

Background

The Global Laboratory Initiative (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. Scaling up laboratory services to meet the diagnostic challenges of drug-resistant and HIV-associated TB require a paradigm shift in laboratory policy development, setting laboratory norms and standards, guiding and coordinating technical assistance, and accelerating knowledge transfer.

In recognition of the critical constraints of TB diagnostics and laboratory services, unprecedented efforts in improving and expanding TB laboratory capacity are currently under-way, spearheaded by the WHO, GLI and a network of international partners. At the same time, the TB diagnostics pipeline is growing, new technologies are regularly assessed by WHO leading to 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.

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.

Global Forum of Xpert MTB/RIF Implementers

Since WHO recommendation of the Xpert MTB/RIF assay in December 2010, 77 countries have adopted the technology and over 1,000 GeneXpert instruments have been deployed globally. At the Xpert MTB/RIF Early Implementers meeting, associated with the 4th GLI Partners Meeting in 2012, countries and their technical partners convened to share their early experiences with using the diagnostic. At this year's Global Forum, countries and their technical partners again will come together to share lessons learned and challenges for scale-up, with a focus on evidence of impact and linking scaled-up diagnosis with scaled-up access to treatment.

Consultation of the Supranational Reference Laboratory Network

The Supranational TB Reference Laboratory Network (SRLN) is a key technical resource of GLI providing support to countries. The on-going scale up of laboratory services in countries and increased number of diagnostic options available present an urgent need for expanded focus for SRLN activities. An immense amount of technical assistance and guidance is being provided by the current members of the network but at the same time this work varies depending on the geography, location of the individual SRLs. Irregular technical, human resource capacity and sometimes a crucial lack of funding are main challenges. In addition, the level of technical support provided to countries by each SRL differs widely and country needs on laboratory strengthening do not necessarily match available expertise within individual SRLs. Urgently addressing the issue of sustained and expanded technical support from SRLN to countries, rolling out of new TB diagnostics and satisfying widening need of laboratory strengthening services required, are therefore critical to ensure efficient translation of new policies into actions at country level and eventually changing the dynamics of TB control.

Goal

The overall goal of the 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, patient communities and other key stakeholders working in partnership. The meeting will highlight achievements and experiences of GLI partners and countries improving laboratory services and advancing new diagnostics for TB.

Meeting Objectives

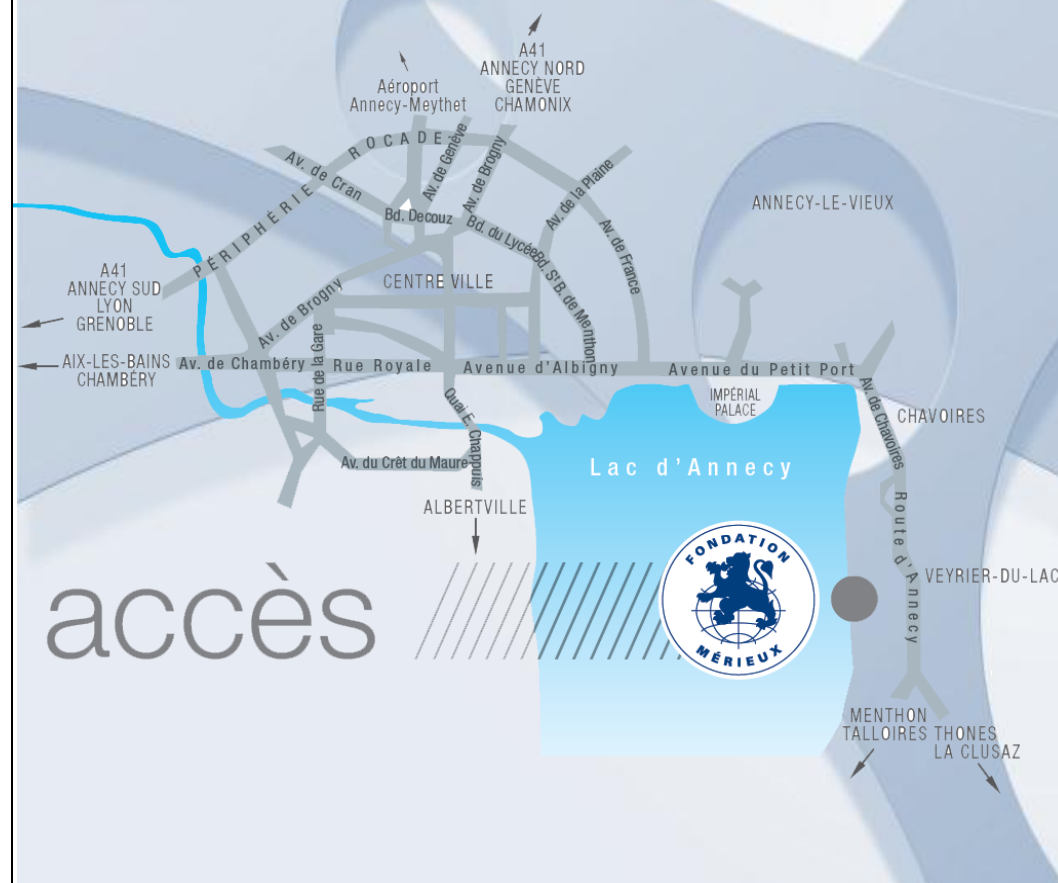
- Disseminate developments in WHO policy guidance on TB diagnostics, laboratory biosafety and accreditation;
- Provide an update on TB diagnostics pipeline and the potential impact of new technologies on laboratory strengthening efforts in different epidemiological and resource settings;
- Review progress 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 the status of the SRL network and its activities.

