

GARPNet News

This is the first issue of GARPNet News, a bi-monthly update by and for all GARP partners. We invite you to send content in any form for future issues—from ideas to short articles.

The GARP network is poised for an active and engaging year in 2015. This update highlights recent achievements in three GARP countries:

- GARP-Kenya used Global Antibiotic Awareness Week to highlight AMR issues with hospital staff, students and the public
- GARP-India hosted an antimicrobial resistance course and stakeholder meeting and
- GARP-South Africa launched a national antibiotic resistance strategy and action plan.



Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership

In addition, the GARP working groups in Mozambique, Tanzania, Nepal and Uganda have been finalizing their Situation Analyses, and dissemination launches are planned through the first quarter of 2015.

In this issue:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Raising AMR awareness in Kenya | 1 |
| • Antimicrobial stewardship in India | 2 |
| • National strategies in South Africa | 2 |
| • Highlights | 3 |
| • Global news, publications and meetings | 3 |
| • Contact information for the GARP network | 4 |

Raising AMR awareness in Kenya

Kenya's second annual Antibiotic Awareness Week took place from November 17th to 23rd, 2014, coinciding with CDC's Get Smart Week and other international events focusing on the problem of resistance. The week commenced with a launch event attended by 120 stakeholders from various institutions, and featured an opening address by the Director of Medical Services at the Ministry of Health. The Director committed to appointing a national advisory board for antimicrobial resistance, and invitations to potential members will be sent out in early January.

In addition, AMR education sessions were held with staff and students at the Kenya Medical Training College and health workers at a Mission hospital. At the training college, the session introduced the importance of AMR as a health issue and presented potential actions that health practitioners can take to limit the spread of AMR. The presentation also encouraged staff from the college to review and update AMR curricula. The hospital session focused on implementing AMR stewardship in hospitals. Following the presentation, the mission hospi-

tal asked GARP to return and assist in the establishment of a stewardship program.

While this year's events were confined to Nairobi, each of the launch participants was given a copy of the AMR awareness presentation, and encouraged to spread the information in their own regions. An educational video was also produced by GARP-Kenya partner the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network, and is available on [YouTube](#).

Media coverage of the event is also available on [YouTube](#) and from [Standard Digital newspaper](#).

Antimicrobial Stewardship in India

In late November, GARP-India co-sponsored a 2-day “train-the-trainers” workshop for Indian healthcare professionals on [antimicrobial stewardship in hospitals](#), followed by a [policy forum](#) focusing on antibiotic resistance and stewardship in Indian hospitals. The workshop was led by the British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy and organized by the Public Health Foundation of India. At the policy forum, stakeholders from many sectors presented their viewpoints to 170 participants. CDDEP Director Professor Ramanan Laxminarayan chaired the event and Professor NK Ganguly, chairman of the GARP-India national working group, was the guest of honor.

At the policy forum, Professor Ranjit Roy Chaudhary, medical education professional and researcher, stressed the need to address antibiotic resistance in

India with Indian solutions. He noted that as the drug regulatory authority, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is increasingly involved in tackling the issue of antibiotic resistance and that efforts are being made to restrict the entry and availability of antibiotics by limiting certain antibiotics to specific levels of the health facility.

Dr. Gupta, Associate Director for Antimicrobial Stewardship for Emerging Markets, MSD Pharmaceuticals, noted that the pharmaceutical industry is often seen as part of the problem of antibiotic resistance, rather than as part of the solution. MSD Pharmaceuticals sees itself in the latter role. They use evidence-based research to develop local treatment guidelines for physicians and administrators who can then make informed choices about the drugs they prescribe. Other MSD Pharmaceutical work, such as their

collaboration on CDDEP’s [Drug Resistance Index](#), has helped pave the way for understanding trends in resistance before and after the establishment of antimicrobial stewardship programs.

Participants discussed the importance of auditing prescribers and giving them feedback to improve stewardship, the greater educability of younger doctors compared with their senior counterparts, calling for a national campaign on antibiotic resistance, regularly revising the essential drug list at the hospital level and implementing stewardship programs in states with an uneven distribution of microbiologists or infectious disease specialists.

