



**UiO** • **Institute of Health and Society**  
University of Oslo

# Antimicrobial resistance A global challenge

Ernst Kristian Rødland, MD PhD  
Norwegian Institute of Public Health  
[ernstkristian.rodland@fhi.no](mailto:ernstkristian.rodland@fhi.no)





# Topics

- What is AMR?
- Usage of antibiotics
- Spread of AMR - One Health
- AMR in LMICs



# Microbial biosphere

- Bacteria
  - Environmental
  - Commensal
  - Pathogen
- Natural antibiotics
- Reservoir of antibiotic resistance genes → Resistome

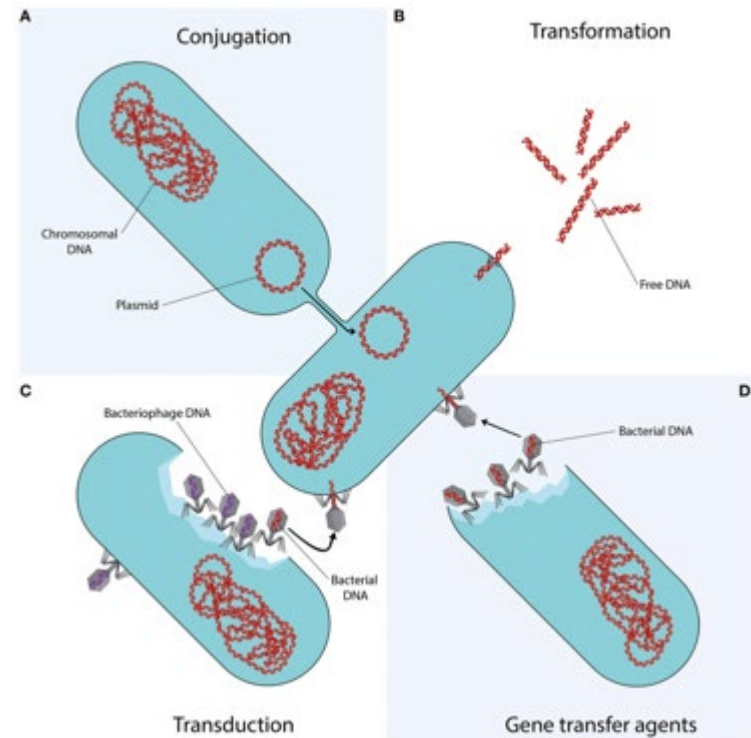






# How do bacteria become resistant?

- Vertical
  - Spontaneous mutations
  - Transferred to the bacteria's progeny
- Horizontal
  - Exchange of genetic elements/plasmids
  - Packages of resistance genes





# History of some antibiotics

- Penicillin – 1928, regular use in human medicine from the 1940s
- Chlortetracyclin (Aureomycin) – 1945, used as a growth promotor in meat production
- Fluoroquinolones (Nalidixic acid) – 1962



# Usage of antibiotics

- 65% increase in human consumption (2000-2015) globally<sup>(1)</sup>
- Approximately 80% of a.b. consumption is in the animal sector<sup>(2)</sup>
- Globally: 60-70000 tonnes in agriculture

