



**ASLM** | 2016

AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR LABORATORY MEDICINE

3 – 8 DECEMBER 2016

## **ASLM2016 CONFERENCE REPORT**

Combatting Global Health Threats in Africa

Third International Conference

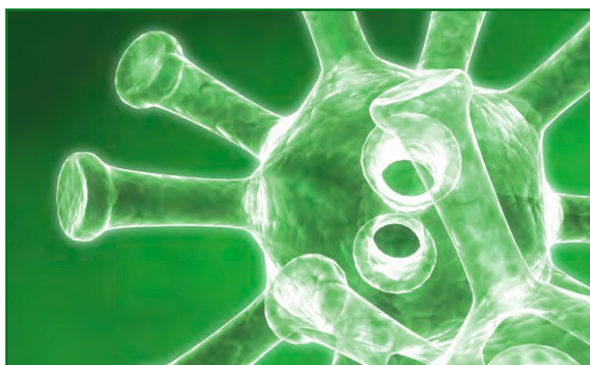
Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa

3-8 December 2016

African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM)

# Abbreviations

Africa CDC	Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
AJLM	African Journal of Laboratory Medicine
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
ART	Antiretroviral Treatment
ASCP	American Society for Clinical Pathology
ASLM	African Society for Laboratory Medicine
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CHAI	Clinton Health Access Initiative
EGPAF	Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
EID	Early Infant Diagnosis
FELTP	Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
GHSA	Global Health Security Agenda
GHSS	Global Health Systems Solutions
LSHTM	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NHLS	National Health Laboratory Service
NTD	Neglected Tropical Disease
POC	Point-of-Care
SANAS	South Africa National Accreditation Systems
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLMTA	Strengthening Laboratory Management Toward Accreditation
SLIPTA	Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process Towards Accreditation
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
VPD	Vaccine-Preventable Disease
WHO	World Health Organization
WHO-AFRO	World Health Organization, Regional Office for Africa





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# Executive Summary



*Dr. Matshidiso Rebecca Moeti, Regional Director for the World Health Organization, Regional Office for Africa (WHO-AFRO), giving the ASLM2016 keynote address on 6 December 2016.*

The African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) is a pan-African medical laboratory association working to advocate for the critical role and needs of laboratory medicine and is committed to preventing, detecting, and responding to disease threats through diagnostics and health-care investment across the continent. From 3-8 December 2016, ASLM convened its third international conference, ASLM2016, around the theme, “Combatting Global Health Threats in Africa.” Over 1,500 stakeholders gathered in Cape Town, South Africa for the conference, including African Ministers of Health, laboratory and healthcare professionals, policy makers, and representatives from private industry and the public sector.

Dr. Matshidiso Rebecca Moeti, Regional Director for the World Health Organization, Regional Office for Africa (WHO-AFRO), captured the theme of ASLM2016 during her keynote address at the ASLM2016 opening ceremony on 5 December 2016. Dr. Moeti, a veteran of the public health field, spoke on the need for more responsive and results-oriented laboratory programmes prepared to address emerging and ongoing threats to health systems in Africa.

“We believe that together with ASLM...We will enable countries to improve their laboratory capacities,” said Dr. Moeti.

This perspective was echoed by the other opening ceremony speakers, including: HE Dr. Osagie Ehanire, Minister of State for Health, Nigeria; Dr. Mohamed Ally Mohamed, Director, Health Quality Assurance Department, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Tanzania; Dr. Yogan Pillay, Deputy Director-General of HIV/AIDS, TB, and Maternal, Children and Women’s Health, National Department of Health, South Africa; and Steven T. Smith, Health Attaché and Regional Representative for Southern Africa, US Department of Health and Human Services.

**“We believe that together with ASLM...  
We will enable countries to improve their  
laboratory capacities”**

**- Dr. Matshidiso Rebecca Moeti**

Special guests at the ceremony included Dr. Ali M. Elbireer, CEO of ASLM, Dr. Wolfgang Keller of



Roche Diagnostics, Prof. Alash'le Abimiku, Chair of the ASLM Board of Directors, Prof. Wendy Stevens, and Prof. Anthony Emeribe, ASLM2016 Conference Co-Chairs.