A key outcome of the forum was Haffkine Institute’s willingness to work with bioMérieux India to create a public private partnership and collaborate on future courses. GARP-India follow-up and maintain the momentum created by these events.

National Strategies in South Africa

The Antimicrobial Resistance National Strategy Framework 2014-2024 was released at the Antimicrobial Resistance Summit held in Johannesburg on Oct. 16, 2014. GARP-South Africa played a major role in drafting the framework, and coordinator Kim Faure will continue to work with the Ministry of Health and the South African Antibiotic Stewardship Program (SAASP) to design an implementation plan for the strategy.

The summit gathered together key stakeholders to achieve an intersectoral commitment to implementing the Antimicrobial Resistance Framework and to raise awareness and encourage collaboration on AMR. Keynote speakers included the Minister of Health, Dr. A. Motsoaledi and CDDEP director and professor Ramanan Laxminarayan. Further presentations were given by experts from WHO-AFRO,

the Ministry of Health, the Medicines Control Council, the National Health Laboratory Service, the Office of Health Standards Compli-



ance, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, as well as from universities and the private sector.

Presentations were organized around the 4 strategic objectives outlined in the Framework:

- Strengthen, coordinate and institutionalize interdisciplinary efforts

- Optimise surveillance and early detection of antimicrobial resistance
- Enhance infection prevention and control
- Promote appropriate use of antimicrobials in human and animal health

The Framework identified four key enablers for these objectives, including:

- Legislative and policy reform for health systems strengthening
- Education of health providers in human health and agriculture
- Communication to

educate the public

- Research into novel diagnostics and new antimicrobials

As a part of infection control efforts, the Hand Hygiene Campaign was launched on November 24th with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, the Consumer Goods Council and hand washing ambassadors in attendance.

Country Highlights:

- GARP-Vietnam published more than 10 papers in 2014 and is currently co-funding studies on surveillance and a randomized trial of a C-reactive protein point-of-care diagnostic to reduce antibiotic use in primary care facilities. GARP-Vietnam also continues to engage actively in the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial resistance.

- GARP-Mozambique finalized their Situation Analysis and is planning a dissemination launch for March 2015.

- GARP-Tanzania is close to finalizing their Situation Analysis and has identified priority activities for phase two, including infection prevention and control activities in public and private hospitals.

- GARP-Nepal completed their Situation Analysis and held a national release meeting on December 15th, 2014. The Minister of Health and Population gave the inaugural address. A blog entry on the meeting can be found on the CDDEP website [here](#) and the executive summary of the analysis can be found [here](#). GARP-Nepal also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Agriculture and Forestry University to conduct research in the veterinary sector.

- GARP-Uganda will be reviewing their draft situation analysis and finalizing recommendations this month, and the dissemination launch should follow in a few months.



Dr. Sameer Dixit, Principal Investigator of GARP-Nepal at the Situation Analysis release

YOUR ASSISTANCE NEEDED

1. We are trying to map out the organizations that conduct useful activities related to antibiotic effectiveness, access, or antibiotic resistance in low- and middle-income countries and we could use your help to identify them. Please send us the names of organizations that do useful projects, programs, training, or assist in other ways in relevant areas. Write a sentence or two about what they've done in your country (or another country) and include the names of key contacts, if known. For example, although not regarded as strictly antibiotic resistance related, the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) have active international programs.

2. CDDEP is expanding the current North America-oriented [ResistanceMap](#) into an international database of antibiotic resistance data. The focus is on collecting 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. If you are not sure whether data would meet the criteria, we are happy to follow up.

Recent CDDEP publications

- [Economic burden of antibiotic resistance: how much do we really know](#)
- [Antibiotic resistance: one of four major global health threats of the 21st century](#)
- [The path of least resistance: aggressive or moderate treatment?](#)
- [Antibiotic effectiveness: balancing conservation and innovation](#)
- [Policies to address antibiotic resistance in low- and middle-income countries](#)
- [The value of tracking antibiotic consumption](#)

Global meetings

- [Commitments to the responsible use of antimicrobials](#), Oslo, Norway, November 13-14

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