

Media statement

Issued: Geneva, 20 August 2019

FIND and GARDP part of ARC Research Hub on AMR

GARDP and FIND welcome the Australian Minister for Education's announcement of AUD 5M to establish an Australian Research Council (ARC) Research Hub to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance, which will be led by the Kirby Institute.

Speaking of the announcement Dr Manica Balasegaram, Executive Director of GARDP, commented, "As a global partnership developing and delivering new treatments against antibiotic resistant infections, GARDP is very excited to be a contributor and partner of the ARC Hub. We are not only taking on the challenge but we are, importantly, part of the solution to address AMR in Australia, and globally, including for sexually transmitted infections. Our collaboration with the ARC Hub is part of GARDP's increasing presence in Australia's R&D landscape, and follows our partnership with the University of Queensland's Community for Open Antimicrobial Drug Discovery (CO-ADD) announced earlier this year."

Catharina Boehme, CEO of FIND, added, "The partnership with the ARC Hub will enable us to accelerate the development of cutting-edge diagnostic solutions that are critical for the global fight against AMR. Our longstanding R&D relationships in Australia enable us to optimize tools for emerging market needs."

AMR is a growing problem globally. Bacteria, viruses, and some parasites are increasingly becoming resistant to antibiotics, antivirals and antimalarials, posing a serious threat to human health. Antibiotic overuse combined with an inadequate pipeline for diagnostic technologies and new drugs has led to this development.

The ARC Hub will focus on sexually transmitted microorganisms, which is a critical area of concern in Australia.

The ARC Research Hub to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance is a collaboration between the following organisations:

Australian universities: UNSW Sydney (Kirby Institute, Centre for Social Research in Health), University of Queensland, Monash University, UTS and University of Melbourne

Industry and partner organisations: SpeeDx Pty Ltd, Cepheid, Recce Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Opal Biosciences Ltd, Boulos and Cooper Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, The Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership (GARDP), The Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), the Central and Eastern Sydney PHN, and NPS MedicineWise.

Other collaborating organisations: Murdoch Children's Research Institute, WHO Collaborating Centre for Sexually Transmitted Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance, Melbourne Sexual Health Clinic, Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, and Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre.

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About GARDP

GARDP is a not-for-profit research and development organization that addresses global public health needs by developing and delivering new or improved antibiotic treatments, while endeavouring to ensure their sustainable access. Initiated by the WHO and the Drugs for Neglected Disease *initiative* (DNDi), GARDP is an important element of WHO's Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance that calls for new public-private partnerships to encourage research and development of new antimicrobial agents and diagnostics. GARDP is currently hosted by DNDi. www.gardp.org

About FIND

FIND is a global non-profit organization that drives innovation in the development and delivery of diagnostics to combat major diseases affecting the world's poorest populations. Our work bridges R&D to access, overcoming scientific barriers to technology development; generating evidence for regulators and policy-makers; addressing market failures; and enabling accelerated uptake and access to diagnostics in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Since 2003, we have been instrumental in the delivery of 24 new diagnostic tools. Over 50 million FIND-supported products have been provided to 150 LMICs since the start of 2015. A WHO Collaborating Centre, we work with more than 200 academic, industry, governmental, and civil society partners worldwide, on over 70 active projects that cross six priority disease areas. FIND is committed to a future in which diagnostics underpin treatment decisions and provide the foundation for disease surveillance, control and prevention. For more information, please visit www.finddx.org