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## Sharing the GARP Experience at the 17th International Congress for Infectious Diseases (ICID)

Lessons learned from laying the groundwork for national antibiotic resistance policy in India, Kenya,

time, and won't just occur spontaneously. It requires methodological knowledge gathering across

important GARP features for success, in addition to the government taking ultimate responsibility for antibiotic resistance on behalf of the public.



GARP working group members, CDDEP researchers and GARP country scientists and ministry officials at the International Congress for Infectious Diseases in Hyderabad, India.

Mozambique, Nepal and South Africa through the Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership (GARP) were shared at the CDDEP symposium at the 17th ICID, "Antibiotic resistance: national actions contribute to a global solution." GARP working group members and scientific experts spoke on the GARP process, while health ministry speakers gave a government perspective.

At the country level, GARP director Hellen Gelband highlighted that the GARP policymaking process is deliberate and takes

disciplines for a one-health approach. The multidisciplinary,

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*"Our current data on antibiotic resistance is just the tip of the iceberg."*

—Revathi Gunturu, Aga Khan University Hospital and GARP-Kenya Working Group

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multi-stakeholder working groups, situation analyses, and paid coordinators have been the most

The panel speakers echoed these lessons, highlighting the key role the GARP situation analyses played in setting the stage for policy development. "The whole resistance program in South Africa was really catalyzed by the GARP-South Africa situation analysis conducted in 2011... it was the beginning of the response," Marc Mendelson, a member of the South African Antibiotic Stewardship Program (SAASP), told the audience. Revathi Gunturu, Aga Khan University Hospital and GARP-Kenya working group member, added "when we did the situation analysis, we realized a lot of things about our national context, we realized much of what we don't know. Our current data on antibiotic resistance is just the tip of the iceberg."

The relationship between GARP and health ministries differs in each country, but in each it plays a major role, as demonstrated by the participation of ministry representatives. "I want to recognize GARP

# GARP at the 17th ICID (continued from page 1)

for repeatedly bringing the issue of antibiotic resistance to the attention of the Ministry," Dr. Rachel Kamau, Team Leader, Infection Prevention and Control, Ministry of Health, Kenya, said in her presentation, "without which progress would have been difficult. No Minister wants to start yet another program, but GARP made resistance an important issue." On the GARP side, Professor Paras Pokharel, Vice-Chair, GARP-Nepal, B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, stressed

*"No Minister wants to start yet another program, but GARP made [antibiotic] resistance an important issue."*

—Dr. Rachel Kamau,  
Ministry of Health, Kenya

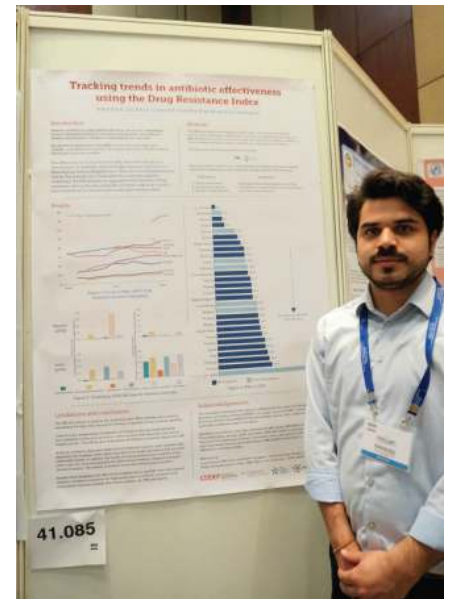
that "government support to this effort is crucial. We are very fortunate to have the support of the Ministry of Health and the veterinary sector." The Honorable Minister of Health, Nepal, Mr. Ram Janam Chaudhari, added his appreciation of the importance of antibiotic issues and his determination to take action.

Details and slides from the GARP symposium are available [here](#).

In addition to the CDDEP symposium, every day of the conference held sessions on antibiotic resistance. A workshop for healthcare providers on "antibiotic stewardship in a resource limited setting" preceded the conference on March 2. March 3 featured "Diagnosis and treatment of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae," March 4, "Managing the most problematic Gram-negative bacterial infections," and March 5, "New and recently approved antibiotics: challenges and opportunities." Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer, England, presented the plenary address the morning of March 5 on antimicrobial resistance – "from problem to policy to action" (see the CDDEP blog post on her talk [here](#)). Dozens of other infectious disease presentations and posters touched on antibiotic resistance – vaccines, one-health, infectious disease diagnosis, intestinal microbiota, enteric fever, childhood pneumonia, and resistance in TB, HIV and malaria, to name just a few.

Basuda Khanal, GARP-Nepal working group member presented a poster on multi-drug resistance in a

tertiary care hospital in Eastern Nepal. Eveline Wesangula of Kenya's GARP working group presented



CDDEP researcher Suraj Pant presented a poster on the Drug Resistance Index at the 17th ICID.

posters on infection control and creating a national antibiotic resistance action plan. CDDEP Senior Research Analyst Suraj Pant and Fellow Sumanth Gandra presented a poster on CDDEP's Drug Resistance Index, using data from GARP-India.



Guidance on drafting national antibiotic resistance plans and a library of existing plans are now available on the World Health Organization (WHO) website [here](#).

