Antimicrobial Resistance as a Social Dilemma
Theory and practice in optimising antibiotic use in hospitals internationally

Interdisciplinary Workshop
4th – 5th October 2018
College Court, Knighton Road, Leicester, UK LE2 3UF

Keynote speakers:

Prof Alexander Broom
UNSW, Australia

Dr Clare Chandler
LSHTM, UK

Dr Carolyn Tarrant
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Prof Shaheen Mehtar
ICAN, South Africa

Dr Nelun Perera
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dr David Jenkins
University Hospitals Leicester, UK

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the greatest threats in 21st century medicine, which is exacerbated by antibiotic overprescribing. Changing prescribing decisions of physicians can be a challenge, because doctors face a difficult social dilemma. On the one hand, they must consider individual patients’ immediate interests in unlimited prescriptions of antibiotics for treating possible infection and maximising chances of recovery. On the other hand, they must consider society’s long-term interest in targeted and sustainable prescribing of antibiotics to preserve future drug efficacy.

This interdisciplinary workshop builds on findings from a multinational qualitative study* on the use of broad spectrum antibiotics for acute medical patients in hospitals in the UK, South Africa and Sri Lanka, and discuss antibiotic stewardship in the context of social dilemma theory.

We will present findings from the study, accompanied by talks from experts in prescribing behaviour and the role of social science in tackling AMR. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the use of theory to address the global challenge of AMR.

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