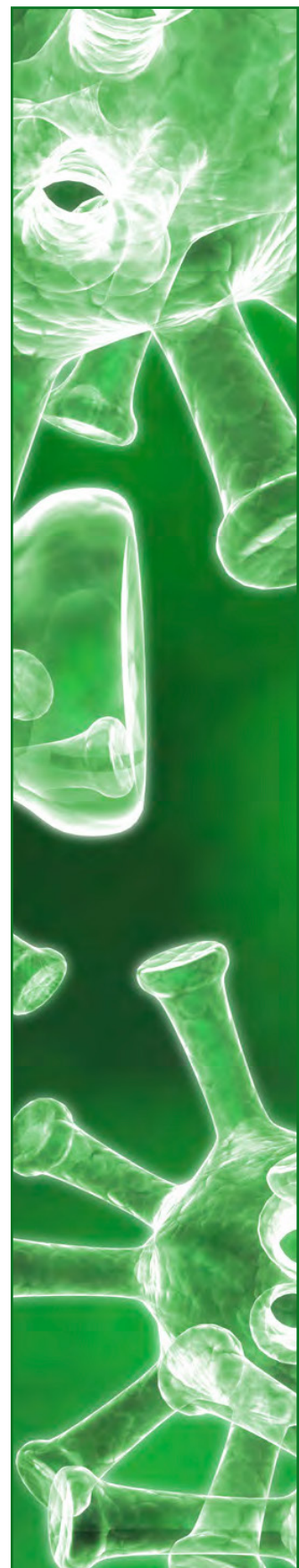
ASLM2016 speakers and participants highlighted the continued importance of investment in and uptake of quality-assured diagnostic technology in the context of emergent and recurring health threats in an increasingly globalised, interconnected world.

Key conclusions of ASLM2016 included the following:

- **Renewed commitment to laboratory strengthening for diagnosis, disease monitoring and surveillance of global health security threats including antimicrobial resistance (AMR);**
- **Identification of ways forward in the strengthening of African medical laboratory and pathology services for non-communicable diseases;**
- **Sharing of latest programmatic and research findings on implementation of laboratory-based and point-of-care technologies, including for HIV viral load and early infant diagnosis;**
- **Call to stakeholders to champion partnerships that are beneficiary-driven and sustainable, aiming to reverse a trend of donor-driven, top-down global health programming;**
- **Encouragement of continent-led efforts such as the recently launched Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).**



*The Honourable Dr. Osagie Ehanire, Minister of State for Health, Nigeria*



# Conference Committees

## Conference Chairs

Anthony Emeribe, Medical Laboratory Science  
Council of Nigeria, University of Calabar, Nigeria

Wendy Stevens, University of Witwatersrand;  
National Laboratory Service, South Africa

## Executive Committee

Anthony Emeribe, Medical Laboratory Science  
Council of Nigeria, University of Calabar, Nigeria

Wendy Stevens, University of Witwatersrand;  
National Laboratory Service, South Africa

Alash'le Abimiku, Institute of Human Virology,  
Nigeria; University of Maryland, United States

Jenny Josiah, Roche, South Africa

Debi Boeras, Global Health Impact Group, USA,  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine,  
UK

Floyd Olson, National Health Laboratory Service,  
South Africa

Mackenzie Hurlston, US Centers for Disease Con-  
trol and Prevention, USA

Ndlovu Nqobile, African Society for Laboratory  
Medicine, Ethiopia

## Scientific Committee

### *Chairs*

John Nkengasong, Africa CDC, Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia

Rosanna Peeling, London School of Hygiene and  
Tropical Medicine, UK

### *Members*

Alash'le Abimiku, Institute of Human Virology,  
Nigeria; University of Maryland, USA

Ousmane Diop, World Health Organization, Swit-  
zerland

Ogobara Doumbo, Malaria Research & Training  
Centre, Mali

Souleymane Mboup, Cheikh Anta Diop University,  
Senegal

Iruka Okeke, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Oyewale Tomori, Nigerian Academy of Science,  
Nigeria

Pascale Ondoa, Amsterdam Institute for Global  
Health and Development, Netherlands

