Welcome to the ARLG Newsletter! Here, you will receive important updates from 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 impact the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infections caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria.

Get Involved with ARLG

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.

News

Tori Kinamon Featured in Duke School of Medicine's Magnify Magazine

A recent Magnify Magazine article features ARLG Innovations Working Group member and Duke School of Medicine MD candidate Tori Kinamon. The article highlights her journey from a college athlete who survived a severe Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infection to an infectious diseases researcher committed to addressing antibacterial resistance with a patient-centered approach.

Kinamon highlights the importance of advancing research development efforts amidst the growing prevalence of antibacterial resistance. She attributes her positive recovery from the infection to the fortunate availability of an effective treatment and expresses a strong determination to extend similar opportunities to future patients.
Melinda Pettigrew Appointed Dean of the UMN School of Public Health

We extend our congratulations to Melinda Pettigrew who has been named Dean of the University of Minnesota (UMN) School of Public Health. In this new role, which begins in December 2023, Dr. Pettigrew will serve as the chief executive and chief academic officer.

Dr. Pettigrew is the Chair of the ARLG Diversity Working Group and a member of the Laboratory Center Consortium Team. Her research explores the effect of microbiome disruptions on antibacterial resistance and the risk for hospital-acquired infections.

ARLG Spotlight — Helen Zhang, MD, MSCE

Helen Zhang, MD, MSCE
ARLG Fellow
Duke University

About my role in the ARLG

As an advanced infectious diseases fellow interested in antibacterial resistance research, the ARLG provides me with full salary support to conduct mentored research in antibacterial resistance, as well as support for related training activities. ARLG’s support
has given me protected time to focus on building my research skillset and portfolio.

About my research

My research focuses on the epidemiology of infections caused by multidrug-resistant gram-negative bacilli. Specifically, I am investigating risk factors for treatment failure and recurrence among patients with community-onset urinary tract infections caused by extended-spectrum cephalosporin-resistant Enterobacterales.

Why is this research important?

Infections caused by extended-spectrum cephalosporin-resistant Enterobacterales are among the top antibacterial resistance threats in the world. Epidemiologic research on these infections helps to lay the groundwork for future studies aimed at improving their treatment and prevention.

IDSA 2023 Guidance on the Treatment of Antimicrobial Resistant Gram-Negative Infections

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) released new guidance on the treatment of antimicrobial-resistant gram-negative infections. Several ARLG members, including Robert Bonomo, Amy Mathers, David van Duin, Cornelius Clancy, and Pranita Tamma drafted this new guidance with Samuel Aitken.

In its 2019 Strategic Plan, IDSA prioritized the creation and distribution of clinical practice guidelines and other guidance documents as a key initiative. To address the challenge inherent in the traditional process of developing clinical practice guidelines, which involves extensive literature review and rigorous methodology, IDSA endorses creating more focused guidance documents that are updated annually.

The present document focuses on the treatment of infections caused by specific antimicrobial-resistant pathogens, including extended-spectrum β-lactamase-producing Enterobacterales (ESBL-E), AmpC β-lactamase-producing Enterobacterales (AmpC-E), carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE), Pseudomonas aeruginosa with difficult-to-treat resistance (DTR-P. aeruginosa), carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacter baumannii species (CRAB), and Stenotrophomonas maltophilia. The document provides guidance in the form of answers to clinical questions related to each pathogen, including notable clinical trials, resistance mechanisms, and antimicrobial susceptibility testing methods.
A lay summary of results is now available for the Prospective Observational *Pseudomonas* (POP) study on the global epidemiology and clinical outcomes of carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA) and associated carbapenemases.

Although the World Health Organization (WHO) lists CRPA as one of the top three drug-resistant pathogens and a threat to global public health, researchers previously had a limited understanding of CRPA. Prior research studies lacked clinical data or molecular characterization of the bacteria or they only included a single geographic region.

The goal of the POP study was to define the characteristics and outcomes of CRPA infections and the global frequency and clinical impact of carbapenemases harbored by CRPA. The study spanned 44 hospitals in the U.S., South and Central America, China, Australia, Singapore, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia. Researchers followed 972 patients who had CRPA in their bloodstream, respiratory, urinary, or wound cultures. The results from their analyses show that the CRPA genetic characteristics can vary from one region to another, and patients’ outcomes may vary as well.

Events

**IDWeek 2023 Late Breaker Abstract Submission Deadline**

IDWeek 2023 is just around the corner and it’s already shaping up to be an exciting conference! This year’s hybrid event will take place October 11-15 in Boston and online. Be sure to register if you haven’t already.

If you have a late breaker abstract, the submission website is now open. Late breaking abstracts should present high-impact, ground-breaking scientific research.
results that were not yet available for the regular abstract submission deadline in May.

The deadline to submit late breaker abstracts is August 16.

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**Past ARLG Grand Rounds Now Available to View**

Have you missed any of the ARLG Grand Rounds events? If so, you’re in luck. ARLG’s Events page now contains an archive of past presentations. There, you will find information about the topics and speakers along with links to presentation videos and slides.

Here are the Grand Rounds presentations currently available:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentation Title</th>
<th>Speaker Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Straining For the Best Outcomes: Top Controversies in C. difficile Management     | Michael Woodworth, MD, MSc.  
Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases  
Emory University  
Sarah Doernberg, MD, MAS  
Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases  
Medical Director, Adult Antimicrobial Stewardship  
UCSF Medical Center |
| Dissecting The Epidemics of Multidrug-Resistant Organisms: A Focus on Carbapenem-Resistant Klebsiella pneumoniae | Cesar A. Arias, MD, MSc, PhD  
Professor of Medicine, Co-director, Center for Infectious Diseases Research  
Houston Methodist Hospital  
Weill Cornell Medical College |
| The Microbiota and Resistome in Clinical Trials: Opportunities and Challenges      | Melinda M. Pettigrew, PhD  
Deputy Dean and Anna M. R. Lauder Professor of Epidemiology  
Yale School of Public Health |
We will be adding more presentations to the Events page archive as they become available, so be sure to check back. While you’re there, hit the subscribe button to receive notifications of upcoming events.

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### Study Milestones

View recent ARLG study updates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOTS</td>
<td>Dalbavancin as an Option for Treatment of <em>S. aureus</em> Bacteremia</td>
<td>Enrollment Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAST</td>
<td>Fast Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing for gram-negative bacteremia</td>
<td>Sites Selected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEP FMT</td>
<td>Strain Temporal Engraftment and Persistence after Fecal Microbiota Transplantation</td>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTIMIZE-GNI</td>
<td>Optimization of Beta-lactam Dosing in Critically-III Patients with Suspected or Documented Antimicrobial Resistant Gram-Negative Infections with Cystatin C</td>
<td>Planning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Go to the ARLG Studies page for more milestones and updates!
Recent Publications

View the following recent ARLG publications.


