

VetCLIN_AMR



>>> NEWSLETTER ONE | AUGUST 2024

Welcome to the first newsletter of the project “Surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in clinical infections from companion animals in the UK”. We will introduce the project, meet some of the team members and give an update on progress.

The project

>>> Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a threat to the successful treatment of bacterial infections in both humans and animals. The inappropriate use of antimicrobials in humans and animals is believed to have contributed to AMR. In animals, it is recognised that **veterinary microbiology laboratories** can play a key role in driving antimicrobial stewardship and appropriate antimicrobial use. Despite this recognition, there are still barriers preventing a harmonised approach for veterinary microbiology laboratories to maximise their contribution to preventing further development of AMR.



>>> At the University of Liverpool (UoL) we have a considerable track record of expertise in AMR and surveillance in companion animals, through various projects under the One Health agenda. For the VetCLIN_AMR project we have brought together the Liverpool Veterinary Microbiology Diagnostic Laboratory (VMDL - an approved training centre for the European College of Veterinary Microbiology (<https://ecvmicro.org/training-centers/>), and the Small Animal Veterinary Surveillance Network (SAVSNET) at UoL to work with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) to contribute to its National Biosurveillance Network (NBN) surveying AMR in bacteria from companion animal clinical samples. While European Food Standards Agency (EFSA) monitoring provides valuable insights into the potential for AMR spread to humans through the food chain, it does not inform on AMR occurrence in specific animal pathogens; hence, there is an important gap in knowledge regarding the levels of resistance in pathogenic bacteria from animals.

>>> Recently, the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance network in Veterinary medicine (EARS-Vet) was set up to address this issue and is designed to complement the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) and EFSA monitoring systems, in a truly One-Health strategy for surveillance of AMR. The VetCLIN_AMR project will generate valuable information on antimicrobial resistance in the most common bacterial clinical isolates from companion animals in the UK (e.g. *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*, *Escherichia coli*) and will facilitate aligning the methodologies developed for surveillance of AMR in clinical isolates from companion animals from the UK, with those developed within EARS-Vet.

We are grateful for the enthusiasm and hard work that the veterinary microbiology laboratories participating in this project have shown, and hope our collaboration will be mutually beneficial.

>>> You may already know about the Diagnostic Stewardship Day which will be held on Thursday 7th November at the University of Surrey (flyer at the end of the Newsletter). If you would like to register, please email Fergus Allerton at: fergus.allerton@veterinarycentre.co.uk



'Meet the team'

In this edition we introduce:



PROF DORINA TIMOFTE Clinical microbiologist

Dorina is Professor of Clinical Veterinary Microbiology and is the principal investigator on the project. She manages sample collection, coordinates the mining of the data for this project and has designed the plan for harmonisation of methodologies for AMR surveillance. Dorina also works on aligning UK surveillance with that developed within the European AMR Surveillance Network in veterinary medicine ([EARS-Vet](#)).



DR FLAVIA ZENDRI Clinical microbiologist

Flavia is a board certified Veterinary Clinical Microbiologist studying part-time for a PhD. She has designed the MIC plates for AMR testing, is managing the identification of the collected isolates and at a later date will be whole genome sequencing some of the isolates and using bioinformatics to identify resistance genes.



DR SHIRLEY BONNER Research technician

Shirley is a technician with more than 20 years experience of working in the lab. She has worked in cancer research, with viruses (including COVID) and now bacteria. She is co-ordinating the recruitment of commercial labs, sub-culturing, storing and cataloguing the samples and performing MIC testing. If you have a question about sending samples contact Shirley.

Please see our web page for more information - link at the bottom of the page

Coming soon

»» We are almost ready to launch two surveys which will inform the roadmap to harmonisation of laboratory methodologies for clinical specimens from companion animals. Further information will come by email and in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Save the date

Antimicrobial Resistance: Diagnostic Stewardship Day 2024 for small animal & equine practice

Where: University of Surrey, Guildford, UK
When: Thursday 7th November 2024

A day of presentations, discussions and workshops focusing on:

- What are the current & future challenges of multidrug-resistance in small animal practice?
- What can the microbiology labs do to support good antimicrobial stewardship?

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