Miguel Mulders, World Health Organization, Swit-  
zerland

William K Ampofo, Noguchi Institute, Ghana

Igho Ofotokun, Emory University, USA

Oni Idigbe, Nigeria Institute of Medical Research,  
Nigeria

Avelin F Aghokeng, Virology Laboratory CREMER,  
Cameroon

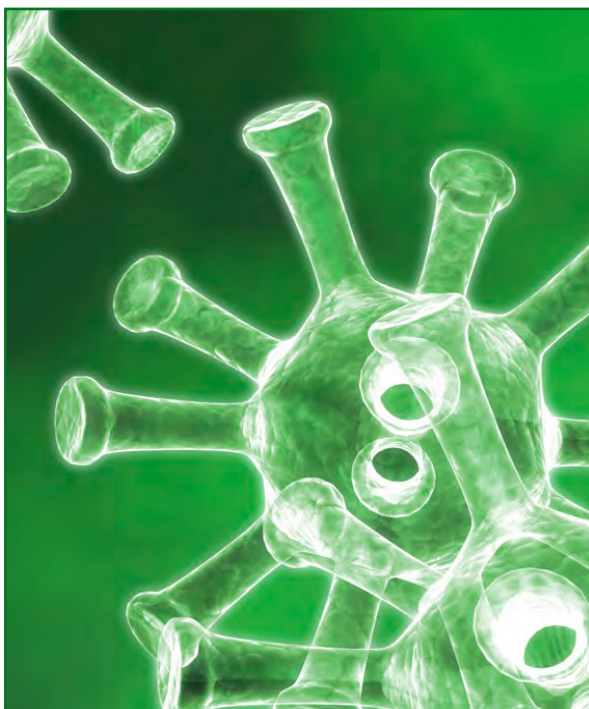
Philip Onyebujoh, World Health Organization  
Regional Office for Africa, Zimbabwe

Katy Yao, US Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
vention, USA

Andrea Kim, US Centers for Disease Control and  
Prevention, USA

Erin Rottinghaus, US Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention, USA

Peter Minchella, US Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention, USA





# Seminars and Symposia

ASLM2016 featured over 60 seminars and symposia spanning the entire duration of the conference, including several hosted by ASLM and the African Journal of Laboratory Medicine (AJLM), ASLM's official scientific journal. The numerous conference seminars and symposia were convened by diverse stakeholders including industry partners, governmental organisations, and public health agencies including the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), South Africa.

On 6 December, ASLM sponsored two seminars, "Improving Laboratory Systems in Africa via the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)" and "Building Laboratory Workforce Capacity in Africa through ASLM Fellowships." The former seminar addressed laboratory systems strengthening in the context of GHSA efforts to promote prevention, detection, and response to emergency situations of public health importance. At the seminar on building laboratory workforce capacity, ASLM representatives presented three ongoing fellowship programmes, discussing the educational and professional development opportunities associated with the fellowships and other ASLM training offerings.

ASLM also collaborated with partner organisations to co-host conference seminars, including a two-day symposium on the Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) and Strengthening Laboratory Management Toward Accreditation (SLMTA) programs. The symposium was hosted from 3-4 December in conjunction with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The symposium, attended by SLMTA program participants from numerous countries, sought to help laboratory professionals maximise SLIPTA and SLMTA to

implement robust quality management systems toward the eventual achievement of international accreditation.

Moreover, ASLM co-sponsored a seminar on point-of-care (POC) technologies for HIV early infant diagnosis (EID) on 7 December, joining forces with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). Seminar participants reviewed field evaluation data on POC EID technologies and discussed important programmatic considerations in the roll-out and scale-up of POC EID platforms in resource-limited settings.

AJLM representatives co-sponsored three seminars—"Scientific Writing," "Statistical Secrets Revealed," and "Developing Killer Presentations"—on 4, 6 and 8 December, respectively. The seminars covered essential aspects of data collection and analysis, scientific writing, ethics, manuscript submission and revision, and presentation skills.

To read more about conference seminars and symposia, please visit the ASLM2016 programme-at-a-glance at the end of this report.



*Conference participants attending an ASLM2016 seminar.*

# Oral and Poster Sessions



*Over 400 scientific posters were on display at ASLM2016.*

From 6-8 December 2016, ASLM2016 hosted 25 oral sessions, oral poster sessions, and poster sessions. These sessions reflected the quality of abstracts submitted and resulting strength of the continent in laboratory sciences.

Each of the three ASLM2016 oral sessions was divided into four sub-sections, with each sub-section containing six short presentations and a question and answer period.

Oral Session I, convened on 6 December, concerned new technologies for disease diagnosis and monitoring, outbreak preparedness based on lessons learned from past public health emergencies, AMR trends and concerns in Africa, and strategies for diagnostics scale-up. On 7 December.

Oral Session II addressed issues including emerging epidemics and silent killers in Africa, novel approaches to cancer diagnosis and surveillance, solutions to neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), and containment of outbreaks through surveillance efforts.

Oral Session III took place on 8 December, with a focus on achievement of international targets for HIV and global health security, leveraging quality management systems at the laboratory-clinic interface, the role of networking in global health efforts, and encouragement of laboratory capacity building and sustainability.

Oral poster sessions tackled diverse topics in global health, including: laboratory quality and

biosafety; the role of laboratory networks in disease detection and outbreak preparedness; the epidemiology and detection of chronic diseases in Africa; special issues in non-communicable diseases; the role of partnerships in improving global health; and approaches to quality management system implementation and diagnostic improvement.

