Expanding and accelerating access to tuberculosis diagnostics and laboratory services

2nd Meeting of the Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI)
jointly organised by World Health Organization and Fondation Mérieux
Background

Drug-resistant TB, notably multidrug-resistant (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB, present formidable challenges to TB control due to its more complex diagnosis and treatment. Recent scenarios developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) show that gains made in TB control stand to be reversed if drug-resistant TB is not addressed as a matter of priority in high-burden settings. The 62nd World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution on TB in May 2009 inter alia calls for universal access to diagnosis and highlights the need for significant strengthening of laboratory services to meet the diagnostic challenges of drug-resistant and HIV-associated TB.

In recognition of the critical constraints of TB diagnostics and laboratory services, an unprecedented effort in improving and expanding TB laboratory capacity is currently under-way, spearheaded by the Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) and its network of international partners. At the same time, the TB diagnostics pipeline is growing, new technologies are regularly assessed by WHO with a view towards rapid policy development and deployment, and innovative partnerships are being formed, mobilizing and optimizing resources while ensuring that laboratory quality standards, appropriate infrastructure, and adequate technical capacity are put in place.

Epitomized by the Call for Action from the Beijing MDR-TB Ministerial Summit, 1-3 April 2009, and underscored and supported by private industry (diagnostics and drugs) during the Seattle Pacific Health Summit, 16-18 June 2009, the global effort to scale up diagnosis, treatment and care of drug-resistant and HIV-associated TB, involving both the public and private sector, is rapidly gaining momentum. TB laboratory constraints, however, centre on cross-cutting health systems issues such as infrastructure and human resource development, and thus require a coordinated, integrated approach to laboratory capacity strengthening within the context of national laboratory strategies and plans. This in turn requires a concerted effort by all stakeholders, facilitated by a global platform for discussion, debate and knowledge sharing. The Fondation Mérieux established an Annual Forum in 2008 to provide such a platform, with the ultimate aim to improve diagnosis of infectious diseases in resource-constrained settings. These annual meetings aim to:

- Increase global awareness on the importance of diagnostics for infectious diseases
- Highlight the specific needs of developing countries
- Laboratory capacity development and coordination
- Agree on priorities to move forward and on the respective roles of partners.

The GLI and Fondation Mérieux together hosted the first Annual Forum on Moving Forward in Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases in Developing Countries in May 2008, focused on TB diagnostics and laboratory capacity strengthening. In October 2009, GLI and Fondation Mérieux are once again proud to host the Second Annual GLI Meeting, focused on expansion and acceleration of TB laboratory strengthening, using contemporary technologies in best-practice models, and guided by the most recent WHO policies.

Aim and Objectives

The Forum aims to bring together leading global agencies, international technical and funding partners, policy makers from high-burden countries, representatives from research organizations, nongovernmental agencies, patient communities and other key stakeholders working in partnership to address the challenges of diagnostics and laboratory services in TB control.

Specific objectives are to:

- Provide an update on the TB diagnostics pipeline, performance characteristics of new diagnostics and the potential for their implementation in TB control under different epidemiological and resource settings;
- Share experiences and lessons learnt on implementation of integrated laboratory strengthening activities at global, regional and country level, highlighting the benefit of innovative partnerships;
- Prioritize activities to create conditions for rapid laboratory scale-up, human resource development and improved quality management in response to the WHA call for universal access to diagnosis;
- Launch a global roadmap for accelerated laboratory strengthening through partner collaboration, resource mapping and novel mechanisms for increased country technical assistance.
Thursday, 15 October

PLENARY SESSION

08:00 – 09:00 Registration

OPENING
Chair: Karin Weyer, WHO

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome and opening
Hiro Nakatani, World Health Organization
Christophe Longuet, Fondation Mérieux

09:30 – 09:55 Towards universal access:
Urgent actions needed to respond to TB and MDR-TB
Mario Raviglione, WHO Stop TB Department

09:55 – 10:20 Scaling up management and control
of multidrug-resistant TB - what will it take?
Paul Nunn, WHO Stop TB Department

10:20 – 10:45 Laboratory strengthening in response to TB diagnostic
challenges: Achievements of the Global Laboratory Initiative
John Ridderhof, CDC & Chair - GLI

10:45 – 11:15 Break

SESSION 1: TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION TO MEET PUBLIC
HEALTH NEEDS
Chair: Rick O’Brien, FIND
Co-Chair: Saidi Egwaga, Tanzania

