ARLG
Antibacterial Resistance Leadership Group



August 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 trial site spotlight: Johns Hopkins University
- Member spotlights: Sarah Doernberg & Thomas Holland
- Events
- Study milestones
- New publications

News

Congratulations to ARLG Co-PI Vance Fowler, MD, MHS!

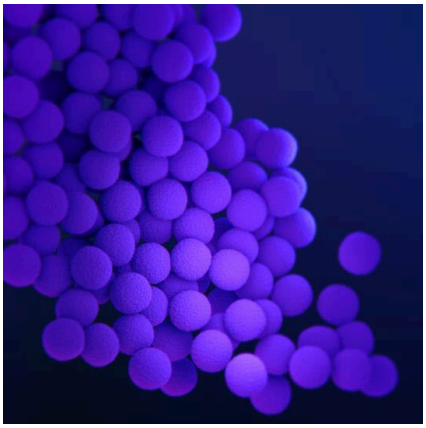
Dr. Fowler received the 2026 Hamao Umezawa Memorial Award from the International Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (ISAC). This award, ISAC's highest honor, recognizes Dr. Fowler for his important contributions to the field.



Dr. Fowler will deliver a plenary lecture – "Bridging the Gap: From *Staphylococcus aureus* Benchmarks to Breakthrough Clinical Trials" – at the International Congress of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy on December 7 in Manila, Philippines.

Learn more about Dr. Fowler's work and the ISAC award.

DOOR Manuscript Highlighted in *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*



A recent *Open Forum Infectious Diseases* editorial highlights the ARLG's application of Desirability of Outcome Ranking (DOOR) to acute bacterial skin and skin structure infection (ABSSSI) trials. The patient-centric DOOR framework incorporates clinical response, complications, adverse events, and mortality to provide a more complete view of treatment benefits and risks. Read more about how DOOR may help future infectious diseases trials better reflect outcomes that matter to patients.

FAST Trial Featured in *JAMA*



The FAST trial evaluated rapid versus standard antimicrobial susceptibility testing for gram-negative bloodstream infections. While rapid testing wasn't superior for day-30 outcomes, it may help clinicians adjust treatments faster and improve antibiotic stewardship. Read the results of FAST trial and check out the *JAMA* highlights, including an editorial, podcast episode, and research summary.

Check out the new ARLG Innovative Research Tools and Methods page for AMR research resources.

Clinical Trial Site Spotlight



Natalie E. West, MD, MHS, at Johns Hopkins University

A new ARLG Clinical Trial Site Spotlight features Natalie E. West, MD, MHS, associate director of the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Program at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. West and her team bring deep expertise in pulmonary and critical care medicine to ARLG-supported research, including the PHAGE study. The spotlight underscores how the ARLG's expert network and multi-site trial infrastructure help advance studies that would be difficult for any one institution to conduct alone, and why this work matters for patients facing chronic antibiotic-resistant infections.

Read More about Johns Hopkins

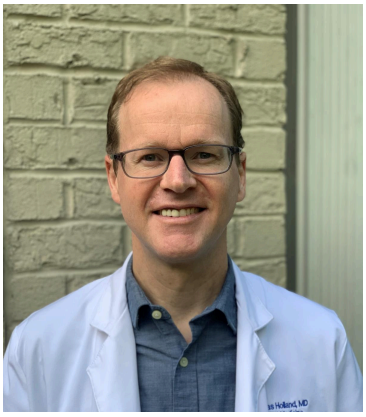
ARLG Member Spotlights

Sarah Doernberg, MD, MAS



Dr. Doernberg, professor of clinical medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, has been involved with the ARLG since its early days, first as a Trialist in Training and now as an investigator, mentor, and key contributor to research in infectious diseases. She has been integral to the ARLG's work in diagnostics, treatment, antimicrobial stewardship, and patient-reported outcomes. In an ARLG member spotlight, she shares what draws her to ARLG's mission and reflects on the projects, collaborations, and mentorship experiences that have shaped her work.

