



## Satellite Session

# “Scaling up access to near POC/POC molecular testing services for TB and drug resistant TB”

A TB CAPT-sponsored session during LabCoP's annual meeting  
In collaboration with Stop TB Partnership and USAID

12 October 2022 – 18:30-20:00 Central African Time (CAT)

Southern Sun Cape Sun Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa

Register at <https://bit.ly/ScalingUpAccessSession> to join virtually. After registering you will receive a confirmation email with more info (check your junk folder too).

### Background

The ASLM Laboratory Systems Strengthening Community of Practice (LabCoP) project is an initiative that supports knowledge ‘co-creation’ and exchange to accelerate the scale-up of high-quality laboratory services in Africa. LabCoP fosters a south-south knowledge exchange and joint learning by linking together designated MoH country teams from across Africa with global experts and sharing the knowledge and best practices of laboratory systems strengthening to optimize utilization of diagnostic tests for positive clinical and public health outcomes. Participating countries are supported to develop and implement national action plans for submission to funders (ie: PEPFAR, Global Fund).

The upcoming 2022 LabCoP Annual Meeting scheduled on 11-14 October 2022 provides an ideal platform to inform African Ministries of Health officials, national TB programmes and other national stakeholders about new molecular tests proven to have a major impact for diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB) and drug resistant TB (DR-TB) to ensure accelerated uptake for improved disease control.

In the scope of this satellite session, some preliminary results from implementation studies of new molecular tools for the diagnosis of TB and DR-TB will be presented. This will be complemented by experience sharing from countries who piloted the adoption of the Truenat molecular testing platform and related operational considerations for placement within existing TB laboratory networks.

Considerations for integrated service delivery, waste management and potential inclusion in national essential diagnostic lists will be covered during the discussion, in line with the theme of the LabCoP meeting.

It is expected that discussions will contribute to guide scale up of modern diagnostic tools for TB and drug resistant TB, facilitate integration of TB testing into other health services, and improve early detection of the disease in line with the objectives of the WHO End TB strategy and the Stop TB Partnership Global Plan to End TB 2023-2030.



TB-CAPT is part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union and has received funding under grant agreement N° RIA2017S-2007

## Session Details

### Topic 1

#### **TB CAPT: Close the gap, increase access, provide adequate therapy**

It is estimated that each year more than 10 million people worldwide fall ill with tuberculosis (TB). However, currently, only around 7 million of them are identified – while the others are missed. Diagnostic gaps in TB remain greater than for any other infectious disease. There is an urgent need for TB tools and diagnostic technologies that can not only detect disease but can also identify strains that are resistant to the TB medications that are available.

The TB-CAPT consortium is comprised of 14 leading organisations from 8 countries that all work together to achieve a common goal: to improve TB diagnostics and **“Close the gap, increase access, provide adequate therapy”**. TB-CAPT includes a series of clinical trials in Tanzania, Mozambique, and South Africa that will evaluate the impact of novel diagnostic interventions on outcomes, including the effects of expanding TB testing strategies to those who are HIV positive. The trials take local epidemiology and existing infrastructure into consideration and will compare new strategies with current standards of care.

During this session, an overview of the TB CAPT consortium’s work will be provided and selected early results from diagnostics implementation trial will be presented.

#### **Moderator:**

- Dr Marguerite Massinga Loembé, Senior Science Manager, ASLM

#### **Panellists:**

- Dr Vinzeigh Leukes, Clinical Trial Manager, The Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), (10 min)
- Dr Chad Centner, Investigator, University of Cape Town (UCT) (10 min)

***Panel discussion: 10 minutes***



EDCTP

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## Topic 2

### **Scaling up access to near POC/POC for molecular testing services for TB and DR TB: lessons and best practices learnt from Truenat roll out at country level**

As part of a collaboration between the Stop TB Partnership and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the introducing New Tools Project (iNTP) is supporting roll-out of latest innovations in diagnostics, treatments and digital health technologies in high burden countries aiming to reach the 2022 targets for the detection and treatment of TB, drug-resistant TB and TB infection set by the 2018 UN High-Level Meeting on TB. In the scope of this project, Truenat instruments and tests have been provided to 5 African countries (Nigeria, Zimbabwe, DR Congo, Uganda, Kenya) for adoption and roll-out.

During this session, the Stop TB Partnership will be presenting the Truenat implementation guidance as well as the newly developed Truenat training modules developed to address operational considerations for adoption and roll out of the instrument. African countries supported in the scope of the project will share their experience and best practices, including regulatory and practical considerations for sustainable integration in the existing national TB laboratory network and increasing access to molecular testing in peripheral settings.

#### **Moderator:**

- Dr Marguerite Massinga Loembé, Senior Science Manager, ASLM

#### **Panellists:**

#### ***Introducing New Tools Project: Truenat implementation guidance and training modules***

- Dr Lucy Mupfumi, Diagnostics Project Officer, Stop TB Partnership (15 min)

#### ***Sharing country experience from early implementation of the Truenat systems***

##### **Democratic Republic of the Congo (10 min)**

- Dr Muriel Aloni, Head, Laboratoire National de Référence des Mycobactéries, Ministère de la Santé.

##### **Nigeria (10 min)**

- Mr Elom Emeka Uga, Deputy Director, National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Buruli Ulcer Control Programme, Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria
- Dr Nkiru Nwokoye, KNCV, Nigeria

##### **Zimbabwe (10 min)**

- Mr Tanaka C. Sakubani, National TB Laboratories Coordinator, Ministry of Health and Child Care, National TB Control Programme, Zimbabwe
- Ms Phoebe Nzombe, Country Team Lead – Zimbabwe, Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS)

#### ***Panel discussion: 15 minutes***



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