

ARX Team | Winter 2024



Dawn Seivert, PhD
Senior Science Advisor

Dr. Sievert is the Senior Science Advisor and Science Team Lead of the Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination and Strategy Unit in the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She leads strategic direction, coordination, and investments of CDC's cross-cutting scientific antimicrobial resistance (AR) activities. Her work ensures that AR projects and collaborations across the agency are appropriate and consistent with CDC scientific vision and priorities. As part of this role, Dr. Sievert provides the scientific leadership for CDC's domestic AR Laboratory Network and Global AR Laboratory & Response Network. She is also Lead of the CDC Collaborating Center within the WHO AMR Network and is a contributing member of the WHO STAG-AMR.

Dr. Sievert has over 20 years of experience working on AR. In her 14+ years at CDC, she previously served as the Associate Director for AR in CDC's Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases and as the Deputy Chief of Surveillance Branch in CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, where she provided scientific leadership for CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network. Prior to CDC, Dr. Sievert's work experience includes AR program lead at a U.S. state health department, laboratory researcher and quality improvement/infection control coordinator at two major U.S. healthcare systems, and chief scientist for a consulting company focused on new models of electronic automation and health information exchange in medicine and public health.



Sandra (Sandie) Bulens, MPH
Deputy, ARX Science Team

Sandie is the Deputy for the Science Team in the Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination and Strategy Unit, or ARX, in the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sandie joined ARX in August of 2023 and is now leading the team that manages the programmatic work for the AR Lab Network.

Before supporting the AR Lab Network, Sandie worked for over 16 years in the Division of Healthcare Quality and Prevention in various roles supporting the Emerging Infections Program, the most recently as the Program Manager for the EIP's Healthcare-associated Infections Community Interface (HAIC) and the Principal Investigator for the HAIC's Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* surveillance activity. Prior to her time in DHQP, Sandie spent two years at the Georgia Division of Public Health, working on the EIP's Active Bacterial Core Surveillance Activity and conducting surveillance for community-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. Sandie's undergraduate degree is in microbiology, and she acquired her MPH in Epidemiology from Emory's Rollins School of Public Health.



Laura Hancock, MS, PMP
AR Laboratory Coordinator

Laura is the AR Laboratory Coordinator at CDC's Antimicrobial Resistance and Strategy Unit (ARX). Laura supports AR Lab Network activities by working with the public health labs and CDC's SME groups.

Prior to joining the team in ARX, Laura was the project manager on molecular testing of Galactosemia screening in dried blood spots, and has experience genotyping and Sanger sequencing assay development, has created numerous robotics methods for high-throughput applications, and has worked closely with APHL on the NBS Molecular Training Workshop and the Molecular Resources for Newborn Screening website.



Cau D. Pham, PhD
ARX Lab Advisor

Dr. Pham received his doctorate and post-doctoral training at the University of Louisville and Emory University School of Medicine, respectively. His research aims toward understanding of genetic aberrations influencing disease development and antimicrobial resistance. His tenure at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention includes 3 years with the Mycotic Diseases Branch and 6 years with the Division of STD Prevention. When he is not chasing down antimicrobial resistant microorganisms, he enjoys gardening, hiking, kayaking, cooking, traveling, play tennis and singing karaoke with his family.



Oladayo (Dayo) Omosa, PhD
ARX Science Team Evaluator

Dayo recently joined the CDC ARX Science team in January as an Evaluation Specialist. He leads the evaluation of the AR Lab Network projects and coordinates the AR Isolate Bank annual survey, working closely with internal and external partners. Before coming on board, Dayo provided evaluation technical assistance for the CDC HOP, SPAN, and REACH CoAgs in the Division of Nutrition Physical Activity and Obesity (DNPAO) and the CDC Next Generation Sequencing CoAg in the Division of Laboratory Systems (DLS).



Kendra Driver, PhD
ARX Science Team
Health Educator

Kendra currently serves as the Health Educator for the ARX Science Team. In her role, she provides expertise in communication, technical information, partner strategy and engagement, and stakeholder management to ensure the division effectively engages critical audiences. Prior to joining the team in ARX, Kendra was a Health Communications Specialist for the Office of the Director in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP) where she collaborated and managed projects with policy, and scientific staff to create educational documentation talking points, promotional materials, blog content, policy statements, reports, public presentations, and other online content.



Masiray Swaray, MPH
ARX Science Team Policy Analyst

Masiray Swaray, MPH joined the Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination and Strategy Unit (ARX) in November 2021. Currently, Masiray offers programmatic assistance to the Domestic ARX Science team and manages the ELC Cooperative Agreement for the AR Lab Network program, while collaborating closely with various CDC partner programs to guide implementation of various AR Lab Network activities.



Rachael Aubert, PhD
ARX Science Health Scientist

Rachel joined ARX in 2020 and provides coordination and technical expertise for various projects across the AR Lab Network and Global AR Lab and Response Network, including leading efforts for informatics, data modernization, and whole-genome sequencing. Prior to joining ARX she worked in the Enteric Diseases Laboratory Branch at CDC supervising the Campylobacter and Enteric Serology reference laboratories and supporting branch domestic and international outbreak activities.



Phala Reed, MLS (ASCP)
ARX Science Program Coordinator

Phala joined the Antimicrobial Resistance and Strategy Unit (ARX) in October 2022. Currently, Phala is the Project Coordinator for the Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network and oversees daily inquiries concerning the AR Lab Network and helps triage inquiries and connect partners with the appropriate contacts. Additionally, she manages different accesses needed by partners to help the network run like FedEx, REDCap, and SharePoint.