Welcome to the ARLG Quarterly Newsletter!

Here, you will receive important updates from the ARLG regarding recent events, grants, publications, and the committees that help us work toward our mission: to prioritize, design and execute clinical research that will reduce the public health threat of antibacterial resistance.

Get Involved with ARLG

The ARLG continuously accepts proposals for clinical studies designed to prevent, diagnose, treat, or eradicate antibiotic-resistant bacterial pathogens. We also award grants and fellowships to qualified investigators. If you are interested in getting involved with ARLG, apply now or contact us for more information.

Apply for Grant

Contact Us

Recapping Our Retreat


This was our fourth ARLG face to face meeting where we continue to grow and prioritize our research efforts. During this meeting our goal was to present, discuss, make decisions and establish action items so that we can continue on a productive path in reducing the public health threat of antibacterial resistance.

We were able to gather a group photo of the attendees. This was a memorable event and we were excited to see all of our colleagues at this Retreat.

Upcoming Events

- The Statistics and Data Management Center (SDMC), directed by Dr. Scott Evans, will be moving from Harvard University to George Washington University in April 2018.
- ECCMID 2018 will take place April 21-24 in Madrid, Spain.

Meet Our Committees
We sat down with Melinda Pettigrew, head of ARLG’s Special Populations Committee and Special Populations Special Emphasis Panel, and she let us in on some big news: Special Populations will be refining its focus to reflect a greater interest in immunocompromised hosts (specifically neutropenic patients and transplant recipients, which are populations uniquely affected by multi-drug resistant organisms (MDROs)). The committee previously focused on a wider range of issues, ranging from sexually transmitted infections to racial and health disparities.

“Rates of infection with MDROs are prevalent and increasing among immunocompromised individuals,” said Pettigrew. “These patients rely on immediate active antibiotic therapy when infected with bacteria because of defects in innate immunity. Thus, they are uniquely threatened by MDR bacteria that may be resistant to the empirical therapies that they receive.”

Even though immunocompromised individuals are highly impacted by MDROs, they are often excluded from and not helped by clinical trials. That’s because when a sponsor writes eligibility criteria for a trial, some of their good intentions (e.g., to protect study participants from unnecessary harm), result in outcomes that cannot be generalized to immunocompromised patients.

“Moving forward the Special Populations Group would like to work to see more studies on the clinical effectiveness of newer antibiotics, combinations of antibiotics, and diagnostics in immunocompromised populations,” said Pettigrew. “We are also very interested in studies that seek to identify novel means to

Pediatrics Committee: Four Things to Know

Chair: Theoklis Zaoutis, MD, MSCE

ARLG’s Pediatrics Subcommittee has a mission to represent pediatric-specific issues and questions as they relate to ARLG’s broader mission. Here are four interesting things you should know about this team:

1. They’re a party of eight, expertly aligned. The Pediatrics Subcommittee has eight members, and each possesses expertise that corresponds to one or more of the ARLG’s main areas of focus. These include Gram-negative infections, Gram-positive infections, antimicrobial stewardship, and diagnostics.

2. The numbers are in: kids aren’t tiny adults. The group is passionate about tailoring trials to the unique needs of children and quick to share credible facts to support their claim. For example, a JAMA 2006 publication showed that medicines that are proven to be effective in adults fail approximately 40 percent of the time when used in children.

3. Pediatrics research is a balancing act. The team says that one of the biggest challenges in pediatric research is balancing the risk of the intervention with the potential benefits to the specific child. Pediatric investigators also have to balance assent in young children. How does one assess the willingness of a toddler who is crying due to the possibility of a blood draw? For these reasons, pediatric investigators must be trained in understanding the behavioral indications of assent in order to protect pediatric clinical trial participants.

4. When it comes to research, they know that informed kids are engaged kids. Committee member Charlie Huskins has been working with an innovative group called InsciedOut that is using hypothesis-
In addition, the document contains information about the RAPIDS-GN study, which stands for “Rapid Identification and Susceptibility Testing for Gram-Negative Bacteremia.” This study is evaluating antimicrobial utilization, clinical outcomes, and healthcare costs among patients with Gram-negative blood system infections using a diagnostic platform that rapidly detects organisms and phenotypic drug resistance. The study is currently enrolling, and Dr. Banerjee credits the ARLG as essential to its successful progress.

“I’ve been fortunate to have connected with the ARLG early on in my career and benefit from incredible mentorship from senior investigators,” said Dr. Banerjee. “The collaborative nature of this group is inspirational, and the infrastructure ARLG and the Duke Clinical Research Institute provide are absolutely essential to keep the study up and running.”

Find out more about the **RAPIDS-GN study here**.

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**Recent Awards**

**Barbara E. Murray, MD**  
Alexander Fleming Lifetime Achievement Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)

**Arjun Srinivasan, MD**  
Distinguished Alumni Award - Davidson June 10, 2017

**Pranita Tamma, MD and Sara Cosgrove, MD**  
Pranita Tamma, MD, MHS, has received the 2017 Pediatric Scholarship Award from the Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), under the mentorship of Sara Cosgrove, MD.

**Recent Achievements**

**Vance G. Fowler, MD**  
MIDG (Melbourne Infectious Diseases Group) - Visiting International Fellow at Forbes Week
Recent Publications

ARLG investigators have published 27 papers since January 2017. We have listed the most recent ones, beginning from June 2017, below:


