

THE PETRI DISH

FLEMING

FUND

BRINGING EVIDENCE AND PEOPLE TOGETHER TO ENCOURAGE ACTION AGAINST DRUG RESISTANCE FOR A HEALTHIER WORLD.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Steve Wilson, Programme Director, Mott MacDonald & Eileen Chappell, Fellowship Coordinator, Mott MacDonald

COVID-19 Message

We are closely monitoring the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation and are acutely aware of the ongoing impact the virus is having on Fleming Fund programme delivery, including the ability of many Fellows and grantees to continue activities as laid out in their workplans. The last month has seen a significant escalation in global travel restrictions, international borders closing and a range of social distancing measures that are having a major impact on the societies we work from and for, with these likely to continue for some months to come.

As the Management Agent, we have been monitoring this situation carefully, while reviewing what precautionary and mitigating measures can be undertaken to reduce disruption. However, we realise this has and will continue to be an unprecedented, fast moving and unpredictable environment for everyone, with our first priority being the safety and wellbeing of our staff, consultants, partners, fellows and beneficiaries.

To facilitate our understanding of the how COVID-19 is impacting all of our grantees and fellows, we have issued some short surveys to collect your input. Our thanks to all fellows and grantees who have already responded. We will have a much better idea of what you are experiencing once we have finalised our analysis of the surveys. For fellows who haven't completed the survey, there is still a chance to provide your valuable input, if you have time.

Please continue to keep us informed of any important changes to your operating context,

the security environment or continuity planning. We realise that these continue to be unpredictable times but hope that all of you remain well and safe.

If you have questions or need to contact us, please get in touch with your relevant grant coordinator.

WEBINAR FOR FELLOWS

As COVID-19 continues its course, the speed at which situations are changing in each of our countries makes communicating up to date information challenging. With this in mind, we will be holding a webinar on Friday 3rd April at 08:30 British Summer Time (07:30 UTC) to discuss how Fellowship work is being affected, and other difficulties you may be experiencing. We will also include a short talk on a relevant AMR/U/C topic, discuss the survey results and how we can help you.

The Mott MacDonald Fellowships team will be sending out a link and agenda to all Fellows. Attendance at the webinar will count as a completed activity under B.2 in your work-plans so don't forget to tell your mentors.

TEAM NEWS

Introducing New Team Members

Roxanne Brown, UK Project Administrator: Before joining Mott MacDonald I worked in various HR and recruitment roles. However, I decided I wanted a career as a project manager, so I applied to join the Fleming Fund team. I studied Business Management at university and I am a qualified dance teacher. I am conversational in Spanish and teach Salsa and Latin style dances every Thursday evening. When I'm not at work I am either in the dance studio or spending time with family and friends. I have volunteered overseas teaching English in Peru to children. I love travelling and learning about different cultures.



**Manisha Bista,
One Health
Specialist, South
Asia:**

Before joining Mott MacDonald, I was working as disease surveillance officer for a project in Nepal, which applied a one health approach to emerging disease surveillance and studied antimicrobial resistance in humans, animals and wildlife.

After my studies in biotechnology, I worked in several wildlife genetic projects including one which created genetic database of wild tigers in Nepal. This motivated me to study human-animal interfaces and I pursued studies in public health, specializing in One Health and Biosecurity at Massey University in New Zealand. Since then, I have been involved in human, animal, wildlife and environmental health research programs in various communities and hospitals within Nepal.

Going forward I hope to continue to expand my knowledge of health system strengthening in the human, animal and wildlife sector utilizing One Health approach.

When I'm not at work, I like being in nature, exploring new places, cultures and food. I also enjoy art, music and intellectual conversations.

Do you want to see your stories in the Petri Dish?

Send in your contributions to:
Megan.Howe@mottmac.com



Emmanuel Azore, Regional Microbiologist for East Africa poses with Uganda's newly delivered MALDI-TOF. He and colleagues from the Uganda National Reference Laboratory received training on the instrument in March.

PROGRAMME UPDATES

Reference service available from three regional reference centres in Africa for whole genome sequencing of bacterial isolates

The Fleming Fund Regional Grants Round 2 Grant 8 Whole Genome Sequencing in Africa – the project, SEQAFRICA– has established three regional reference sequencing centres at University of Ibadan in Nigeria, Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute in Tanzania and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in South Africa. As part of their role as reference sequencing centres, they will be offering whole genome sequencing and data analysis services to the Fleming Fund supported countries in Africa.

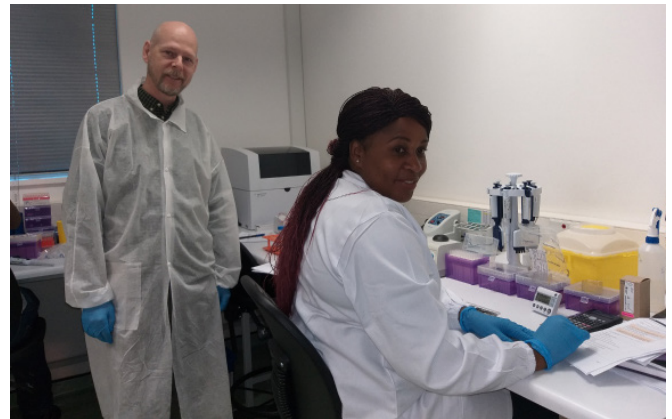
What can be sequenced?

Non-tuberculosis bacterial isolates of high significance to the epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance such as pan-drug resistant (PDR) strains, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* or strains isolated in the context of an outbreak of antibacterial resistance could be shipped to one of the three reference centres for sequencing and analysis.

