2022 International Network for AMR Social Science (INAMRSS) Workshop

inamrss

SOLUTIONS TO AMR FROM THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

INAMRSS WORKSHOP STATEMENT
OCTOBER 6th, 2022
UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

Social scientists from around the world met in Copenhagen on October 5th and 6th for the 2022 International Network for AMR Social Science (INAMRSS) Workshop: Solutions to AMR from the Social Sciences. INAMRSS is an open consortium of international academic centers focused on social science research and policy on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The workshop was hosted by CeBIL (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), and the Global Strategy Lab (York University and University of Ottawa, Canada), in collaboration with the Social Innovation on Drug Resistance Program (Boston University, USA) and the AMR Centre (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK).

The INAMRSS network and their collaborators met to discuss the future of AMR Social Sciences in the context of the pandemic instrument negotiations and the potential development of an Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against Antimicrobial Resistance. Our recommendations drawn from the evidence presented:

BACTERIA, FUNGI, AND OTHER MICROBIAL THREATS MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS INSTRUMENT.
While current discussions of the pandemic instrument have focused on acute viral threats, addressing the full range of pandemic threats – including bacteria, fungi, and AMR – within the pandemic instrument will offer the best protection, the most efficient use of resources, and will ensure global readiness for the next pandemic, regardless of its origin. Moreover, drug resistance can compound pandemics of any origin, undermining treatment efficacy and heightening risks from secondary infections. Not only is there a strong rationale for including all pathogens of concern in the pandemic instrument, but there is substantial overlap between strategies needed to mitigate pandemics of various sources, and potential to unlock important synergies through dual-purpose provisions. These opportunities to address AMR within the pandemic treaty are outlined in a forthcoming special issue of the *Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics.*

THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON EVIDENCE FOR ACTION ON AMR IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO SYNTHESIZE EVIDENCE, AND PRIORITIZE THE SCIENTIFIC WORK NEEDED OVER THE NEXT DECADE TO UNDERSTAND AND RESPOND TO MICROBIAL THREATS.
There is a clear need for a coordinated and integrated effort to generate and communicate independent and authoritative assessments of the science related to AMR across the One Health spectrum at the interface between human, terrestrial and aquatic animals and plant health, food and feed production and the environment.

THERE IS A CLEAR NEED FOR THESE GLOBAL PROCESSES TO BE RESPONSIVE TO DIVERSE POLICY NEEDS.
AMR is a complex challenge and policymakers around the world must account for diverse risks and priorities. Poor alignment of global, national and local priorities will create barriers to the implementation and uptake of AMR initiatives. Policymakers need direct and streamlined access to a consolidated evidence base that is responsive to local policy needs, feeds directly into policymaking processes, and reaches front-line responders. The social sciences can support these evidence generation and dissemination processes, but the pandemic preparedness instrument and the Independent Panel on Evidence of Action on AMR must both create space for context-specific research and policy actions.

FUTURE ACTION ON AMR SHOULD WORK TO ENCOMPASS THE FULL RANGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINES.
The social sciences serve a central role in contextualizing evidence and addressing inequities, and the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action should encompass the full range of social science disciplines to address gender, the needs of vulnerable populations and the social drivers of AMR inequities.