

## AMR Funding opportunities

Ghada Zoubiane - Medical Research Council  
UCL, London 26 July 2017

# Areas to cover

---

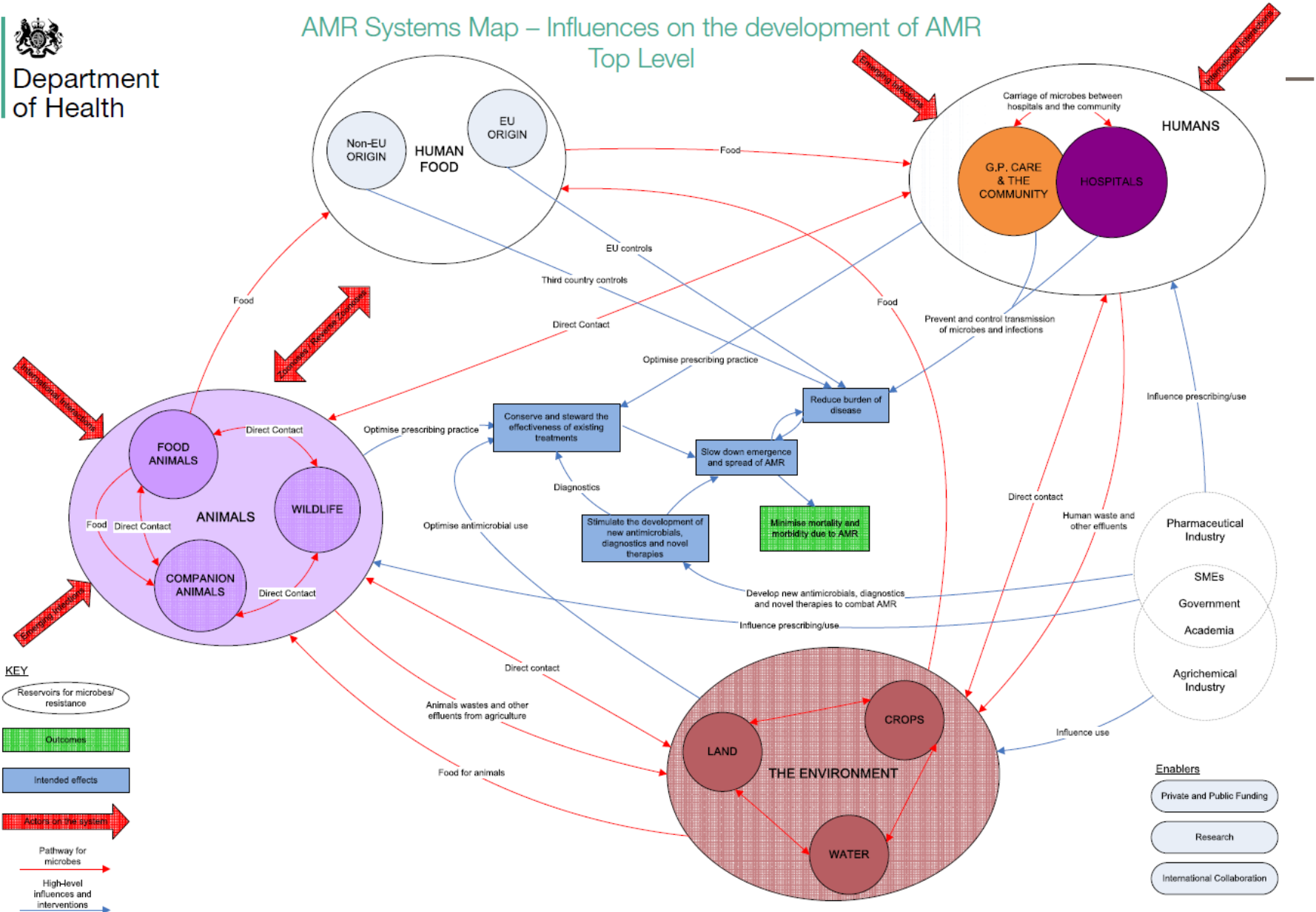
- Antimicrobial Resistance cross research council initiative
- Newton calls and activities