The conference also provided a platform for the exhibition of over 400 posters displaying original research findings from Africa and other continents. Posters reflected many of the same subjects discussed over the course of the conference, including new diagnostic and monitoring technologies; disease outbreak detection and response; AMR; laboratory quality assessment and improvement; global health security; and disease data collection and reporting tools, among many others.

Due to the accessibility and diversity of ASLM2016 oral sessions, oral poster sessions, and poster sessions, conference participants were empowered to seek out specific areas of interest and expand their subject area knowledge while networking with other leading experts in their fields.



# Exhibits



Abbott



Africa Society for Blood Transfusion



Air Filter Maintenance Services International



Aldatu Biosciences



Alere



BD Biosciences



Beckman Coulter



bioLytical Laboratories



bioMérieux



Celtic Diagnostics



Cepheid



Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute



Diagnostics for the Real World



FIND



Fisher Scientific



Hain Lifescience SA (Pty) Ltd



Hologic, Inc.



Human Gesellschaft für Biochemica und Diagnostica mbH



Human Quality Assessment Services



ILEX



Inqaba Biotechnical Industries



LTS Consulting



LifeHealth



Longhorn Vaccines and Diagnostics



Merck



Meridian Bioscience



National Health Laboratory Service



Omega Diagnostics Ltd



One World Accuracy



Orasure Technologies Inc.



PerkinElmer South Africa



QIAGEN



Quidel



Right to Care



Roche



SSI Diagnostica



Siemens



Sysmex



SystemOne



The Global Health Network



The Scientific Group



Thistle QA – Part of the LGC Group



Worldwide Diagnostics

# Round Table Discussions



*Attendees of an ASLM2016 round table discussion.*

ASLM2016 provided a platform for six diverse round table discussions on use of laboratory services to promote the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 90-90-90 goals,\* post-Ebola health system reconstruction, vaccine-preventable disease (VPD) surveillance networks, and preparedness for both communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The first three round table sessions took place on 6 December, drawing together participants around the subjects, "HIV Laboratory Services for 90-90-90: Lessons from the HIV Impact Assessments," "Reconstruction of Health Systems Post-Ebola: Three Years Later," and "Using Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) Surveillance Networks to Strengthen Preparedness."

- Round Table I addressed progress towards the achievement of the 90-90-90 target,\* with presenters and co-conveners discussing the role of laboratory services, the status of the HIV epidemic and public health response, and priority areas to be addressed in forthcoming HIV elimination efforts. Priority areas include, but are not limited to, assurance of accurate

HIV testing, integration of laboratories with antiretroviral treatment (ART) providers, improvement of supply chain and sample transport systems, and guarantee of access to molecular biologic testing and viral load test results.

- Round Table II, "Reconstruction of Health Systems Post-Ebola: Three Years Later," highlighted recent gains in laboratory systems in West Africa, while also tackling remaining challenges, including inadequate healthcare infrastructure. Participants underscored the need to establish coordinated laboratory networks and robust surveillance systems to ensure preparedness for the next potential outbreak.
- Round Table III discussed "Using Vaccine-Preventable Disease (VPD) Surveillance Networks to Strengthen Preparedness." Session speakers presented on existing vertical surveillance networks for VPDs and their associated resources, including equipment, human resources, and quality management systems, which facilitate outbreak detection and response.

On the 7th of December, there were three round tables on integrated disease management, laboratory capacity building, and strengthening of pathology in Africa.

- Round Table IV had the theme "Diagnostics for the Future – Integrated Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Infectious Diseases," during which participants discussed the importance of data sharing and connectivity for diagnostics integration and outbreak detection. Participants discussed ways to better integrate diagnostics for different disease areas, such as for NCDs and infectious diseases. Round table attendees agreed that there is need for more data for outbreak detection and response, public health monitoring, and supply chain manage-

\*The UNAIDS 90-90-90 target is that, by the year 2020, 90% of all people with HIV will know their status, 90% of those who know their status will be on treatment, and 90% of those on treatment will achieve viral suppression. Reference: UNAIDS. (2014, October 8). 90–90–90 - An Ambitious Treatment Target To Help End The Aids Epidemic. Retrieved from <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2014/90-90-90>

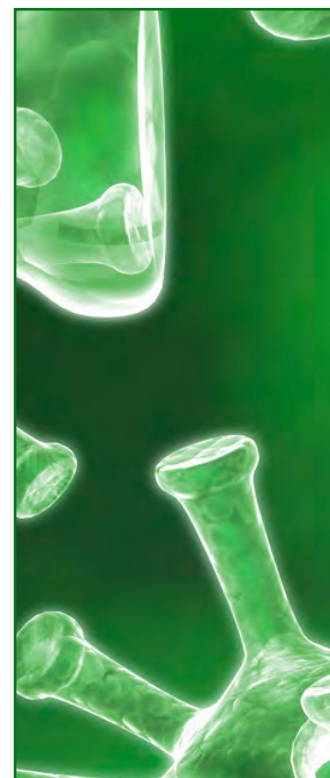


ment. Outcomes of the session included recommendations such as the creation of standardised formats for data reporting, establishment of a 'data dictionary' for diagnostics, and customisation of rapid diagnostic test training programs to ensure better integration of diagnostics for NCDs and communicable diseases.

