

THE PETRI DISH

FLEMING FUND

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Megan Howe

This month our team's had many opportunities to present our work to national governments, celebrate some key milestones and highlight our work in the media. In Nigeria, the British High Commissioner, Catriona Laing welcomed Nigerian government officials, Fleming Fund Fellows and our grantee DAI to launch the UK's £10.7 million investment in the country at her residence. In Uganda, the first shipment of new laboratory equipment arrived in Kampala and was installed in the national human health and animal health reference laboratories. And in South East Asia, the Fleming Fund was invited to "co-host" Thailand's second annual forum on AMR. Thanks to our teams and partners for all their work!

TEAM NEWS

Fleming Fund wide updates and announcements

Fellowship Satisfaction Survey

This month we are introducing a series of three surveys for Host Institutions, Beneficiary Institutions and Fellows that have completed at least a quarter of their work plans. These surveys ask about satisfaction in relation to information about the programme and support from institutions. These surveys are required by the UK government and we also intend to use your feedback to support our oversight of the Fellowship Scheme. Please do complete the survey if you have received a link, as it is important for the continuation of the Fellowship Scheme.

One Health Congress

For Fellows and mentors planning to attend the World One Health Congress in June, we will be holding an informative webinar to discuss logistics on March 4th at 15:00 GMT and March 6th at 08:30 GMT (please note that you only have to attend one webinar as the same content will be covered on both days). Links to join the sessions will be sent in the near future. If you have any questions about this webinar, please email adrienne.bernstein@mottmac.com.

The UKRI GCRF One Health Poultry Hub

This hub is a development research programme working in Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. It is led by the Royal Veterinary College (London) and works with a network of 28 partner organisations. Taking an interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral 'One Health' approach, researchers will explore how poultry production, marketing systems and human behaviour, increase the risk of emergence and spread of infectious diseases. Findings will be translated into impact by testing novel interventions for disease control, offering training and capacity building programmes, and ensuring policy engagement. Find out more [here](#).



Anthony Huszar co-hosts Thailand's 2nd National Forum on AMR, held February 20-21.

TEAM NEWS

Introducing New Fellowship Team Members

Adrienne Bernstein, Fellowship Assistant Project Manager, London: I'm originally from Canada but have been living in London, UK for almost 4 years. I started my career in journalism with an interest in global events and enabling people around the world to speak about the issues impacting them and their communities. I then volunteered for grassroots social change organisations and made the move to the UK where I worked on funding schemes at international development and health NGO's. Recently, I completed my master's in Migration and Development Studies, focussing on professional integration and capacity building for migrants. When I'm not at work, I enjoy baking sourdough bread, reading short stories and long-form journalism, travelling and visiting markets around the world!



Cheewarat Kaewsangkwan, Regional Fellowship Officer, South East Asia: Prior to joining Mott MacDonald, I worked most recently as Programme Coordinator and Communications Officer at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), where I very much enjoyed undertaking missions to Laos and Myanmar. I also worked as Junior Program Officer for the Fulbright Program in Thailand, supporting Thai grantees and managing professional development and



educational exchange programs between Thailand and the United States. I have also worked in various roles at the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), UN Women and British Council.

Through my previous experience, I've realised that relief assistance only treats symptoms of poverty, rather than helping countries develop long-term. That's one of the reasons I was interested in joining the Fleming Fund. I'm excited to contribute to the fellows' professional development and I'm glad to be working as part of the team in my SEA Region.

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

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

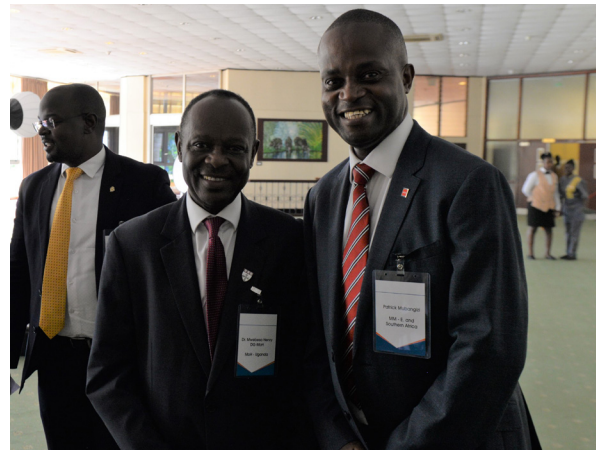
TEAM NEWS

The CGIAR AMR Hub in Africa

CGIAR AMR Hub is a global research and development partnership to reduce agricultural-associated antimicrobial resistance in low- and middle-income countries. Led and hosted by the International Livestock Research Institute in Kenya, the CGIAR AMR Hub brings together four CGIAR centers: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), WorldFish, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and ILRI. The CGIAR AMR strategy is implemented through the AMR Hub and builds on five pillars of research and interventions:

- Evaluate knowledge, attitude, practices, and incentives for antimicrobial use, and the role of formal and informal markets, which includes distribution networks and types of products used
- Investigate AMR transmission dynamics at the human-animal-environmental interface in different agricultural systems and understand the role of antibiotic residues in agricultural food products, and the environment on AMR
- Design and evaluate locally relevant interventions to reduce and more effectively use antimicrobials in agriculture and AMR levels in LMICs focusing on public health outcomes
- Support evidence-based policy dialogue for surveillance and AMR mitigating strategies e.g. National Action Plans
- Build capacity across stakeholders and address scaling up of interventions

The CGIAR AMR Hub provides a platform to collect and disseminate knowledge and practices on antimicrobial use and surveillance at the animal, human and environmental interface. The Hub will support Fleming Fellows for peer-to-peer learning and joint problem solving through One Health approach and build networks to strengthen cross-sectoral relationships to the global dialogue on combating AMR.



Uganda's Director General for Health Services, with Patrick Mubangizi, East & Southern Africa Regional Coordinator

Uganda is first to receive new laboratory equipment from Fleming

Uganda has received three pioneering laboratory machines to speed up the process of testing and treating patients for bacterial infections as part of a UK/Uganda partnership aimed at tackling drug resistance. The machines automate part of the laboratory tests that identify the bacteria causing a patient's infection and can deliver results to doctors up to 18 hours quicker, saving critical time in the diagnosis of life-threatening conditions.

One of the machines, a mass spectrometer MALDI-TOF, is the first of its kind in Uganda and identifies bacteria in just two minutes, compared with 18-48 hours for conventional testing.

Clinical Microbiologist for the Fleming Fund's Management Agent, Mott MacDonald, Emmanuel Azore said:

"Up until now, treatment in Uganda has been syndromic (according to symptoms), rather than based on laboratory testing or findings. This often results in misdiagnosis and can increase the risk of drug resistance if patients aren't administered the correct medicines. These new machines, specifically the MALDI-TOF, will speed up testing results, reduce human errors and ensure that more junior microbiologists can conduct diagnostic tests with accuracy."

EDITORIALS

STORIES

Mabel Aworh, Nigeria's Animal Health Fellow for AMR Surveillance helped launch the UK's investment in Nigeria earlier this month.

"I have chosen the AMR Surveillance Fellowship as my area of study because I am passionate about consumer health and safety, especially in relation to the emergence of zoonotic and food borne diseases that are a major global concern because of their public health importance.

I work as an epidemiologist in the area of food safety at the Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services, and have been involved in AMR work at the Ministry since inception. Starting with the systematic review, I helped conduct the AMR situational analysis and develop our AMR National Action Plan which is currently being implemented.

As a Fleming Fund Fellow, my recent visit to Denmark Technical University has helped me acquire additional skills to strengthen my capabilities and competencies in AMR surveillance and taught me to use scientifically robust AMR surveillance evidence to inform policies and public health actions to reduce AMR in Nigeria.

I am optimistic that by the end of my fellowship, I will have a better understanding of the depth of the problem of AMR in Nigeria



(L) Mabel Aworh and (R) Dr Dooshima Kwange, Nigeria's Chief Veterinary Officer attend a Fleming Fund event at the UK High Commission in Abuja

and will be better equipped to reverse the trend.

AMR is an issue that is close to my heart. I am passionate about the work that I do and would be glad if the burden of AMR in Nigeria is reduced to the barest minimum as I lost a loved one to multi-drug resistant infections.

I want to call on all policy makers and stakeholders to join me and the rest of the fellows in my cohort, in becoming change agents for AMR and to use their good offices to commit more resources to tackling AMR. No single actor can solve all the challenges alone. On behalf of the fellows, we pledge to work with all AMR stakeholders in Nigeria and we are grateful that the Fleming Fund is helping us achieve our objectives in country.

I would like to thank the UK for responding to this global problem and for giving us a lifetime opportunity to become global change agents for AMR."

British High Commissioner, Catriona Laing meets with Fleming Fund Fellows at her residence in Abuja, Nigeria.

THE FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

FELLOWSHIP SCHEME TRACKER

Where are we now?

	Host Inst. Assigned	Appli- cations 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				

NEW JOINERS

Who's new to the Fellowship
Scheme Programme

No new joiners this month

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

No new joiners this month

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

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.