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## World Antibiotic Awareness Week, 2015

Activities took place around the globe to celebrate the first ever World Antibiotic Awareness Week, November 16-22. The theme was “Antibiotics, Handle with Care.”

### *GARP Country Spotlight: Kenya*

Kenya hosted their third annual national antibiotic awareness week this year. Spearheaded by GARP-Kenya, the Ministry of Health, the Infection Prevention Network-Kenya (IPNET-K) and ReAct, the week’s events included presentations on antibiotic resistance to medical students at the Veterinary School, University of Nairobi and at the Kenya Medical Training College, Nairobi and at the county referral hospital in Naivasha.

In addition, IPNET-K hosted a three-day meeting in Naivasha on “implementing infection prevention and control (IPC) practices for a safer world,” which featured a session on antimicrobial stewardship (AMS). A two-day workshop focusing exclusively on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was conducted following the IPNET-K conference.

Dr. Eveline Wesangula, AMR focal point and GARP-Kenya coordinator and Dr. Tom Menge, Ministry of Health and GARP-Kenya working group member, were among the presenters during the AMR session. A poster presentation on the *Lancet* series on antimicrobial resistance, described in detail later in this newsletter, was also featured at the conference.

AMR workshop sessions were chaired by Dr. David Silverstein, member, national antibiotic stewardship advisory committee (NASAC) to the Ministry of Health, Kenya; Dr. Gabriel Levy Hara, chair, antimicrobial stewardship working group, International Society of Chemotherapy and chief, infectious

resistance and private practice, veterinary practice and food safety and an interactive discussion featuring three clinical case studies. Two additional GARP countries were represented, by Professor Marc Mendelson, South Africa, and Dr. Khadija Msami, Tanzania, who presented on their



GARP-Kenya Chair Dr. Samuel Kariuki and GARP-Kenya coordinator Dr. Eveline Wesangula present at the Kenya Medical Training College, Nairobi

disease unit, C. G. Durand Hospital; and Professor Sam Kariuki, chief research officer and director, Center for Microbiology Research, KEMRI, Wellcome international fellow and GARP-Kenya chair.

Sessions covered the Kenyan situation, the global action plan, methods to improve antibiotic use, surveillance and laboratory support, connections between

national policy formation experiences. CDDEP senior research analyst Molly Miller-Petrie presented on the *State of the World's Antibiotics, 2015*, Global ResistanceMap, and key findings from the *Lancet* series. The meeting closed with a discussion of the way forward for creating a national AMR policy in Kenya.

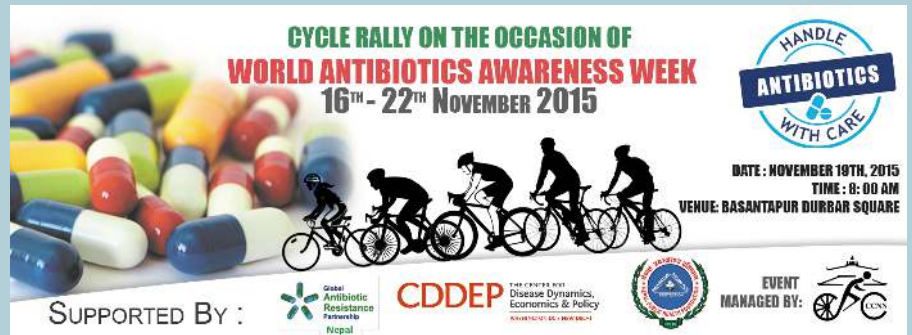
# World Antibiotic Awareness Week, 2015 (continued from page 1)

## GARP Country Spotlight: Nepal

GARP-Nepal hosted their first annual antibiotic awareness week this year. The working group developed posters and pamphlets aimed at raising awareness among the general population. The working group hopes to develop a talk show on antimicrobial resistance in collaboration with the National Health Education Information and Communication Center (NHEICC), Ministry of Health and Population, and is working on a booklet targeting farmers in collaboration with the Agriculture and Forestry University.

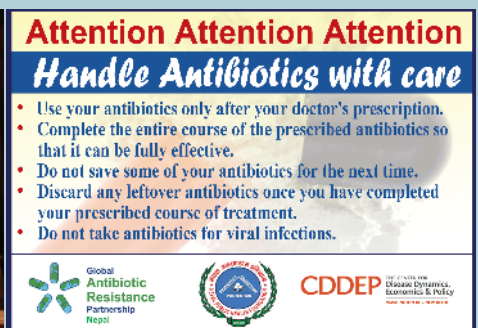
Other events that took place as a part of the awareness week includ-

ed a cycle rally, conferences, Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (Dharan) and the



competitions, pamphlet distribution, poster development, rallies and other activities held across Nepal at the Institute of Medicine, Kathmandu, the Patan Academy of Health Sciences, BP

Agriculture and Forestry University. The working group also conducted a media campaign with articles on proper antibiotic use published in six national newspapers.



