**ARMOR | Antimicrobial Resistance Mediation Outreach**

**Chapter Guidebook**

Congratulations on beginning an ARMOR Chapter! Thank you for your service to the world by training people to adopt more sustainable antimicrobial practices. Use this guide to help establish your organization. Though much of this guide is based on ideas and suggestions, we do have some requirements you must fulfill in order to be an official ARMOR Chapter.

**Global Chapter**

ARMOR began as the outreach effort of a larger organization, ARC (Antimicrobial Regeneration Consortium) Laboratories. ARC Labs works to bridge the gap between academia and industry. While academia excels at research and development, they often lack the funds to push discoveries to clinical trials, resulting in abandoned discoveries that could otherwise solve global challenges. At the same time, industry has funding to invest in clinical trials, however, they divert focus away from research and development. By uniting these two spheres, ARC Labs accelerates medical technology to address pressing global health issues.

ARC Labs’ first focus is the issue of antimicrobial resistance. The CDC predicts that, left unchecked, antimicrobial resistant infections may claim a death toll greater than that of cancer by 2050. Given this alarming statistic, it’s surprising that so few people know about antimicrobial resistance. ARC Labs believes that a global movement is necessary to address this challenge.

ARMOR was founded to leverage the passion and power of student bodies and the general public to raise awareness and urge the adoption of sustainable antimicrobial practices.

**ARMOR Mission**

Our mission is to educate the public about antimicrobial resistance and influence more responsible, sustainable use of antibiotics.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is the ability of bacteria to resist or evade antibiotics. This happens over time through repeated use of antimicrobials, delivering environmental pressure that selects for resistant bacteria. With rapid bacterial replication, this process can lead to resistant strains of bacteria notoriously quickly, rendering many of our antibiotics useless. Overuse of antimicrobials around the world—from agriculture to hospitals—has introduced the threat of post-antibiotic world, in which infections are untreatable and any small cut can mean death.

AMR is a growing problem globally. We want each chapter to be a leader in preventing this issue from becoming a devastating global crisis. By enabling students to engage with their community and healthcare providers, we hope to spread awareness of this issue and increase public support of research into treatments, thereby ensuring the well-being of students and the community at large.

**Your Chapter**

Each community is different and has different needs. For this reason, we want ARMOR Chapters to have a lot of freedom to develop their own projects and structures. At the same time, however, our global chapters must preserve some degree of cohesion and unity. We have established the following requirements to keep ARMOR Chapters united all around the world:

* **Use our ARMOR logo.** When you sign up to be an ARMOR Chapter, our graphic designer will create a webpage header and logo for you with your institution or community’s name on it. Please use this content to mark your websites, social media accounts, and marketing material.
* **International Liaisons.** This role is necessary to ensure regular communication (at least monthly) with the Global ARMOR Team as well as other ARMOR Chapters around the world. By collaborating with other chapters, we are demonstrating the scope of the issue of antimicrobial resistance. Furthermore, our structure is a living, breathing thing. If some of our requirements or guidelines are not effective, please tell us!
* **Admins.** To keep things organized as you move forward, it helps to have 1–3 members dedicated to administrative tasks. For university chapters, this means registering your organization with the school, requesting funding for events, maintaining a website and/or social media accounts, and creating flyers.
* **Committees & Committee Leaders.** Because of the wide scope of the antimicrobial resistance challenge, it’s helpful to form several committees based on the focus of your projects: medical (hospitals, clinics, animal shelters, etc.), local community (local businesses, general population, etc.), and industry (pharmaceutical companies, goods manufacturing centers, etc.). Organize your projects such that the leader of the committee is always aware and up-to-date with tasks and upcoming events. This helps keep everyone on the same page.
* **Regular Meetings.** The issue of antimicrobial resistance is time-sensitive, so we encourage most of your members to find an hour each week that works for all of you. Update each other on upcoming projects, share interesting articles or discoveries about antimicrobial resistance, and brainstorm future work. This is also a great time for committee leaders to update the whole team on current projects.