



**PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
FOUNDATION  
OF INDIA**



**One Health  
Antibiotic Stewardship  
in Society**

**LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE**



To

Date: 01/12/2020

Dear Mr. Kumar,

**Subject: Invitation for Steering Committee membership of the One Health Antibiotic Stewardship in Society (OASIS) study.**

Greetings!

India has among the highest levels of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the world, and the COVID-19 pandemic is an additional threat to the country's AMR burden, as it could lead to an increase in unnecessary antibiotic usage. Emerging evidence from several Asian countries points to excessive and inappropriate antibiotic use in COVID-19 patients. India has both a public health sector that provides primary and secondary care to its rural population and a larger private health sector. Over 70% of the population seeks healthcare from private providers, many of whom do not have a formal medical qualification. Antibiotic stewardship is challenging in complex pluralistic health systems due to information asymmetries, the nature of pharmaceutical value chains, and weak governance, accountability and regulation of the multiple actors involved.

India also has one of the world's largest livestock sectors; it is the largest producer of milk, the second largest producer of fish, third largest producer of eggs and fifth largest producer of meat. The sector contributes 26% of the country's agricultural output. There is a larger livestock population in rural than in urban areas and in household enterprises than in other types of production systems. Backyard production systems have additional implications for AMR as animals are more closely in contact with household members in the shared environment, with potentially greater exposure to exchange of pathogens across species. The veterinary health system has similar shortcomings as the human health system and our emerging evidence suggests that antibiotics are used inappropriately for therapeutic reasons in backyard livestock populations. A One Health approach that targets both humans and animals is essential for antibiotic stewardship in community settings in rural India.

The OASIS study is a collaboration between the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK), the Public Health Foundation of India in Gurugram (India), Institute of Development Studies in Brighton (UK), Royal Veterinary College in London (UK) and the West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences in Kolkata (India). The main aims of the study are to engage with multiple stakeholders and co-design and implement (on a small scale) an intervention to operationalise antibiotic stewardship for human and livestock health in rural community settings in India. The intervention design will draw on (a) formative research conducted with rural households, informal and formal primary care providers, veterinarians and paravets, health and regulatory department stakeholders, and stakeholders in pharmaceutical value chains in rural West Bengal, (b) supplemented by an online survey of primary care physicians, informal providers, vets and paravets on their SARS-CoV-2-related practices, including use of antibiotics.

The project lasting through February 2018 – January 2022, began with a focus on West Bengal, but as a result of the pandemic the scope was expanded to include national stakeholders and primary

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providers from across India. The online survey of primary providers will include primary care physicians in the database of physicians trained by the Training division of PHFI. Informal providers will be accessed through their associations West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana. Vets and paravets will be approached through the networks of the West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences. The primary intervention site is being moved to Haryana from West Bengal due to SARS-CoV-2 related logistical reasons.

The Steering Committee's role is to be a critical friend and advise and support the achievement of study outcomes. This may include:

- Providing advice on study progress and implementation, especially on the multi-stakeholder intervention co-design and small-scale implementation of an intervention.
- Helping the project team to identify and connect with key stakeholders.
- Providing advice on navigating study related challenges and leveraging opportunities.
- Providing advice on the quality of the project as it develops and progresses and future scale up strategies.
- Contributing (if willing and interested) to study outputs like policy briefs and journal articles and being an advocate for the study.

The Steering Committee will be composed of 10-12 members with a range of relevant professional skills. It will be chaired by Professor Srinath Reddy, President of PHFI. In view of your vast experience and knowledge, it would be our honour if you accept this invitation to be a member of the Committee (Annexure- Proposed members invited)

The Committee is expected to meet 2-3 times over the duration of the study (until January 2022). Meetings will most likely be virtual and last for around 60-90 minutes.

Upon your confirmation, we will share further details with you and invite you to attend the 1st Steering Committee meeting in mid-December 2020 or early January 2021.

With warm regards,



Professor K. Srinath Reddy (Chair)  
President, Public Health Foundation of India



Dr. Meenakshi Gautham (Study Principal Investigator)  
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

## Proposed invited Members:

1. Professor K. Srinath Reddy (Chair)  
President,  
Public Health Foundation of India
2. Professor Kapil Yadav  
Additional Professor, Centre for Community Medicine  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
3. Professor Arti Kapil  
Professor, Department of Microbiology  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
4. Dr. Sangeeta Sharma  
Professor & Head, Department of Neuropsychopharmacology, IHBAS Nodal Officer  
for AMR, Govt. of Delhi  
President, Delhi Society for Promotion of Rational Use of Drugs, Delhi
5. Dr. Alexander Thomas  
President,  
Association of Healthcare Providers of India
6. Dr. Priya Balasubramian  
Senior Public Health Scientist and Director UHC Initiative  
Public Health Foundation of India,
7. Mr. Amod Kumar  
Principal Secretary,  
Planning, Government of Uttar Pradesh
8. Dr. S. Rajesh; Director,  
Health (GCS), NITI Aayog
9. Dr. Arshnee Moodley,  
Team leader, Antimicrobial resistance, International Livestock Research Institute,  
Nairobi, Kenya
10. Dr. Stefan Swartling Peterson  
Prof of Global Health  
Karolinska Institute
11. Dr. Rajesh Bhatia  
Former Director, Communicable Diseases  
World Health Organization South-East Asia Regional Office
12. Dr. Praveen Malik,  
Animal Husbandry Commissioner  
Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India