- Round Table V, "Creating Economically Viable Laboratory Capacity to Meet Health Needs in Africa – Including those of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," addressed the subjects of laboratory capacity in Africa, laboratory diagnostics for NCDs, and the role of laboratories in achieving SDGs. Participants identified gaps in laboratory capacity for addressing NCDs and infectious diseases, and discussed options for investing in laboratory quality, such as leveraging funding sources.
- Round Table VI, "Strengthening the Practice of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology in Africa," convened representatives to review barriers to clinician use of pathology and laboratory results and potential solutions to these barriers. Attendees noted that despite great gains made in quality improvement in many African laboratories, existing initiatives often fail to inform and engage clinicians around laboratory and pathology advancements. The session culminated in the exploration of potential methods for strengthening the clinical-laboratory-pathology interface in African settings.

#### **Key messages of ASLM2016 round table discussions:**

- **Quality-assured diagnostics and laboratory systems are essential to HIV services.**
- **Stakeholders must develop harmonised laboratory networks and strong surveillance methods to ensure public health security.**
- **Investment in laboratory supplies, workforce development and quality management systems facilitates disease outbreak preparedness.**
- **Better integration of diagnostics for different disease areas will strengthen detection and care.**
- **The African region is in need of quality, in-depth data on outbreaks, public health issues and health supply chains.**
- **It is recommended that health stakeholders develop standardised formats for data reporting across organisations, establish a data dictionary for diagnostics, and create more customised rapid diagnostic testing training programs.**
- **Emergent methods for strengthening the clinical-laboratory-pathology interface in African settings must be advanced.**



# Plenary Session I - Public Health Institutes and Global Health Security: Laboratory as a Lynch Pin



Dr. John Nkengasong, Africa CDC Director, speaking at ASLM2016.

ASLM2016 Plenary Session I, “Public Health Institutes and Global Health Security: Laboratory as a Lynch Pin,” opened on 6 December. The plenary featured speeches from eminent health leaders including Dr. Kevin De Cock, Director of the CDC country mission in Kenya, Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC, and Jean-Bosco Ndi-hokubwayo, Regional Focal Point for the Essential Health Technologies Unit of the World Health Organization, Regional Office for Africa (WHO-AF-RO).

Dr. De Cock discussed the topic, “What Does Global Health Security Mean for Africa: Looking Back and Current Realities,” emphasising the vital importance of disease control investment in a globalised world. Dr. De Cock discussed the continent’s unfinished business in the fight against HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis. He identified key priorities for the elimination of the ‘Big 3,’ including vaccine development, simplification of therapeutic regimens, and streamlining of health

service delivery.

“Africa CDC: Augmenting Africa’s response to Health Threats,” was the theme of Dr. John Nken-gasong’s speech, which addressed the foundation and goals of the nascent Africa CDC.

Dr Nkengasong, the organisation’s first Director, unveiled the five functional pillars of Africa CDC, which include surveillance, information systems, laboratory systems and networks, preparedness and response, and public health research. He invoked the importance of health workforce development and communication enhancement, without which the pillars of Africa CDC cannot be sustained.

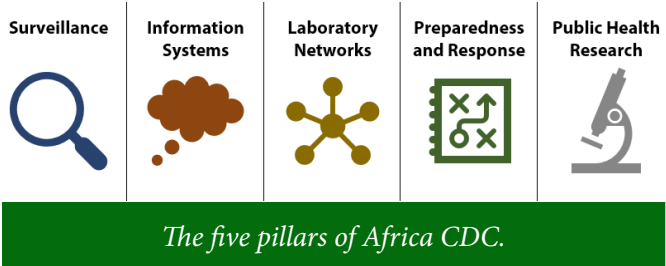
Dr. Nkengasong also invoked the important role of partnerships in the achievement of Africa CDC’s goals. “This is the time for Africa CDC to build a public health construct for Africa with

“This is the time for Africa CDC to build a public health construct for Africa with support from partners like ASLM”

- Dr. John Nkengasong

support from partners like ASLM,” he said.

