains of *Escherichia coli* from human and animal origin using a One Health approach in the regions of Dakar and Saint-Louis (Senegal).”

We know many Host Institutions are planning visits with Fellows in 2022. We do hope these trips can take place and Fellows and mentors can connect in person.

Please do continue sharing photos and itineraries with us to feature in future issues of the Petri Dish newsletter.

Field Notes

A Collaborative Project Update from Malawi

Malawi Cohort I Fellows are currently working on a collaborative project titled *"Characterization of resistance patterns and AMR drivers of Escherichia coli isolated from poultry, humans and the environment in the central region of Malawi: A One Health Approach"*.

In this collaborative project, all six Fellows are investigating the links between antimicrobial resistance and the use of antimicrobials on poultry farms in Malawi.

Their study will examine patterns of antibiotic resistance in *E. coli* isolated from poultry from different types of chicken farms. These profiles will then be compared with samples taken from farm workers as well as samples taken from the local environment.

The project will also investigate knowledge, attitudes and practices related to antibiotic use amongst farm workers.

Dr Adrian Muwonge, from the University of Edinburgh (Host Institution for the Malawi Fellowships), attended a 3-day workshop in November with the Fellows in Lilongwe to discuss the collaborative project.

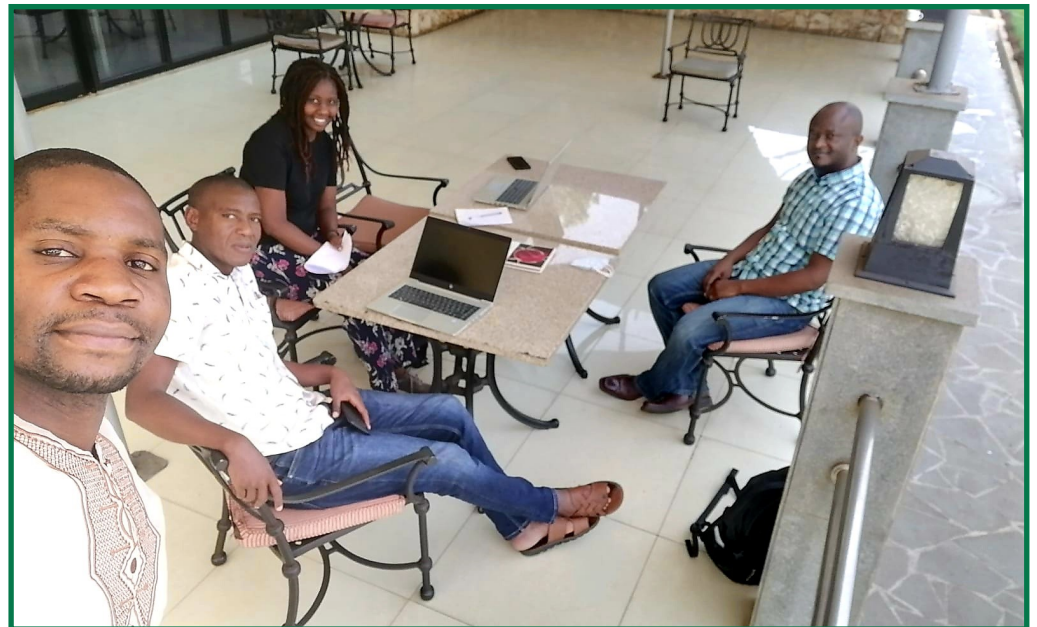
Together, they reviewed further aspects of the project that will be added to the implementation plan. They also drafted a budget and considered a list of consumables. As part of the next step for this project, some consumables will need to be sourced from Edinburgh.

Great work from the Malawi Fellows on your collaborative project progress so far and we look forward to more updates in 2022.

Top photo, from left to right: Mike Luwe, Catherine Kamwana, Dr. Adrian Muwonge (University of Edinburgh), Williams Mwantoma

Bottom photo, Fellows attend a project planning workshop with Dr Adrian Muwonge in Lilongwe.

(Photos from Williams Mwantoma and Dr Adrian Muwonge)



Field Notes

Report from the Uganda Antimicrobial Awareness Week

The 2021 World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) activities in Uganda began with a launch event in Entebbe at the National Animal Disease Diagnostics and Epidemiology Centre (NADDEC), part of the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries. Ministries, including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, and Ministry of Water and Environment, NGOs, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and Infectious Disease Institute, and local governments were all represented.



Uganda Cohort II and Policy Fellows Musa Sekamatte, Michael Kimaanga, Israel Mugezi, and Franklin Mayanja at the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week event in Uganda (photo from Musa Sekamatte).

During the first two days of WAAW, members from both national and local groups shared information on AMR. Strategies for the slowing down the emergence and spread of AMR were highlighted during the launch event. Here, Cohort II Fleming Fellows from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health had an opportunity to share their experience in addressing the consequences of AMR and how their Fellowships will help build capacity to handle AMR challenges throughout the country.

WAAW extended to the Masaka District where different stakeholders, including farmers, politicians, religious leaders and policy makers, were invited to embrace World AMR Awareness Week. While in Masaka, the Uganda Policy and Cohort II Fellows conducted an AMR awareness campaign, where they met with local farmers and distributed leaflets with information on AMR. This campaign aligns with one of the strategies from the Uganda National Action Plan on AMR: to develop and disseminate comprehensive communication materials to various stakeholders.

For the Uganda Fellows, there is a strong link between understanding antimicrobial use, including resistance prevention and containment, and social engagement: raising awareness, effective communication, coordination, collaboration and education. Social engagement is, therefore, critical in addressing the way antimicrobials are misused and promoting best practices necessary for slowing down the problem of AMR.



The Fellows visiting farmers in Masaka District villages to generate Awareness on AMR (photo from Musa Sekamatte).