

Interdisciplinary Research and Anticicrobial Resistance workshop

Naomi Beaumont, ESRC, 2nd March 2017



A bit of recent history

- ▶ 2013 Govt Strategy: recognises importance of research, including behaviour relevant research
- ▶ Wider activities raising profile of AMR e.g. funder meetings
- ▶ Social science seen as relevant: often narrow view of potential contribution



UK Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2013 to 2018



Social Science Research at that time (2013)

- ▶ Very few 'antimicrobial' or 'AMR' specific grants
- ▶ Larger number of relevant grants e.g. health seeking behaviour; global trade including pharmaceuticals; zoonoses
- ▶ Overall: sense that high quality social science had a lot to offer

ESRC working group on AMR: 2014

“The mechanisms which lead to antimicrobial resistance are biological. However the conditions promoting, or militating against, these biological mechanisms are profoundly social. How our farmers, vets, and regulatory systems manage livestock production for human consumption; how regulatory and fiscal frameworks incentivise or deter antimicrobial development, production and use; how the public and healthcare professionals understand, value and use antimicrobials; the context in which animals and humans interact [...] Social science therefore has a key role to play [...]”

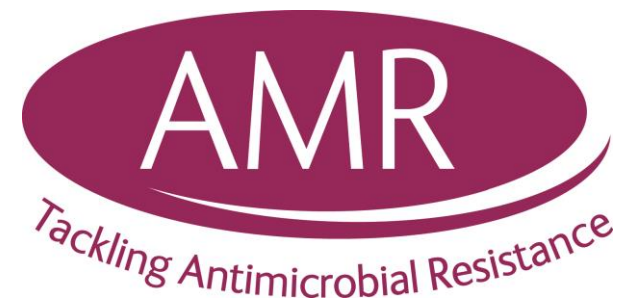
Professor Dame Sally Macintyre

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/files/funding/funding-opportunities/amr/anti-microbial-resistance-setting-the-social-science-agenda/>

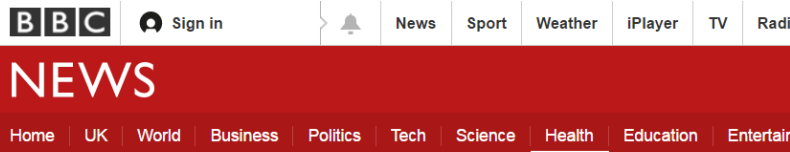
Anti-Microbial Resistance: Setting the Social Science Agenda

Report of an ESRC Working Group: July 2014

Beyond Social Sciences: parallel activity



- ▶ 2013: Funders Forum for AMR
- ▶ Launched June 2014: Cross Research Council Initiative
- ▶ July 2014: O'Neill Review of AMR
- ▶ 2015 JPI (European) Analysis published showing research often in silos



[Health](#)

Antibiotic resistance: Cameron warns of medical 'dark ages'



Fergus Walsh
Medical correspondent

[Lancet Infect Dis](#). 2016 Apr;16(4):431-40. doi: 10.1016/S1473-3099(15)00350-3. Epub 2015 Dec 19.

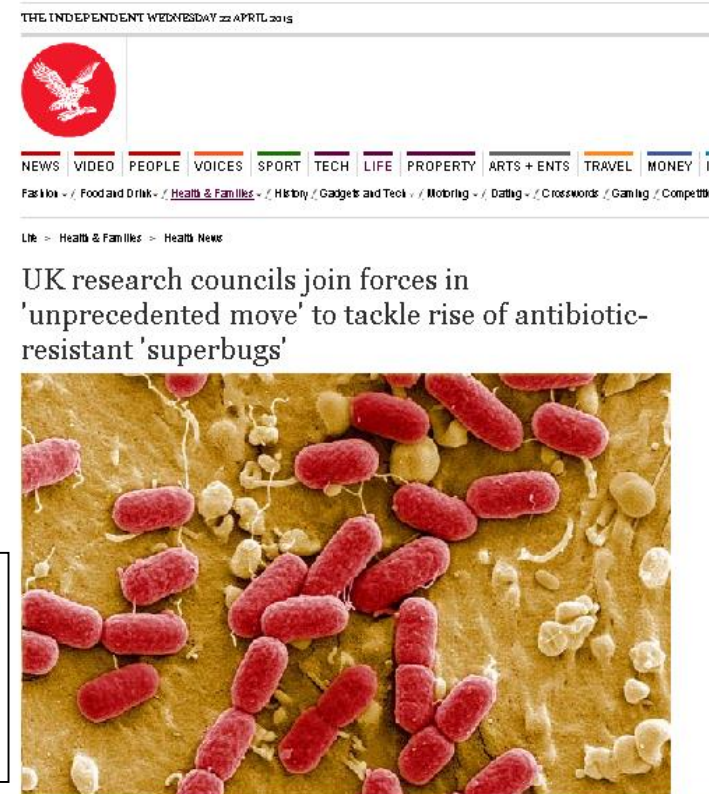
Public funding for research on antibacterial resistance in the JPIAMR countries, the European Commission, and related European Union agencies: a systematic observational analysis.

[Kelly R](#)¹, [Zoubiane G](#)¹, [Walsh D](#)¹, [Ward R](#)¹, [Goossens H](#)².

[Author information](#)

Abstract

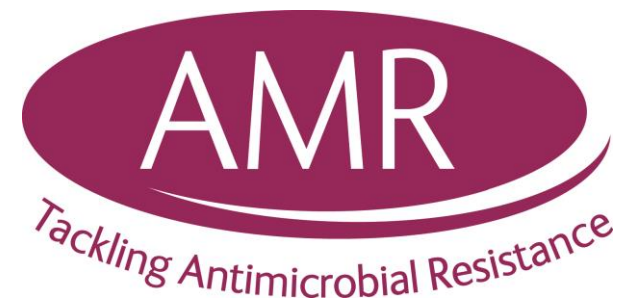
BACKGROUND: Antibacterial resistant infections are rising continuously, resulting in increased morbidity and mortality worldwide. With no new antibiotic classes entering the market and the possibility of returning to the pre-antibiotic era, the Joint





Overall sense....

Widening arena, need for complex research,
funding opportunities on horizon
...need for social science to rise to challenge



AMR Research Champion

- ▶ advocacy amongst social scientists
- ▶ a database of interested social scientists
- ▶ reviews and briefing papers
- ▶ Website; blogs; twitter
- ▶ Focused networking events



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Social scientists needed to solve the problem of antibiotic overuse

6 October 2015

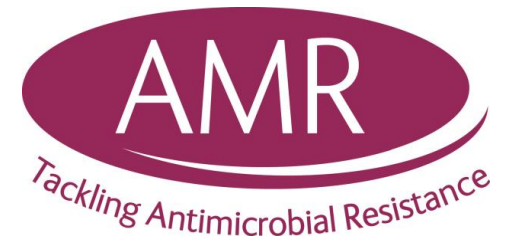
"The rise of resistance to antibiotics (Antimicrobial Resistance, AMR) is largely a consequence of human action, and is as much a societal problem as a technological one."

Those are the words of Dr Helen Lambert who



Where ESRC is now:

- ▶ Part of a cross funder collaborative on AMR; social science very much embedded, all funders work together
- ▶ Funded grants with other RCs eg grant on diagnostics, and on optimising antibiotic use in China.
- ▶ Soon be announcing new grants under theme 4 initiative - c£13m of funding.
- ▶ Launching more calls in future. Future very much interdisciplinary and global.



Thank you

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