> Veyrier-du-Lac (France)

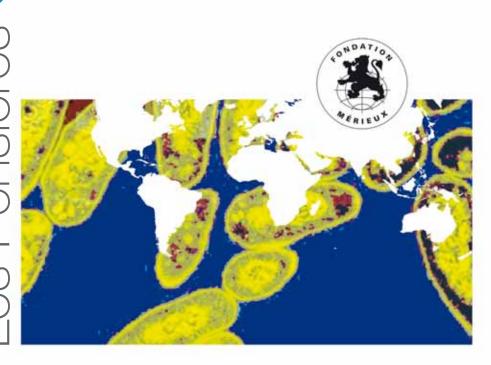
and accelerating access to tuberculosis diagnostics and laboratory services

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





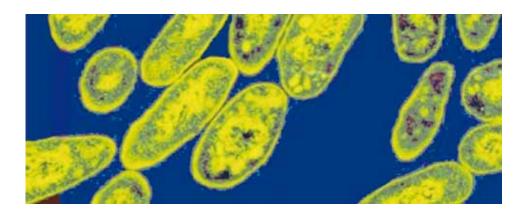
Stop (13) Partnership



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.

>>>>>>> Expanding and accelerating access to tuberculosis diagnostics and laboratory services

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Thursday	v, 15 October
PLENAR	Y 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 2:	FAST-TRACKING POLICY DEVELOPMENT: FINDINGS FROM RECENT WHO SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS AND EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS Chair: Francis Drobniewski Co-Chair: Jeremiah Chakaya
13:30 – 14:50	Novel approaches and new methods to increase case detection by microscopy Karen Steingart, UCSF
13:50 – 14:10	Rapid culture and drug susceptibility testing using non-commercial methods Jessica Minion, McGill University
14:10 – 14:30	Ensuring adequate laboratory biosafety Tom Shinnick, CDC
14:30 – 14:50	Implementation of new diagnostic approaches and methods: operational considerations Lucia Barrera, SRL Argentina
14:50 – 15:15	Discussion
15:15 – 15:45	Break

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



10:00 - 10:30 Break



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

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