Stop TB Partnership

New Diagnostics Working Group

Our vision

High quality diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB) and drug resistance is available for all people in all settings.

Our mission

Foster development and evaluation of new diagnostics for TB by providing strategic direction and serving as a coordination, communication and advocacy platform for all stakeholders in TB diagnostic research and development.

Our operating principles

1. Setting strategic direction and providing guidance
2. Assuring coordination among partners
3. Establishing mechanisms for strategic information and knowledge sharing
4. Identifying and promoting promising innovation
5. Developing technical resources to support TB diagnostic researchers and developers
6. Advocating for new TB diagnostics, for increased funding for TB diagnostics R&D and for evidence-based decision making to drive WHO policy.

Fostering development and evaluation of new diagnostics for TB

The New Diagnostics Working Group (NDWG) is one of the seven working groups of the Stop TB Partnership and supports the Partnership in its goal of TB elimination, in particular by promoting the development and evaluation of rapid, simple and cost-effective diagnostic tools. The NDWG is a network of over 400 experts representing stakeholders from academia and research institutions, government and technical agencies, multilaterals, NGOs, industry and the patient community. The NDWG serves as a forum for all stakeholders committed to the development of better TB diagnostics, providing a coordination and communication platform for effective collaboration towards delivery of much needed new tools.

Serving as a communication platform for all stakeholders in TB diagnostics R&D

Extensive advances in research and technology are still required to enable development of new TB diagnostics to achieve the targets of the End TB Strategy and reach the “missed” millions with TB who every year are left undiagnosed. The role of the NDWG is to provide a neutral and over-arching platform for increased collaboration in the field of TB diagnostics in order to expand and accelerate research efforts. To this end, the working group convenes experts and global stakeholders to promote knowledge sharing, generate consensus and foster collaboration with a focus on priorities defined by the *Global Plan to End TB 2018–2022*

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NDWG Resources

Biomarkers for TB POC tests

Biomarkers-To-Diagnostics Database
- Bm2Dx online platform
- Bm2Dx teaser video

NGS and DST

- Fact sheet on NGS
- TPP for next-generation DST

TBI and test of progression

- TPP and Framework for evaluation for a test for incipient TB
- Viewpoint paper
- Model to evaluate the impact of a test for incipient TB

Secretariat hosted by FIND

www.stoptb.org/wg/new_diagnostics

@StopTB_NDWG

The Roadmap to new TB diagnostics

The overall vision of the New Diagnostics Working Group's Strategic Framework 2018-2022 is to achieve early and universal diagnosis of all people with all forms of TB to foster progress towards TB elimination, by making appropriate and affordable diagnostic solutions available in the right setting and ensuring that diagnostic results are linked to treatment, and provide the basis for continuous drug resistance surveillance.

Goals

Development of new diagnostic tools and accompanying solutions to:

1. Improve TB case detection through accurate tests, enabling patient-centred use at all levels of the health care system, for all populations, including children and those living with HIV, key populations including vulnerable groups, migrants, underserved groups, and develop innovative diagnostic strategies that ensure better outreach to people with TB.
2. Enable timely and effective treatment to reduce mortality and ongoing transmission, and prevent antimicrobial resistance by rapidly and simply detecting resistance to existing and future drugs.
3. Develop novel tests to enable rapid DST and treatment monitoring/test of cure to detect insufficient treatment sooner.
4. Reliably identify individuals at risk of progression from latent TB infection to active TB disease in order to introduce targeted preventive therapy and cut transmission.

NDWG Governance and Task Forces

Co-Chairs

- Morten Ruhwald, FIND, Switzerland
- Daniela Cirillo, San Raffaele Research Institute, Italy

Core Group

It is the constituency-based decision-making body of the NDWG. Members contribute on a voluntary basis with their time and expertise.

Academia: Dr. Madhukar Pai, McGill University, Canada

UN: Dr. Christopher Gilpin, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Switzerland

High-burden countries: Dr. Camilla Rodrigues, Hinduja Hospital, India

Diagnostics manufacturer: Currently vacant

WHO: Dr. Nazir Ismail, WHO, Switzerland

Access to TB diagnostics: Dr. Renuka Gadde, CHAI, USA

Non-government organization (NGO): Dr. Shibu Vijayan, PATH, India

Task Forces and Coordinators

Four time-limited and focused Task Forces have been established to support NDWG strategic priorities and main goals, and to foster development and evaluation of the relevant diagnostic tools.

1. **Build consensus and foster knowledge sharing to enable the identification of suitable biomarkers or biosignatures for TB point-of-care tests**
   Emily MacLean, McGill University
2. **Integration of next-generation sequencing and updated guidance to test developers on next-generation DST in alignment with new treatment guidelines and future drug regimens**
   Paolo Miotto, San Raffaele Scientific Institute
3. **Foster development and evaluation of tests for progression of LTBI to active disease**
   Alberto Matteelli, University of Brescia
4. **Engaging TB communities in TB diagnostics R&D, implementation and access**
   Ramya Ananthakrishnan, REACH

2021