

# **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**THE GLOBAL LABORATORY INITIATIVE WORKING GROUP, STOP-TB PARTNERSHIP**

*The Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) is announcing a call for nominations for members to serve on the GLI Core Group in 2010-2012*

***A balance in Core Group Membership is sought to encourage active participation of and representation from technical partners, scientific and academic institutions, civil society, relevant funding agencies, and high-burden TB countries***

***Closing date for applications: 5th April 2010***

***Results of selection process to be announced: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010***

## **Background**

Currently, less than 5% of the estimated global burden of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients are being detected, lack of laboratory capacity and slow technology transfer to resource-limited settings being a crucial barrier. Scaling up laboratory services to meet the diagnostic challenges of drug-resistant and HIV-associated TB require a paradigm shift in developing laboratory policy development, settings laboratory norms and standards, guiding and coordinating technical assistance, and accelerating knowledge transfer.

In response to this need, the Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) was established in 2008 as a Working Group of the Stop TB Partnership, with the GLI Secretariat hosted by the Stop TB Department of the World Health Organization (WHO). Membership of the GLI has continued to grow and more than 100 international partners have joined forces to accelerate and expand access to quality assured TB diagnostic services within integrated laboratory systems.

The GLI works closely with National TB Programmes, nongovernmental organizations, technical and financial agencies, scientific and academic institutions, and WHO offices at country and regional levels in strengthening TB laboratory services. GLI activities include:

- Global policy guidance on appropriate laboratory technology and best practices
- Effective technology transfer and coordination of technical assistance
- Laboratory advocacy and resource mobilization
- Laboratory capacity development
- Interface with other laboratory networks to ensure appropriate integration
- Standardized laboratory quality assurance
- Effective knowledge sharing (learning by doing)

## **What is the GLI Core Group?**

The GLI is a network of international partners dedicated to accelerating and expanding access to quality assured laboratory services in response to the diagnostic challenges of tuberculosis (TB), notably HIV-associated and drug-resistant TB. The GLI provides a focus for TB within the framework of a multi-faceted yet integrated approach to laboratory capacity strengthening.

The GLI Core Group (CG) consists of individuals with expertise in multiple disciplines from constituencies, stakeholders, and institutions involved in global and country-level strengthening of laboratory systems. The CG serves as an independent, technical, expert advisory group to the Stop TB Partnership, WHO, development, technical and funding agencies, and WHO member states. The GLI Secretariat is provided by the TB Laboratory Strengthening & Diagnostics (TBL) Unit of the Stop TB Department of WHO and hosted in WHO-headquarters in Geneva.

### **What do GLI Core Group members do?**

The primary tasks of the GLI Core Group are to:

1. Attend all CG meetings and participate in CG decisions
2. Advise members of the Stop TB Partnership and WHO on issues related to strengthening of TB laboratory systems;
3. Promote laboratory services in member countries to scale up diagnostic access for management of TB and drug-resistant TB;
4. Promote and expand laboratory technical assistance capacity related to technology transfer and strengthening TB laboratory systems;
5. Participate in the analysis of data on new methods and approaches to TB laboratory diagnosis and in the dissemination of evidence-based policies on TB diagnostics.
6. Actively contribute to the development of strategic and technical guidance for strengthening TB laboratory systems.

### **To apply for GLI Core Group membership:**

Nominations are currently awaited from individuals to become members of the GLI Core Group. Interested individuals/institutions are invited to send their nominations to the GLI Secretariat at [gilpinc@who.int](mailto:gilpinc@who.int), attaching a current CV with a cover letter expressing their interest in and suitability for GLI CG membership.

*Selected individuals will be expected to actively and constructively contribute their time and expertise, and to provide leadership in the development of GLI partnership projects focused on technical and management aspects of effective laboratory practices and systems. Interested individuals may be nominated by their organization/institution or may choose to self-nominate their availability. Final selection will be based on considerations of expertise, experience, and support by the individual's institution. CG membership will be balanced by gender, region, disease burden and GLI constituency.*

### **Applications will be accepted until 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

Institutions must be prepared to allow their representative sufficient time to carry out GLI CG responsibilities, including participation in at least two annual face-to-face meetings and monthly teleconferences. A letter of support from the nominating individual's institution will be sought for all short-listed candidates.

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