

Thursday, 28 October 2021 LabCoP Extended ECHO session: German Epidemic Preparedness Team Laboratory Strengthening for External Quality Assessment. Experiences from the LAMP4Yaws Project

SN	Questions	Answer/ Response / Comments
1.	What EQA lessons can be applicable to other diseases or vice versa especially with the one health approach	Integration of programs is key both within and between animal and human health Laboratories. Other disease programs will likely benefit from all EQA programs when included in the scheme
2.	Interesting and thank you. I have two questions. 1. Is the <i>pertenue</i> strain culturable? 2. If I missed I don't know but does the kit (LAMP) can be usable for animal swab samples?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Treponema pallidum</i> is still believed to be uncultivable. However, Edmondson and Norris (Edmondson, D. G. & Norris, S. J. In Vitro Cultivation of the Syphilis Spirochete <i>Treponema pallidum</i>. <i>Curr Protoc I</i>, e44 (2021)) recently presented a new protocol that allows the cultivation of the syphilis-bacterium (<i>susp. pallidum</i>). There are still problems with the subsp. <i>pertenue</i>, which causes yaws. Cultivation of the latter is still not possible. 2. Yes, since nonhuman primates are infected with the yaws bacterium, it is possible to use the same LAMP for both (Knauf, S. et al. Gene target selection for loop-mediated isothermal amplification for rapid discrimination of <i>Treponema pallidum</i> subspecies. <i>Plos Neglect Trop D</i> 12, e0006396 (2018)).
3.	Your project and EQA is currently funded by the EDCTP. You're doing excellently well. What plan for post-EDCTP funding and what advise do you have for Labs in resource-limited settings with respect to EQA funding. EQA is not cheap at all!!!	It is true that EQA is not cheap, but the investment should be seen in relation to the quality of the results that are reported to the patients and the respective disease control programs. It is more expensive if infections are overlooked and thus fail to be managed due to inconsistent lab results. Our programme recognises the problems of low-income laboratories. Our PT items, for example, are very cheap and they can be easily shipped without the need for cooling to any lab in the world. Ideally different EQA programmes are combined to save resources.
4.	From you experience, while dealing with tropical neglected diseases, Yaws in particular, what opportunities exist that the Yaws intervention can leverage on	Ideally yaws surveillance and eradication is combined with other NTD programmes, e.g., BU and Onchocerciasis.
5.	One health (role human, animal and environment health) highly appreciable, but it's needs integration different sectors, Is there any organization working in Ethiopia?	There are several local OH projects in ET but I don't know about the overarching level. Africa CDC could, in my view, function as a role model. ET is a great country with a lot of small-scale farming and wildlife and would be ideal to demonstrate the effectiveness of OH initiatives.
6.	There is TB diagnosis using LAMP technology in Cameroon. is there any collaboration between your study and the TB LAMP	Not yet. We do, however, work with our partners at Institute Pasteur in Cameroon and I believe there would be a good opportunity for future EQA programmes.
7.	My question is that what plan do the program have for those interested private laboratories in the continent?	The LAMP4Yaws Programme is a first start and should motivate NRFs in Africa to organize cross-sectional programmes. I would e.g., see ASLM in the lead to set the frame for lab accreditation and EQA on

SN	Questions	Answer/ Response / Comments
		the African continent. We are happy to support, but the concept must come from within the African lab community.
8.	Thank Prof for the presentation. What are the plans for transferring this technology to have an African setting for manufacturing these reagents on the continent?	There is already LAMP production in Ghana. https://twitter.com/ghanatechlab/status/1290363230217535495 https://gh.linkedin.com/in/labasing
9.	Hello. Please, with which reference lab you are working in Cameroon. Because the NPHL in charge of EQA is not aware of this project. Thank you	Centre Pasteur du Cameroun https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres-projects-groups/lamp4yaws#welcome
10	Can anyone form part of this EQA program or the entire program without being attached with reference lab because I hear you talking about reference lab repeatedly	Please consider the LAMP4Yaws programme as a blueprint for NRFs and labs on the district level.
11	Thanks for your presentation, is the project going to extend to other African countries, what qualifies a country to be enrolled	The projects is funded by the EDCTP until end of next year. If we are able to demonstrate the suitability of the assay, it will be the first step towards an implementation for yaws eradication which means at this point, it is likely going to be used in all yaws reporting countries.
12	In our Lab we have TB diagnosis using TB LAMP technology in Infectious Disease Hospital. Kano Nigeria. So I ask is there any collaboration between your study and the TB LAMP technology?	See above. If you are interested in collaboration, you may contact us.
13	Thanks for the great presentations. EQA great but for the ND testing is limited. this is where we need to do more.	I am sorry, but you may need to clarify your question. What do you mean with ND testing?