

A LOOK BACK AT 2020: ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE COALITION

Formed in May of 2014, the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition (ARC) is a coalition of over 25 civil society and intergovernmental organizations dedicated to addressing the global threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). With members working across human, veterinary, and environmental health around the globe, ARC takes a One Health approach to AMR. Even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, ARC members made significant progress in advancing efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance in 2020. Here is just a sampling of some of the highlights, drawn from the pages of the monthly ARC newsletter--



MARCH

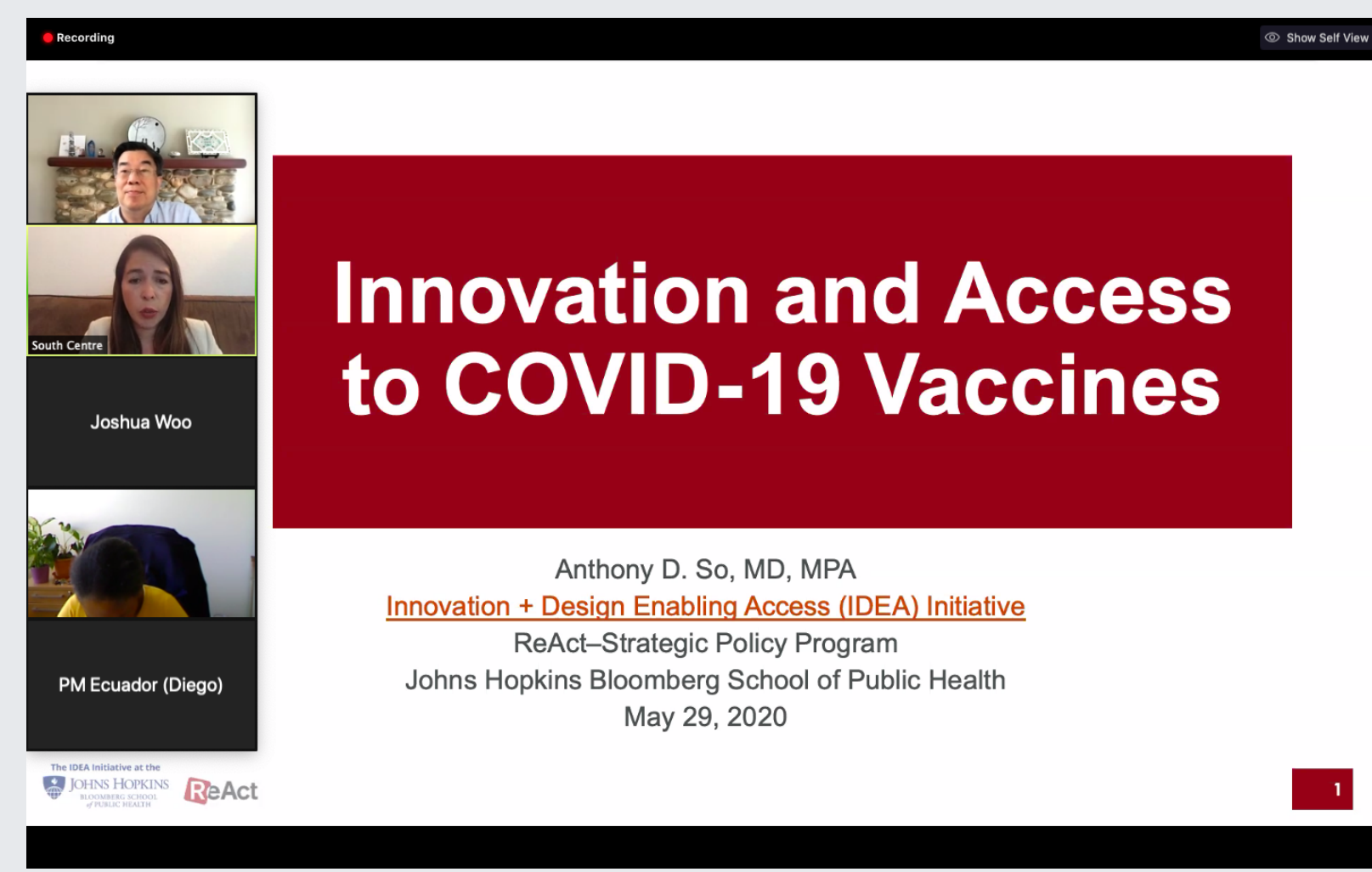
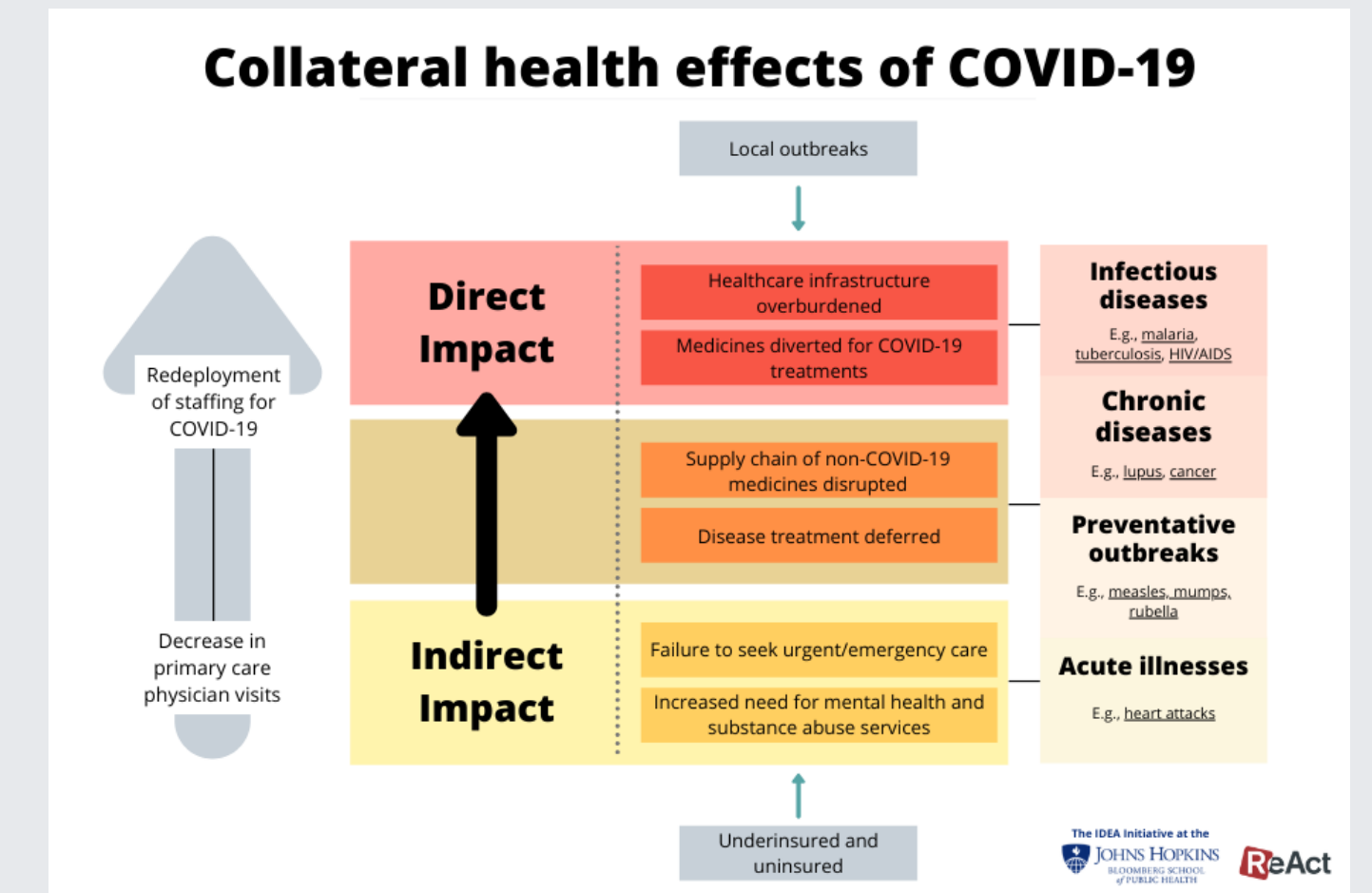
In March, the Innovation + Design Enabling Access (IDEA) Initiative, the secretariat of ARC, published a COVID-19 resource guide highlighting various key resources amidst the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. ARC members Consumer Reports and ReAct also presented to the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) on AMR.