Dr. Jean Bosco Ndihekubwayo also presented on “Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Africa: Role of Laboratory.” He described current emerging issues related to AMR, including the potential negative impact of emerging drug-resistance in Africa’s “meningitis belt.” Dr. Ndihekubwayo stressed that the global health community cannot address AMR without quality laboratory data and multi-sector cooperation. He urged the establishment and reinforcement of national coordinating centres and laboratory partnerships across biomedical, veterinary, environmental, animal husbandry and agricultural sectors.





# Plenary Session II: The New Tidal Waves of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Africa: Are the Laboratory Systems Prepared?



*An audience of health professionals and policy leaders attended the ASLM2016 plenary sessions.*

Plenary Session II, “The New Tidal Waves of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Africa: Are the Laboratory Systems Prepared?” took place on Wednesday, 7 December. Three speakers led the session, speaking on diverse but overlapping issues around NCD threats and care options in the African region.

Dr. Justine Davies, Editor in Chief of The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, based in the UK, spoke on “Emerging Trends of Non-Communicable Disease Threats in Africa and the Role of Laboratory Medicine.” Citing a lack of hard data on NCDs and care in Africa, Dr. Davies called for more research on the prevalence of NCDs and availability of NCD diagnosis and treatment across the continent. She stressed that population needs cannot be met if health leaders, laboratory professionals and clinicians have inaccurate estimates of current and future demands for NCD care.

Speaking on “Developing Cancer and Pathology Capacity in Africa,” Dr. Blair Holladay, CEO of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) described several promising diagnostic technologies for NCDs for use in resource-limited settings. In his speech, Dr. Holladay championed the use of telepathology, which involves the remote exchange of pathological sampling images to enable disease diagnosis at a distance. He suggested that telepathology could facilitate diagnosis of cancer and other NCDs in African settings in the absence of adequate numbers of diagnosticians on the continent. However, Dr. Holladay also stressed the importance of investment in African workforce development and healthcare infrastructure, which is essential to success in the long-term management of NCDs.

Prof. Wafaa El-Sadr from Columbia University, USA, gave the presentation, “Rising Tides Lift All Ships: Lessons from HIV/AIDS Laboratory Systems for NCDs in Africa.” Prof. El-Sadr outlined the lessons learned from the HIV/AIDS response and how public health leaders can use these lessons to inform the response to NCDs in Africa. She showed how infrastructure, laboratory systems and the care continuum for HIV can be applied to NCDs, like diabetes and hypertension, and leveraged to ensure accurate and timely NCD diagnosis and linkage to treatment.

Common lessons across all three presentations included the importance of ensuring access to essential diagnostic tests for NCDs, investing in public and private partnerships for stopgap and long-term NCD approaches, and strengthening of disease surveillance and laboratory infrastructure to respond to NCD challenges.

As a result of Plenary Session II, speakers and participants:

- Called for more research on the prevalence of NCDs, current availability of care options and future estimates of NCD burden across Africa;
- Explored promising diagnostics for NCDs for use in resource-limited settings;
- Discussed the potential uses of telepathology;
- Expressed the importance of investment in African workforce development and healthcare infrastructure; and
- Demonstrated how to apply the HIV care continuum to NCDs.

# Plenary Session III: Clinical Infectious Diseases and Laboratory Management



*Prof. Oyewale Tomori of the Nigerian Academy of Science and the recipient of the ASLM2016 Lifetime Achievement Award speaking at ASLM2016.*

On 8 December, Plenary Session III convened three African leaders in laboratory medicine around the theme, “Clinical Infectious Diseases and Laboratory Management.” Session speakers included Dr. Joyce Mogale of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), South Africa, Prof. Oyewale Tomori of the Nigerian Academy of Science, and Dr. Patrick Nguku of the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP), Nigeria.

Dr. Mogale’s presentation, “Managing Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases in South Africa: NHLS Experience,” highlighted the need for health system strengthening in Africa, including key aspects of robust laboratory systems, such as biosafety.

“Partnerships and Smart Investments to Turn the Tide of Global Health Threats,” was the focus of Prof. Tomori’s speech. He praised the role of partnerships in advancing African laboratory systems, but called for future partnerships to be driven by recipient organisations and in-country leaders, calling the donor-driven model unsustainable.

In his presentation, “Role of FELTP in Disease Control in Africa,” Dr. Nguku talked about the goals, lessons, and successes of FELTP in Nigeria, which aims to advance public health systems and develop a well-trained laboratory and epidemiology workforce.

This session highlighted concepts around laboratory management of both NCDS and infectious diseases, the assurance of effective health partnerships, and the role of training for disease control in Africa.



# Special Sessions



*Special Session I panellists (left to right): Zoë Mullan, Kevin De Cock, Steve Smith, Matshidiso Moeti, Jordan Tappero, and Keith Klugman.*

ASLM2016 included two special sessions on global health security and NCDs, hosted on 6 and 7 December.

