

Written responses to some audience questions of the webinar ‘Breaking the resistance: Empowering the next generation of antimicrobial researchers’ by Heike Brötz-Oesterhelt, Marc Lemonnier, Alexandra Cameron and Jonathan Stokes, moderated by Lesley Ogilvie. Originally broadcast on 3 September 2026. See webinar recording here: <https://revive.gardp.org/breaking-the-resistance-empowering-the-next-generation-of-antimicrobial-researchers/>.

Question asked	Response from the speakers
For Alexandra Cameron : Do you think it would be important to train researchers during their PhD in the science-to-policy perspective to facilitate the development of useful future policies based on their knowledge in AMR and One Health?	Answered during the Q&A part of the webinar
Academic researchers are more focused on "discovery" aspect of antibacterials as it gives publications, but less on "developability" of that matter. Considering the urgency we are in for antibacterials, how academic antibiotic research is evolving to offer clinical candidates or at least pre-clinical candidates?	Answered during the Q&A part of the webinar Additional note: Academic centers backed by sustained public funding and with defined translational objectives facilitate compound development (e.g., compare the German Center for Infection Research). Specialized knowledge structures, regulatory networks, and strategic partnerships with external entities, such as contract research organizations (CROs), can be established over the long term.
What more is needed to ensure AMR ECRs get the industrial / translational experience required to maintain a sustainable AMR ecosystem for the future?	Answered during the Q&A part of the webinar
What opportunities and practical pathways are available for young researchers from low- and middle-income countries who are passionate about contributing to global antimicrobial resistance (AMR) mitigation, but lack access to well-resourced academic and research environments? Specifically, how can early-career researchers connect with established professors, research laboratories, international research collaborations, mentorship programmes, and scholarship or fellowship opportunities that can strengthen their research capacity and enable them to make meaningful contributions to the global AMR response?	Answered during the Q&A part of the webinar
Hi everyone, Academic antibiotic research often make the "old mistakes" that pharma research made years ago, be it in chemical	AntibioticDB is an open-access database that catalogues and describes known antibacterial agents, consolidating data from diverse sources

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matter employed, the physchem properties, or assays used to identify antibacterials, largely because a lot of such data is not published. Are there common academic-pharma database that can be accessed by all researchers that may help and empower researchers to learn from our done experiments?	that include the primary research literature, patents and conference abstracts. Find out more here: https://antibioticdb.com/
What do you see as the biggest gap between identifying promising AMR targets or inhibitors computationally and getting them experimentally validated and ultimately translated into therapeutics	Most antibiotics possess highly complex structures; consequently, their de novo synthesis demands substantial upfront effort before their predicted inhibitory potential can be experimentally validated. Conversely, while screening conventional small-molecule libraries offers immediate access to testable agents, these compounds frequently lack target specificity or fail to penetrate bacterial cells. To address these limitations, a promising strategy involves screening natural product-like libraries alongside expanding our fundamental understanding of compound uptake and retention.
@Heike and Jon: I recently had a conversation with a junior professor who was concerned about the future career prospects of her PhD students and postdocs. What is your perspective on the employment outlook for early-career researchers, and how are you advising your students to navigate it?	Heike: PhD graduates and postdocs from our team have found jobs in biotech, governmental authorities, big pharma. Research, development, regulatory approval, epidemiology, health care. Many other disease areas found their expertise and skills appealing. From what I have heard, they all found their job interesting. Several of them made a deliberate choice to find a job locally so they could stay in the region or move to a particular spot.
Just wanted to add on to Jon's comment about Zigging/Zagging... That's one of the draws for entrepreneurship as well. Huge TAM, less competition, Huge impact/purpose, more blue ocean space.	

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