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Antimicrobial stewardship in pediatric settings: Global principles, local action

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The growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) demands targeted stewardship strategies, especially in pediatric care where antibiotic overuse is prevalent. Tarek Hussain from Karachi outlines practical frameworks for implementing antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASPs) in pediatric hospitals and outpatient clinics. The session covers diagnostic stewardship, guideline-driven prescribing, and parental communication strategies. Hussain will also highlight the importance of surveillance data, audit tools, and institutional policies in optimizing antibiotic use. Using case

studies from South Asia, he demonstrates how resource-constrained settings can still implement effective, evidence-based stewardship programs, contributing to global efforts in AMR containment.

Biography

Tarek Hussain is an infectious disease physician and paediatrician based in Karachi, Pakistan. He holds a medical degree from Aga Khan University and completed further training in infectious diseases and epidemiology at the University of Oxford. He serves on Pakistan's National Task Force for AMR and works with UNICEF on pediatric antibiotic policy initiatives.