

Fleming Fund helps Menzies battle drug resistance in Timor-Leste

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Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) has been awarded a Fleming Fund country grant to support testing and surveillance for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Timor-Leste.

The Fleming Fund is a UK aid program managed by the UK's Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC), which was established to support low and middle-income countries to generate, share and use AMR data so they can optimise the use of antibiotics and reduce drug resistance.

Dr Josh Francis is leading Menzies' health programs in Timor-Leste and says Menzies were chosen to receive the Fleming Fund country grant, because of a strong track record partnering with the Timor-Leste Ministry of Health to strengthen capacity for diagnosis, surveillance and response to infectious diseases in Timor-Leste.

"Menzies has a memorandum of understanding with the Timor-Leste Ministry of Health, and an ongoing commitment to work with the Ministry of Health and other partners to improve the health in Timor-Leste.

"We are currently running the [STRONG TL project](#) which is funded by the Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade to strengthen communicable disease surveillance and control in Timor-Leste.

"This new funding will allow us to build on the work we are already doing in Timor-Leste and help the national health laboratory and the vet diagnostic laboratory build sustainable capacity to identify antimicrobial resistance" said Dr Francis.

Menzies' researchers will support the Ministry of Health to use the data generated and work with hospitals and clinicians to help choose the best antibiotics so that people get the best chance of recovering from serious infections, without causing more resistance.

Menzies will also work with the government of Timor-Leste to develop systems for monitoring rates of infections and the use of antibiotics; this will help identify areas where antimicrobial use could be optimised across both the human health and animal health sectors. The One Health approach is critical to contribute to global efforts to fight AMR.

Mott MacDonald, the Management Agent for the Fleming Fund Grants Programme, said: "We look forward to working in partnership with Menzies to improve AMR surveillance in Timor-Leste and help address a leading public health threat".

The total value of the grant is £4 million. For more information on the Fleming Fund visit <https://www.flemingfund.org/>

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Menzies School of Health Research

Menzies School of Health Research is one of Australia's leading medical research institutes dedicated to improving Indigenous, global and tropical health. Menzies has a history of over 30 years of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies works at the frontline, joining with partners across the Asia-Pacific as well as Indigenous communities across northern and central Australia. Menzies collaborates to create new knowledge, grow local skills and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.