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- American Society for Microbiology (ASM) – *is the oldest & largest life science organization in the world -1899-2009; with membership >43,000 worldwide (30% reside outside US)*
    - The ASM International Board - *mission is to ensure that ASM continues and expands its global activities in the field of microbiological sciences.*
    - ASM International Board Committees
      - International Education Committee (IEC)
      - International Membership Committee (IMC)
      - International Laboratory Capacity Building (LabCap) Committee
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## How LabCap began

- Resulting from a 2005-signed four-year cooperative agreement between ASM and CDC's Global AIDS Program (GAP), ASM International Board fostered the creation of the International Laboratory Capacity Building (LabCap) Program
  - Primary objective of LabCap – to assist CDC with improving laboratory diagnosis of HIV-related opportunistic infections in PEPFAR-funded countries
  - In 2006 LabCap invited to support two PEPFAR African countries – Namibia and Zambia
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## Where LabCap is now

LabCap activities currently include 4 separate programs with differing funding mechanisms:

- Technical support to the **CDC's GAP & PEPFAR** Initiatives
  - Technical support to the **CDC's Global Disease Detection's International Emerging Infections Programs (IEIP)** – assisting with lab strengthening for the diagnosis of respiratory disease
  - **USAID-funded ASM-PATH** (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health) **Collaboration in India** – assisting Indian Intermediate TB Reference Labs with obtaining national accreditation for performing TB culture and DST
  - **USAID-funded TB Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC) led by PATH** - providing extensive support to USAID operating units in the implementation of their TB control and prevention programs through the introduction and expansion of the components of the WHO-recommended STOP TB Strategy
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Where LabCap is now – in 15 different countries, on 3 different continents – *soon to add 4 more countries this year (DRC, Ethiopia, Guyana, and Vietnam)*





## What LabCap is doing - TB lab strengthening

	Namibia	Zambia	Kenya	Cote d'Ivoire	Nigeria	Botswana	Haiti	India
Guidance on TB lab renovations (BSL3)			X	X	X		X	
Guidance on procurement of equipment & supplies	X		X	X	X		X	
AFB microscopy training	X		X	X	X	X	X	
AFB microscopy EQA			X	X	X	X	X	
Fluorescence microscopy		X	X	X			X	
Implementation/validation of TB liquid culture, identification, & drug susceptibility testing	X	X	X	X	X	X		
TB culture EQA	X		X	X		X		
TB molecular diagnostics			X	X				
Biosafety	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SOPs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Quality systems		X	X	X				X
Accreditation			X					X
Strategic planning			X	X				





## What LabCap is doing - *Basic micro lab strengthening*

	Zambia	Kenya	Cote d'Ivoire	Nigeria	Botswana	Mozambique	Tanzania	Rwanda
Guidance on lab renovations		X			X		X	
Guidance on procurement of equipment & supplies		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Basic Bacteriology, Parasitology, & Mycology Diagnostic mentoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Basic Bacteriology, Parasitology, & Mycology Diagnostic workshops	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bacteriology EQA	X	X			X	X	X	
Establishment/expansion of National Microbiology Reference Lab		X			X	X	X	
Implementation of automated diagnostics i.e blood culture	X	X			X	X	X	
SOPs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Biosafety	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quality systems	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Accreditation		X			X			
Strategic planning		X				X	X	



## Major Collaboration – Case Study – Cote d'Ivoire (CI)

*In line with GLI objectives – CDC-CI and ASM are leading a first-time multi-organizational collaboration in Côte d'Ivoire to improve TB diagnostics*

- Key partners involved: CI MOH (NTP, NTRL,NAP), ASM, CDC, FIND, WHO, UNITAID, EGPAF, BD, ACILT, CDC Lab Coalition Partners
- Objectives – Partner coordination on the following key aspects:
  - ❑ AFB smear microscopy training & EQA
  - ❑ AFB smear microscopy specimen referral system
  - ❑ Implementation & training on TB liquid culture, DST, and molecular assays
  - ❑ Upgrading infrastructure of TB culture labs
  - ❑ TB infection control
  - ❑ Formulation of national strategic plan for the public health laboratory – including TB, HIV, Malaria, & other diseases
  - ❑ Integration of infectious disease laboratory services





## Major Collaboration – Case Study – Cote d’Ivoire (CI)

### ■ **Achievements**

- ❑ Assisting MOH with development of National Laboratory Strategic Plans & Policy – CDC-CI, ASM, CDC Lab Coalition Partners
- ❑ Near final upgrading of NTRL into a BSL3 facility – CDC-CI, ASM, EGPAF, FIND/UNITAID
- ❑ Guidance on establishing national EQA for AFB microscopy – ASM
- ❑ Preliminary plan for national specimen referral system – BD
- ❑ Training & follow up technical assistance/mentoring plans for TB liquid culture, DST, and line probe assay – ACILT, ASM, BD & FIND
- ❑ AFB smear microscopy technical assistance at largest regional TB facilities - ASM
- ❑ Establishing of an MOU between FIND/UNITAID and CI MOH enabled by CDC-CI

### ■ **Challenges**

- ❑ Slow establishment of in-country Technical Working Group
- ❑ Lapses in communication amongst Partners, now resolved with the identification of an in-country lead (CDC-CI) through which all communication is fielded
- ❑ Funding mechanism set-up does not allow for much flexibility

**LabCap.org**  
International Laboratory  
Capacity Building Program



## New LabCap Developments

- LabCap renewed a five-year **cooperative agreement with CDC's GAP**
  - LabCap is participating in the newly developed **WHO-AFRO accreditation scheme** for public health labs in Africa
  - LabCap is developing **standardized, customizable training packages** containing modules based on LabCap's field-tested best practices & enhancing the current structure of the **LabCap mentoring program**
  - **MOU signed with Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) –**
    - Establishing additional **South-to-South collaborations** involving the sharing of evaluated, culturally appropriate, and highly effective strategies and programs
    - Fostering the expansion of **Centers of Excellence** as international and/or regional centers for quality assurance and training by providing both access to ASM educational and scientific resources and linkages to LabCap partners
  - LabCap continues to promote **partnerships** to maximize coordination of international lab capacity building efforts and optimize resource leveraging
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## Slide 10

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I think this slide should be split in two, way too much text!

jtim, 2009-10-06



## New ASM International Board Developments

- ASM International Board offered recommendations to the **Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on the US Commitment to Global Health**; report was released May 20, 2009 –
    - Recommendations included increased global support for the establishment and strengthening of quality-assured, integrated national public health laboratory networks as integral components of overall health systems in resource-limited and transitional countries
  - ASM renewed its **formal relationship with PAHO/WHO**
  - ASM has agreed to publish in its **Clinical Microbiology Reviews (CMR)** an article on TB diagnostic capacity building in resource-limited countries
  - ASM has now extended discounted membership & resource opportunities to individuals from **mid-tier economy countries**; lower-tier continue to receive free membership & essential resources
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**Thank you** to LabCap's greatest strength, the ASM volunteers and consultants - their expertise, vision, dedication, and energy have enabled LabCap to thrive.

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