Furthermore, the service will also be provided for several isolates part of Fleming Fund Fellowship projects or other research projects in which sequencing will facilitate an increased knowledge of antimicrobial resistance and circulating or emerging clones. Select collections of already available nontyphoidal *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli* with atypical antimicrobial resistance profile as well as *S. Typhi* and *Vibrio cholerae* in general can be considered for sequencing.

Please, contact one of the centres listed to obtain a project description template, which needs to be completed and forwarded in order for your project to be considered as relevant for sequencing. Contact the reference centre in your region or the Africa CDC:

Iruka Okeke, Global Health Research Unit for Genomic Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance, University of Ibadan, Nigeria



Whole genome sequencing training takes place in South Africa as part of the Fleming Fund Regional Grant 8.

nigeriaghru@gmail.com

Marco van Zwetselaar, Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute, zwets@kcri.ac.tz

Anthony Smith, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, anthonys@nicd.ac.za

Please, contact Rene S. Hendriksen rshe@food.dtu.dk from the Technical University of Denmark, lead grantee of SEQAFRICA for more information.

SEQAFRICA Training in Johannesburg

Earlier this month a group of participants took part in whole genome sequencing training at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) Sequencing Core Facility in Johannesburg, South Africa. Participants learned how to use a MinION sequencer (which allows for rapid, real-time, long read sequencing analysis of nucleic acids) to analyse meta-genomic samples, or those taken from the environment.

Training also included high molecular weight DNA extraction and library preparation using both rapid and ligation protocols and sequencing. Trainees gave positive feedback saying the sequencer was easy to use and generated data quickly.

THE FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

FELLOWSHIP SCHEME TRACKER

Where are we now?

	Host Inst. Assigned	Applications Open	Fellows Review	Workshop Completed
Bangladesh				
Bhutan				
Burkina Faso				
ESwatini				
Ghana				
India				
Indonesia				
Kenya				
Laos				
Malawi				
Nepal				
Nigeria				
Pakistan				
Papua New Guinea				
Senegal				
Sri Lanka				
Tanzania				
Timor-Leste				
Uganda				
Vietnam				
Zambia				
Zimbabwe				

THE FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

NEW JOINERS: MALAWI



Ronald Chitatanga

AMR Surveillance, Human Health

National Microbiology Reference Laboratory, Ministry of Health

I am a medical doctor working in public health. Currently, I work with the Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM) as an epidemiology and surveillance intern. My work focuses on raising awareness of priority health conditions under surveillance by the Ministry of Health. I am a member of the National AMR core team and also very delighted to participate in this fellowship.



Michael Luwe

AMU Surveillance, Animal Health

Department of Animal Health and Livestock Department

I am working in the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development as an Animal Health Officer. I am a veterinarian and am responsible for disease investigation, surveillance and capacity building of farmers and staff. I am an advocate of rational use of antimicrobials.



Gloria Chimwaza Chikhulupiliro

AMU/C Surveillance Fellowship, Human Health

Ministry of Health

I am a pharmacist working at the Ministry of Health in the Department of Pharmaceuticals. My masters is in Clinical Pharmacy & International Practice and Policy. Within my job I oversee the rational use of medicines, capacity building of pharmacy groups in the public sector and evaluation of supply chain logistics data. I am member of the antimicrobial resistance coordinating committee and am the focal person for AMU.

Lawrence Harry Milala

AMR Laboratory, Human Health

National Microbiology Reference Laboratory, Ministry of Health

Williams Legison Mwantoma

AMR Laboratory, Animal Health

Central Veterinary Laboratory

Catherine Kamwana

AMR Surveillance, Animal Health

Central Veterinary Laboratory

THE COUNTRY GRANTS

COUNTRY GRANTS TRACKER

Where are we now?

	RFP De-veloped	Appli-cations Open	Appli-cation Review	Grant Ne-gotiation & Sign
Bangladesh				
Bhutan				
Burkina Faso				
ESwatini				
Ghana				
India				
Indonesia				
Kenya				
Laos				
Malawi				
Myanmar				
Nepal				
Nigeria				
Pakistan				
Papua New Guinea				
Senegal				
Sierra Leone				
Sri Lanka				
Tanzania				
Timor-Leste				
Uganda				
Vietnam				
Zambia				
Zimbabwe				

NEW JOINERS

Who's new to the Country Grant Programme

MALAWI

Lead Grantee: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

ZIMBABWE

Lead Grantee: FAO

ESWATINI

Lead Grantee: ICAP

THE REGIONAL GRANTS

REGIONAL GRANTS TRACKER

Where are we now?

	RFP De-veloped	Appli-cations Open	Appli-cation Review	Grant Ne-gotiation & Sign
ROUND 1				
Grant 1				
Grant 2				
Grant 3				
Grant 4				
ROUND 2				
Grant 1				
Grant 2				
Grant 3				
Grant 4				
Grant 5				
Grant 8				

NEW JOINERS

Who's new to the Regional Grants Programme

External Quality Assurance, Asia

Lead Grantee: Technical University of Denmark

REGIONAL GRANTS

ROUND 1

1) Collection of Historical Data East & Southern Africa

2) Collection of Historical Data West Africa

3) Collection of Historical Data South East Asia

4) Collection of Historical Data South Asia

ROUND 2

1) External Quality Assurance Africa

2) External Quality Assurance Asia

3) Common Surveillance Protocols Global

4) Microbiology & Epidemiology Training Global

5) Planning, Policy & Advocacy Global

8) Whole Genome Sequencing Training Africa

HOST INSTITUTION DIRECTORY

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

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, Burkina Faso

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.