Combating Emerging and Enduring Pathogens Including AMR

Taking action today to make an impact tomorrow
Topics

The global response to AMR
Wellcome’s strategy for drug-resistant infections
Communicating to gain a public mandate
Overview: The Global Response to AMR

The presentation gives an overview of Wellcome’s detailed analysis of the global response to AMR published in November 2020 including:

- Key highlights
- Aggregate findings
- Ideas for how we might position AMR in a post-Covid global health environment
- A potential "critical path" to accelerated, impactful action against AMR

Please view the full report at: https://wellcome.org/reports/global-response-amr-momentum-success-and-critical-gaps
The AMR community has achieved notable recent successes, including:

- AMR has achieved prominence on the global political agenda
- The AMR community is now a broad, multi-sectoral coalition of actors aware of, and willing to tackle, AMR
- The early-stage and translational research environment is robustly funded

But this enabling environment for AMR action is at risk of irreparably weakening:

- Ambitions have not always translated into meaningful action
- Prioritisation is increasingly emerging as a gap
- The AMR agenda was at risk of losing momentum even pre-COVID-19 – making it important to capture new momentum in global health with a clear post-COVID-19 AMR narrative
The importance of a critical path to impact

**Problem: Prioritisation** was one of the most frequently and urgently raised points by experts:

- AMR agenda and narrative are complex
- The multitude of potential actions paralyses decision-makers
- Limited time, and limited resources, to stop AMR overwhelming global health systems

**Solution:** a **Critical Path** plotting actions based on impact and feasibility to inform prioritisation
The analysis framework: 7 themes and 9 enablers* 

**Themes**

Reduce need & unintentional exposure

- Human infection prevention & control
- Clean water & sanitation
- Food safety & security
- Environmental contamination

**Enablers**

**Surveillance** (incl. laboratory capacity)

- Discovery & translational research
  - Diagnostics (development & access)
  - Therapeutics (development & access)
  - Vaccines (development & access)
- Medicines quality
- Clinical trial networks

**Optimise use of medicines**

- Human consumption of antimicrobials
- Use of antimicrobials in animals
- Use of antimicrobials in plants

**Innovation**

- National action
- Global governance

*Based on the 2017 IACG AMR Framework for Action
Suggested critical path (2020-2030)

**Suggested focus** fields (with high impact possible or very likely, and medium or high feasibility):

- High on both: Clean water and sanitation; human IPC
- High on one: vaccines, therapeutics, surveillance, human consumption
- Medium on both: Use in animals

Themes which sit outside the identified focus fields **remain critically important** but require more research to further understanding of impact/feasibility of solutions.
A potential critical path to impact has 2 phases:

- 2020–30: Focus on mitigating the risk of resistance, and on expanding the evidence base where gaps limit action.

- Beyond 2030: Focus on moderating levels of resistance development through prevention and maintaining and scaling best practices.

Optimal actions to take in each theme and enabler will vary in the second phase.
Covid net impact on resistance development remains uncertain

• Evidence in early stages, data limited
• Factors exerting upward pressure: broad-spectrum antibiotics as standard treatment for Covid patients, reduced attention to disease mitigation efforts (e.g. resistant TB)
• Factors exerting downward pressure: drops in patient visits and routine procedures, reduced disease transmission, improved hygiene
• Net effect remains to be seen

Covid provides several opportunities for the global conversation on AMR

• Elevated status of healthcare funding and innovation financing
• Expanded laboratory capacity and surveillance
• Improved infection prevention and hygiene

At the same time, there are several new risks to progress on AMR

• Funding cuts due to aggregate fiscal constraints
• Research priorities shifting disproportionately towards viral infections
• Resource constraints for implementation (e.g. hospital surveillance)
• Ineffective stewardship (e.g. shift to telemedicine hampering diagnostics)
• Challenges to advocacy accessibility
Implications for AMR community

The AMR agenda, despite significant successes at mobilising awareness and resources, is at risk of losing momentum.

It should focus on a critical path, and prioritise actions that are high-impact and feasible in an appropriate sequence.

Action is necessary from all actors across government, private sector and civil society, moving individually and collaboratively.

The community needs to help all actors define and own targets and objectives which are measurable to ensure we stay on the critical path.
Wellcome’s strategy for drug-resistant infections
Wellcome supports science to solve the urgent health challenges facing everyone

Focus will be on three urgent health challenges supported by a portfolio of discovery research:

- infectious diseases
- global warming
- mental health
Wellcome’s contribution will have the highest impact by focusing on a subset of the AMR agenda.
Our strategy for action

Two Goals
• Sustainable pipeline for antibiotics
• Foster mobilisation of government-led action

Achieved through three Outcomes
• New antibiotics are developed, available accessible and affordable
• Appropriate, evidence-based use of antibiotics
• Implementation of robust, country-specific, country-led, country-owned National Action Plans
Communicating to gain a public mandate

We should always talk about drug-resistant infections
Public support can reinforce the mandate for change
But AMR is not a top priority with the public...

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<td>Air pollution 85%</td>
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Q: How significant or otherwise do you consider the threat to the world today from each of the following issues? (threats ranked based on % rating each issue as a very/fairly significant threat)
Reframing resistance

‘Framing’
- How an issue is explained and presented through specific themes and angles

Objectives
- Understand how best to frame AMR to drive policy action and increase public support and comprehension
- Share findings with the AMR community to support cohesive and consistent communications

Methods
- In-depth interviews with experts
- Media & social media analysis
- Quantitative and qualitative research
- Testing with 12,000 people in 7 countries [Germany, India, Japan, Kenya, Thailand, UK, USA]
We can reinvigorate the AMR message by communicating more simply.
The 5 framing principles

1. Frame drug-resistant infections as undermining modern medicine

2. Explain the fundamentals succinctly

3. Emphasise that this is a universal issue; it affects everyone, including you

4. Focus on the here and now

5. Encourage immediate action
Summary

The global AMR agenda should frame plans that enable **stepwise-actions that are relevant, focused and feasible** - all of which aimed to build to the long-term goal to control AMR.

Wellcome is focusing on revitalising the antibiotics pipeline, improving how antibiotics are used, and using science to support NAP implementation.

We need to **improve communications** to better engage everyone to have a strong mandate for change.
Thank you

Working for a world where nobody is endangered by drug-resistant infections