A variety of posters and slides used to raise awareness on AMR for World Antibiotic Awareness Week, 2015: Center, Professor Marc Mendelson presents at the IPNET-Kenya AMR workshop. Left and right, slides from GARP-Nepal campaigns.

## The Lancet series on antimicrobial resistance

On November 18th, the *Lancet* published a special series, "Antimicrobials: access and sustainable effectiveness," featuring five articles on antibiotic resistance. The issue also includes a commentary by the Ministers of Health from four GARP countries: India, Kenya, Mozambique and South Africa discussing the development of a national antimicrobial resistance strategy in each of their countries.

CDDEP director Ramanan Laxminarayan is the lead author of the first series paper, which discusses the impact of antibiotic resistance and the need for maintaining effectiveness. Laxminarayan and colleagues estimate that the universal provision of antibiotics could avert 445,000 deaths in children under five due to community-acquired pneumonia, while universal immunization with the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine could avert up to 11.4 million days of antibiotics for pneumonia caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in children under five. They estimate that antibiotic resistance is currently responsible

for 214,000 neonatal sepsis deaths worldwide.

***"Universal provision of antibiotics could avert 445,000 deaths in children under five due to community-acquired pneumonia"***

—Laxminarayan et al,  
"Antimicrobials: access and sustainable effectiveness"

The other papers in the series focus on:

- understanding the mechanism and drivers of antibiotic resistance (A. H. Holmes and colleagues)
- maximizing access to achieve appropriate human antibiotic use

in low- and middle-income countries (M. Mendelson and colleagues)

- exploring the evidence base for national and regional policy interventions to combat antimicrobial resistance (O. A. Dar and colleagues) and
- international cooperation to improve access and to sustain effectiveness of antimicrobials (C. Årdal and colleagues).

### South Africa launch events

In South Africa, the Ministry of Health and CDDEP consultant Kim Faure collaborated to use to the launch of the *Lancet* series and the world awareness week to generate awareness about antimicrobial resistance at the national level. Activities included a speech by Minister of Health Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi that was covered in the George Herald (link on next page).

# Global Antibiotic News

## GARP in the News

The GARP-Uganda working group was featured in a Voice of America article on antibiotic resistance in Uganda (Oct 2015)

Nepal's antibiotic awareness week was covered in the Kathmandu Post (Nov 2015)

South Africa's Minister of Health, Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi, was covered by the George Herald discussing antibiotic resistance during antibiotic awareness week (Nov 2015)

## GARP activities on the CDDEP blog

Kenya Celebrates World Antibiotic Awareness Week (Nov 30)

Want to fight antibiotic resistance this winter? Get a flu shot. (Oct 29)

From Boilerplate to Lives Lost: Surgery, Cancer and Antibiotics (Oct 15)

Reduced Effectiveness of Preventive Antibiotics Increases Risk of Infection—and Death—for Surgery and Cancer Patients (Oct 15)

Needed: Greater Surveillance, New Norms in the Fight Against Antibiotic Resistance (Oct 8)

## New publications and media

*CDDEP research and media:*

Ramanan Laxminarayan has been appointed to the President's Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (CARB), which held its inaugural meeting in D.C. on September 29th, 2015.

Teillant, A., Gandra, S. Barter, D., Morgan, D. J. and Laxminarayan, R. Potential burden of antibiotic resistance on surgery and cancer chemotherapy antibiotic prophylaxis in the USA: a literature review and modelling study. *Lancet Infectious Diseases*; 15(12):1429-1437. Available here.

*Op-eds, blogs and interviews with CDDEP researchers:*

Op-ed: Red meat: cancer, climate change and increased antibiotic resistance - The Hindu newspaper (Nov 2015)

CDC blog: The State of the World's Antibiotics: Resistance Rates Rising, Stewardship is the Solution (Nov 2015)

Interview: CDDEP's *State of the World's Antibiotics, 2015* report - IndiaSpend (Nov 2015)

Interview: The emergence of the NDM-1 and efforts to combat the problem of growing antibiotic resistance - the Huffington Post India (Nov 2015)

Interview: The spread of antibiotic resistance - India ThinkProgress (Oct 2015)

Interview: CDDEP's Hellen Gelband on GARP and the State of the World's Antibiotics - Voice of America (Oct 2015)



Students learn about AMR at World Antibiotic Awareness Week events in Nepal

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)

# GARP Network Contact Information

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