Special Session I on 6 December was entitled “Global Health Security Needs for Africa,” and moderated by Zoë Mullan, Editor of The Lancet Global Health. The session brought together global health leaders to discuss the global health security—coordinated prevention, detection, and response efforts around new and reemergent outbreaks—in the African context. Session panellists included Dr. Kevin De Cock, Director of the CDC operation in Kenya, Dr. Keith Klugman, Director for Pneumonia at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Dr. Jordan Tappero, Senior Advisor at the CDC, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, Regional Director of WHO-AFRO, and Mr. Steven Smith, US Health Attaché for South Africa.

During the session, moderator and panellists discussed how African countries can better prevent and mitigate the impact of disease outbreaks and develop more effective laboratory networks. Suggestions included the creation of a collaborative effort for disease data collection and sharing and the creation of country leadership structures that provide a means for reduced bureaucracy and rapid action in the event of a public health emergency.

“Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Laboratory Medicine in Africa,” was the subject of Special Session II on 7 December. The session was moderated by Dr. Justine Davies, Editor of The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology, and included the following panellists: Prof. Wafaa El-Sadr,

Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine, Columbia University; Prof. Oyewale Tomori, President, Nigerian Academy of Science; Dr. Blair Holladay, CEO, ASCP; Sujha Subramanian, Fellow in Health Economics and Policy Research, RTI International; and Dr. Stefan Wiktor, Public Health Physician, World Health Organization (WHO).

**Advocacy among African governments is essential to getting NCDs on the radar of country health leaders and ensuring tiered funding**

Session conveners discussed methods for building capacity for NCD care in Africa, particularly in regards to the laboratory’s role in disease detection and surveillance. The panellists found that advocacy among African governments is essential to getting NCDs on the radar of country health leaders and ensuring tiered funding for NCDs. Panellists and participants from the audience also highlighted the need for enhancement of treatment linkages and a comprehensive approach to African health care strengthening.

# Closing Session and Awards Ceremony



"I am ASLM. You are ASLM...The importance of laboratories is finally being understood."

- ASLM2016 conference co-chair Prof. Wendy Stevens of NHLS.



"This is the largest meeting in Africa for laboratory medicine."

- ASLM2016 conference co-chair Prof. Anthony Emeribe of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria.

On 8 December, ASLM2016 hosts led the conference closing session and awards ceremony, drawing together participants to review outcomes from the week and honour laboratories and healthcare professionals for their roles in advancing laboratory medicine on the continent.

The closing session was chaired by ASLM2016 co-chairs Prof. Anthony Emeribe and Prof. Wendy Stevens, who gave starting speeches before introducing lead conference rapporteurs Obert Kachuwaire of South Africa National Accreditation Systems (SANAS), Julie Ndasi of Global Health Systems Solutions (GHSS), and Pedro da Silva of NHLS South Africa, who presented on global health security, NCDs, and partnerships.

Rapporteurs reiterated key messages from the conference, underscoring the need to integrate tiered laboratory networks, develop public health institutes, invest in data collection, scale-up diagnostic technologies, and ensure the development of an essential diagnostics list to address global health threats including AMR, NCDs, and infectious diseases. Following the rapporteur presentations, closing remarks were given by Dr. Ali M. Elbireer, ASLM CEO, and Prof. Alash'le Abimiku, Chair of the ASLM Board of Directors.

Following closing remarks, ASLM Global Health Security Director Mah-Sere Keita took the stage to present ASLM2016 awards for the following cate-

gories: Certificate of Recognition for Accreditation of Government Laboratories, Best Laboratory Practice, Best Laboratory Champion Clinician, and Lifetime Achievement.

The Certificate of Recognition for Accreditation of Government Laboratories went to newly-accredited and re-accredited government laboratories in Africa, acknowledging their commitment to laboratory excellence. Award winners, arranged by country, included the following:

## **Botswana:**

- Princess Marina Hospital Laboratory
- Sekgoma Memorial Hospital Laboratory
- National Early Infant Diagnosis Reference Laboratory Mutengene
- Nyangabgwe HIV Reference Laboratory
- Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital Laboratory
- Botswana-Harvard HIV Reference Laboratory

## **Kenya:**

- National Microbiology Reference Laboratory
- Presbyterian Church of East Africa Chogoria Hospital Laboratory
- Bungoma County Referral Hospital Laboratory
- National HIV Reference Laboratory

ASLM CEO Dr. Ali Elbireer presenting Prof. Oyewale Tomori with the ASLM2016 Lifetime Achievement Award for his remarkable career advocating for the laboratory sciences. Dr. Tomori gave an emotive acceptance speech upon receiving the award, saying, "You and I have worked tirelessly to make ASLM what it is...And there is much work to do."



