Tackling AMR
A Cross Council Initiative
AMR – an ecological / systems level perspective
AMR Funders Forum (AMRFF)

- Made up of representatives from the research councils, governmental bodies and charities
- Strategic overview of the UK AMR research base with an understanding of its output, skill base, resources and impact
- Has a common vision for AMR research and its implementation
- Will add value to existing programmes
- Will coordinate and/or support the initiation of funding and delivery of programmes
- Will raise the profile of the AMR research base in the UK and internationally

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/research/initiatives/antimicrobial-resistance/antimicrobial-resistance-funders-forum/
What is needed?

- Collaborative working
- Coordination of key disciplines
  Multi/inter/trans – disciplinary research
- Ensuring integration with human/animal healthcare
- Ensuring capacity building – supporting the next generation of AMR researchers
AMR Cross-council Initiative

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

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

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

- Herman Goossens (Chair) – University of Antwerp, Belgium
- Alastair Macdonald – Glasgow School of Art
- Duncan Maskell – University of Cambridge, UK
- Rachel McKendry – University College London, UK
- David Payne – GlaxoSmithKline
- Sharon Peacock – University of Cambridge/Bloomsbury Institute, UK
- Richard Smith- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
- Jared Silverman – VL32
- Elizabeth Wellington – Warwick University, UK
Antimicrobial Resistance – Funding activities

**Phase 1:**

- £40m commitment supporting multidisciplinary research from bench to bed side
- One Health approach, links with industry and policy makers, flexible funding model
- Innovation/pump priming and collaborative/research grants
Antimicrobial Resistance – a thematic approach

Understanding resistant bacteria

Accelerating therapeutic and diagnostic development

Understanding real world interactions

Behaviour within an beyond the health care setting
Antimicrobial Resistance – Funding activities

**Phase 1:**
- £40m commitment supporting multidisciplinary research from bench to bed side
- One Health approach, links with industry and policy makers, flexible funding model
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**Phase 2 (Future):**
- Challenge-led antibacterial resistance call: *interdisciplinary* & *LMIC/DAC relevant* collaborations/partnerships
- Cross council with other funders (DH)
- To launch early 2017 (pre-call announcement Dec 16)
AMR relevant activities

Newton Fund

- AMR specific calls – awarded 2 Centres with India and 11 proposals across different SE Asian countries
- Future AMR calls in 2017 (India, China and South Africa)
Contact details

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AHRC AMR in the Indoor Environment Networking Event

AMBA Hotel, Marble Arch, November 30 2016

Gary Grubb, Associate Director of Programmes, AHRC
Sam Lambshead, Strategy and Development Manager, Histories Cultures and Heritage
How we got here

Funders Forum and Cross council agreement on a themed initiative in 2015 created four themes:

1) Understanding Resistant Bacteria
2) Accelerating therapeutic and diagnostic development
3) Understanding the real world interactions
4) Behaviour Within and beyond the health care setting

• Theme 3 was split into indoor (AHRC led) and outdoor (NERC led) sub themes.
• A scoping workshop for the indoor environment was held in Spring 2016
• This is the first activity to date on the indoor sub theme
Why is AHRC involved in AMR Research?

- AMR is an extraordinarily complex problem that cannot be tackled by biological and clinical approaches alone.
- Long history of interventions that have failed due to a lack of understanding of context, cultures, histories, practices, poor design, inadequate engagement with users, etc.
- AHRC supports research relating to cultural and historical perspectives and creative practice in health and wellbeing as well as community engagement and participatory approaches and understanding human behaviours & practices.
- The remit of AHRC covers 50 Disciplines, including Design (identified as an AHRC priority area) and Architecture which have specific relevance to the indoor theme.
- Growing fields such as medical and health humanities and interconnections with other interdisciplinary research initiatives such as AHRC Science in Culture & Digital Transformations Themes and RCUK Lifelong Health & Wellbeing theme (e.g. Design for Wellbeing: Ageing & Mobility in the Built Environment).
- AHRC disciplines offer the opportunity to explore the potential for culturally informed, creative and design-led approaches to generate innovative ways to address the challenges of AMR in the indoor and built environment.
“It is a challenge to work in this field at the cusp of different disciplines but in the challenge lies excitement”
Dr Colin MacDuff, PI, Robert Gordon University

http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/readwatchlisten/filmsandpodcasts/visualisingtheinvisible/

Deals with issues around “Pathogens – People and Places” & sensory perception “Touch”, Visualisation

Current follow-up: Healthcare Associated Infection Visualisation and Ideation Research Network (HAIVAINR)
Exploring Histories and Futures of Innovation in Advanced Wound Care

Health Effects of Modern Airtight Construction

Around the Toilet
a cross-disciplinary, arts-based research project exploring the toilet as a place of exclusion and belonging

Health Effects of Modern Airtight Construction
https://hemacnetwork.com/
Network of academics and industry professionals from the fields of respiratory health, indoor air quality and the built environment (workshop today at Glasgow School of Art)

Exploring Histories and Futures of Innovation in Advanced Wound Care
http://wounds.leeds.ac.uk/
(Image courtesy of Wellcome Library, London)
Cross cutting objectives of the call

• To examine the role of the indoor and built environment in the proliferation, transmission and prevention of AMR

• To focus on the human and animal aspects and experiences of the indoor/built environment.

• To look for creative approaches to identify strategies for action and to inform and evaluate interventions

• To build new collaborations and cross-disciplinary partnerships and networks that can make a real world impact to future AMR research
Call Sub-Themes

• Places, Spaces, Cultures and Practices: Interactions with and within the Indoor and Built Environment
• Pathways and Journeys through the Built Environment and the Dynamics of Change
• Creative, Collaborative and Disruptive Innovation, Experiments and Design in Indoor/ Built Environments
• Reflection, Learning, Data and Valuing Impacts from Changes to the Indoor/ Built Environment
Pump priming grants of up to £250k fEC for 36 Months

Applications via RCUK Je system

Standard AHRC research grants eligibility applies

Investigators must be based at a recognised Research Organisation

Investigators do not need to be based in a 'traditional' arts and humanities based department though it is a requirement that arts and humanities research literatures / methods / approaches plays a core role in projects and the research team is expected to be cross-disciplinary

We would welcome ECRs
Spaces in and out of scope  
(where does the indoors end)

Examples – (not exhaustive)

• Clinical environments (including veterinary and dental)
• Private homes
• Public transport systems
• Urban parks
• Shopping centres
• Large and small animal housing

Out of scope

• The human and animal microbiome
• Rural spaces and outdoor farm environments
• Industrial food processing, including abattoirs, factories, polytunnels/industrial greenhouses
What activity can be supported?

- **Real World** interactions are key
- Networking elements (but not the sole focus)
- Can be exploratory in nature, but must address clear research questions (not intended for sole R&D/RTD projects) and have clear outputs
- Outputs can be stand alone, scalable or form the foundations of further research.
- Can explore potential interventions and mitigation activities (including policy)
- Beyond the requirement for arts and humanities approaches to play a core role, there are no limits on what other areas of expertise might be involved
International elements

• In scope, but not a requirement

• Costs for International co-investigators are permissible as per the AHRC funding guide eligibility guidance (up to 30% of fEC)

• International partners are permissible as are international consultant expertise costs

• Applications with ODA relevance are welcome but not a requirement – an ODA compliance statement should be submitted.

• Further information on ODA compliance can be found on the RCUK Global Challenges Research Fund Webpage
18th November 2016 – Call Launched
30th November 2016 – Networking event
28th February 2017 (4pm) – deadline for applications
May 2017 – Panel meeting
June 2017 – application outcomes
October 2017-January 2018 – projects start
Thank you

Today's presentations and a list of attendees will be placed on the AHRC call webpage.

For any queries on this call including remit queries please contact amr@ahrc.ac.uk