



March 2026 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:

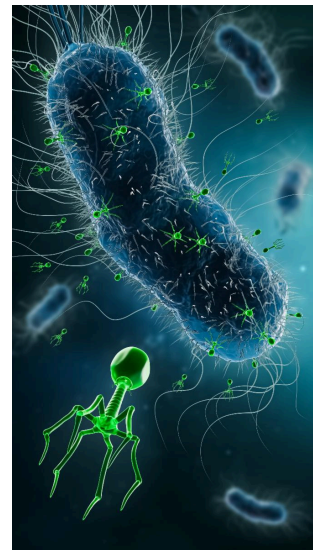
- Program news
- Clinical site spotlight: Mayo Clinic
- Member spotlights: Heather Cross & Robin Patel
- Events, including ARLG Grand Rounds
- Study milestones
- New publications

News

TATFAR Manuscript Highlights ARLG's Phage Research

The ARLG's PHAGE trial is featured in a new manuscript in *Nature Communications*, "Considerations and Perspectives on Phage Therapy from the Transatlantic Taskforce on Antimicrobial Resistance." The manuscript highlights ARLG's research along with other collaborative initiatives and describes regulatory differences across countries, research gaps, and opportunities to advance bacteriophage therapy.

[Read more](#)



Congratulations, Dr. Lodise!

Thomas Lodise, PharmD, PhD, who serves as the ARLG's Pharmacokinetic Scientific Lead, received the 2025 Literature Award for Sustained Contributions from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Foundation.

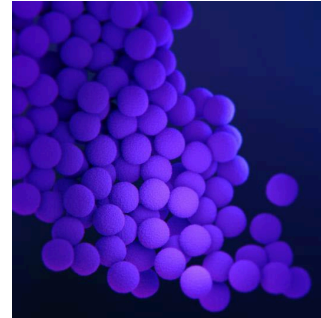
[Read more](#)



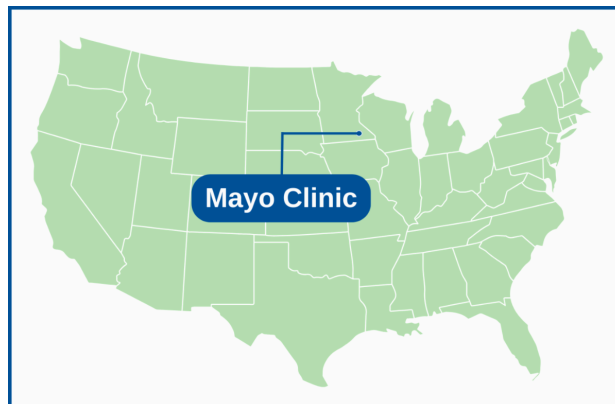
ARLG Experts Share Strategies to Combat Antibacterial Resistance

ARLG Co-Principal Investigator, Vance Fowler, MD, and Helen Boucher, MD, ARLG Executive Committee Member and Innovations Working Group Chair, shared their insights on the current state of antimicrobial resistance in a recent article published by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The article, “Where are we in the battle against antibiotic-resistant infections?” also includes their strategies to combat this global health crisis.

[Read more](#)



Clinical Site Spotlight



Dr. W. Charles Huskins at Mayo Clinic

W. Charles Huskins, MD, MSc, collaborated with colleagues across the ARLG to design and conduct the SCOUT-CAP study and led multidisciplinary research teams to conduct MDRO Network studies at Mayo Clinic.

As a site for several other ARLG studies, the principal investigators and research teams at Mayo Clinic have contributed to innovations in the design of clinical trials and informed practice guidelines to improve outcomes for patients with antibacterial-resistant infections.

[Read More](#)

ARLG Member Spotlights

Heather R. Cross, DPhil, FAHA, RAC

Heather Cross has been with the ARLG since its inception in 2013 and currently serves as the Director of the ARLG Clinical Operations Center and Associate Director of the ARLG Scientific Leadership Center. In these roles, she oversees all ARLG operations, supports early career investigators, and leads a talented team of people who are committed to combating the antibacterial resistance crisis and improving patient care.

[Read more](#)



**Heather R. Cross, DPhil,
Duke Clinical Research
Institute**

Robin Patel, MD, D(ABMM), FIDSA, FACP, F(AAM), FAAAS

Robin Patel, Director of the ARLG Laboratory Center, has served in several roles in the ARLG since its inception. Professor Patel is committed to improving next-generation diagnostic techniques for infectious diseases and advancing the use of diagnostics as 'theranostics'. As a member of the Mentoring Committee, she contributes to the ARLG's mission to train the next generation of researchers who will help reduce the public health threat of antimicrobial resistance.

