



Swedish
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Contact Office for European Research
Innovation and Education

Science Briefing

Harnessing the power of data to tackle AMR

Tuesday, 23 April 2024

SwissCore

Rue du Trône 98, 1050 Brussels

Event Summary

Join us for a Science Briefing on Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a pressing global challenge threatening our ability to treat common infections effectively.

The emergence and spread of drug-resistant pathogens, particularly multidrug-resistant (MDR) pathogens, are a growing concern. The development of new antibiotics has stalled in recent years, making alternative treatment approaches and improved prevention strategies crucial. AMR as a global challenge requires international response.

In this sense, the EU has a dedicated European [One Health Action Plan against AMR](#), the [Council adopted the Recommendation](#) on stepping up EU actions to combat AMR in a One Health approach, and plans to launch the co-funded [European Partnership on One Health AMR](#) (OHAMR), among other initiatives.

Sweden is currently coordinating the [Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance](#) (JPIAMR) and will then also coordinate OHAMR. At the same time, Switzerland has a National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) [AntiResist](#), and had a [National Research Programme \(NRP 72\)](#) on Antimicrobial Resistance, all of them funded by the [Swiss National Science Foundation](#).

During this event, we are convening a distinguished panel of experts to discuss the One-Health Approach to AMR, and the critical role of data in combating AMR. Together, we will delve into the questions of how JPIAMR and the future OHAMR will leverage a One Health approach and build work on existing initiatives for data sharing.

This event is a unique opportunity to gain insights from leading experts in the field of AMR and explore how we can leverage data to combat this growing global threat.

Event Agenda

From 08:45	Registration
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome of the organisers Ellenor Devine , Head of Office (Research), SWERI Sarah Bühler , European Advisor for Research
09:05 – 10:00	European and national initiatives Shawon Lahiri , Senior analyst, JPIAMR Secretariat, Swedish Research Council Jenny Frössling , Associate Prof., Swedish Veterinary Agency Moderated by Ellenor Devine , Head of Office (Research), SWERI
10:00 – 10:45	Noémie Boillat Blanco , MD-PhD, Université Hospital of Lausanne, NRP 72 Alexandre Persat , Associate Prof., EPFL, NCCR AntiResist Moderated by Flurina Kuhn , Scientific Officer, Swiss National Science Foundation
10:45 – 11:15	Networking coffee
11:15 – 12:30	Round table: Power of Data Aitana Neves , Associate Director Clinical Bioinformatics, Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics Jenny Frössling , Associate Prof., Swedish Veterinary Agency Shawon Lahiri , Senior analyst, JPIAMR Secretariat, Swedish Research Council Licínio Kustra Mano Policy Officer on EHDS, DG SANTE, EC Karel Luyben , President, EOSC Association Moderated by Madeleine Durbeej Hjalt , Secretary General in Medicine and Health, Swedish Research Council
12:30 – 13:30	Closing and light sandwich lunch

Speakers and Moderators

Shawon Lahiri, Senior analyst, JPIAMR Secretariat, Swedish Research Council



Is a Senior Analyst at the secretariat of the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance hosted by the Swedish Research Council with experience in research management, evaluation and science policies in the field of AMR. She has a research background in the field of gut microbiome and host physiology. After finishing her doctoral studies at the Central Drug Research Institute, India, she pursued her research interests at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland and then at the Karolinska Institute, Sweden as a senior postdoctoral fellow.

Jenny Frössling, Associate Professor, Swedish Veterinary Agency



A senior epidemiologist at the Swedish Veterinary Agency (SVA) where she leads a team of experts in animal health surveillance, quantitative epidemiology, and disease modelling. She is also an associate professor affiliated to the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. She has long-term experience and expertise in analysis, interpretation, and communication of animal health data for the purpose of disease control/prevention.

Noémie Boillat Blanco, MD-PhD, Médecin adjointe, Senior lecturer, Privat Docent, Division of Infectious Diseases, University Hospital of Lausanne, University of Lausanne



[Noémie Boillat-Blanco's](#) conducted a [project](#) funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation via the National Research Programme (NRP 72) Antimicrobial Resistance, which funded the work of Swiss research in 12 projects in the international Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR).

Alexandre Persat, Associate Prof., EPFL, NCCR AntiResist



His [research](#) focuses on biophysical aspects of bacterial infections. To tackle this problem, he employs tissue-engineered human organoid systems enabling studies of infection at high resolution. He participates in the National Centre of Competence in Research-(NCCR) [AntiResist](#), which is one of the NCCRs that the Swiss National Science Foundation funds. The NCCR AntiResist embraces the principle of open science and collaboration, considering that

AMR is a global challenge.

Flurina Kuhn, Scientific Officer, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)



As part of the International Team at the SNSF, she supports funding initiatives to facilitate collaboration between Swiss-based researchers and partners from abroad. AMR is of strategic importance to Switzerland, which is why the SNSF provides funding for national and international collaboration focusing on this specific topic. Flurina was previously Scientific Advisor at the UK Science and Innovation Network and studied international relations and political sciences in Zurich, Mexico City and St. Gallen.

Speakers and Moderators

Aitana Neves, Associate Director Clinical Bioinformatics, Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics



She was the co-leader of ELIXIR CONVERGE WP9 that aimed to mobilise viral genomes from national sequencing efforts to offer true open data resources for surveilling COVID-19 variants on the European [COVID-19 Data Platform](#). In addition, such efforts will ensure the commitment to the open sharing of variant data through the ENA. The Community of Practice of Pathogen Data Platforms that was established, is now consolidating within the BY-COVID project and in the ELIXIR Pathogen Data Focus group, where important tasks involve assessing the maturity of pathogen data platforms and providing tools for self-assessment and improvement.

Licinio Kustra Mano, Policy Officer on European Health Data Space, DG SANTE, European Commission (EC)



As professional, he worked as a researcher on eHealth interoperability, then co-founded iUZ Technologies, where he expanded his horizons as an entrepreneur as well as eHealth consultant and engineer. Afterwards, he coordinated several eHealth projects at the Shared Services of the Portuguese Ministry of Health. Since 2016, he contributes to the eHealth services at the European Commission. He has a Master's Degree in Computer Software Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto.

Karel Luyben, President, EOSC Association



He is Rector Magnificus Emeritus of the Delft University of Technology as of 2018. He was Rector Magnificus of the Delft University of Technology from 2010 till 2018. In 1983 he was appointed full professor in Biochemical Engineering at the Delft University of Technology, and from there has gained experience in research, starting a SME, research leadership and leading European organisations like the European Federation of Biotechnology, CESAER and now the European Open Science Cloud Association. Presently he is primarily active in the domain of Open Science. Until 2023, he was National Coordinator for Open Science in the Netherlands.

Since 2021 he is the President of the European Open Science Cloud Association (EOSC-A).

Madeleine Durbeej Hjalt, Secretary General in Medicine and Health, Swedish Research Council



She is the Secretary General in Medicine and Health at the Swedish Research Council. Her main responsibilities are the development of high-quality funding schemes and two national research programs (antibiotic resistance and viruses and pandemics). She is also the national representative of several international organisations. Madeleine obtained her PhD from Uppsala University, Sweden. After a postdoctoral period at Howard Hughes Medical Institute, USA, she returned to Lund University, Sweden where she became full professor in 2010. She was vice head and head of the Department of Experimental Science 2012-2020.