

# GARPNet News

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**Global  
Antibiotic  
Resistance  
Partnership**

## **Spotlight on the Uganda National Academy of Sciences, home of GARP-Uganda**

The Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS) serves as the secretariat for GARP-Uganda, where the working group is a standing committee. Like science academies around the world, UNAS is a membership academy, now with 62 fellows. UNAS Program Committees provide evidence-based advice to government and society on pressing issues. UNAS was founded in 2000 and expanded rapidly when the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) began providing support and capacity building in 2005 through the Africa Science Academy Development Initiative, organized by the US National Academies Institute of Medicine.

One of UNAS' flagship projects was an analysis of the national immunization program, which was failing. Coverage rates of routine childhood vaccines had

fallen from over 80 percent to 52 percent, with frequent stock-outs. Following UNAS recommendations, vaccination rates



GARP-Uganda Working Group representatives present during the meeting with the Ministry of Health. Starting from the left: Prof. R. Odoi Adome, Dr. Mutekanga, Dr. C.F. Najjuka, Prof. D. Byarugaba, and Prof. A. Mbonye.

have risen to over 96 percent. UNAS is currently involved with

issues related to malaria vaccine introduction, HIV/AIDS, biotechnology and climate change.

UNAS hosted the 10th Annual Meeting of African Science Academies in November 2014, where it launched Mindset Shifts for

Ownership of our Continent's Development Agenda, a UNAS

## Spotlight: GARP Uganda (continued from page 1)

report to set the scene for developments beyond 2015. The report has ignited a series of activities across Africa led by African Science Academies on how African governments should own and lead on new Sustainable Development Goals to succeed the Millennium Development Goals. UNAS is also creating a Private Public Partnership Program in this regard.

A GARP-Uganda delegation, led by the working group chair, Professor Denis Byarugaba, and GARP-Uganda Principal Investigator and UNAS Executive Secretary, David Mutekanga, recently met with the Director of Clinical Services in the Ministry of Health to discuss GARP and the country's antibiotic resistance situation. Dr. Mutekanga

told CDDEP:

The timing is really great for GARP. The Ministry of Health recognizes that antibiotic resistance is an important issue that has not yet been unwrapped, and here we are unwrapping it. The Ministry knows that resistance is an important and serious issue but they don't have information on it. When we told them we had already completed the situation analysis, that we were planning to design a national strategy for antibiotic resistance, they were really excited. The Ministry tells us this is something they want to support, that it should have been done years ago. It's very exciting.

David also highlighted the role that regional cooperation has to play in curbing antibiotic resistance:

Our borders are porous on all sides. The problem of resistance is not just ours, and regional cooperation will be critical. A strategy put in place in Uganda will not be effective if our neighbors do not do the same. East Africa must come and work together on this issue.

GARP-Uganda plans to launch their situation analysis and immediately begin work on a national strategy through the working group, collaborating with all stakeholders. They are also looking forward to convening neighboring countries in East Africa to create a regional antibiotic resistance strategy in the next phase of GARP.

### India: Antimicrobial stewardship taking off

The November policy forum on antibiotic stewardship exposed medical professionals to antibiotic stewardship, many for the first time. Building on the success of the forum, in January the National Curriculum Review Committee for Allied Health Education approved the addition of a course on healthcare-associated infections and antibiotic resistance to the allied health professionals foundation courses. Similar requirements are proposed for nursing programs.

A continuing medical education course, "Saving Antibiotics," was conducted by the Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists, Delhi, with Lady Hardinge Medical College students in early 2015. The students were also surveyed on their current knowledge related to antibiotics.

### GARP in the News

- GARP-India working group member Abdul Ghafur was profiled in the BMJ (Click here to view)
- GARP-Kenya chair Sam Kariuki was interviewed as a part of a video on antibiotic use by Voice of America (Click here to view)
- GARP programs have been featured several in CDDEP blog posts (Click here), more info on page 3

### Raising awareness in Nepal

GARP-Nepal officially launched their situation analysis on December 15, 2014.

