



EDAR8

Environmental Dimensions
of Antimicrobial Resistance
Brisbane, 2-7 August 2026

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

Workshop Title	From Evidence to Action: An Interactive Workshop on AMR Policy <i>Role-play simulation on AMR policy deliberation</i>
Facilitators and contributors Details of the individuals leading and contributing to the workshop, including: • Workshop facilitators • Guest speakers or contributors • Their roles in the session	<u>Rebekah Riddle</u> is a doctoral candidate in the Planning, Governance, and Globalization program and is a member of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) Lab at Virginia Tech. She works closely with scientists, engineers, students, and practitioners from across the globe to bridge the gap between science and policy using serious games. <u>Dr. Todd Schenk</u> is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning Program in the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech, and the founding Director of the Science, Technology & Engineering in Policy Program (STEP). He has extensive research and consulting experience working on environmental policy and planning, and collaborative governance issues in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. He developed several <i>serious</i> games (simulations) with multi-stakeholder groups to train a wide audience on policymaking issues. <u>Dr. Dominic Frigon</u> is an Associate Professor in the Civil Engineering Department at McGill University. His research interests encompass several aspects of environmental biotechnology with a focus on microbial community engineering and wastewater/environmental-based surveillance of AMR and pathogens. His research aims at combining metagenomics and mathematical modelling to describe dynamics of microbial populations in wastewater and environmental systems and to assess health risks. <u>Dr. Amy Pruden</u> is a University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech. Her research seeks to advance water engineering and agricultural practices that mitigate the spread of AMR through deeper understanding of the microbial communities inhabiting these systems. Her team applies a combination of lab- and field-studies along with next-generation DNA sequencing and bioinformatic tools to track targets of interest, including opportunistic pathogens, antibiotic resistance genes, and various functional groups of bacteria.
Background An overview of the context and rationale for the workshop, outlining the key issue, challenge, or opportunity it addresses, and why this topic is timely and relevant.	AMR poses a growing threat to human, animal, and environmental health, and remains a global challenge that transcends traditional sectoral boundaries. Policy responses struggle to integrate scientific complexity and competing stakeholder priorities, leading to responses that are fragmented or siloed across sectors. Environmental paths through wastewater, agriculture, and natural ecosystems play critical but underexplored roles in the spread of resistance. This workshop offers participants the opportunity to engage in an interactive simulation that explores the complex processes underlying AMR policymaking. By focusing on the dynamics of decision-making, the session provides a discussion-based space for participants to experiment with policy approaches and trade-offs. As the international push for “One Health” AMR strategies continues, this workshop offers a timely opportunity to engage with participatory tools that can improve understanding, communication, and the integration of science into policy action.
Workshop Aims A description of the purpose of the workshop and its intended focus. This section highlights what participants can expect to explore, learn, or develop during the session.	This workshop aims to deepen understanding of how a variety of factors intersect with AMR and how evidence, values, and political priorities shape policy negotiations. It also aims to explore how scientific evidence on AMR is interpreted, contested, and negotiated in the policymaking process. Through a guided simulation and structured reflection, participants will explore how differing perspectives and priorities influence the formation of policy recommendations for AMR mitigation. The activity supports transdisciplinary systems thinking and cross-sector dialogue to reveal the barriers and opportunities for more cohesive action relating to AMR policy. By engaging

	participants as real-world stakeholders rather than observers, the workshop demonstrates the complexities of balancing the multi-faceted nature of AMR issues. This workshop allows participants to explore how science and policy interact within the AMR field, and what it means to strengthen communication, collaboration, and policy coherence.
Participant Takeaways A summary of what participants will gain from attending the workshop. This may include new knowledge, practical skills, tools, frameworks, or shared resources, as well as any tangible outputs (e.g. ideas, draft materials, or collaborative outcomes).	Participants will leave with new perspectives and approaches for integrating science into AMR policy design and communication. This workshop will provide: • Direct (simulated) experience with interdisciplinary decision-making and science communication and negotiation. • Insights into how AMR scientific evidence is contested, prioritized, and translated within policymaking. • Strategies for communicating research findings effectively across stakeholder groups or between sectors and to increase the relevance and uptake of results across institutional and disciplinary boundaries. • Exposure to participatory methods as mechanism for engagement and knowledge exchange. • Experience using an interactive simulation as a learning and facilitation tool for interdisciplinary dialogue. • A set of materials, including exercise instructions and reflection prompts, that can be used in meetings, teaching, and outreach to foster science-policy integration. • A co-created brief or reflective note capturing collective insights into barriers and opportunities for translating AMR science into policy, as well as lessons learned. Participants will gain both conceptual and applied tools to navigate and influence the interactions between AMR policy, decision-making, and science. Lessons learned translate to other complex science-policy negotiations.
Expected Impact An outline of the broader value of the workshop, including how it may: • Influence research, policy, or practice • Support collaboration and knowledge exchange • Contribute to future work or ongoing initiatives	The expected impact of this workshop is to improve engagement at the science -policy interface through a collaborative policy simulation and discussion. By bringing together researchers, practitioners, and policy stakeholders around a table, the workshop aims to cultivate appreciation for systems thinking, greater insight into evidence translation, and a sense of interdisciplinary communication, all of which are necessary for successful AMR governance due to its complex nature. This session will provide a space for discussion, working with a range of tools and strategies, and will allow the participants to directly experience the challenges and opportunities involved in translating scientific evidence into policy actions, especially where there are competing and conflicting interests at play. Participants will enhance their capacities for communicating research in ways that resonate across disciplines and policy areas, helping foster transdisciplinary collaboration and break down the siloing that is currently happening in the AMR space. The workshop will expose attendees to practice tools, which they can apply to their own teaching, research, or outreach. By demystifying the processes behind policy design and encouraging reflection and conversation on science-policy interactions, the session aims to equip the AMR community with strategies for creating more effective science-to-policy pathways. Beyond the conference, the broader value of this workshop lies in developing a professional community that is prepared to address a multitude of AMR challenges through integrated approaches. Participants will ideally leave with shared language, actionable insights through shared experiences and reflection, and materials and processes to support future collaboration in a variety of contexts, including interdisciplinary research projects, cross-sectoral working groups, and international policy dialogue. The co-created summary will serve both as a knowledge product and as a springboard for ongoing exchanges, hopefully catalyzing future initiatives.
Who should attend?	Participants from any background, sector, and expertise are welcome. The inclusion of diverse backgrounds will enhance communication and

Information on the intended audience for the workshop, including: • Relevant backgrounds, sectors, or expertise • The level of participation expected (e.g. discussion, group work, problem-solving)	collaboration dynamics and reflect real-world complexity in policymaking, making the experience richer. Active involvement will include both small and large group discussion, roleplay, and group reflection throughout the simulation is expected. A brief read-through of the materials before the workshop would be helpful in maintaining on schedule.
Workshop Schedule and Duration A summary of the structure and flow of the workshop, including: • Key session components • Interactive or breakout activities	Introduction to the workshop and use of role-play simulations - 15 minutes Role-play simulation- 2 hours 15 minutes (including break) • Reading of material- 15 minutes • Role-based breakout discussions - 15 minutes • Task force member introductions (in game groups) - 5 minutes • Deliberation part 1 (in groups) - 40 minutes • Break and informal discussion - 30 minutes • Deliberation part 2: Package formulation and drafting of final recommendations (in groups) – 30 minutes Group reflection and discussion (all groups together) – 1 hour Total: 3 hours 30 minutes