

Roundtable Discussions 2: Innovative approaches to increase patient access to TB testing

14:00 – 15:00

Chair Pamela Hepple, rapporteur Karchung Tschering

Sputum smear microscopy remains the most widely used method to diagnose TB despite more sensitive and rapid tools allowing the detection of drug resistance being recommended by WHO for more than 14 years. This session will focus on innovative approaches to increase access to new diagnostic tools. The discussants will explore the potential impact of near point-of-care and point-of-care tests that are expected to emerge from the TB new diagnostics pipeline in the coming years.

Five minutes per speaker.

A) FIND - NDWG

What are the approaches your organisation is focusing on to increase access to new diagnostic tools and is there a special focus on any tools where you see gaps in implementation?

B) ELI

How is the European region working to increase access to targeted next generation sequencing in terms of training and dissemination of the latest recommendations and guidance from WHO?

C) SRL Milan

Is scaling up the use of targeted next generation sequencing feasible in the near future? What are the major bottlenecks, what assistance are you providing to overcome these barriers and what additional assistance is needed?

D) SRL Chennai

Describe the most recent project you have conducted to assist in TB laboratory capacity building and supporting the TB diagnostic network. Discuss highlights, obstacles faced, and the lessons learnt?

E) FHI 360

How can emerging point-of-care and/or swab-based TB diagnostics be best incorporated into national TB programs, and what steps should be taken proactively address potential challenges like the need for continuous reagent supply, training, and maintenance?

F) MSH

Please highlight key features of the Health Systems for Tuberculosis project that foster governments' commitment and build capacity of local organizations to achieve the targets of the End TB Strategy?