

# THE FLEMING FUND

## THE PETRI DISH

– Contact [Megan.Howe@mottmac.com](mailto:Megan.Howe@mottmac.com) with any feedback –

### Editors Notes

Greetings to our readers - we hope you are healthy and staying well during this period. Our issue this month includes biographies from Fellows in Bangladesh and the experience of one Fellow working on the COVID-19 response in Zambia.

## Programme Updates & News

### COVID-19 & Health System Strengthening

The South Centre has produced a policy brief highlighting how COVID-19 can help strengthen health systems. [Read more here.](#)

### Upcoming Fellowship Webinar

We will be holding a webinar for Fellows on Wednesday, 5th August at 08:30 British Summer Time (07:30 UTC). This webinar will be an opportunity for Fellows to connect, raise questions, and will include two short presentations on relevant AMR/U/C topics. The Mott MacDonald Fellowships team will be sending out a link and agenda to all Fellows.

### One Health Capacity Building to Tackle Pandemics

One Health Bangladesh has been organising a series of webinars in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out this one on “One Health Capacity Building to Tackle Pandemics” featuring our Fleming Fund Country Grantee in Bangladesh. [Watch here.](#)

### Kenya Workshop in Review

At the end of June, we welcomed five new Fellows from Kenya to the Fleming Fellowship Scheme through the workplan development

workshop held, for the first time, entirely online. The constraints for working remotely meant that we had to adopt a different approach to achieve the desired outcome. The Fellowship Team and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) – the Host Institution for the Kenya Fellowships – started preparations almost two months in advance. Over this time, the programme was refined, video conferencing platforms were debated, and home offices were transformed into recording booths.

To deliver the workshop, we needed to ensure Fellows could still receive critical information and stay involved even in the event of a connection difficulty. One solution was to develop a resource library with videos, guides and questionnaires. The resources gave Fellows and their mentors an introduction to the Fellowship programme ahead of time and kept them informed throughout the meetings. It was very exciting to see everyone finally coming together on the video link and wonderful to hear the Fellows discussing common areas of interest and possible collaborative projects. A big “Thank You” to all the Fellows for taking the time to prepare for the workshop and participate with such enthusiasm, and to the LSHTM team for their tremendous contribution including hosting the workshop. We look forward to seeing the Fellows progress to the next stage of their fellowships.

### AMR Course: A One Health Challenge, 19-23 April, 2021

The Mérieux Foundation and Université de Paris have combined their expertise to hold a residential intensive training course on AMR from a One Health perspective, principally targeting audiences from low- and middle-income countries. The course aims to build capacity for critical decision-making in low-and middle-income countries through education, partnerships and networks. For more information, contact the Course Manager Valentina Picot: [valentina.picot@fondation-merieux.org](mailto:valentina.picot@fondation-merieux.org)



# Programme Updates & News



## Zambia Fellow responds to COVID-19

Mpanga Kasonde is a biomedical scientist working at the Zambia National Public Health Institute and a Fleming Fund Fellow in human health. When COVID-19 broke out in his country, Mpanga was drafted into the national response. Although typically he works in a microbiology laboratory testing samples, his supervisor requested him to lead the logistics team instead.

### *Tell us a bit about yourself and what your role is normally?*

I'm a biomedical scientist and I work in the laboratory reporting public health diagnostics and strengthening public health surveillance. I support surveillance sites to adopt quality management systems and biosafety and biosecurity measures. I also have a role on the Zambian AMR Coordination Committee.

### *How has the corona virus impacted Zambia?*

We are a country of about 17 million but have had a low case rate. (According to JHU, Coronavirus Research Center, figures from the end of July indicate Zambia reported just over 5,500 cases and 149 deaths). All our borders have been closed to international travel and only essential commodities can be imported. We also have instituted typical COVID-19 guidelines like asking people to wear a mask, wash hands, social distance, etc.

### *Why were you asked to support the public health logistics response?*

We had a regional cholera outbreak last year and I was asked to go and do testing in that region. But when I got there, I found that there was no one to give me what I needed. I had to source laboratory equipment and reagents myself. I was doing both testing and procurement, but people saw I was able to

set up a laboratory. Two months later, another outbreak happened, and I was asked to go respond there as a procurement specialist, rather than conduct testing in the lab. Though I learned a lot from those experiences, those were localised outbreaks – this is a national response and has been more challenging.

### *What's been the biggest challenge?*

The biggest challenge is I know what the laboratories need, but I can't always source it for them. For example, we needed N95 masks, but we don't have them. When I can't provide for laboratory staff and clinicians it's difficult, I know they are working in tough conditions. We are a landlocked country so getting critical PPE and equipment can be especially hard to import. We have had to make a small amount of stock go far.



### *What has been the biggest success?*

Out of little we've had, we've been able to spread stock and equipment throughout the country to provide access to materials and keep work going. We've also kept the number of infections in health care workers low.

### *What lessons from the COVID-19 response can be applied to a future AMR response?*

The same skills I've used to provide PPE and to stock labs around the country for corona virus, equally apply for AMR surveillance. I think we will have better supply management of reagents required for AMR testing throughout the country. We have 12 AMR surveillance sites, which is simpler than trying to provide for loads of sites across the country during the pandemic.



# Bangladesh Fellowship Biographies

## ABDUL KALAM

**Laboratory, Human Health,  
Chattogram Medical College and  
Hospital**

I am Dr Kalam, an assistant Professor of Microbiology in Chittagong Medical College in Chattogram, Bangladesh. Here, I lecture and lead practical and tutorial classes at both the undergraduate and post-graduate level on Microbiology.