[Read more](#)



**Robin Patel, MD,
Mayo Clinic**

Events



ARLG at ESCMID Global: April 17-20 in Munich, Germany

Several ARLG members will attend ESCMID Global where they will share their expertise on a variety of topics including phage therapy, system-wide antimicrobial stewardship, innovative methodologies for advancing PK/PD studies, and more. Check out the [list of ARLG member sessions and posters](#) and view the full program on the [ESCMID Global website](#).



ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

ARLG members Drs. Angela Huttner, David Paterson, and Tom Holland will join other experts to train the next generation of researchers in designing and conducting impactful clinical trials. The 3-day ESCMID postgraduate course will be held November 19-21 in Valleta, Malta.

[Learn more](#) and be sure to share this exciting opportunity with your mentees and others.



The Why and How of the ACORN Trial

In February, Drs. Edward Qian and Todd W. Rice, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, presented *The Why and How of the ACORN Trial: Does the choice between cefepime and piperacillin-tazobactam affect the risks of acute kidney injury or neurological dysfunction in adults hospitalized with acute infection?* The session was moderated by Dr. Sarah Doernberg, University of California, San Francisco.

[Watch the recording](#) to learn more about the ACORN Trial.

Bacteriophage Therapy

In December, Mikeljon Nikolich, PhD, Chief of Bacteriophage Therapeutics in the Wound Infections Department at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, presented the *Rational Development of Bacteriophage Cocktails Incorporating Global Harvesting Toward Novel Off-the-Shelf Antimicrobials for Multidrug-Resistant Gram-Negative ESKAPE Pathogens*.

[Watch the recording](#) to learn about exciting prospects for the future of phage therapy.

Study Milestones

STUDY NAME	ACRONYM ORIGIN	STATUS
DIFFR	<i>Clostridioides DIFFicile</i> RNA	Manuscript Submitted
ESCAPED	Emerging <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and Current Antimicrobial Patterns in Emergency Departments	Data Analysis

FAST
[NCT06174649](#)

Fast Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing for gram-negative bacteremia Manuscript Submitted

PDP
[NCT06181669](#)

Pneumonia Direct Pilot Data Analysis

STEP FMT

Strain Temporal Engraftment and Persistence after Fecal Microbiota Transplantation

Manuscript in Progress

[Learn More about ARLG Studies](#)

New Publications

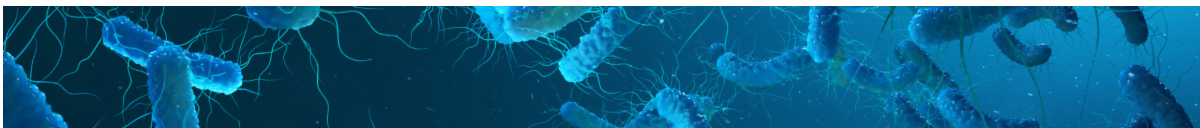
Banerjee R, Komarow L, Li Y, et al. Study protocol for a multicenter, multinational prospective randomized controlled trial comparing outcomes in subjects with Gram-negative bacteremia who have blood culture evaluation using *Fast Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing* vs. standard of care testing: the FAST trial. *Trials*. 2025;26(1):500. Published 2025 Nov 12. doi:[10.1186/s13063-025-09228-4](#)

Cuello L, Parmar K, Supandy A, Van Tyne D, Patel R. Isolation and genomic analysis of seven phages active against carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. *Microbiol Resour Announc*. 2025;14(12):e0076825. doi:[10.1128/mra.00768-25](#)

Doernberg SB, Komarow L, Greenwood-Quaintance K, et al. Clinical adjudication approach for rapid diagnostics aiming to identify bacteria directly from blood. *Clin Microbiol Infect*. Published online December 11, 2025. doi:[10.1016/j.cmi.2025.12.007](#)

Hamasaki T, He Y, Wu Q, et al. A patient-centric paradigm and tool for clinical research: the DOOR is open. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2026;70(1):e0147825. doi:[10.1128/aac.01478-25](#)

[View More ARLG Publications](#)



Duke Clinical Research Institute | 300 West Morgan Street Suite 800 | Durham, NC 27701 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)