



September 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the ARLG Network's quarterly newsletter!

Thank you for supporting our mission to prioritize, design, and execute clinical research that will impact the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

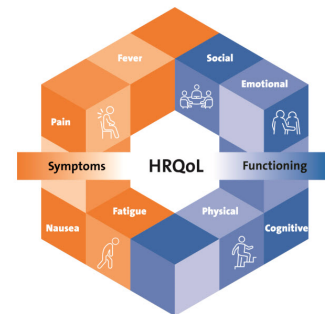
Read more for important ARLG updates, including:

- Program news
- Clinical site spotlight: University of Pittsburgh
- Retiree spotlights: Beth Evans, Deborah Hopkins, & Brenda Mickley
- Mentee spotlight: Felicia Ruffin, PhD, MSN, BSN, RN, BA
- Events
- Study milestones
- New publications

News

New ARLG Supplement Published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*

The ARLG published a new supplement in the journal of *Clinical Infectious Diseases* titled "In Pursuit of Patient-Centered Antibacterial Trials: Listening to, Learning From, and Leveraging the Patient Perspective." The supplement includes eight articles authored by ARLG members that describe several challenges and opportunities for measuring health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in patient care and in clinical studies of infectious diseases.



[Read the supplement.](#)

DOTS Study Results Published

The results of an ARLG study, **D**albavancin as an **O**ption for **T**reatment of **S.** *aureus* Bacteremia (DOTS), were recently published in [JAMA](#). In this study, researchers compared the safety and efficacy of dalbavancin to the standard of care in



treating patients with complicated *staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infections.

[Read more.](#)

Dr. Thomas Lodise Recognized as a Highly Ranked Scholar™

ScholarGPS™ named Thomas Lodise, PharmD, PhD, to the top of their list, Highly Ranked Scholar – Prior 5 Years, for his publications on vancomycin. Authors who make the list of Highly Ranked Scholars™ must maintain high measures of publications, quality, and impact that place them at the top 0.05% or better of all scholar profiles on the platform. Reflecting on this significant achievement, Dr. Lodise said, “This was due, in larger part, to PROVIDE. I appreciate ARLG for supporting this study; it changed practice. It was a pleasure working with the team on the study. It was an incredible collaborative effort.”

Dr. Lodise is the Pharmacokinetic Lead for ARLG and protocol PI on the OPTIMIZE-GNI study. He also shares his expertise as a member of several ARLG committees. View [Dr. Lodise's ScholarGPS profile](#) to learn more about his vital work in antibiotic medications.



Thomas Lodise, PharmD, PhD, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Dr. Angelique E. Boutzoukas' Manuscript Selected as a Top Transplant ID Paper

[“Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacterales in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients”](#) was selected as one of the year's top transplant infectious diseases papers at the 2025 World Transplant Congress. Congratulations on this recognition of your important work, Dr. Boutzoukas!



Angelique E. Boutzoukas, MD, MPH, Department of Pediatrics, Duke University

Congratulations, Dr. Marc Bonten!

Marc Bonten, MD, PhD, was recently appointed Vice-Dean of Education and Director of the Education Center (Research) at the University

Medical Center (UMC) Utrecht, the Netherlands. In his role as CEO of the European Clinical Research Alliance for Infectious Diseases, Dr. Bonten collaborates with the ARLG to address the global antibacterial resistance crisis.

Read more about [Dr. Bonten's contributions](#) to the field of antibacterial resistance.



Marc Bonten, MD, PhD
UMC Utrecht

Clinical Site Spotlight



University of Pittsburgh Center for Innovative Antimicrobial Therapy (CIAT)
Left to right: Yohei Doi, MD, PhD, CIAT Co-Director; Leah Scalfari, RN, CRC; Ellie Morell, RN, BSN, CRC; Sarah Barrett, MPH, CRC

The Center for Innovative Antimicrobial Therapy & Dr. Yohei Doi

As one of three world-class Centers of Excellence in Research within the University of Pittsburgh's Division of Infectious Diseases, the Center for Innovative Antimicrobial Therapy (CIAT) investigates novel approaches to address the growing public health crisis of antimicrobial resistance. These investigators, researchers, and study coordinators are part of a stellar team with a long history of partnering on ARLG studies. CIAT's co-director, Yohei Doi, MD, PhD, also serves as a leading expert in the ARLG. He is the chair of the Gram-Negative subcommittee, co-leader of the Study Network of *Acinetobacter* as a Carbapenem-Resistant Pathogen (SNAP) initiative, and key contributor to the Multi-Drug Resistant Organism (MDRO) Network.