# AMR arises from complex interactions between different sectors



Department of Health

AMR Systems Map – Influences on the development of AMR  
Top Level



# Government strategy

---

Published in late 2013, key aims:

- improve the knowledge and understanding of antimicrobial resistance
- conserve and steward the effectiveness of existing treatments
- stimulate the development of new antibiotics, diagnostics and novel therapies

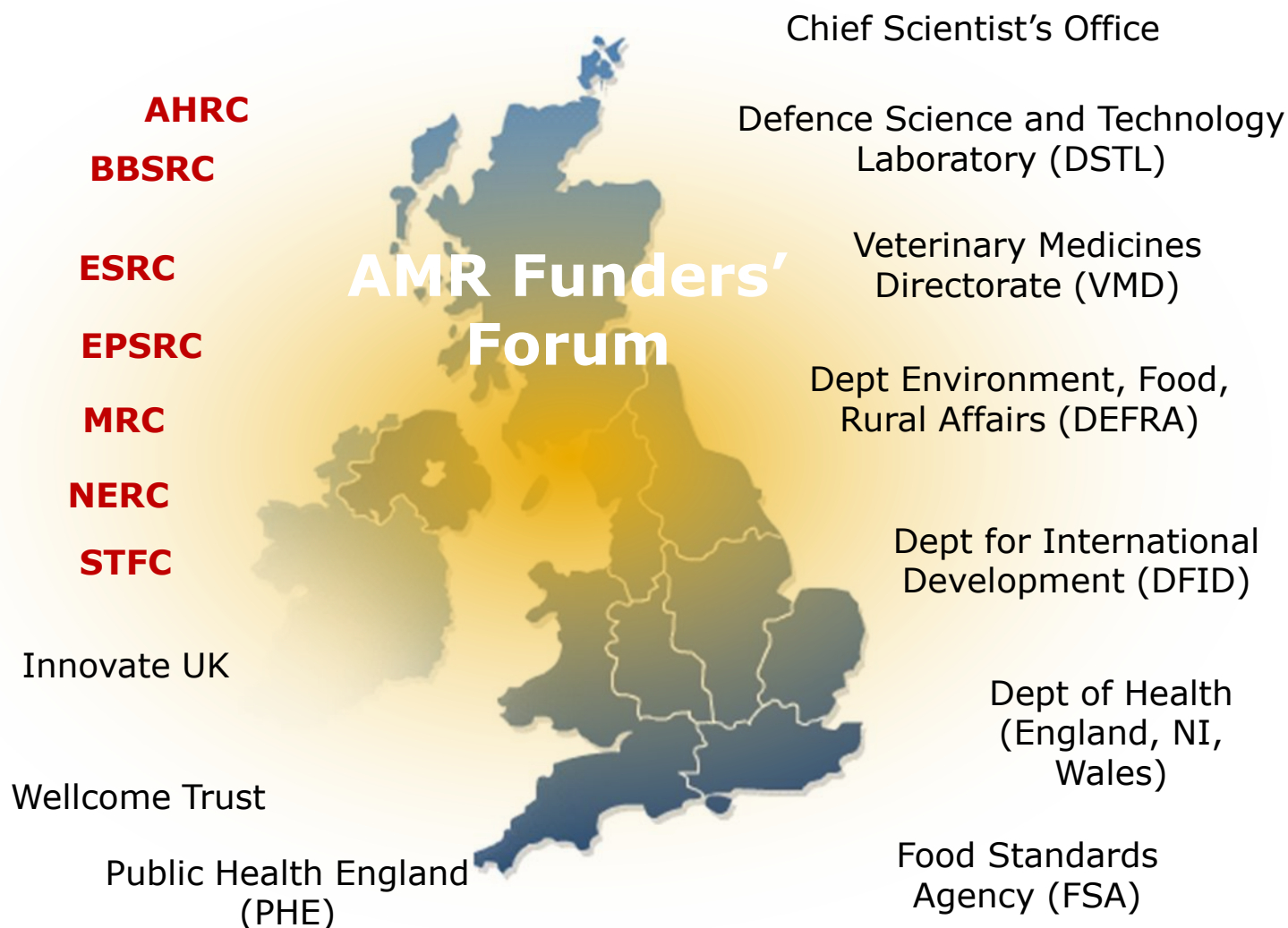


## UK Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2013 to 2018



# The UK: A rich network of funders and researchers

---





Arts & Humanities  
Research Council



Science & Technology  
Facilities Council

# Tackling AMR

## A cross-council initiative





# AMR Cross-Council Initiative



- Launched June 2014
- All Research Councils
- Bacterial resistance in the first instance
- Challenge led approach

itv NEWS

Player Shows Guide News Sport More

Top stories Your area Topics Weather

NATIONAL

## 'War cabinet' opens to tackle UK superbugs

Science minister Greg Clark has begun his role with a declaration of war against superbugs. Mr Clark said all seven UK research councils were joining forces to form a "war cabinet" to tackle antibiotic resistance.

SHARE TWEET PLUS REDDIT

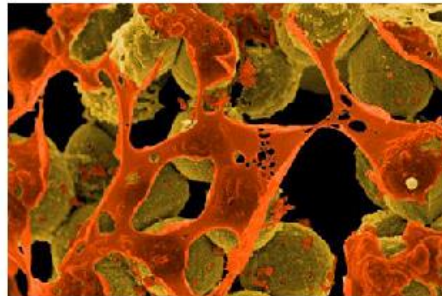
VIEW ALL 2 UPDATES >

17 July 2014 at 2:17pm

