



IFBLS

International Federation of
Biomedical Laboratory Science

IFBLS Statement to the 144th WHO Executive Board Agenda Item 5.8.1 Antimicrobial resistance

The International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science is a federation of National Organizations of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists (BLS). Presently, we represent 37 associations in 33 countries with more than 185,000 members. Our members are the scientists who perform, interpret and report results for all medical laboratory procedures, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Biomedical Laboratory Scientists provide a vital role in identifying healthcare associated infections, common bacterial diseases, and community acquired diseases, all indicators of incidence of infection and the underlying prevalence of AMR. BLS participate in hospital antimicrobial stewardship committees working with other healthcare professionals on the effective use of antimicrobials and increasing awareness of the health consequences of AMR. Although there are thousands of BLS on the frontline working in hospital and public health laboratories, identification of infection and appropriate antimicrobial therapy is impacted by the increasing shortage of qualified Biomedical Laboratory Scientists throughout the world. Reducing AMR will be impeded without continued funding for global BLS educational programs. This is critical to achieve decreasing worldwide antimicrobial susceptibility and supporting the initiatives included in the 2018 Global Action Plan.

Continued efforts to create global standardization and harmonization of AMR as outlined in the Global Action Plan is essential for improvement in the collection, interpretation and use of AMR data. To solve this problem and limit harm to individuals as a result of AMR, partnerships among healthcare professionals, academia, industry, and public and global policy makers need to focus upon developing new diagnostic methods to identify infections, improve treatments, expand biomedical laboratory science workforce and increase funding for surveillance, research and education.

Respectfully submitted

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President
International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science

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