[Read More](#)

Retiree Spotlights

Beth Evans, Lead Clinical Research Associate

Our best wishes go out to Beth Evans, CCRA, on her retirement after 29 years at Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI). Since 2016, she has worked with ARLG as a lead CRA on many studies including HABP/VABP, MDRO, SNAP, CRACKLE-2, POP, SHREC, and PHAGE.

“My passion was to work closely with site personnel, training them and guiding them through the day-to-day study activities,” Beth states. “I loved the details of each study and helping sites understand and follow the protocol. I was often called ‘Eagle Eyes’ for finding details others may have missed.”



**Beth Evans, CCRA,
Lead Clinical Research
Associate**

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Deborah Hopkins, Clinical Trials Coordinator II

Please join us in extending our heartfelt gratitude to Deborah Hopkins, MA, AAS, CMA (AAMA), CCT, for 10 years of dedication to ARLG research at the DCRI. From study start-up through close-out, her contributions have made a valuable impact on countless research projects over the past decade. In that time, she has collaborated to share her knowledge and expertise with study teams across the U.S. and in countries around the world including China, Israel, and Spain.

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Brenda Mickley, Senior Business Development Associate

For nearly three decades, Brenda Mickley has been a cornerstone of grant administration at the DCRI, bringing expertise, strategic insight, and unwavering commitment to advancing public health. Brenda’s journey with ARLG began at its inception. She collaborated closely with the team on the original application that launched the program and helped to lay the foundation for ARLG. From there, Brenda was instrumental in the competitive renewal process, ensuring the continuity and growth of ARLG’s mission.



**Brenda Mickley with
Vance Fowler, MD, MHS
& Heather Cross, DPhil**

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Mentee Spotlight

Felicia Ruffin, PhD, MSN, BSN, RN, BA

Dr. Felicia Ruffin aims to expand our knowledge of the impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and describe the differences in clinical characteristics and outcomes among patients infected with carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales*. Before becoming an ARLG mentee, she collaborated on research projects funded by the ARLG to study and develop quality-of-life measures to use in multiple clinical trials. Dr. Ruffin was also the first author on a study evaluating outcomes in patients infected with *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteremia.

Dr. Ruffin has contributed to AMR research for over two decades. However, her understanding of the importance of a mentoring team was reinforced through the opportunity to conduct research with the ARLG. Dr. Ruffin's ARLG mentors have helped her establish a research agenda, hone her research skills, grow as a public speaker, and develop a manuscript for the ARLG-funded research. As a result of her mentors' professional influence, she is encouraged to continue investigating and mitigating the factors contributing to poor outcomes in AMR infections.



**Felicia Ruffin, PhD, MSN,
BSN, RN, BA**

Clinical Research Program
Leader for the Bloodstream
Infections Biorepository &
Database under Dr. Fowler's
Leadership at Duke
University Medical Center

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Events



ARLG Grand Rounds | Friday, October 3, 4–5 p.m. ET (Online)

Coming soon! Keep an eye on your inbox for an invitation to the next ARLG Grand Rounds.

Title: Rational Development of Bacteriophage Cocktails Incorporating Global

Presenter: Mikeljon Nikolich, PhD

Chief, Bacteriophage Therapeutics, Wound Infections Department,
Walter Reed Army Institute of Research



GAMRIC 2025 | October 1–3 | London, UK

The Global AMR Innovators' Conference (GAMRIC) is a new annual conference for researchers, academics, and industry professionals from around the world to discuss the latest breakthroughs in therapeutics, diagnostics, vaccines, and preventatives to address antimicrobial resistance. This conference was developed from a series of meetings held at the joint ESCMID-ASM conferences in 2016 and 2024. [Learn more.](#)



IDWeek 2025 | October 19–22 | Atlanta, GA & Online

Are you ready? IDWeek 2025 is just around the corner! Whether you'll be attending the event in person or virtually, you can hear some of ARLG's top leaders and experts discuss the latest AMR topics. Mark your calendar for October 19–22 and plan ahead to join your favorite sessions and posters.

You won't want to miss this year's SHEA Lectureship, which was awarded to ARLG's Mentoring Committee Chair, Anthony Harris, MD, MPH. This award recognizes his important contributions to the fields of health care epidemiology, infection prevention, and antimicrobial stewardship through his leadership and mentorship.

