

## Symposium Report: Tackling AMR - How Implementation Research is Vital in a One Health Approach

Robert Leslie Social Science Building, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa  
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### Introduction

This symposium was held as part of The Global Health Network Conference 2022, and focused on the three core areas of One Health: human health, animal health, and environmental health. Its objectives were to provide an overview of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the One Health context, share field experiences, identify research priorities, and discuss the implementation of One Health approaches. By bringing together diverse stakeholders from the AMR and One Health research landscapes (including practitioners, researchers, funders and policymakers) the symposium aimed to provide a platform to discuss how best to define a One Health research question and how to support genuine interdisciplinary research in this area. To ensure equitable access, representation, and participation amongst the symposium participants, delegates from Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) were invited to apply for a Scholarship Award to support attendance, funded by TGHN's partners and registration fees of other delegates. The overall symposium was generously funded by Pfizer Inc.

### Speakers

- Rony Zachariah (TDR, Switzerland)
- Sabiha Essack (ICARS, South Africa, represented by Tine Rikke Jørgensen from WHO HQ, Switzerland)
- Laura Marin (JPIAMR, Sweden)
- Marc Mendelson (University of Cape Town, South Africa)
- Rob Terry (TDR, Switzerland)
- Mirfin Mpundu (ReAct Africa, Zambia)
- Michael Sharland (St George's University London)
- Leno Amara (TDR AMR SORT-IT Fellow, Sierra Leone)
- Jyoti Acharya (TDR AMR SORT-IT Fellow, Sierra Leone)
- Lady Adomako (TDR AMR SORT-IT Fellow, Sierra Leone)
- Tine Rikke Jørgensen (WHO HQ, Switzerland)

### Lightning Presentations by Scholarship Awardees

During the review of abstracts for the TGHN Conference, seven abstracts that were relevant to the theme of the AMR Symposium were selected for exhibition as 'Lightning Presentations'. The authors were invited to record a three-minute video of their abstract that highlighted the methods, results, and recommendations of their research. These video recordings were played at intervals throughout the symposium.

### Format

The symposium was hybrid, with participants able to join remotely via Zoom. The symposium included two chaired sessions of presentations and panel discussions, and a breakout session focussing on the WHO One Health Priority Research Agenda. Session speakers were selected from the AMR Hub Steering Committee, as well as researchers and industry experts working on AMR with a One Health approach.

## Uptake

### Registrants:

- 310 individuals registered for the symposium from 61 countries, the majority from Africa (71.6%) and LMICs (90.3%).

### Attendees:

#### *In-Person Attendance:*

- 96 individuals attended the morning sessions and approx. 50 in the afternoon, with at least 24 countries represented, the majority based in Africa (70.4%) and LMICs (96.3%).

#### *Online Attendance:*

- 59 individuals from 17 countries attended the symposium remotely, the majority from Africa (83.1%) and LMICs (88.1%).

## Feedback

Collated below are comments and quotes from session chairs and speakers:

*‘There were many inspirational talks and great contributions from such a broad audience. Geographical diversity was amazing and provided many interesting discussions and different perspectives together, also that it was quite OH representation. Enthusiasm and engagement was at the highest level. When I was there I was thinking that we would wish to have that type of energy, engagement and honest communication in the events that we organise in Europe.’*

*‘The small pitches from different experiences and the panel with questions discussions worked very well. The interactive session on research prioritization was excellent. For the future it would be useful to allocate more for this type of guided interactive sessions. Hope you will follow to organise this type of symposia.’*

*‘The symposium went extremely well, [and was] well organised and well prepared.’*

*‘I would be happy to repeat the exercises as they proved to be valuable to all involved.’*

*‘The need for more research on behavioural science came up repeatedly as well as social science altogether, and the need for better multi-sectoral collaboration and sharing of existing resources (for instance labs) - leveraging the lab “update” that took place during the pandemic. I experienced great willingness and motivation in the group [attendees], however, the “how” proves difficult. Generally, I think it was fruitful discussing how different disciplines can contribute to the “wicked problem” – the complex topic of AMR.’*

## Conclusion

This symposium provided a platform for open discussion and dialogue among practitioners, researchers, funders, and policymakers working on AMR from a One Health perspective. There was a strong focus on implementation research, with speakers sharing their experiences and insights from the field, and the majority of participants were from LMICs. Feedback was largely positive, with participants finding sessions informative, engaging, and relevant to their needs. The breakout session on the One Health priority research agenda was particularly well-received, providing a valuable opportunity for participants to collaborate and discuss research priorities in the field of AMR. Overall, the symposium contributed to ongoing efforts to tackle AMR through a One Health approach, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and generating momentum for further research and action in this critical area of global health in LMICs.