Expected outcomes

- GLI partners are informed on the priority areas for TB laboratory strengthening;
- Update on GLI Partner support for global laboratory strengthening initiatives;
- Roll-out of Xpert MTB/RIF in different epidemiological and resource settings: lessons learned, impact and future plans;
- Roadmap for expanding activities of the SRLN in view of technical assistance requirements of linked countries; and
- Refined mechanisms for co-ordinating the SRLN activities.

Participants

The meeting will include representatives from international institutions and initiatives, academic institutions and associations, high-burden TB country health programmes, non-governmental organizations, research institutes from developed and developing countries, industry representatives and funding agencies.



Advances in TB Diagnostic Services: Transforming TB Care & Control

5th Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) Partners Meeting

Jointly organised by
World Health Organization & Fondation Mérieux

Les Pensières, Veyrier-du-Lac, France
15 - 18 April 2013



Stop TB Partnership



The GLI and Fondation Mérieux together hosted the Third and Fourth Annual GLI Meetings, focused on "Creating Partnerships for Innovation in Tuberculosis Diagnostics and Laboratory Services" and "TB diagnostics and laboratory services: Actions for care delivery and sustainability".

AGENDA: 5th GLI Meeting, Global Forum of Xpert MTB/RIF implementers, Supranational Reference Laboratory Network Consultation

5th GLI Meeting

Monday, 15 April 2013

8:00	Registration	
9:00	Welcome and opening	Mario Raviglione, WHO Stop TB Department Lucica Ditiu, Stop TB Partnership Alain Mérieux, Fondation Mérieux
SESSION 1: ADVANCEMENTS IN TB DIAGNOSTICS AND NEW GLI TOOLS <i>Chair: Tom Shinnick</i>		
9:25	❖ Achievements of the GLI and tools under development: Progress in reaching the targets of the Global Plan to Stop TB	Tom Shinnick
10:00	Advancements in TB diagnostics ❖ Update on WHO TB diagnostics policies ❖ New diagnostics pipeline	Chris Gilpin Mark Perkins
10:30	Uganda SRL achievement	
10:40	< Break >	
11:10	TB Laboratory accreditation ❖ Approaches to improving lab quality ❖ Country experiences in working towards accreditation: Uganda national reference laboratory ❖ Laboratory network accreditation ❖ Country experiences in working towards accreditation: Pakistan's laboratory network ❖ Progress in roll-out of SLIPTA	Linda Oskam Moses Joloba John Ridderhof Sabira Tahseen Celestin Hakiruwizera
12:30	Facilitated discussion: What is needed to assist country uptake of new GLI tools	Amy Piatek
13:00	< Lunch >	
SESSION 2: LABORATORY STRENGTHENING INITIATIVES <i>Chair: Rumina Hasan</i>		
14:30	EXPAND-TB Project overview	Daniel Orozco
14:50	EXPAND-TB country experiences ❖ India ❖ Kyrgyzstan ❖ Cameroon ❖ Mozambique	C.N. Paramasivan Gulmira Kalmambetova Sarah Eyangoh Sofia Viegas
16:00	< Break >	
16:30	Facilitated discussion: EXPAND-TB country experiences	Fuad Mirzayev
17:00	Closing	Tom Shinnick

