

5th Annual GLI Meeting 15-18th April 2013, Les Pensières, Veyrier-du-Lac, France

We are pleased to announce the dates for the 5th Annual Meeting of the Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) <http://www.stoptb.org/wg/gli/default.asp>. The overall goal of the GLI Partners meeting this year is to bring together leading global agencies, international technical and funding partners, representatives from research organizations, non-governmental agencies, country TB control programmes, the TB Supranational Reference Laboratory network, patient communities and other key stakeholders working in partnership to address the challenges of increasing access to diagnostics within quality laboratory services for better TB control.

GLI meetings are open meetings although pre-registration is essential.

The agenda for the meeting will be developed as follows:

09:00-18:00 15th April 2013 – Partners forum to provide updates on progress being made to meet the GLI laboratory strengthening priorities

09:00 16th April – 13:00 17th April 2013 – Global forum on Xpert MTB/RIF implementation

14:00 17th April – 12:00 18th April 2013 – Global Consultation of the TB Supranational Reference Laboratory Network

Meeting objectives

- Disseminate developments in WHO policy guidance on TB diagnostics, laboratory biosafety and accreditation;
- Provide an update on TB diagnostics pipeline and the potential impact of new technologies on laboratory strengthening efforts in different epidemiological and resource settings;
- Review progress with implementation of GLI projects including EXPAND-TB and TBXpert Projects;
- Discuss the need of scaling up technical assistance to countries for effective strengthening of laboratory networks;
- Share lessons learned and challenges for wide-scale implementation of Xpert MTB/RIF;
- Update country and technical partner plans for scale-up of Xpert MTB/RIF to ensure effective use of resources and identify possible synergies; and
- Evaluate status of the SRL network and its activities.

Expected outcomes

- Update of GLI priorities and participating and contributing partner organizations.
- Mapping of GLI Partner support for global laboratory strengthening initiatives;
- Update of the planning matrix for coordinated roll-out of Xpert MTB/RIF in different epidemiological and resource settings.
- Roadmap for expanding activities of the SRLN in view of technical assistance requirements of linked countries
- Agreed mechanism for co-ordinating the SRLN laboratory strengthening efforts

The 5th Annual Global Laboratory Initiative Partners Meeting will be convened at Fondation Merieux, Les Pensières Conference Centre, Veyrier-du-Lac, France on 15-18th April 2013. Please save the date and register your availability and interest to participate via email to gli_secretariat@who.int at your earliest convenience.