### 'War cabinet' opens to fight antibiotic resistance

A declaration of "war" against superbugs has been issued today, after new science minister Greg Clark announced that all seven UK research councils were joining forces to tackle antibiotic resistance.

Mr Clark, who replaced David Willetts in the cabinet reshuffle, said: "This will help to drive forward important advances in the fight against antimicrobial resistance."



### 'War cabinet' on drug resistance brings councils together

Greg Clark, the newly appointed science minister, has launched a major cross-government push to tackle antimicrobial resistance.

THE INDEPENDENT WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2015

NEWS VIDEO PEOPLE VOICES SPORT TECH LIFE PROPERTY ARTS + ENTS TRAVEL MONEY

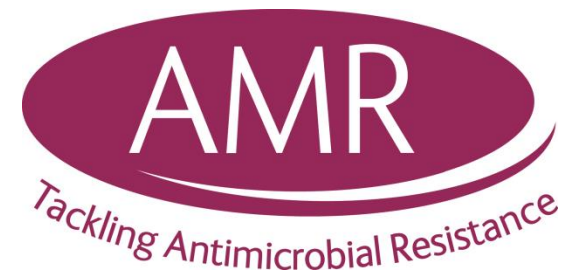
Family Food and Drink Health & Families History Gadgets and Tech Motoring Dating Crosswords Gaming Competitions

Life > Health & Families > Health News

## UK research councils join forces in 'unprecedented move' to tackle rise of antibiotic-resistant 'superbugs'

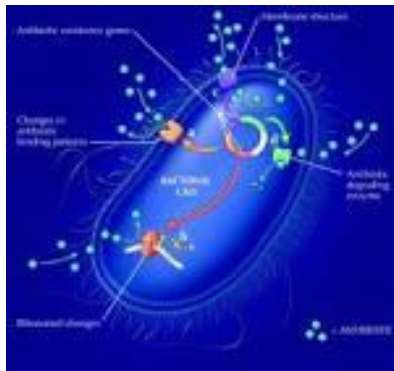
A scanning electron micrograph showing numerous red, rod-shaped bacteria. Some are clustered together, while others are more isolated. There are also smaller, yellowish, spherical structures scattered around the red bacteria. The background is a textured, light brown color.