APRIL

In April, Doctors for America held a webinar on access to COVID-19 technologies. South Centre published a new paper on COVID-19 access issues in addition to publishing an open letter to WHO, WTO, and WIPO emphasizing the importance of ensuring access during the pandemic. The IDEA Initiative also highlighted several key collateral health effects of COVID-19 in April.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

In January and February, ARC member, Centre for Science and the Environment organized the Pan-Africa Workshop on Effective Implementation of National Action Plans on Antimicrobial Resistance. Healthcare Without Harm, along with partners, also launched the EU Members of the European Parliament (MEP) Interest Group on AMR, including 15 MEPs.



MAY

In May, Third World Network launched VaxMap, a global map of efforts to develop COVID-19 vaccines, along with potential production capacities. During May, South Centre also held a briefing for member states on innovation and access to COVID-19 vaccines and the Centre for Science and the Environment published a new assessment on antibiotic misuse by fast-food companies, finding that these companies continue to fail at establishing time-specific commitments to curb antimicrobial use on their menus.

JUNE

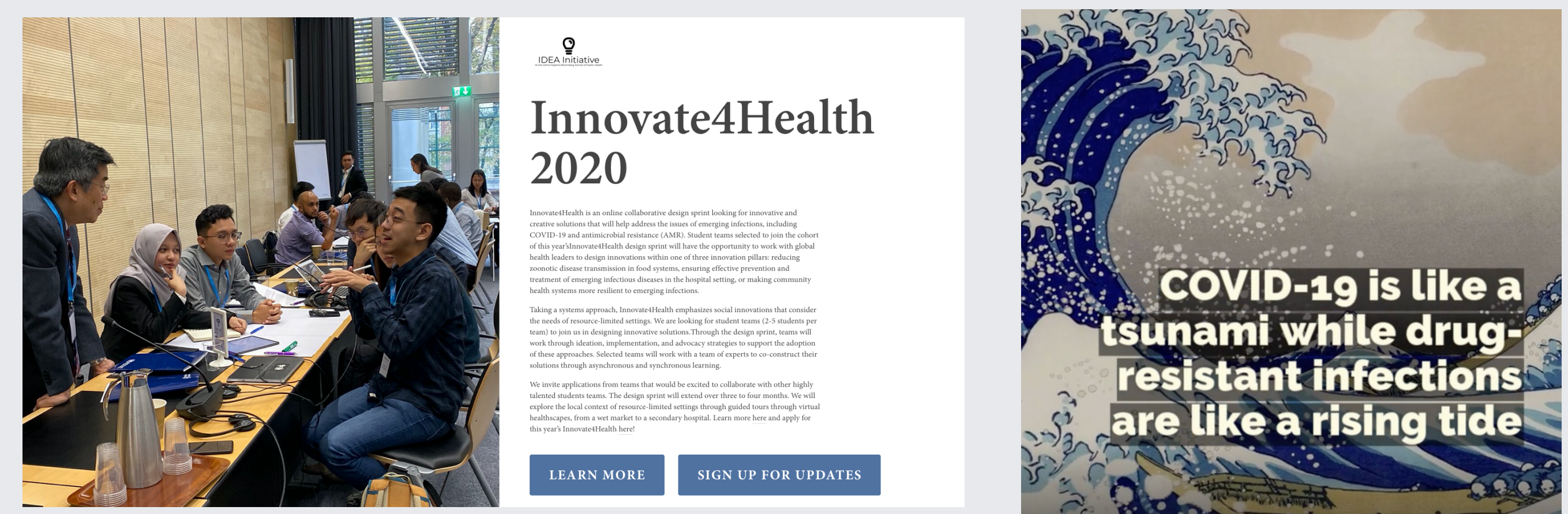
In June, ARC provided feedback on the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against AMR, highlighting the need for civil society involvement and preventing influence from groups with financial conflicts of interest. Several ARC members, such as Public Citizen and Third World Network, also called for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines along with other civil society members.