Dr. Harris will give his lecture, "Where is the true north of infection control?" on Tuesday, October 21 at 4:45 p.m. ET. [View the IDWeek program and register.](#)

Study Milestones

STUDY NAME

ACRONYM ORIGIN

STATUS

DOTS
[NCT04775953](#)

Dalbavancin as an Option
for Treatment of *S.*
aureus Bacteremia

Published

FAST
[NCT06174649](#)

Fast Antibiotic Susceptibility
Testing for gram-negative
bacteremia

Database Lock

Innovations QoL
(1st Study)

NA

Published

PDP
[NCT06181669](#)

Pneumonia Direct Pilot

Enrollment Complete

[View More Study
Milestones](#)

New Publications

Clinical Infectious Diseases Supplement

Powers JH, Nambiar S. Patient-Reported Outcomes and Health-Related Quality-of-Life Measures in Infectious Diseases Studies and Clinical Practice. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2025;81(Supplement_1):S1-S3.
doi:[10.1093/cid/ciaf297](#)

Powers JH 3rd, O'Connell RJ. Developing, Analyzing, and Interpreting Outcome Assessments to Improve Endpoints in Infectious Diseases Clinical Research. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2025;81(Supplement_1):S4-S10.
doi:[10.1093/cid/ciaf319](#)

Howard-Anderson J, Doernberg SB, Dixon D, et al. Interagency Collaboration for Patient-Centered Antibacterial Drug Development. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2025;81(Supplement_1):S11-S15. doi:[10.1093/cid/ciaf298](#)

Minter DJ, Wang TW, Rader A, et al. A Systematic Review of Health-Related Quality-of-Life Measurement in Patients With Complicated Urinary Tract Infections. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2025;81(Supplement_1):S16-S23.
doi:[10.1093/cid/ciaf293](#)

Sutton KN, Lydon E, Rader A, et al. A Systematic Review of Health-Related Quality-of-Life Measurement in Patients With Acute Bacterial Skin and Skin Structure Infections. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2025;81(Supplement_1):S24-S31.

doi:[10.1093/cid/ciaf294](https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaf294)

Krah NM, Fai C, Sutton KN, et al. A Systematic Review of Health-Related Quality-of-Life Measurement in Patients With Hospital-Acquired/Ventilator-Associated Bacterial Pneumonia. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2025;81(Supplement_1):S32-S39. doi:[10.1093/cid/ciaf296](https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaf296)

Rader A, Ruffin F, Fai C, et al. A Systematic Review of Health-Related Quality-of-Life Measurement in Patients With Complicated Intraabdominal Infections. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2025;81(Supplement_1):S40-S47. doi:[10.1093/cid/ciaf299](https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaf299)

Ruffin F, Sutton KN, Miller J, et al. A Qualitative Secondary Analysis of Patient Health-Related Quality of Life in Bloodstream Infections by Source: Intra-abdominal, Urinary Tract, and Acute Bacterial Skin and Skin Structure Infection. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2025;81(Supplement_1):S48-S54. doi:[10.1093/cid/ciaf295](https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaf295)

Other Recent Publications

Babiker A, Warner S, Li X, et al. Adjunctive linezolid versus clindamycin for toxin inhibition in β -lactam-treated patients with invasive group A streptococcal infections in 195 US hospitals from 2016 to 2021: a retrospective cohort study with target trial emulation. *Lancet Infect Dis*. 2025;25(3):265-275. doi:[10.1016/S1473-3099\(24\)00507-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(24)00507-3)

Boutzoukas AE, Dai W, Cober E, et al. Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales in solid organ transplant recipients. *Am J Transplant*. 2025;25(4):848-859. doi:[10.1016/j.ajt.2024.10.020](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajt.2024.10.020)

Jiang J, Wang L, Hu Y, et al. Global emergence of Carbapenem-resistant Hypervirulent *Klebsiella pneumoniae* driven by an IncFIIK34 KPC-2 plasmid. *EBioMedicine*. 2025;113:105627. doi:[10.1016/j.ebiom.2025.105627](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ebiom.2025.105627)

Luterbach CL, Pasquale DK, Henderson HI, et al. A network analysis of carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* among healthcare facilities. *Sci Rep*. 2025;15(1):27565. Published 2025 Jul 29. doi:[10.1038/s41598-025-04918-0](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-04918-0)

Turner NA, Hamasaki T, Doernberg SB, et al. Dalbavancin for Treatment of *Staphylococcus aureus* Bacteremia: The DOTS Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA*. Published online August 13, 2025. doi:[10.1001/jama.2025.12543](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2025.12543)

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