# Antimicrobial Resistance – a thematic approach



## Understanding resistant bacteria

**Calls closed**



**Calls closed**

Accelerating therapeutic and diagnostic development



**Calls closed**

Understanding real world interactions



**Call closed**

Behaviour within and beyond the health care setting



# AMR Steering Group

---

- Expert scientific panels under all themes- usually Chaired by a Steering Group member
- Make recommendations to the Steering Group
- Members:
  - Herman Goossens (Chair) – University of Antwerp, Belgium
  - Sharon Peacock – University of Cambridge/LSHTM, UK
  - Alistair Macdonald – The Glasgow School of Art, UK
  - Duncan Maskell – University of Cambridge, UK
  - Rachel McKendry – University College London, UK
  - Richard Smith- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
  - Elizabeth Wellington – Warwick University, UK
  - David Payne – GlaxoSmithKline
  - Jared Silverman – VL32

# What have we delivered so far?

---

- More than 67 projects funded
- Total of @£44m so far
- Working together across disciplines and sectors
- Rally the community around AMR
  - Bridging the gap, AMR champion, networking, building capacity
- Primarily UK based with some international links
- Links with industry and policy makers, line of sight to impact

# GCRF opportunities

---

- The Government Spending Review on 25th November 2015

“A new £1.5 billion Global Challenges Research Fund, to ensure UK science takes the lead in addressing the problems faced by developing countries, whilst developing our ability to deliver cutting-edge research”.

# AMR – Going Global (phase 2)



- 
- Current call: £10m in partnership with DH
  - Identifying, prioritizing and understanding the drivers of AMR in LMIC – WASH relevance
  - Taking a holistic systems approach which accounts for the natural and social environment that affects the emergence of disease and resistance
  - Linking and leveraging existing and current investments, such as the Fleming Fund, strongly encouraged
  - Two Stage Call - with interim strengthening awards to scope the area 6-8months (2017) followed by larger consortia – interdisciplinary, flexible, scalable (2018)

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/xrcprogrammes/tackling-antimicrobial-resistance/amrfunding/>

## AMR – Going Global Call: £10m in partnership with DH

### Key dates

Development stage	
Launch	4 May 2018
Deadline	11 July 2017
Panel review	September 2017
Awards start	1 October 2017

Full stage	
Launch	Autumn 2017
Deadline	Mid January 2018
Panel	Late March 2018
Awards start	1 May 2018



# Newton Fund

---



UK Government initiative intended to strengthen research and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging knowledge economies

By 2021 Newton will be at £735 million from the UK, with partner countries providing matched resources within the Fund.

# Developing International Links – Newton Fund



So far:

- UK-India Joint Centres Partnerships - 2 Centres on AMR
  - The Cambridge-Chennai Centre Partnership on Antimicrobial Resistant Tuberculosis
  - UK-India Centre for Advanced Technology for Minimising the indiscriminate use of Antibiotics (UKICAT-MA)
- UK-China Call on AMR (MRC, ESRC, BBSRC)
- UK-Thailand Joint Health Research call *includes infectious diseases*
- UK-Vietnam Joint Infectious Disease Research call
- UK-Brazil Neglected Infectious Diseases Partnership
- UK-Philippines Joint Health Research call *includes infectious diseases (AMR)*
- UK-Indonesia Joint Health Research Call on Infectious diseases
- UK-South Africa call on AMR

