

# The Petri Dish

- **Upcoming Events**
- **April Webinar Recap**
- **Alumni Corner**
- **Welcoming New Fellows**

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](mailto:FlemingFellowshipScheme@mottmac.com)



[FlemingFund.org](http://FlemingFund.org)



# Welcome

When I joined the Fleming Fund four years ago, I knew it was a special programme and that the Fellows would be an integral part of that. However, I didn't anticipate just how much you, the Fellows, would achieve and the changes you would make.

Reading through the reports that come in each quarter gives us an opportunity to reflect on what is being achieved, but the reports only capture part of what is happening. It is the times when we can talk with you one-to-one or, better still, face-to-face that really allow us to see the full picture of your achievements and, of course, your challenges along the way.

These are precious moments for us. I include Host Institutions in this as well because each partnership must be established and nurtured, and this takes time, effort and ingenuity. I want to thank you all for your commitment to the Fellowship Scheme and to one another.

This month we saw the launch of the Alumni Network and their activities will feature regularly in the Petri Dish. Every Fellow that completes their Fellowship automatically becomes an alumnus and can take part in the Network's activities. We introduce the chair of the Alumni Network Steering Committee on page 3 and I would also like to introduce the member of the Mott MacDonald team who is working with her as the committee recorder and secretary; Elinam Segbefia. Those working in West Africa will know Elinam as the Fellowship Scheme Officer for this region and now he will also be the main point of contact for matters pertaining to alumni.

Finally, I am very pleased to introduce the four Cohort II Fellows from Laos. It is great to welcome them to the programme and wish them well.

Very best wishes,



## Upcoming Events

### May Fellows Webinar – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 08:30 BST -

The May webinar will feature a presentation on One Health led by Stan Fenwick, the Fleming Fund Regional Coordinator for South East Asia, as well as the Fleming Fund One Health Coordinator.

The presentation will include an introduction to the concept of One Health and will touch on some key issues. There will be a discussion around AMR in the One Health context, working across sectors, and how this applies to the Fellowship Scheme.

Following Stan's presentation, there will be a Q&A session to ask questions and take part in a discussion on One Health.

We look forward to seeing you at the May Fellows webinar.

Invitations to the May webinar have been included with this issue of the Petri Dish. Please contact [FlemingFellowshipScheme@mottmac.com](mailto:FlemingFellowshipScheme@mottmac.com) with any questions on connecting to this event.

---

### ARE YOU ON THE FLEMING FUND MAILING LIST?

The Fleming Fund sends out regular 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](#).

### CORRECTION

In the March issue of the Petri Dish, we mistakenly included the wrong surname for the AMU/C Surveillance, Human Health, Fellow in eSwatini. The Fellows' name is Sihle Bafana Gama.

Thank you Sihle for alerting us of this error.

## April Webinar Recap

The April webinar was a closing ceremony for Cohort I Fellows in Tanzania and Zambia.

The Fellows were joined by their Host Institutions; the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, who oversaw Fellowships in Tanzania, as well as the American Society for Microbiology and International Livestock Research Institute, who oversaw the Zambia Fellowships.

Fellows and mentors discussed their individual projects, collaborative activities, achievements and lessons learned.

Nick Adkin, the deputy director of Global Health Security in the UK Department of Health and Social Care, virtually presented the completion certificates and delivered a closing address for these Fellows. He also highlighted some of the Fellows' achievements. These included providing training to colleagues and conducting outreach activities with local stakeholders. The Fellows also contributed to policy adoption, the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in AMS, and various reports.

Congratulations to the Tanzania and Zambia Fellows!

### Tanzania Cohort I Fellows:

Neema Kamara - AMR Surveillance, Human Health

Emmanuel Mayenga - AMR Surveillance, Animal Health

Emmanuel Magembe - AMR Laboratory, Human Health

Siana Gideon Mapunjo - AMU Surveillance, Human Health

Gibonce Kayuni - AMU Surveillance, Animal Health

### Zambia Cohort I Fellows:

Kasonde Mpanga - AMR Laboratory, Human Health

Paul Zulu - AMR Surveillance, Human Health

Elimas Jere - AMU Surveillance, Human Health

Taona Sinyawa - AMR Laboratory, Animal Health

Purity Mayembe - AMR Surveillance, Animal Health

Daniel Ndambasia - Surveillance, Animal Health

# Alumni Corner

## News from the Alumni Network Steering Committee

The Alumni Network Steering Committee held its first meeting in early April to develop a governance document and a terms of reference (ToR) for the group. The committee members will be finalising these documents in the coming weeks and then will start developing ToRs for sub-committees that will make recommendations for specific Alumni Network activities. Sub-committee members will be recruited from alumni across all Fleming Fund countries.



The committee also elected a chair: Victoria O. Adetunji. Victoria completed the Nigeria Cohort I AMR Laboratory Fellowship in Animal Health. She is a lecturer in the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventative Medicine at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

In addition to being a Fleming Fellowship alumna, Victoria has been a recipient of international fellowships and awards, including a Fulbright Junior Scholar grant and an African Women in

Agricultural Research and Development Fellowship. She is also a Fellow of the College of Veterinary Surgeons in Nigeria.

Over the last 20 years Victoria has focused on the surveillance of bacterial pathogens, epidemiology, microbial pathogenicity and antimicrobial resistance. She is also interested in the investigation of virulence markers in zoonotic agents, and has published over 90 articles in peer reviewed journals.

Recently, Victoria was invited by the National University Commission of Nigeria to join the accreditation team for public health programmes in some private universities. Her recommendations hinged strongly on the role of veterinarians in disease control and the need for a One Health approach in containing zoonotic diseases.

