



World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2018

Webinar: Appropriate use of antimicrobials; Misuse of antibiotics puts us all at risk.

November 12, 2018

World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW)¹ is an annual global event, aimed at increasing awareness to the emerging public health threat of antibiotic resistance (AMR). The target audience includes healthcare professionals, veterinarians, farmers, food producers, policy makers as well as the public. The end goal is to curb the further emergence and spread of AMR globally.

Many countries in the Region of the Americas initiated the implementation of country specific AMR National Action Plans. These plans have been developed in line with the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR, which includes five key strategic objectives. One of these strategic objectives focuses on the optimization of antimicrobials use in human and animal health. This concept, also referred to as antibiotic stewardship, constitutes an evidence-based approach for antimicrobial therapy that maximizes the clinical therapeutic effect, while minimizing both drug-related toxicity and the development of AMR, in accordance with international standards. This objective stresses the need for countries to establish antimicrobial stewardship programs to prevent harm, improve patient safety, and control rates of AMR. Stewardship programs are shown to optimize clinical outcomes, minimize unintended consequences such as toxicity, and reduce the selection pressure on bacterial populations that lead to the emergence of resistance.

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization is organizing this webinar to increase awareness about the appropriate use of antimicrobials, as one of most-cost effective strategies to prevent and contain AMR, highlighting the crucial importance of reducing the inappropriate use of antibiotics both in humans and animals. The guest speakers are recognized experts in antimicrobial stewardship from the Region of the Americas, with direct experience in the implementation of these programs.

PAHO/WHO is encouraging all Member States, health partners, students, and the public to join this campaign, and help raise awareness of antibiotic resistance. It is not too late to reduce the impact of antibiotic resistance, and we all have a part to play in preserving the effectiveness of precious life- saving resource, "*antibiotics—we need to handle them with care*".

¹ <http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-antibiotic-awareness-week/en/> (last accessed 05/11/2018)

AGENDA

Day: 12 November 2017

Time: 11:00 – 12:30 EST

Location: 1017, PAHO Headquarters, Washington DC.

Online: <https://paho.webex.com/paho/onstage/g.php?MTID=e301f02edbac8de4e3facfef33b349e0e>

Languages: English and Spanish

Time	Topic	Speaker
11:00	Welcome remarks – Introduction and objectives	
11:10	Fostering Implementation of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean	Dr. Carlos Espinal, Global Health Consortium, Florida International University
11:20	Impact of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs: Reducing the Use of Antimicrobials, Improving Quality of Care	Dr. Valeria Fabre, Associate Medical Director, Adult Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
11:35	Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies for Implementation and Sustainability in Latin America	Dr. Rodolfo Quiros, Project Coordinator, PROA-Latinoamérica
11:50	2017 WHO guidelines on the Use of Medically Important Antimicrobials in Food Producing Animals	Prof. Scott McEwen, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada
12:05	The Core Elements of Human Antibiotic Stewardship Programs in Resource-Limited Settings	Dr. Daniel Vanderende, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) United States of America
12:20	Q&A	Moderator (s), PAHO
12:30	Conclusions - Closure	Dr. Pilar Ramon-Pardo, Team Lead AMR Special Program, PAHO