# Newton Fund – AMR related

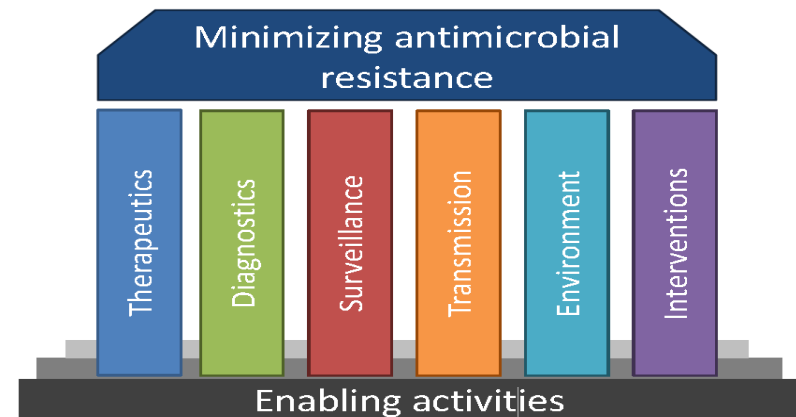
---

- China AMR (pre-announcement call - [link](#))
- India AMR (pre-announcement call - [link](#))
- Brazil
  - AMR in agricultural setting
  - Includes resistance in farmed animals and crop pathogens
- UK-China-Philippines-Thailand Swine and Poultry Research Initiative
- Newton Bhabha UK-India Industrial Waste Challenge 2017
- Newton-India agri-data
- Newton Fund UK-China Agritech Challenge 2017
- UK-Thailand: Joint Health Research Call in Infectious Diseases
- Discussions with Peru, Kenya, South Africa

# Joint Programming Initiative AMR



- MRC represents the UK & are members of the Steering Group
- To date, 24 members (EU countries, Canada, Israel, Argentina, Estonia and Japan) – expanding globally (Egypt and India)
- Links with WHO, EC, IMI, EPFIA, TATFAR, NIH
- Strategic Research Agenda highlights 6 priority topics – aligns to UK AMR Cross Council Initiative
- ‘One Health’ approach
- Activities beyond calls
- Transnational calls and workshops
  - Transmission dynamics between reservoirs, indoor and outdoor environments, etc



# MRC: AMR Funding opportunities



- AMR Target ID call (later 2017)
- Responsive Mode (x3 funding rounds per year)
- Fellowship schemes
- Translational funding: Confidence in Concept; Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme
- AHRC-MRC Global Public Health: Global Challenge Research Fund Partnership Awards
- GCRF network in vaccine R&D (Linking with bactiVacc, Birmingham) – opportunities to join the network ([Vaccinology@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk](mailto:Vaccinology@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk))
- Confidence in Global Nutrition and health research: Institutional pump priming awards – link with infection, microbiome
- Technology Touching Life Networks
- Joint global health trials
- Health systems research initiative



# Cross Council Funding Agreement (**CCFA**):

---

- You can submit cross-council applications into Responsive Mode
- Check first who should be the `lead` Council, and apply to their deadlines, against their grant rules
- Other RCs input to peer review and funding
- **<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/fundingagreement/>**

