

Joint GLI-GDI Workshop: Access to diagnostics, treatment, and care to end TB

Date: Thursday 14 October 2021

Time: 14:00 to 17:00 CET

Registration link for course:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkf-uurTkvHNA8dSKYEzA232ZCwPwXKhZC>

Objectives of the workshop: TB detection, treatment and care of individuals with TB continue to be a challenge, particularly in settings with a high burden of disease and weakened healthcare infrastructure. More recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has added complex layers of stress to health systems worldwide, hampering progress in the fight against TB. The Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) and the Global Drug- Resistant TB Initiative (GDI) are working towards strengthening laboratory and clinical management capacity for the programmatic management of TB. Through this workshop, we will explore the challenges encountered in countries, and steer the discussion on how to address these as protect progress in the fight against TB.

This workshop will implement a participatory learning approach through which attendees will partake in a plenary session and, through the use of breakout rooms, discuss case studies outlining countries' examples related to existing gaps and solutions to accelerate impact. Polling/quiz methods will also be implemented.

Session sponsor: World Health Organization, Global TB Programme

Chairs: Dr. Elisa Tagliani, San Raffaele Scientific Institute; Dr. Sarabjit Singh Chadha, The Foundation For Innovative New Diagnostics

Coordinators: Medea Gegia (WHO); Cal-Michael Nathanson (WHO)

Target audience: National TB Programmes and policy-makers, Patient-representatives and Civil Society Organizations, Laboratory specialists, Clinicians and infectious disease specialists, Researchers

Speakers:**Matteo Zigno, WHO: WHO Guidelines on TB detection and DR-TB treatment: What is new and upcoming solutions**

Accelerating the decline of the TB epidemic will require technological breakthroughs that need to keep pace with the complexities of TB and evolving drug resistance. In its normative role, the World Health Organization assesses evidence to properly guide the management and care options of individuals with drug-resistant TB. During this session, participants will have an overview of current WHO recommendations and future tools to rapidly and accurately identify all TB cases and treat them.

Patricia J. Hall, CDC: Selecting setting-specific solutions for TB detection: A New GLI Tool

As the global TB community strives to keep pace with a rapidly expanding TB diagnostic landscape in a patient-centered manner, it is essential that countries review their setting-specific needs to inform selection, introduction, and efficient use of recommended TB/DR-TB tests. GLI will provide an overview of a TB diagnostics selection tool to guide countries in review and consideration of different WHO-recommended molecular technologies that may meet the needs of their TB-laboratory networks. This session will be a preamble for breakout-group discussions on review and selection of low and moderate complexity automated NAATs and other technologies using the new GLI tool.

Swapna Uplekar, FIND: Practical considerations for implementing next-generation sequencing in national TB programmes

This session will deliver an overview of the WHO next-generation sequencing (NGS) implementation guide, which aims to provide practical guidance to national TB programmes and laboratories to plan and implement next-generation sequencing methods for the identification and characterization of Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex bacteria (MTBC) with an emphasis on molecular epidemiology and detection of mutations associated with drug resistance, and molecular epidemiology for surveillance purposes. This session will describe key components of an NGS implementation roadmap, including algorithms, site set-up, and other operational considerations, and will serve as an introduction to the case scenarios from LMIC which have started using NGS.

Brian Citro, Stop TB: Legal and Policy Solutions to End DR-TB: An Assessment of 10 High-TB Burden Countries

In the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB, countries made ambitious commitments to end DR-TB by 2030. Among these are pioneering commitments to protect the right to health, end discrimination, and promote access to medicines for people affected by TB. This session presents a quantitative evaluation of law and policy in 10 high-burden countries using an innovative TB Legal Rights Index to measure progress on legal and human rights commitments. The results will reveal whether countries are meeting their commitments while highlighting a wealth of best practices and opportunities for progress in law and policy to end DR-TB.

Ignacio Monedero-Recuero, Global drug-resistant TB Initiative (GDI): Situation analysis of the ten high DR TB burden countries at two year from the UNHLM declaration: progress and setbacks in changing landscape

The presentation summarizes the situation in the ten high MDR TB countries since 2018 to ascertain key advances and setbacks at 2 years from the declaration of the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB. Despite most countries were showing a historical advance and were on track for the 2018 and 2019 targets, according to the DR-TB country cascade of care, no country is capable of providing care for even 50% of the estimated resistant cases. This information will support the GDI initiative to evaluate the DR-TB situation in the world 2 years from the UNHLM.

Speaker biographies

Matteo Zignol, Switzerland



Matteo Zignol is an infectious disease specialist and clinical epidemiologist, who joined the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2003. In his previous role, he coordinated activities related to drug resistance surveillance and managed a multi-country project on the use of genetic sequencing for surveillance purposes. Currently, as the Head of the TB Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, Care & Innovation Unit at the WHO Global TB Programme, Dr Zignol leads the work on the development of new policies for universal access to diagnosis, treatment and care; as well as helping shape the TB research agenda and innovation.

Patricia Hall, United States



Dr Patricia Hall is Team Lead for the TB and Clinical Monitoring Team (International Laboratory Branch) at US CDC, manages a WHO Supranational TB Reference Laboratory (Atlanta, GA USA) and serves as the Vice Chair of the Global Laboratory Initiative. She holds a PhD in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics and a Master of Science in Evolutionary Development. Patricia brings 18 years of laboratory direction, research and project management experience to collaborations with US and global partners to strengthen patient access to quality clinical laboratory services in countries with high burdens of tuberculosis and HIV.

LUNG HEALTH FOR ALL SOLUTIONS FOR A NEW ERA

THE 52ND UNION WORLD CONFERENCE ON LUNG HEALTH 19–22 OCTOBER 2021 | VIRTUAL EVENT

Swapna Uplekar, Switzerland



Swapna Uplekar is a Scientific Officer in the Sequencing team at FIND. The current focus of her work is to establish NGS solutions for diagnosis for drug-resistant TB, and to implement NGS for genomic surveillance and outbreak response to WHO priority diseases, including COVID-19. She has a background in TB and malaria genomics and bioinformatics and an interest in strengthening NGS capacity in LMICs.

Brian Citro, United States



Brian Citro is a human rights lawyer, independent researcher, and former law professor at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and the University of Chicago Law School. He is also a technical consultant for the Stop TB Partnership and the UNDP HIV, Health and Development team. Before this, he served as Senior Research Officer to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health in New Delhi, India.

Ignacio Monedero, Spain



Ignacio Monedero is a medical doctor and a member of the Global drug-resistant TB Initiative (GDI). He has extensive working experience in the field and has provided technical support to several countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region of WHO via the green light committee mechanism.