The working group successfully leveraged media attention at the event, resulting in a two-page spread on antibiotic resistance in the Nepali Times in January. The spread included an op-ed by working group chair Dr. Buddha Basnyat and CDDEP Associate Director Hellen Gelband (Click Here), and a companion piece



with quotes from GARP-Nepal working group members (Click Here).

The launch also catalyzed discussions around priority activities for GARP-Nepal in 2015. GARP-Nepal will initially focus on curriculum development on antibiotic resistance for healthcare workers and studies of antibiotic use and resistance in livestock. Other priorities and recommendations discussed at the launch of the situation analysis included raising awareness, revising national guidelines, ensuring access and taking an ecological approach.

## Country Highlights:

- GARP-Vietnam recently received funding for the project “Towards an Evidence-Based National Action Plan on AMR in Vietnam”. The project aims to develop an evidence-based program for controlling AMR to support the implementation of the existing National Action Plan. The project will be in partnership with UK experts, the National Hospital for Tropical Diseases, the Health Strategy and Policy Institute and the Ministry of Health.
- GARP-South Africa played a key role in the development of an implementation plan for the national strategy on antimicrobial resistance. In addition, the Department of Health has officially included AMR in its Annual Performance Plan, for which progress towards objectives must be reported each year to Parliament. GARP-South Africa coordinator Kim Faure is the lead author of the communications plan for the antimicrobial stewardship program.
- The first meeting of the National Antimicrobial Stewardship Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Health took place on February 19th in Nairobi, Kenya. Thematic areas include advocacy, surveillance, training and guidelines, regulation and infection prevention control. Five GARP-Kenya Working Group members, including chairman Sam Kariuki, are serving on the committee. The Infection Prevention Network- Kenya, in partnership with GARP, is hosting its 4th Biannual Regional Conference November 17-22, 2015. GARP is planning a 2-day post conference workshop on antimicrobial stewardship.
- GARP working groups in Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda are preparing to launch their situation analyses in 2015.

### CDDEP blog posts on GARP activities:

- A two-part interview with GARP-Kenya coordinator Eveline Wesangula highlighted the working group’s second annual Antibiotic Awareness week activities and delved into the successes and challenges the working group experienced this year. (Click here for part one and here for part two)
- An interview with GARP-South Africa coordinator Kim Faure documented the steps taken to achieve the publication of a national strategy on antibiotic resistance. (Click here)
- The antibiotic stewardship forum and training held by GARP-India was featured in a blog reviewing highlights from the event. (Click here)
- A Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on antibiotic stewardship was announced on behalf of organizers the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy and the University of Dundee. (Click here)
- The launch of GARP-Nepal’s situation analysis was announced in a blog post authored by working group chair Buddha Basnyat. (Click here)

### YOUR ASSISTANCE NEEDED

1. We are collecting information on organizations that conduct useful activities related to antibiotic effectiveness, access, or resistance in low- and middle-income countries. Please send us the names of organizations that do useful projects, programs, training, or assist in other ways in relevant areas.
2. CDDEP is expanding the current North America-oriented [Resistance-Map](#) into an international database of antibiotic resistance data. The focus is on recent data from existing public and private microbiology laboratory networks that collect routine AMR surveillance data, specifically on invasive pathogens from blood or CSF with susceptibility results to certain antibiotics. Please let us know of datasets that might be useful for this project, and contacts for them.

### Send us your feedback!

We welcome your comments on and additions to each newsletter. Please send any content or questions to Molly Miller-Petrie at [millerpetrie@cddep.org](mailto:millerpetrie@cddep.org)

### Recent CDDEP publications

- Economics of Antibiotic Use in U.S. Swine and Poultry Production. Ramanan Laxminarayan and Aude Teillant. *Choices Magazine*.
- The economic costs of withdrawing antimicrobial growth promoters from the livestock sector. Ramanan Laxminarayan, Thomas Van Boeckel, Aude Teillant. *OECD Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Papers*.
- Influence of provider and urgent care density across different socioeconomic strata on outpatient antibiotic prescribing in the USA. Eili Klein et al. *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*.
- Resistance: the film, featuring CDDEP Director Ramanan Laxminarayan.

# GARP Network Contact Information

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