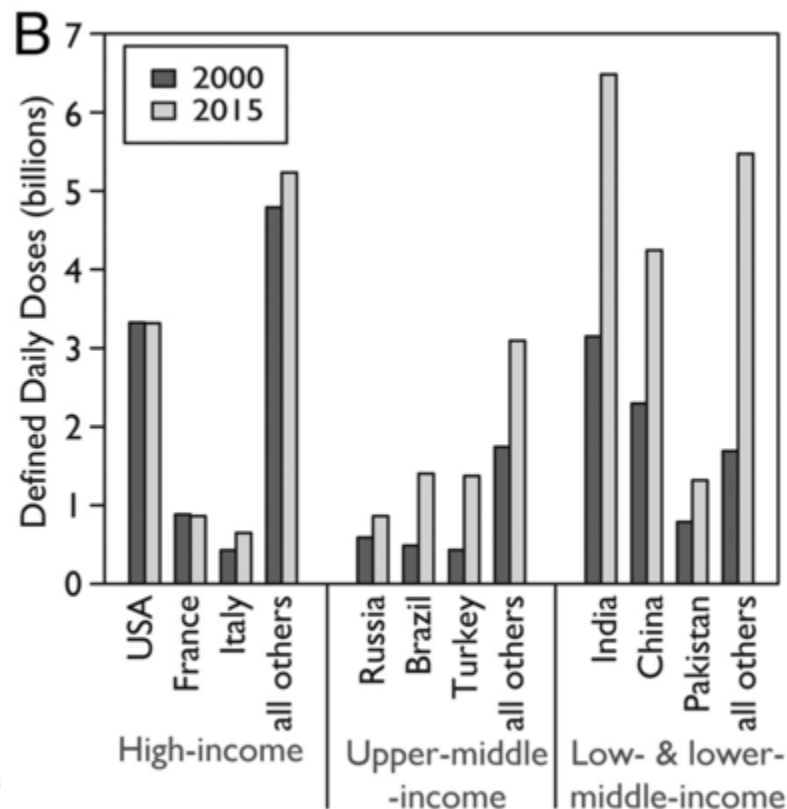
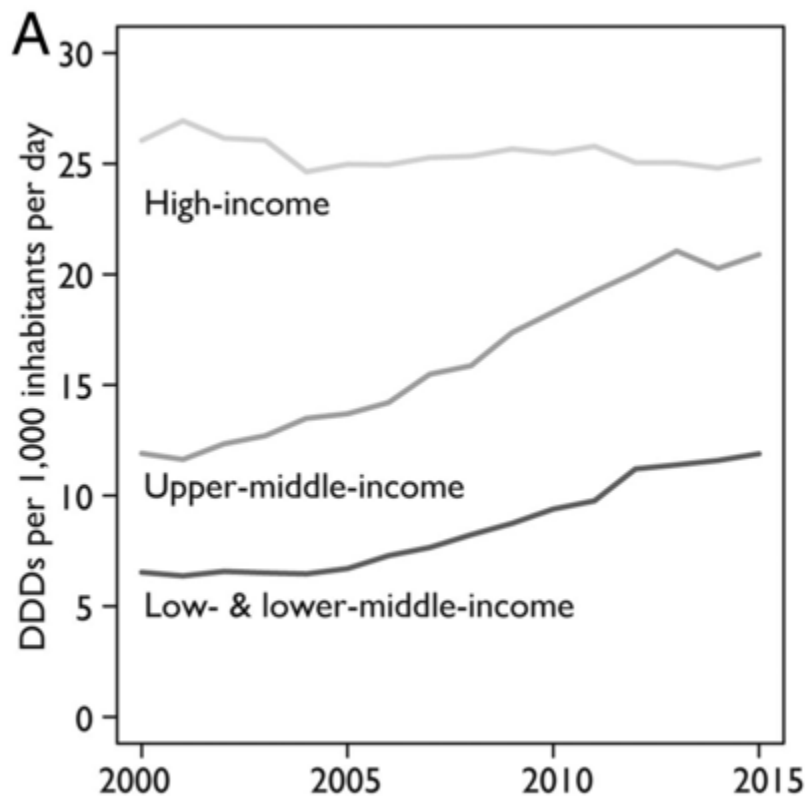


(1) Klein et al. PNAS 2018

(2) WHO, 2017



# Global antibiotic consumption







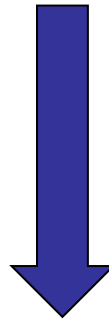
# Exposure routes of antibiotics to the environment

- Discharge from manufacturing
- Urine and feces from users of antibiotics
- Antibiotics used in agriculture and aquaculture
- Discarded medicines – lack of take-back programs





**Antibiotic selection pressure**



**Significant impact on the resistome  
in the microbial biosphere**



# AMR is omnipresent

- E.coli from arctic birds
  - Siberia, Alaska, Greenland
  - AMR detected in 8/97 isolates
  - 17 antimicrobials were tested, resistance to 14 were detected





