The Forum on Microbial Threats was created in 1996 at the request of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health to provide a structured opportunity for discussion and scrutiny of critical, and possibly contentious, scientific and policy issues related to research on and the prevention, detection, surveillance, and responses to emerging and reemerging infectious diseases in humans, plants and animals as well as the microbiome in health and disease. The Forum brings together leaders from government agencies, industry, academia, and nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to facilitate cross-sector dialogue and collaboration through public debate and private consultation to stimulate original thinking about the most pressing issues across the spectrum of microbial threats.

Despite decades of progress, the need for the Forum on Microbial Threats remains. Problems such as MERS, Ebola, Chikungunya, Zika, yellow fever, and antibiotic resistance demonstrate how the issue of emerging infections is global and unrelenting. The drivers are ever more pervasive, and the consequences—human, social, and economic—loom larger than ever.

The Forum convenes several times each year to identify and discuss key problems and strategies in the area of microbial threats. To supplement the perspectives and expertise of its members, the Forum also holds public workshops to engage a wide range of experts, members of the public, and the policy community. All workshops are summarized in high quality scholarly workshop proceedings that are available for free download from the National Academies Press.

The Forum on Microbial Threats is part of the National Academies’ Board on Global Health. For more information about the Forum, please visit our website: www.nationalacademies.org/microbialthreats.
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HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

- Understanding the Economics of Microbial Threats: Proceedings of a Workshop (2018)
- The Influence of Global Environmental Change on Infectious Disease Dynamics: Workshop Summary (2014)
- The Science and Applications of Microbial Genomics: Workshop Summary (2013)
- The Social Biology of Microbial Communities: Workshop Summary (2012)

FORUM’S ACTION COLLABORATIVE – ONE HEALTH

The Forum’s One Health Action Collaborative (OHAC), led by Forum member Jonna Mazet, is an ad hoc activity that engages a community of participants who are interested in contributing to ongoing exploration and information sharing related to One Health topics. OHAC is committed to accelerating the implementation of a One Health approach in the field to counter microbial threats. Members include a subset of Forum members and a diverse range of external stakeholders from multiple sectors and disciplines such as public health, animal health, plant pathology, agriculture, environment, biotechnology, and others. Drawing from the dynamic discussions over regular conference calls, OHAC advises on One Health efforts that are internal and external to the National Academies, through the publication of papers and the hosting of seminars. For more info, click here.
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Membership in the Forum includes a diverse range of stakeholders from multiple sectors.

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