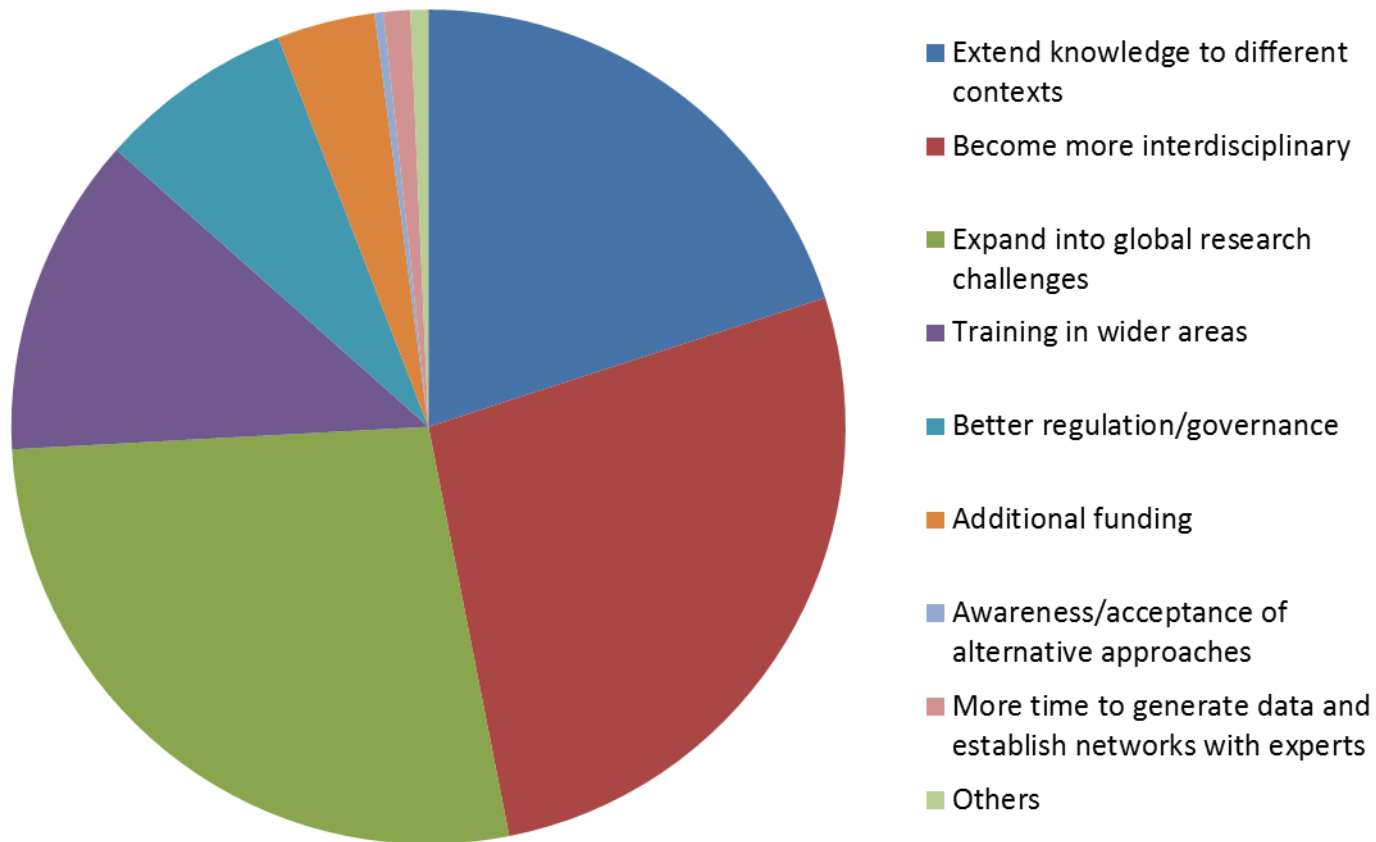
# Key messages

---

- Lots happening
- Individual, cross council and cross-government activities
- Not all is labelled “AMR”
- AMR may be embedded in other activities or there may be related linked opportunities (e.g. vaccines, sensors)
- Don't forget Responsive Mode; Councils can fund cross-council work in Responsive Mode

# How AMR research can be advanced further?

---

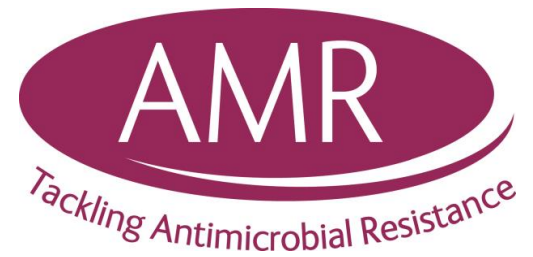


# What else?

---

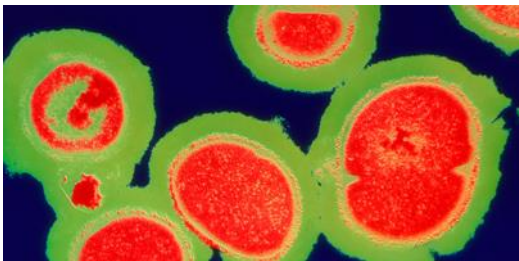
- What skills are needed beyond expertise:
  - Flexibility, adaptability, creativity
  - Curiosity about, and willingness to learn from other disciplines
  - Good communication and listening skills (*different language and terminology!!*)
  - Ability to bridge the gap between theory and practice
  - A good team worker and a manager
- How to create the right environment?
  - Across different groups, Universities
  - Linking with industry
  - Linking with policy

# Thank you



**AMR Cross Council Initiative website:** [www.mrc.ac.uk/amr](http://www.mrc.ac.uk/amr)

Dr Ghada Zoubiane – MRC [amr@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk](mailto:amr@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk)



[www.mrc.ac.uk/amr](http://www.mrc.ac.uk/amr)