11:15 – 11:35 Contemporary diagnostics: moving towards integrated
technology platforms
Giorgio Roscigno, FIND

11:35 – 11:55 Role and challenges faced by the diagnostics industry
Jean-Francois de Lavison, EDMA

11:55 – 12:15 Reality check: Perspectives from the field on barriers
to technology and innovation
Kitty Lambregts, KNCV & Chair - MDR-TB WG

12:15 – 12:30 Discussion

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

SESSION 3: STRUCTURING TECHNOLOGIES FOR PROGRAMMATIC
IMPLEMENTATION
Chair: Tom Shinnik
Co-Chair: Maryline Bonnet, MSF

15:45 – 16:15 Essential components of integrated national laboratory plans
John Nkengasong, CDC-GAP

16:15 – 16:45 A roadmap for TB laboratory strengthening within
WHO policy frameworks and national laboratory strategies
Karin Weyer, WHO

16:45 – 17:00 Discussion

17:00 – 18:30 PANEL DISCUSSION

SESSION 4: EXPANDING AND ACCELERATING LABORATORY SERVICES
THROUGH INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS
Chair: Paul Klatser, Royal Tropical Institute, The Netherlands

FIND: Developing new technologies
UNITAID: Moving new diagnostics to countries
ASM: Assisting country efforts to scale up laboratory services
WORLD BANK: Establishing laboratory infrastructure
PEPFAR: Promoting integrated laboratory systems
TBCAP: Using standardized laboratory tools
USAID: Accelerating technical support
KNCV: Mobilising laboratory expertise
UNION: Conducting operational research to optimize new tools
and approaches

18:30 – 18:45 Closing
John Ridderhof, CDC & Chair - GLI

18:45 Meeting of Facilitators & Rapporteurs

19:30 Dinner
Hosted by Fondation Mérieux

Friday, 16 October

PLENARY SESSION

SESSION 5: THE SUPRANATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORY
NETWORK - TIME FOR CHANGE AND INNOVATION
Chair: Kai Man Kam, SRL Hong Kong
Co-Chair: Bereneice Madison, CDC

8:30 – 8:45 Achievements of the SRLN, 1994 - 2009
Armand van Deun, SRL Coordinating Centre, Belgium

8:45 – 9:00 Beyond 2009: Changing the role and scope of the SRLN
Chris Gilpin, IOM

9:00 – 10:00 PANEL DISCUSSION

SESSION 6: EXPANDING THE SRLN - REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES
Chair: Karin Weyer, WHO
AFRO, EMRO, EURO, PAHO, SEARO, WPRO Union, TBCAP,
World Bank, WHO

10:00 – 10:30 Break
GROUP SESSIONS

SESSION 7: SCALING UP TB LABORATORY SERVICES AT COUNTRY LEVEL

10:30 – 13:00 Each group will discuss the following questions on each theme:

1) What are the three key activities necessary at country level to move forward?
2) What are the key barriers and possible solutions?

I. Developing country policies and national plans for introduction of new TB diagnostics
Facilitator: Armand van Deun, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Rapporteur: Tom Shinnick, CDC

II. Coordinating and optimizing technical assistance for laboratory strengthening at country level
Facilitator: Zhao Yanlin, China
Rapporteur: Gavin MacGregor-Skinner, USAID

III. Measuring the impact of laboratory strengthening at country level
Facilitator: Gerrit Coetzee, South Africa
Rapporteur: Catherine Mundy, Management Sciences for Health

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

PLENARY SESSION

SESSION 8: TACKING LABORATORY STRENGTHENING INTO THE FUTURE

14:30 – 15:15 Group presentations

15:15 – 15:30 Next steps
John Ridderhof, CDC & GLI Chair

15:30 – 15:35 Concluding remarks
Paul Nunn, WHO

15:35 – 16:00 BREAK AND DEPARTURE OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

General information

Badges
Name badges must be worn at all times in the Congress Centre.

Coffee breaks
Coffee breaks are offered to all registered participants and will be served in restaurant area from Thursday to Friday during the session breaks.

Forum documents
The Forum documents should be picked up at the registration desk.

Computer facilities
The conference centre is equipped with wireless for connection of laptops to internet (password: pensi). A computer room with internet connection is also available for participants.

Language
English is the official Forum language.

Fondation Mérieux coordination
Valentina Picot
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