Thomas Holland, MD, MSc-GH



Dr. Holland, a professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Duke University, has been part of the ARLG since its beginning. From a Trialist in Training to a protocol PI, mentor, and leader of the Gram-positive Committee, Dr. Holland has made important contributions to the ARLG's work to combat the antibacterial resistance crisis. In a Q&A, he shares what motivates his work, reflects on meaningful collaborations, and highlights ARLG studies he's supported that are driving progress in antibacterial resistance research.

Events

ESCMID

ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course

ARLG members Drs. Angela Huttner, David Paterson, and Thomas 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.

- **Attendance grant application deadline: August 28**
- **Registration deadline: November 2**

Learn more about the ESCMID course and be sure to share this exciting opportunity with your mentees and others.

ARLG Antibacterial Resistance Leadership Group | GRAND ROUNDS

Recording Available: Innovations in Diagnostic Trials

- **Innovative Study Designs to Assess Test Performance,** presented by Michael Satlin, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine
- **Study Designs to Assess Impact of Diagnostics on Clinical Outcomes,** presented by Sarah Doernberg, MD, MAS, Professor of Medicine, University of California San Francisco
- **Lessons Learned from Recent Diagnostic Trials,** presented by Ritu Banerjee, MD, PhD, Professor, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Watch Innovations in Diagnostic Trials

Watch Other Grand Rounds

Study Milestones

STUDY NAME	ACRONYM ORIGIN	STATUS
Innovations QoL (second study)	N/A	Published
OPTIMIZE-GNI NCT06709521	**OPTIMIZ**ation of Beta-lactam Dosing in Critically-Ill Patients with Suspected or Documented Antimicrobial Resistant **G**ram-**N**egative **I**nfections with Cystatin C	Enrollment Closed
MASTERMIND-RING	**MASTER** protocol for evaluating **M**ultiple **IN**fection **D**iagnostics-**R**es**I**stant ***N**eisseria **G**onorrhoeae*	Enrollment Complete
DIFFR	*Clostridioides **DIFF**icile* **R**NA	Manuscript Accepted

Learn More about ARLG Studies

New Publications

Egge SL, Kang D, Pouya N, et al. Genomic and Clinical Features Associated with Reduced Susceptibility to Cefiderocol and Cross-resistance to β-lactam/β-lactamase Inhibitors in a Global Cohort of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *J Infect Dis*. Published online May 15, 2026. doi:10.1093/infdis/jiag263

Howard-Anderson J, Brown M, Korn R, et al. Comparing Patient and Clinician Perceptions of Health-Related Quality of Life in Urinary Tract Infections. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2026;9(7):e2618822. Published 2026 Jul 1. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2026.18822

Howard-Anderson J, Hamasaki T, Ge L, et al. Development and Application of a Desirability of Outcome Ranking (DOOR) Endpoint for Acute Bacterial Skin and Skin Structure Infections. *Open Forum Infect Dis*. 2026;13(6):ofag320. Published 2026 Jun 22. doi:10.1093/ofid/ofag320

Jabbour JF, Kadri H, Jabra E, et al. Distinct molecular epidemiology and outcomes of carbapenem-resistant gram-negative infections in Lebanon:

insights from the MDRO network. *BMC Infect Dis*. Published online July 7, 2026. doi:10.1186/s12879-026-13946-8

Mackow NA, Komarow L, Napravnik S, et al. Development and Application of an Anaerobic Activity Index. *Clin Infect Dis*. Published online August 4, 2026. doi:10.1093/cid/ciag470

Roach DJ, Krapp F, Bhat S, Flynn DB, Allan-Blitz LT, Bhattacharyya RP. Low-cost approaches for detecting antimicrobial resistance in bacterial infections in resource-limited settings: a scoping review. *NPJ Antimicrob Resist*. Published online July 10, 2026. doi:10.1038/s44259-026-00236-1

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