# AMR migration

- Approx. 2 billion people move across large distances/year and 1 billion cross international borders
- 20–60% of asylum seekers are colonized with resistant microbes <sup>(1,2)</sup>
- 50-90% of tourists visiting the tropics get colonized with MDR enterobacteriaceae



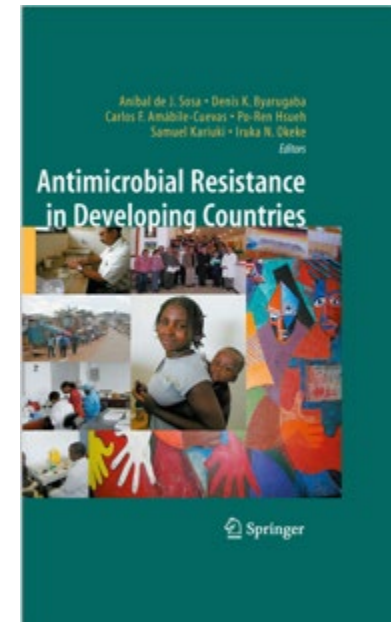
New Dehli Metallo-beta-lactamase-1 (NDM-1)

(1) de Smalen, A.W., et al., Travel Med Infect Dis, 2017

(2) Heudorf, U., et al., GMS Hyg Infect Control, 2016



*”....If walls have proven insufficient to stop migrating people, it will certainly be so for multi-resistant microbes and their consequences.....”*





---

## **Gross national income and antibiotic resistance in invasive isolates: analysis of the top-ranked antibiotic-resistant bacteria on the 2017 WHO priority list**

**Alessia Savoldi<sup>1,2</sup>, Elena Carrara <sup>2\*</sup>, Beryl Primrose Gladstone <sup>1</sup>, Anna Maria Azzini<sup>2</sup>, Siri Göpel<sup>1</sup> and  
Evelina Tacconelli<sup>1,2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine I, German Center for Infection Research, University of Tübingen, Otfried Müller Straße 12, 72074 Tübingen, Germany;* <sup>2</sup>*Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Diagnostic and Public Health, G. B. Rossi University Hospital, University of Verona, P.le L.A. Scuro 10, 37100 Verona, Italy*

\*Corresponding author. Tel: +39 0458127396; E-mail: elena.carrara@univr.it

*Received 4 April 2019; returned 12 May 2019; revised 22 July 2019; accepted 5 August 2019*



The aim of this study was to collect the most recent data on prevalence of AMR from surveillance networks and to test the hypothesis of an association between lower income status and AMR prevalence in invasive infections.



