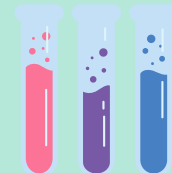# VetCLIN_AMR

NEWSLETTER TWO | SEPTEMBER 2024

In this month's Newsletter:

- Latest project highlights - sample collection and surveys
- Meet our AMR data scientists
- Proficiency testing

Samples and MIC Testing

- **10** diagnostic laboratories are contributing samples to the project

- Over **1000** bacterial isolates have been collected so far

- MIC plates have been designed and ordered; testing due to begin at the start of November

AMR and Diagnostic Team Surveys

- We are running two surveys which feed into the VetCLIN_AMR project and are a follow-up of the of the European Network for Optimization of Veterinary Antimicrobial Treatment (ENOVAT) Diagnostic laboratories survey. These surveys are:

  - An insight into Diagnostic Microbiology Laboratories Antimicrobial Resistance testing in the UK. This is run by the University of Liverpool and aims to understand the methodologies undertaken in UK laboratories processing specimens from companion animals, for detection of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). We recommend that this survey is completed by a member of the Diagnostic Team who is doing routine microbiology laboratory bench work. It should take 20-25 min to complete.

https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/liverpool/diagnostic-team-amr-surveillance-survey

  - The Veterinary Microbiology Diagnostic TEAM Survey. This is run by the University of Cambridge and aims to understand the structure and the training undertaken by staff in UK veterinary diagnostic microbiology laboratories. We recommend that this survey is completed by the head of service or laboratory manager/director. It should take 10-15 min to complete.

https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e2nGK2ywnflYsDA

We want to hear from ALL veterinary microbiology laboratories (big or small, in-house or practice based). The deadline has been extended to 24th November 2024 to coincide with <u>World Antibiotic Awareness Week</u>.

Results will facilitate the harmonisation of methodologies for AMR surveillance by UK veterinary laboratories and help inform on laboratory training needs within this process. Your participation is key for achieving these goals which we hope will benefit veterinary microbiology laboratories in the near future.

Please contact Prof Dorina Timofte (d.timofte@liverpool.ac.uk) about the first survey and Cassia Hare (chzh2@cam.ac.uk) from University of Cambridge about the second survey.

Meet the Team - Data Analysis

PROF ALAN RADFORD
Professor of Health Informatics

Alan is a Professor in Veterinary Health Informatics. He is an expert in viruses affecting companion animals and a lead investigator at SAVSNET (small animal veterinary surveillance network). He has a particular focus on integrating electronic health data collected at large scale, with sequencing data generated using modern sequencing technologies, to help address real-world challenges such as the impact of climate on disease, pathogen emergence and, appropriately for this project, antimicrobial resistance.

DR ASHLEY WARD
Post-doctoral Research Scientist

Ashley is the post-doctoral data scientist on the project. She received her PhD from the University of Aberdeen and SRUC, where she used qualitative and quantitative approaches to investigate equine laminitis and the gut microbiota. Ashley then worked at SRUC supporting the Food Security Challenge Centre by drawing insights from institutional data. Ashley is busy developing code to extract and clean AMR data collected by SAVSNET from UK diagnostic labs, and will be analysing the data from the project.

DR APRIL LAWSON
Senior Lecturer

April is a Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Clinical Epidemiology and she is an Equine Medicine clinician. During her PhD she set up an Equine Veterinary Surveillance Network (EVSNET) and using this health informatic data performed research on equine antimicrobial resistance and usage. April will be supporting Ashley with the data side of the project.

VetCLIN_AMR Proficiency Testing Opportunity

Proficiency testing is considered an important tool to produce reliable and comparable laboratory results of consistently good quality. As part of the VetCLIN_AMR project, we are setting up a Proficiency Testing Assay - which will be offered as a free service to laboratories that are participating in the project. The assay will provide an opportunity for laboratories to assess their internal methodology for antimicrobial susceptibility testing and to identify areas which could be improved to produce more reliable and harmonised susceptibility data. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE in the Proficiency Testing Assay by emailing Shirley at shirley@liverpool.ac.uk by **30th Oct 2024**. This is the deadline to let us know you want to take part. Instructions for participation and test bacterial strains will only be sent to those laboratories who have indicated they wish to take part by this date. **Please be assured all results would remain anonymous**.

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