



UK Science
& Innovation
Network

U.S. Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



Subject: Statement on International Environmental AMR Forum

On 4-5 April 2018, the United Kingdom Science and Innovation Network, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Wellcome Trust held an International Environmental Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Forum in Vancouver, Canada.

The Forum gathered a diverse group of international subject matter experts and stakeholders to discuss the current understanding of environmental AMR, gaps in the evidence-base, the impact on human health, and actions that could be taken now or in the future to mitigate AMR in the environment as a public health problem.

The meeting participants discussed a range of novel opportunities to better understand and help reduce the impact of environmental AMR on human health. Key recommendations highlighted in the final reports will address different aspects of AMR in the environment, including:

- Improving hygiene and sanitation on a global scale;
- Standardizing indicators, methods, and targets in environmental surveillance efforts;
- Identifying high AMR load waste, both from hospitals and manufacturing of antimicrobials;
- Establishing international standards to minimize health risk from these waste; and
- Developing best practices to limit the use of antimicrobials as pesticides.

Discussion built upon subject matter compiled by expert working groups, who met ahead of the forum to bring together existing data and identify gaps with a focus on contamination of the environment from human and animal waste, manufacturing of antimicrobials, and the use of antimicrobials as a pesticide on food crops.

The group also reflected on the nature and extent of the actions required, including policy response, to most effectively address the challenges posed by environmental AMR, prioritizing a set of evidence-based recommendations for steps that could be taken by global AMR experts and stakeholders both in the long and short term.

The Forum co-hosts will release two corresponding reports in 2018; one to deliver a summary on meeting discussions and recommendations for action, and the second to provide a comprehensive scientific overview of the environmental AMR knowledge base, developed in partnership with the expert working groups.

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