

**Enhancing  
Antimicrobial Resistance  
Surveillance Systems  
in Developing Countries**



**World AMR Awareness Week 2024  
Webinar South Centre**

## **WEBINAR: ENHANCING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

### **Description**

The South Centre will organize a webinar during the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2024 to highlight essential strategies and success stories in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance and stewardship across developing countries, focusing on bridging gaps in data collection and accuracy. Challenges such as limited funding, technical infrastructure, and trained personnel hinder effective AMR surveillance.

The webinar will explore cost-effective digital solutions, regional collaboration, and resource-efficient strategies to help build resilient AMR surveillance systems, enhancing sustainable antimicrobial stewardship (AMS), combating AMR, saving patient lives, and improving global public health outcomes.

The webinar will have two sessions, designed to provide practical insights and evidence-based recommendations to improve AMR surveillance, policy, and clinical practices, particularly in resource-limited settings.

**Date: Monday, November 18, 2024**

**Time: 3-4:00 PM CEST / 9-10:00 AM EDT / 7:30 – 8:30 PM IST**

**Link to register [here](#)**

## Programme

Time (CEST)	Session	Speaker
3:00 – 3:05	Opening	Dr. Viviana Muñoz Tellez, Coordinator Health Programme, South Centre
3:00 – 3:20	Enhancing Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance in Hospitals in Developing Countries: Overcoming Challenges and Bridging Data Gaps	Dr Rasha Abdelsalam Elshenawy
3:20 – 3:50	Success Stories and AMR Data in Implementing Antimicrobial Stewardship and Surveillance in Developing Countries	Panellists:  Dr Sasheela Sri La Sri Ponnampalavanar  Dr. Afreenish Amir  Dr Kamini Walia
3:50 – 4:00	Q&A	

### Session #1: Presentation

#### Enhancing Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance in Hospitals in Developing Countries: Overcoming Challenges and Bridging Data Gaps

##### Session Objectives:

- Identify key challenges in AMR surveillance for developing countries.
- Explore strategies to improve data collection, management, and reporting.
- Emphasize collaboration at regional and global levels.
- Examine how digital tools can enhance AMR surveillance and data accuracy.
- Provide resources, including available AMS toolkits, for effective stewardship practices.

**Speaker:**

**Dr. Rasha Abdelsalam Elshenawy**

Antimicrobial Resistance Consultant, South Centre  
Director of Antimicrobial Stewardship School at FADIC, UK  
University of Hertfordshire, UK



**Bio:**

Dr. Rasha Abdelsalam Elshenawy is a distinguished Egyptian clinical pharmacist with over 20 years in pharmacy practice. As Director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship School at FADIC in the UK and an AMR Consultant with the South Centre in Geneva, she plays a vital role in global antimicrobial resistant efforts. Dr. Rasha also serves as a senior lecturer and supervisor at the University of Hertfordshire in the UK. Her PhD research centres on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on antimicrobial stewardship, public health, and antimicrobial resistance. With over 150 articles, abstracts, and

presentations at national and international conferences, Dr. Rasha is a committed advocate for addressing the global antimicrobial resistant crisis.

**Session #2: Panel Discussion**

**Success Stories and AMR data in Implementing Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) and Surveillance in Developing Countries:**

This session will be a moderated panel discussion among experts. Experts will be asked to respond with examples from their experiences to selected questions below.

1. Can you explain the role of antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) in combating AMR?
2. What are common barriers to AMS in your experience, and how have you worked around them?
3. Could you share an example of a successful AMS program and what made it effective?
4. How do you manage data limitations when implementing evidence-based AMS interventions?
5. What resource-efficient AMS strategies have you found effective, and how adaptable are they?
6. How have partnerships with local and international organizations strengthened AMS efforts?
7. How have digital tools improved your AMR surveillance and AMS outcomes?
8. What recommendations would you give for strengthening AMS in resource-limited settings?

9. What AMS materials or toolkits do you find most valuable, and how can they be effectively utilised in resource-limited settings?

**Panelists:**



**Dr Kamini Walia**

Senior Scientist  
Division of Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, India

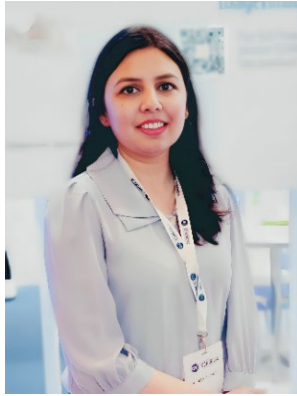
Dr Kamini Walia is a senior scientist at Division of Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi. Dr Walia is currently leading the Antimicrobial Resistance Initiative of ICMR which focusing at various aspects of AMR, including surveillance, antimicrobial stewardship and OneHealth aspects. She received her PhD from Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research and also did Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins. During her 20 years of experience in public health space she has initiated and successfully steered numerous projects and programs of public health importance in the field of infectious diseases, reproductive and child health and noncommunicable diseases. Dr Walia's has extensive experience of working in infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS programs and health technologies including vaccines and diagnostics. She spent 2 years in PATH, as Director, Research and Development. She curated the National Essential Diagnostics for the country to improve availability of diagnostics at all levels of health care. She is former member WHO Scientific Advisory Group of Experts on Essential Diagnostics.



**Dr Sasheela Sri La Sri Ponnampalavanar**

MBBS (MAHE), MMed (UM), DTMH  
Professor, Consultant Infectious Disease Physician, Department of Medicine.  
Head of Infection Control Department.  
Chairperson, Antibiotic Stewardship Subcommittee.  
University Malaya Medical Centre, Malaysia

Sasheela Ponnampalavanar, a Consultant Infectious Disease Physician and Professor of Medicine at University Malaya, Malaysia, heads the Infection Control Department and chairs the Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee at UMMC. She has a deep commitment to AMR and advancing patient safety, particularly in resource-limited settings. Her leadership garnered prestigious awards, including the 2022 Asia Pacific Hand Hygiene Excellence and 2018 Safe Surgery Awards. Actively involved in the National Action Plan on AMR, Dr Ponnampalavanar plays an active role in shaping national strategies as a member of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Committee, where she contributes to the development of guidelines, education, and training in antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention. Her primary research interests focus on hospital-acquired infections, antimicrobial stewardship, healthcare environmental hygiene, and multidrug-resistant organisms. Beyond her clinical and research endeavors, she is committed to raising public awareness of AMR, leveraging her expertise to inspire action in the fight against antimicrobial resistance.



**Dr. Afreenish Amir**

Medical Microbiologist, South Centre  
Project Director AMR, Pakistan

Dr. Amir has experience at national and international level in AMR surveillance, advocacy, stewardship and laboratory systems. Her work focuses on pathogen genomic surveillance, antimicrobial treatment guidelines, fungal disease surveillance, cholera control strategies, GHSA AMR action package, bacterial priority pathogen list, QMS, external quality assurance, biorisk management. She has 85 publications in national and international journals and many are underway. She is member of Technical advisory group for Fleming fund, Harvard Kennedy School alumna on Global Health Security, GIBACHT fellow on biosafety and biosecurity, consultant with ASM, USA, visiting faculty Rawalpindi Medical University and Health Services Academy Pakistan.