



## International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science

### **IFBLS Statement to the 140<sup>th</sup> WHO Executive Board Agenda Item 7.2**

The International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science is composed of 35 National Organizations of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists (BLS) representing approximately 185,000 members. Our members are Scientists who analyze, interpret and report test results for all medical laboratory procedures, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Most data collected for antimicrobial susceptibility reports includes diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV. Fewer data are collected for healthcare associated infections, common bacterial diseases, community-acquired diseases and AMR. IFBLS supports WHO in emphasizing the need for strengthening laboratory capacity for detecting and monitoring of AMR. However, IFBLS is deeply concerned that the increasing shortage of qualified Biomedical Laboratory Scientists throughout the world is a barrier to a comprehensive monitoring program. Continued funding for BLS educational programs is critical to achieve decreasing worldwide antimicrobial susceptibility.

BLS use standards for antimicrobial susceptibility testing developed by the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute or the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing. Efforts to create global standardization and harmonization of AMR standards within the medical community is essential for improvement in the collection, interpretation and use of AMR data. This need also extends to environmental monitoring of bacteria in soil, water and animals and foodborne infections. Data collection and monitoring of AMR will not resolve the global threat of antimicrobial resistance, but changes in data collection at the front line will foster innovations that may include new diagnostic methods and improved patient care. This can only be accomplished by a commitment to biomedical laboratory science workforce development, an increase in laboratory capacity and funding, and developing partnerships across health care, academia, industry, public and global policy makers.

Respectfully submitted

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