

Dr. Mark PERKINS

Chief Scientific Officer and Executive Committee member
Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics

Dr. Mark Perkins trained in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tennessee, and was chief resident in Pediatrics. He had a research fellowship in the laboratory of Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, where his research focused broadly on the development of respiratory virus vaccines, and specifically on identifying genotypic changes responsible for adaptation to low-temperature growth (influenza) and monoclonal escape (RSV).

After returning to Vanderbilt to complete a clinical fellowship in Infectious Diseases, he went to Duke University, first as a Senior Fellow in Clinical Microbiology, and then as a faculty member in the Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health. He worked in Brazil for 5 years to develop and co-direct a collaborative Duke facility for research in tropical diseases and to establish a reference diagnostic laboratory. Dr. Perkins is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Infectious Diseases, Clinical Microbiology, and Tropical Medicine.

In 1998 he joined the Global Tuberculosis Programme of the World Health Organization and the following year established a Diagnostics unit in the Special Programme for Research and Training in Infectious Diseases (TDR). His group focused on the development and evaluation of new diagnostics for tuberculosis, malaria, schistosomiasis, leishmania, trypanosomiasis and sexually transmitted diseases.

Funding from the Gates Foundation in 2001 allowed the creation of a full program on TB diagnostics within TDR. Another BMGF grant in 2003 established the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics to accelerate this work and Dr. Perkins joined the organization as Chief Scientific Officer. As member of the Executive Committee, he is also overseeing the operations of the organization.