(FETPB) Fellowship in 2018. I now work in the Epidemiology unit of Department of Livestock Services where I am responsible for collecting, storing, analysing and interpreting livestock disease passive surveillance data.

## ANINDA RAHMAN

**AMR Surveillance, Human Health  
Communicable Disease Control**

My name is Aninda Rahman. I am a medical graduate and epidemiologist. I also work as a deputy program manager for the National Antimicrobial Resistance Containment program under Communicable Disease Control at the Ministry of Health.



## BARKATUL ALAM

**AMR Laboratory, Aquaculture  
Fish Inspection and Quality  
Control Laboratory**

I am Md. Barkatul Alam and I work for the Quality Control Laboratory, Department of Fisheries (DoF), Dhaka as a Fish Inspection and Quality Control Officer. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) represents a global health crisis for humans, animals and for the environment.



**MOHAMMAD GAZI SHAH ALAM  
AMR Surveillance, Animal Health  
Department of Livestock  
Services**

I am Dr. Mohammad Gazi Shah Alam and currently work as a veterinary surgeon in the Animal Health and Administration section of the Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Bangladesh. Here, I am a disease detective, involved in the investigation of the outbreak of animal diseases and work for the administration unit of the DLS as well.



## SHAFIUL ALAM

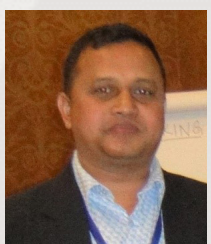
**AMR Surveillance, Aquaculture  
Fish Inspection and Quality  
Control Laboratory**

I am Md. Shafiul Alam, the Upazilla Fisheries Officer (Reserve) in the Department of Fisheries (DoF) Bangladesh. Presently, I work in the microbiological laboratory of the Quality Control Laboratory, DoF, Dhaka.



**FAISOL TALUKDAR  
AMU/C Surveillance Fellow,  
Animal Health  
Department of Livestock Services**

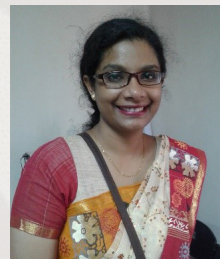
I received my Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh in 2001 and completed a Field Epidemiology Training Program Bangladesh



## NAWROZ AFREEN

**AMR Surveillance, Human Health  
Institute of Epidemiology,  
Disease Control and Research**

I am Dr. Nawroz Afreen (usually known as 'Nawroz'), a Bangladeshi epidemiologist and physician, now employed at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Dhaka as a Scientific Officer.





# Progress: Fellowship Scheme

	Professional Fellows 1				Professional Fellows 2				Policy Fellows			
	Host Inst Assigned	Applications Open	Fellows Review	Workshop Completed	Host Inst Assigned	Applications Open	Fellows Review	Workshop Completed	Host Inst Assigned	Applications Open	Fellows Review	Workshop Completed
Bangladesh	Green	Green	Green	White	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	White	White	White	White
Bhutan	Green	Green	Green	Green	White	White	White	White	White	Green	White	White
Eswatini	White	Yellow	White	White	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Ghana	Green	Green	Green	Green	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
Indonesia	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	White	White	White	White
Kenya	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	White	White	White	White
Laos	Green	Green	Green	Green	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
Malawi	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Nepal	Green	Green	Green	Green	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
Nigeria	Green	Green	Green	Green	White	White	White	White	White	Green	White	White
Pakistan	Green	Green	Green	Green	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
Papua New Guinea	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Senegal	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Sri Lanka	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Tanzania	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	White	White	White	White
Timor-Leste	Green	Green	Green	Green	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
Uganda	Green	Green	Green	Green	White	Green	White	White	White	Green	White	White
Vietnam	Green	Green	Green	Green	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White
Zambia	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	White	White	White	White
Zimbabwe	Green	Green	Green	White	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey

# HOST INSTITUTION DIRECTORY

Host Institutions	Regions					Expertise				
	WA	EA	SA	SE	HL	AL	HS	AS	HU	AU
<a href="#">University of Edinburgh</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Oxford University, Clinical Research Unit</a>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">National Institute for Communicable Diseases</a>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Technical University of Denmark, National Food Institute</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
<a href="#">The University of Hong Kong, School of Public Health</a>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Fondation Merieux</a>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine with RVC &amp; LIDC</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Erasmus University Medical Centre</a>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">The Peter Doherty Institute of Infection &amp; Immunity</a>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Brigham &amp; Women's Hospital (WHONET)</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
<a href="#">American Society for Microbiology</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Mahidol University</a>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">International Livestock Research Institute</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">African Society for Laboratory Medicine</a>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Aga Khan University</a>		✓	✓		✓		✓			
<a href="#">Public Health England with the Animal and Plant Agency</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Association Pasteur International Network</a>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

## REGIONS

**SE - South East Asia:** Laos, Vietnam, Pakistan, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea

**SA - South Asia:** Nepal, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bangladesh

**EA - East and Southern Africa:** Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, Eswatini, Zimbabwe

**WA - West Africa:** Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal

## SECTOR EXPERTISE

HL - Laboratory, Human Health

AL - Laboratory, Animal Health

HS - AMR Surveillance, Human Health

AH - AMR Surveillance, Animal Health

HU - AMU Surveillance, Human Health

AU - AMU Surveillance, Animal Health

The Fleming Fund is a £265 million UK aid investment to tackle antimicrobial resistance in low- and middle-income countries around the world. The programme is managed by the UK Department of Health and Social Care, in partnership with Mott MacDonald, the Fleming Fund Grant Management Agent.