JULY

In July, ARC welcomed three new members--the Pan-African Treatment Access Movement (PATAM), European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), and Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (IDEC)--to the Coalition.

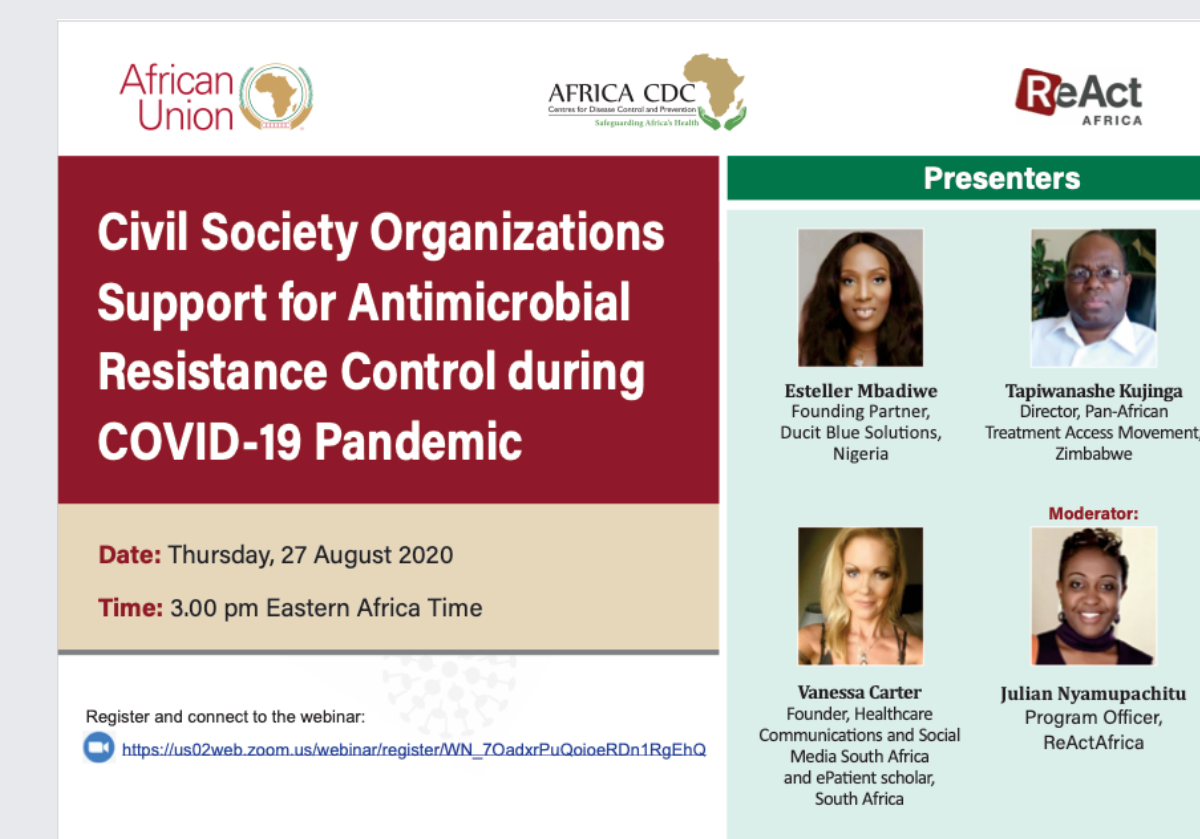
AUGUST

In August, the previous organizers of Innovate4AMR, including ReAct, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) and the IDEA Initiative, launched Innovate4Health, a global design sprint to address health inequities from emerging infectious diseases. ReAct Africa and Africa CDC also organized civil society to address AMR in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