**Congratulations Victoria and the Alumni Network Steering Committee on a successful first month in action.**

## Alumni Publications

*Extended-Spectrum  $\beta$ -Lactamase-Producing Escherichia coli Among Humans, Beef Cattle, and Abattoir Environments in Nigeria*, by Nigeria Cohort I Fellows Mabel Aworh and Eme Ekeng, DTU mentors Pernille Nilsson, and Rene S. Hendriksen, as well as Beverly Egyir and Christian Owusu-Nyantakyi from the University of Ghana

“Beef cattle, one of the food-producing animals, are linked to humans through a shared environment and the food chain as a major source of animal protein. Antimicrobial drugs are readily accessible for use in food animal production in Nigeria. Beef cattle and abattoir environments harbor pathogenic bacteria such as *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) which have developed resistance to antimicrobial agents used for prophylaxis or treatment. This study investigated the zoonotic transmission of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase-producing *E. coli* (ESBL-EC) among humans, beef cattle, and abattoir environments in Abuja and Lagos, Nigeria.”

Read the full manuscript [HERE](#).

*Urbanisation and the challenges for antimicrobial resistance in Uganda* by Uganda Cohort I Fellow Joel Bazira

“In a recent article for Uganda’s Daily Monitor newspaper, alumni Fellow Joel Bazira described some of the impacts on antimicrobial resistance caused by the massive growth in urban populations in Uganda.”

You can read a summary of this article and Joel’s recommendations on the University of Edinburgh Fleming Fund Fellowship news page [HERE](#).

---

The *Alumni Corner* will be an ongoing feature in the Petri Dish.

Please contact [FlemingFellowshipScheme@mottmac.com](mailto:FlemingFellowshipScheme@mottmac.com) or your regional Fellowship Scheme Officer if you have Alumni news, suggestions for Alumni Network activities, or questions for the steering committee.



# Welcome New Fleming Fund Fellows

This month, we are welcoming Cohort II Fellows from Laos PDR. These Fellows have all taken part in the initial orientation meeting with their Host Institution and are currently working with mentors on developing workplans.

You can learn more about their professional backgrounds and motivation to join the Fellowship Scheme from the biographies below.

**Join us in welcoming Arounapha, Phonvixay, Manivanh and Amphonephet.**

## **Arounapha Vongdouangchanh – Bioinformatics and Sequencing, Human Health**



I graduated with a bachelor's degree in medical technology from the University of Health Sciences in Laos.

I am very interested in bioinformatics and sequencing in human health, and the Fleming Fund is providing me with an opportunity to work in this field and improve my knowledge and skills.

I am a lab technician and microbiologist, and have been working at the National Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology for over 18 years. Currently, I am deputy chief of the bacterial unit.

Within my role, I am responsible for bacterial identification, monitoring AMR strains, as well as AMR data management.

I facilitate and implement the quality management system in the laboratory and, as a member of the quality team, I was assigned to supervise and monitor quality management activities. I perform molecular testing and bio-risk management. I also wrote an SOP and designed a management report for the national external quality assessment results across the province.

## **Phonvixay Vilaylangsy – AMR Health Informatics, Human Health**



I am am Phonvixay Vilaylangsy, a medical officer working in the diseases prevention division at the Department of Communicable Diseases, in the Ministry of Health since 2014.

I graduated with an International Masters of Public Health from Tsinghua University in China. Currently, I am responsible for following up on malaria, TB and AIDS prevention activities, as well as preventing the spread of antimicrobial resistance.

The focus of my work is to manage and share data on communicable diseases, including AMR surveillance data, and raise awareness of AMR with health care workers, policymakers and the public. I also monitor and evaluate activities, assist in developing policy, strategy, and work plan documents, and coordinate across sectors to ensure a One Health approach is being implemented.

Through my work, I have responded to outbreaks (such as COVID-19) and have contributed to the monitoring and evaluation of intervention and control measures in relevant diseases. I participated in developing the national strategic plan on AMR, as well as the work plans for AMR, dengue fever and malaria.

I have worked closely with international organization (such as the WHO and FAO) and relevant departments in human health, animal health and environmental sectors, with support from the Fleming Fund, to coordinate the World Antimicrobials Awareness Week. I also worked on the final evaluation of the Fleming Fund Country Grant I in Laos.

I am very keen to join the Fellowship programme and I will use this opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge needed to raise AMR awareness across sectors and communities to tackle AMR together.

**Manivanh Vongsouvath – AMR Clinician, Human Health**



I graduated from the University of Health Sciences in Laos in 1999 and joined the staff of Mahosot Hospital in Vientiane. Here, I have participated in the implementation of conventional bacteriology testing and staff training to support the diagnostics service.

In 2005, I continued my post-graduate education when I attended a 6-month training for a diploma in medical microbiology at the Institute for Medical Research in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

I graduated from the MSc in Tropical Medicine course at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand in 2015. Then, in 2017 I was promoted to Head of the microbiology laboratory at Mahosot Hospital.

I applied for the Fleming Fellowship programme because of my interest in antimicrobial resistance and my wish to improve AMR surveillance and antimicrobial use by doctors here in Laos.

---

**Amphonephet Sisouvong – AMR Surveillance, Animal Health**



I am a technician in the Livestock Management Division in the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, within in Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Laos. Since 2001, I have worked in the field of foot-and-mouth disease surveillance in the National Health Laboratory.

I received my masters degree in 2011 from Rajamangala University of Technology in Thailand. I then worked in the Poultry Production Section of the Livestock Management Division.

In 2020, I was part of the collaborative project with Cohort I Fellows in Laos. This project focused on AMU and AMC in poultry and pig farms across five provinces in Laos.

I applied for the Fellowship programme because of my interest in AMR and my determination to collect, analyse and interpret data in this field. I am motivated to lead the effort against AMU and AMC as part of the reduction of AMR in poultry and pig farms in Laos.