WHO is also now publishing a newsletter on their resistance related activities, available by request: [whoamrsecretariat@who.int](mailto:whoamrsecretariat@who.int).



## Global Antibiotic Research and Development (GARD) Partnership

The GARD partnership is "a joint WHO/Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) in support of the Global Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance." GARD is being "incubated" by DNDi and held its first scientific consultation on February 29 in Paris. Like DNDi itself, GARD will become a fully independent product development partnership "to develop new antibiotic treatments addressing antimicrobial resistance and to promote their responsible use for optimal conservation, while ensuring equitable access for all in need."

At the February 29 consultation, initial proposals for potential GARD projects were reviewed and prioritized. GARP project director Hellen Gelband collaborated with GARP-Nepal working group chairman Buddha Basnyat and Professor

Christopher Parry from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on a project focused on typhoid fever diagnosis and treatment and she spoke about it at the meeting. Some other proposals were also disease-specific (gonorrhea, neonatal sepsis, melioidosis) and others were cross-cutting (antibiotic combinations, antibiotic resistance busters, abandoned antibiotics).

GARD will be hiring an executive director in the next few months and developing detailed project proposals for which they will be seeking funding. All GARD projects will give priority to the needs of low- and middle-income countries, including disease burden, in selecting projects and access to products once developed. GARPNet News will report on GARD progress in future issues.

## Country Highlights

### India

CDDEP drafted a policy document to guide the creation of a national antibiotic resistance action plan for India and other countries in the region, which was shared at the high-level meeting "Combating Antimicrobial Resistance: Public Health Challenge and Priority," organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the WHO's Regional Office for South East Asia in New Delhi on February 23-25. A final national antimicrobial resistance plan for India is set to be developed by May 2017.

GARP provided a technical document on antibiotic use and resistance in animals for distribution at the 16th Indian Veterinary Congress, 27-28 February at the request of the organizers. CDDEP scholar Sumanth Gandra spoke on "Global antimicrobial consumption in livestock" at the meeting on behalf of GARP.

### Kenya

GARP-Kenya chair Sam Kariuki was appointed as a consultant to develop a national strategy to reduce the threat of antimicrobial resistance in agriculture, livestock and fisheries on a grant funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The 2011 situation analysis will be updated as a part of this project and the GARP working group will be involved as technical experts.

### Nepal

During a weeklong visit to GARP-Nepal, CDDEP and GARP-Nepal working group members met with the Minister of Health, Mr. Ram Janam Chaudhari, to discuss the way forward for Nepal's national action plan on antibiotic resistance. The group also visited the College of Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and Forestry University, Chitwan and the BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan, to hear from researchers, students and professors working with GARP-Nepal to curb antibiotic resistance.

GARP-Nepal working group chair Buddha Basnyat and member Abhilasha Karkey co-authored "Gatifloxacin versus ceftriaxone for uncomplicated enteric fever in Nepal: an open-label, two-centre, randomised controlled trial," published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* in January. This is a landmark paper on enteric fever treatment and antibiotic resistance.

A modified version of the situation analysis was published in the *Journal of Nepal Health Research Council*.

### Vietnam

The open-label randomized controlled trial of C-reactive protein (CRP) point-of-care (POC) test-guided antibiotic prescription versus routine care for mild respiratory infections in primary healthcare centers in Vietnam study was completed. The intervention safely reduces antibiotic use in the resource constrained setting of Vietnam for mild respiratory infections in both adults and children.

## New from CDDEP

### Blogs, Graphics and Op-Eds

- Blog: "One health: from buzzword to public health practice in Nepal." Molly Miller-Petrie, CDDEP.
- Blog: "A wicked problem." Hellen Gelband, CDDEP.
- Blog: "GARP takes the stage at ICID." Molly Miller-Petrie, CDDEP.
- Blog: "The Challenge of global antibiotic policy: Improving access and preventing excess." Ramanan Laxminarayan, CDC Global Voices Blog.
- Graphic: "Changes in antibiotic consumption for selected countries, 2000-2010." CDDEP.
- Op-ed: The top delivery challenge in India. *Livemint*. Ramanan Laxminarayan.

### Publications

- Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy. 2016. *Antibiotic Use and Resistance in Food Animals: Current Policy and Recommendations*. New Delhi: CDDEP.
- Gandra, S., Klein, E., Pant, S., Malhotra-Kumar, S. and Lazminarayan, R. 2016. Faropenem consumption is increasing in India. 2016. *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (online)
- Laxminarayan, R. 2016. Trans-boundary commons in infectious diseases, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 32 (1): 88-101. doi: 10.1093/oxrep/grv030
- Laxminarayan, R. and Chaudhury R. 2016. Antibiotic resistance in India: Drivers and opportunities for action, *PLoS Med* 13(3): e1001974. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001974

Photoshare has launched its 11th annual photo contest. Photoshare is a USAID-funded digital collection of photos from around the world that may be used free of charge for charitable or educational use. This year's focus is on healthcare providers and global families, among other global health topics. Submit your photos by April 8 to win a top prize of \$1,000 USD.

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



# GARP Network Contact Information

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