19:00 Welcome dinner

Global Forum of Xpert MTB/RIF Implementers

Tuesday, 16 April 2013

SESSION 3: XPERT MTB/RIF ROLL-OUT AT GLOBAL AND COUNTRY LEVEL: IMPACT AND LESSONS LEARNED <i>Chair: Karin Weyer</i>		
9:00	Xpert MTB/RIF global roll-out update	Fuad Mirzayev
9:20	Country experiences, impact and plans ❖ Brazil ❖ South Africa	Draurio Barreira Wendy Stevens
10:20	Discussion	
10:30	< Break >	
11:00	Global initiatives to roll-out Xpert MTB/RIF, including TBxpert and EXPAND-TB projects	Wayne van Gemert
11:20	Update on USG support for Xpert implementation	Heather Alexander Amy Piatek
11:50	KNCV (TB CARE I) roll-out of Xpert MTB/RIF	Manuela Rehr
12:15	Cost effectiveness of Xpert MTB/RIF in different diagnostic algorithms	Andrea Pantoja
12:40	Discussion	
13:00	< Lunch >	
14:30	Country experiences, impact and plans (cont'd) ❖ Moldova ❖ China ❖ Viet Nam ❖ Philippines	Andrei Mosneaga Zhao Yanlin Nguyen Van Hung Celia Carlos
15:45	Discussion	
16:00	< Break >	
16:30	MSF projects: roll-out of Xpert MTB/RIF	Martina Casenghi
16:45	TB REACH – wave 2 results	Jacob Creswell
17:00	Discussion	

Wednesday, 17 April 2013

SESSION 4: EXPANDING ACCESS AND STRENGTHENING QUALITY OF IMPLEMENTATION <i>Chair: Maarten van Cleeff</i>		
9:00	A private sector social business model: TBxpert	Aamir Khan
9:20	Diagnostics: What will it take to get to Zero TB Deaths?	Colleen Daniels
9:40	Experience with implementation of Xpert MTB/RIF in India	Kuldeep Singh Sachdeva
10:00	Quality assurance and proficiency testing for Xpert MTB/RIF and other molecular methods	Tope Adepoiyibi
10:20	Discussion	
10:30	< Break >	
11:00	Revised WHO definitions and reporting framework for TB as a result of Xpert MTB/RIF roll-out	Dennis Falzon
11:20	Discussion	
11:30	Panel: Electronic recording and reporting systems for Xpert MTB/RIF ❖ Cepheid ❖ Abt- GxAlert ❖ IRD	Jan Steuperaert Jeff Takle Aamir Khan
12:30	Discussion and closing: next steps and needs	
13:00	< Lunch >	

Supranational Reference Laboratory Network Consultation

Wednesday, 17 April 2013

SESSION 5: UPDATE ON SRLN ACTIVITIES AND SRL TASKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS <i>Chair: Sabine Ruesch-Gerdes</i>		
14:30	Current status of the SRLN, priorities and challenges: ❖ SRL taskforce recommendations ❖ TORs for SRLN ❖ Governance for an SRLN core group ❖ SRLN factsheet ❖ Current funding	Chris Gilpin
15:00	Discussion	
15:15	Presentation of activities from 4 SRLs: ❖ SRL Gauting, Germany ❖ SRL Kampala, Uganda ❖ SRL Milan, Italy ❖ SRL Stockholm, Sweden	Harald Hoffman; Moses Joloba; Daniela Cirillo; Sven Hoffner
16:15	Discussion	
16:30	< Break >	
16:45	DST proficiency testing: ❖ Distribution of panels for DST ❖ Performance of SRLs and non-SRLs ❖ Rationalizing QA for DST	Armand van Deun
17:30	Discussion	
18:00	Closing	

Thursday, 18 April 2013

SESSION 6: THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE SRLN <i>Chair: Michael Iademarco</i>		
9:00	Research priorities for the SRLN: ❖ Pathway to a new DST ❖ Evaluation of new tools	Tom Shinnick
9:45	Options for Improving the functioning of the network	Chris Gilpin
10:00	Discussion	
10:30	< Break >	
11:00	The SRLN Business Plan	Michael Iademarco
11:30	Discussion	
12:00	Summary of recommendations and closing	
12:30	< Lunch >	

14:30-18:00 GLI CORE GROUP MEETING (closed session)