

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 developing laboratory policy development, setting laboratory norms and standards, guiding and coordinating technical assistance, and accelerating knowledge transfer.

In response to this need, the Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) was established in 2008 as a Working Group of the Stop TB Partnership, with the GLI Secretariat hosted by the Stop TB Department of the World Health Organization (WHO). 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 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.

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.

The GLI and Fondation Mérieux together hosted the Second Annual GLI Meeting in October 2009, focused on expansion and acceleration of TB laboratory strengthening, using contemporary technologies in best-practice models, and guided by the most recent WHO policies. In October 2010, GLI and Fondation Mérieux are once again proud to host the 3rd GLI Meeting, focused on creating partnerships for innovation in TB diagnostics and laboratory services.

This meeting aims to bring together leading global agencies, international technical and funding partners, representatives from research organizations, non-governmental agencies, patient communities and other key stakeholders working in partnership to address the challenges of diagnostics and laboratory services in TB control. The overall objective of the meeting is to work with key partner organizations to review and revise the priorities for GLI, provide strategic direction, and identify new partners to assist with country laboratory strengthening efforts.

Meeting Objectives

- Provide an update on the TB diagnostics pipeline, performance characteristics of new diagnostics and the potential impact of new technologies on laboratory strengthening efforts in different epidemiological and resource settings;
- Review GLI projects and activities in view of new TB diagnostics becoming available
- Present examples of regional innovative partnerships in GLI laboratory strengthening efforts

Expected outcomes

- Consensus on future GLI priorities and identification of participating and contributing partner organizations.
- Consensus on the way forward for GLI Partner support for global laboratory strengthening initiatives;

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.

Date and Place

4-5 October 2010 at the Conference Centre of Fondation Mérieux, "Les Pensières", Veyrier-du-Lac, France.

Creating Partnerships for Innovation in Tuberculosis Diagnostics and Laboratory Services

3rd Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) Meeting



Jointly organised by
World Health Organization & Fondation Mérieux

Les Pensières, Veyrier-du-Lac, France,
4 - 5 October 2010



Stop TB Partnership



Monday, 4 October ←

	Topic	Speaker
8:00	Registration	
OPENING SESSION		
Chair:	Chris Gilpin	
09:00	Welcome and opening	World Health Organization Fondation Mérieux
09:30	Technology and innovation: changing dynamics of TB control	Karin Weyer, WHO Stop TB Department
10:00	Achievements of the GLI	John Ridderhof Rick O'Brien
10:30	< Break >	
PLENARY SESSION		
SESSION 1:	BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMPROVED TB DIAGNOSIS	
Chair:	John Ridderhof	
11:30	New diagnostics pipeline	Rick O'Brien
11:50	New approaches to TB case detection	TB REACH
12:10	Discussion	
12:30	< Lunch >	
14:00	EXPAND-TB Project supported by UNITAID	Fuad Mirzayev
14:30	Tools to support laboratory strengthening	Catherine Mundy
15:00	Discussion	
15:30	< Break >	
PLENARY SESSION		
SESSION 2:	ACCELERATING POLICY DEVELOPMENT ON NEW DIAGNOSTICS	
Chair:	John Ridderhof	
16:00	Xpert MTB/RIF LPAs to detect M.TB susceptibility to second-line drugs IGRAs Serodiagnostics	Chris Gilpin
	Positioning of new TB diagnostic tools in tiered health systems	Giorgio Roscigno
17:30	Discussion	
18:00	Closing the day	
19:30	< Welcome dinner >	

Tuesday, 5 October 2010 ←

PLENARY SESSION		
SESSION 3:	SAFE AND QUALITY TB LABORATORIES	
Chair:	Rick O'Brien	
9:00	Outline and way forward towards unified system of in-country lab networks and NRLs accreditation	John Ridderhof Paul Klatser
9:30	Improving laboratory information management systems: LIPHE Initiative	Dale Nordenberg
10:00	SRLN expansion	Armand van Deun
10:30	< Break >	
11:00	Optimized approach to bio-safety in TB labs based on risk assessment	Tom Shinnick
11:30	Ventilated workstation	Pawan Angra
11:50	Discussion	
12:30	< Lunch >	
PANEL DISCUSSION		
SESSION 4:	PARTNERSHIPS FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	
Chair:	Rick O'Brien	
14:00	Introduction	
14:10	GLI Technical partners presentations	
15:00	Panel Discussion	
15:30	< Break >	
16:00	Presentations from donors.	
17:00	Panel Discussion	
PLENARY SESSION		
SESSION 5:	CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS	
17:30	Conclusions and meeting closure	