## Materials and methods

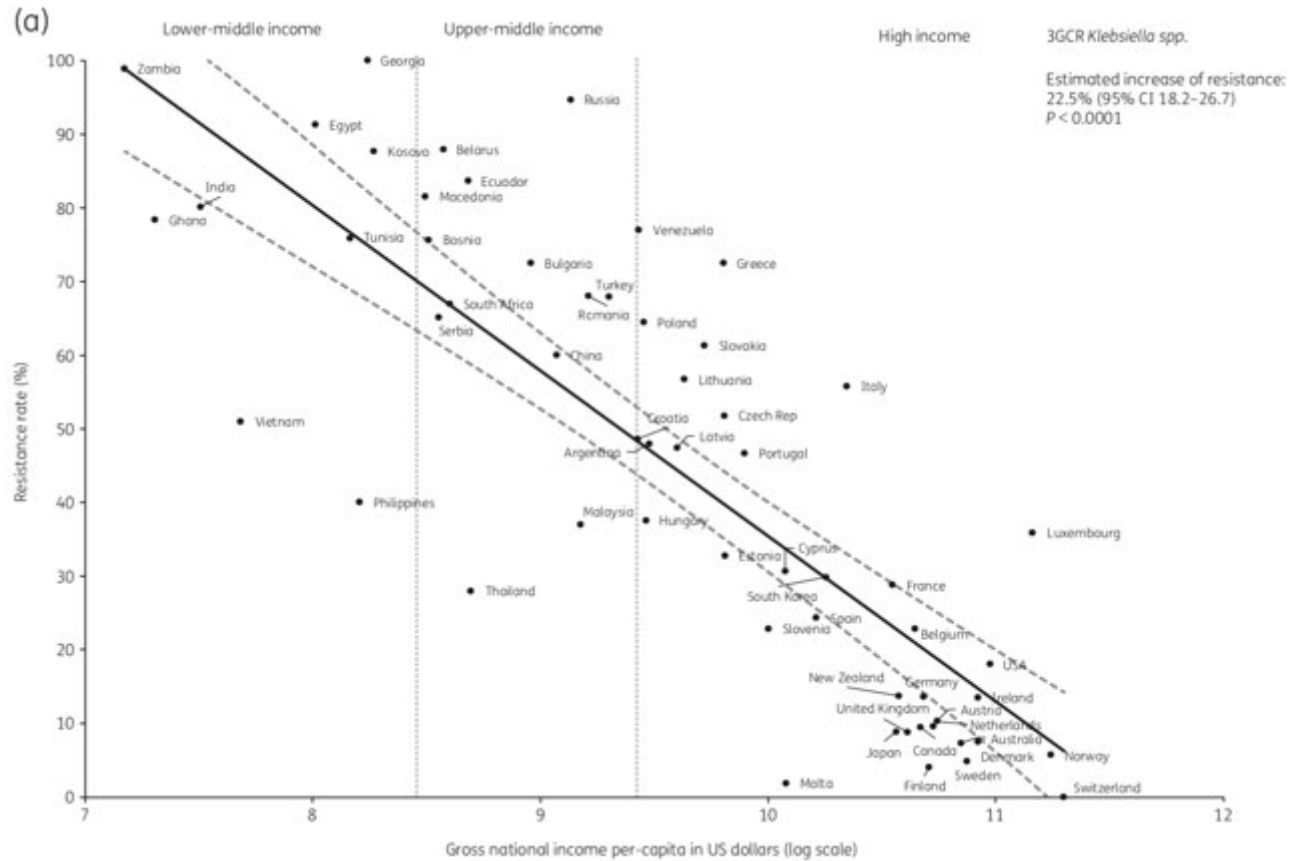
- Countries (HICs, U-MICs, L-MICs, LICs) with data on resistance prevalence for at least on priority pathogen for at least one year
- Only invasive isolates (blood and CSF)
- Validated clinical breakpoints (EUCAST, CLSI)

