

## Press release

### Grand Challenges India call on Antimicrobial Resistance

20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

The Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation partnership Grand Challenges India, announced a new initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The application process will open shortly and will be managed by the Program Management Unit housed at BIRAC (PMU-BIRAC)

This call is run in alignment with Grand Challenges South Africa, Grand Challenges Africa and Grand Challenges Brazil and will fund projects from across these geographies which will be managed by the country partner.

The mandate for the Grand Challenges India call is in the space of surveillance and analytical tools, products and technologies for infection prevention and remove antibiotics from effluents.

Antimicrobial resistance is a growing concern in India, with several government initiatives beginning to fund research in this space. Given the cross-disciplinary and multi-faceted nature of antimicrobial resistance, it is and will likely to remain as a grand challenge for India.

*“Antimicrobial resistance is a growing threat to public health, and in the last few years the Government of India with its associated bodies has undertaken several programs to fund R&D in area of Anti-microbial resistance. However, there are still areas, where research funding is lacking and will benefit from targeted funding, such as surveillance, prevention of infections and environmental AMR. This partnership initiative will catalyze scientific and technological innovation syndicate to achieve major breakthroughs in global health” said Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Advisor DBT and Managing Director BIRAC.*

*“We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with and support the leadership and collaboration across the India, Brazil, South Africa and Africa Grand Challenge programs as they seek new innovations in this important challenge area,” said, Dr. Steven Buchsbaum, Deputy Director, Discovery & Translational Sciences, Bill Melinda Gates Foundation.*