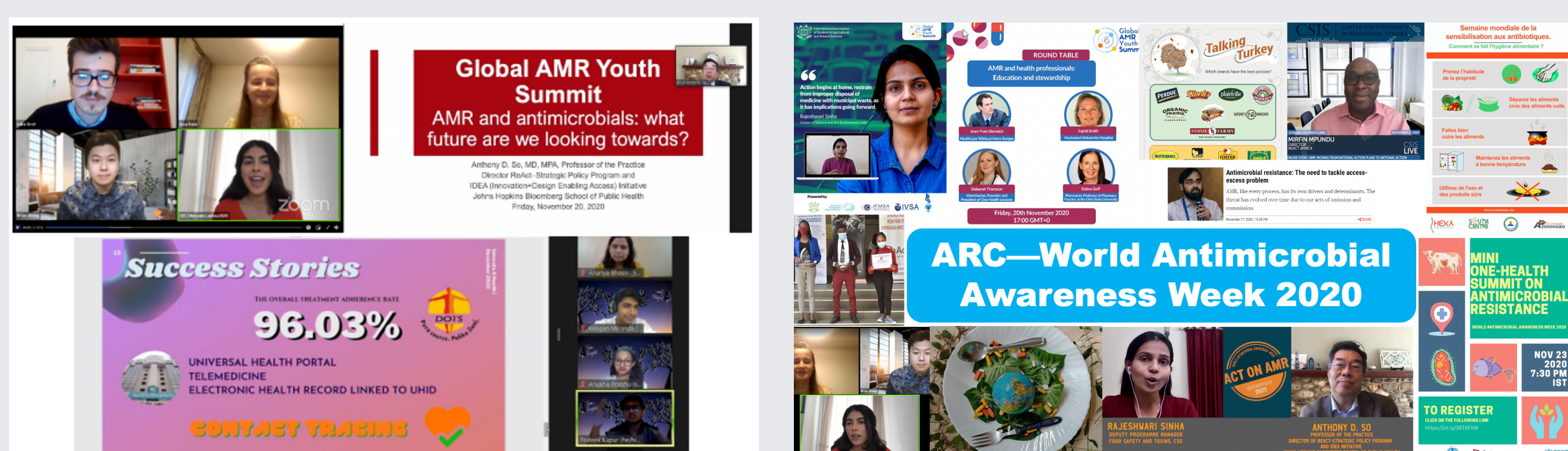
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

In September, the Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics called for the UK to enact legislation consistent with those put in place by the European Union. In October, Healthcare Without Harm, along with EPHA, also organized a webinar series on antibiotic innovation, AMR in the environment, and food systems in lead up to European Antibiotic Awareness Day.



NOVEMBER

In November, several ARC members and partners organized multi-sectoral events for World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW). ReAct, for example, had all five nodes engage the public on antimicrobial resistance through a variety of webinars, report publications, and media campaigns. The ReAct Strategic Policy Program also announced its new cohort of student champions from Innovate4Health and the World Health Students' Alliance organized the first Global AMR Youth Summit with the help of ReAct and IFMSA.



DECEMBER

In December, the IDEA Initiative published a cross-sectional analysis in The BMJ, finding that nearly a quarter of the world's population may not have access to a COVID-19 vaccine until 2022. Since its publication, this analysis has been ranked in the top 5% of all research articles ever monitored by Altmetric. Also in December, ARC members, including U.S. PIRG and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), commented on the U.S. FDA's new antibiotic sales data for food animal production, calling for the reduced usage of medically important antibiotics in food animal production.

COVID-19 Vaccines: Who has reserved them, and where might they be going?