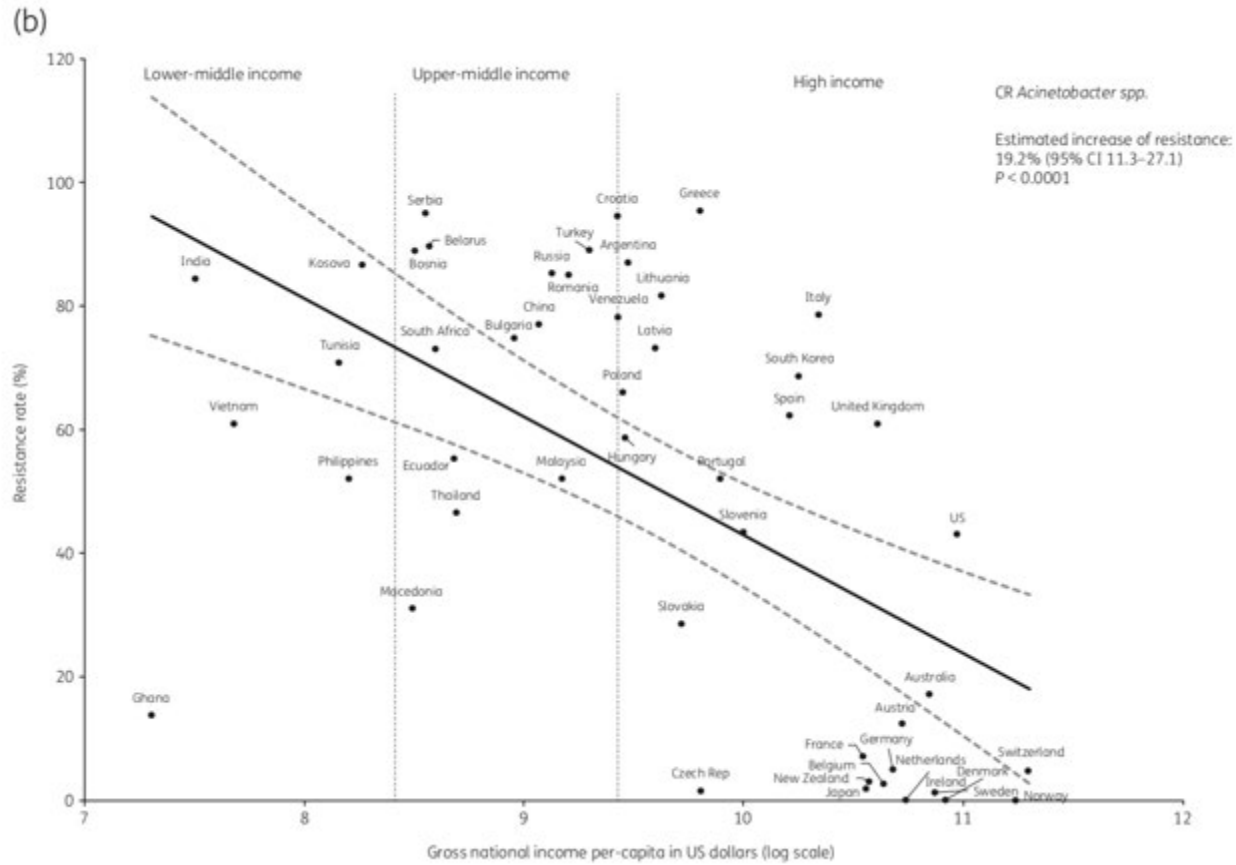


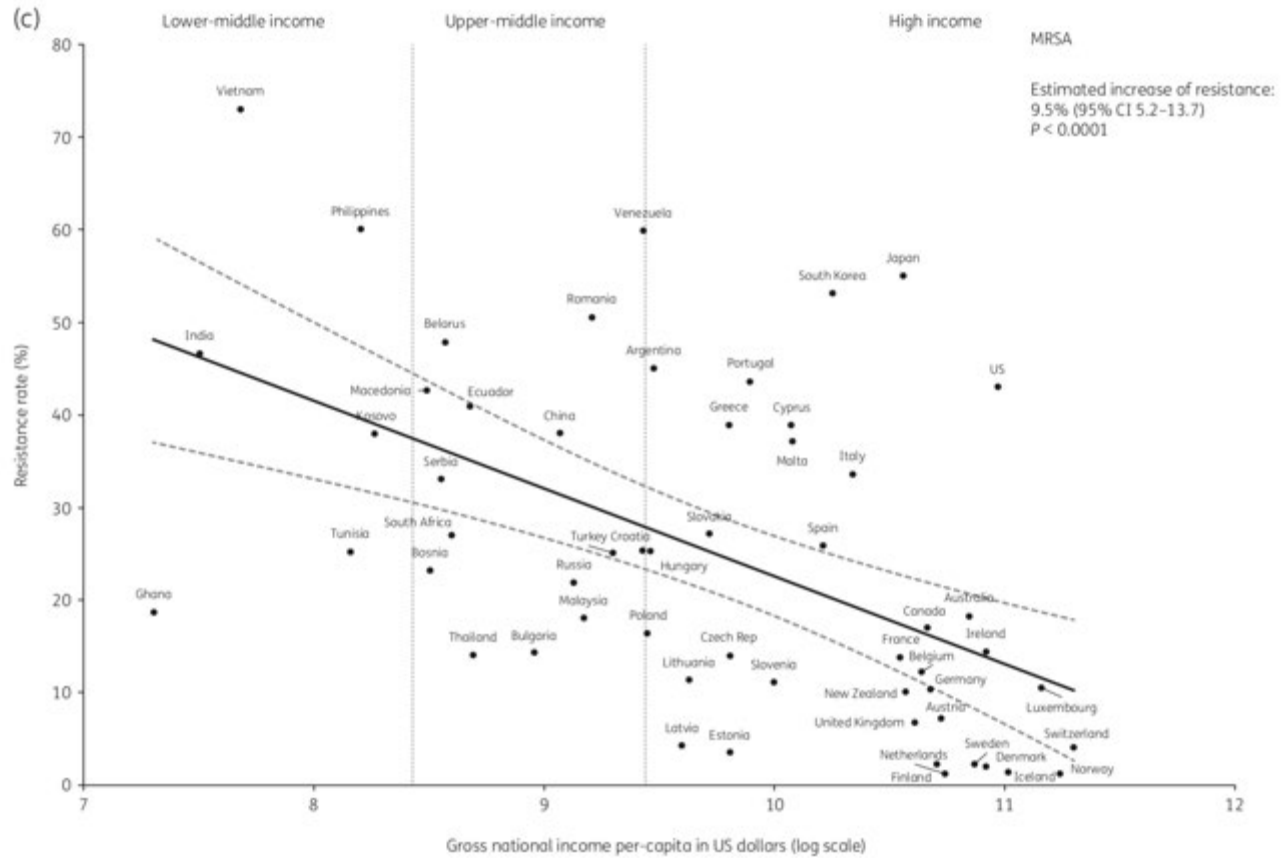


## Results

- AMR data from 22 surveillance systems
- 67 countries
  - HICs 57%, 38 countries
  - UMICs 24%, 16 countries
  - LMICs 16%, 11 countries
  - LICs 3%, 2 countries









## Discussion

- A strongly significant inverse association between income status and invasive infections due to MRSA, 3GCR *Klebsiella spp.* and *E. coli*, CR *Acinetobacter spp.*, *Klebsiella spp.* and *P. aeruginosa*. Public health officers and policy makers must take determinants of poverty and inequality into account when designing and implementing interventions and infection control policies targeting AMR, especially in LMICs/LICs.



# AMR in the WHO African region

- High prevalence of AMR in clinical relevant bacteria
- 2011: WHO publishes a policy package to combat AMR
  - Top priority: strenghten surveillance and laboratory capacity
- No reliable data available from 42,6% of African countries <sup>(1)</sup>

**Table 1** Implementation status of WHO policy package to combat AMR in the WHO African region <sup>(2)</sup>

<i>Country</i>	<i>National AMR plan</i>	<i>Surveillance on antimicrobial use and resistance</i>	<i>Access to quality essential medicines</i>	<i>Rational medicine use</i>	<i>IPC</i>	<i>Innovation, research and development</i>
Total (47)	2	0	44	43	7	0
%	4.3	0.0	93.6	91.5	14.9	0.0

(1) Tadesse, B.T., et al., BMC Infect Dis, 2017

(2) Essack, S.Y., et al. J Public Health (Oxf), 2017



# Available reference labs in Africa





# AMR

## Development and spread

- Improper use of antimicrobials
- Lack of microbiological diagnostic services
- Poor sanitation and shortage of clean water
- Crowding – interpersonal spread
- Migration



Resource limited countries (RLCs)





---

# Anthropological and socioeconomic factors contributing to global antimicrobial resistance: a univariate and multivariable analysis



*Peter Collignon, John J Beggs, Timothy R Walsh, Sumanth Gandra, Ramanan Laxminarayan*



## Summary

**Background** Understanding of the factors driving global antimicrobial resistance is limited. We analysed antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic consumption worldwide versus many potential contributing factors.

*Lancet Planet Health* 2018;  
2: e398–405

See [Comment](#) page e376



**Interpretation** Reduction of antibiotic consumption will not be sufficient to control antimicrobial resistance because contagion—the spread of resistant strains and resistance genes—seems to be the dominant contributing factor. Improving sanitation, increasing access to clean water, and ensuring good governance, as well as increasing public health-care expenditure and better regulating the private health sector are all necessary to reduce global antimicrobial resistance.

My answer has to be fighting poverty