#### **Mozambique:**

- Cellular Immunology Laboratory

#### **Senegal:**

- Laboratoire Bactériologie Virologie, Université Cheikh Anta Diop
- Laboratoire Bio24

#### **South Africa:**

- National Health Laboratory Service Proficiency Testing Scheme
- Bonginkosi Duma Laboratory

#### **Tanzania:**

- Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital Laboratory
- Muhimbili National Hospital Central Pathology Laboratory
- Bugando Medical Centre Laboratory
- Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre Clinical Laboratory
- National Health Laboratory Quality Assurance Training Centre
- Pathology Laboratory, Mnazi Mmoja Hospital

Following laboratories' acceptance of the Certificate of Recognition for Accreditation of Government Laboratories, Ms. Keita presented the Best Laboratory Practice Award to Makerere University-Johns Hopkins University (MU-JHU) Core Laboratory, based in Uganda. ASLM recognised the laboratory for its implementation of laboratory best practices, leading to quality enhancements in diagnostic services and patient care.

The ASLM2016 Best Laboratory Champion Clinician Award went to Dr. Zenebe Melaku Yirsaw, ICAP Country Director for Ethiopia, a clinician who has promoted laboratory science and advocated public health throughout his career.

Finally, Prof. Oyewale Tomori, President of the Nigerian Academy of Science and former Vice Chancellor of Redeemer's University, received the ASLM2016 Lifetime Achievement Award for playing an exceptional leadership role in the laboratory sciences. Prof. Tomori, a lifelong champion of public health and an expert in virology and disease control, took the stage podium to accept his award, thanking ASLM and the audience for the recognition.

After the awards ceremony, ASLM2016 concluded with a closing reception, bringing together conference participants to discuss successes and outcomes from the conference.



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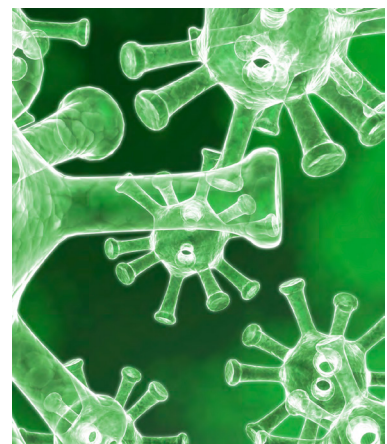
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# ASLM2018

During the ASLM2016 closing session, it was announced by Prof. Alash'le Abimiku, the chair of the board, that the fourth ASLM international conference will take place in two years' time. ASLM2018 will be hosted from 10-13 December 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria.

More information about ASLM2018 conference will be posted on [www.ASLM.org](http://www.ASLM.org).



Prof. Alash'le Abimiku, Chair of the ASLM Board of Directors, announcing the next ASLM international conference planned for 2018 in Abuja Nigeria.



**The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference  
of the African Society for  
Laboratory Medicine  
ASLM2018**

**December 10 - 13  
Abuja, Nigeria**



**Non-Communicable Diseases: The Next Challenge**

# Appendix: ASLM2016 Programme-at-a-Glance

ASLM2016 MAIN CONFERENCE SESSIONS						
Laboratory Medicine in Africa: Combatting Global Health Threats						
	Monday, 5 December 2016		Tuesday, 6 December 2016		Wednesday, 7 December 2016	
	REGISTRATION 8:30 – 19:30		REGISTRATION 7:30 – 18:30		REGISTRATION 7:30 – 18:30	
			EXHIBIT AND POSTER HALL 10:30 – 17:00		EXHIBIT AND POSTER HALL 10:30 – 17:00	
					EXHIBIT AND POSTER HALL 10:30 – 14:30	
9:00	Workshops	VOLUNTEER TRAINING	<b>PLENARY (9:00 – 10:30)</b> Public Health Institutes and Global Health Security: Laboratory as a Lynch Pin  Session Chairs: Samuel Adeniyi-Jones/Alash'le Abimiku  What does Global Health Security mean for Africa: Looking Back and Current Realities Kevin De Cock, CDC Kenya  Lessons Learned from the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in West Africa Africa CDC Director, CDC (to be confirmed)  Antimicrobial Resistance in Africa: Role of Laboratory Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa		<b>PLENARY (9:00 – 10:30)</b> The New Tidal Waves of Noncommunicable Diseases in Africa: Are the Laboratory Systems Prepared?  Session Chairs: Souleymane Mboup/Lucy Maryogo-Robinson  Emerging Trends of Noncommunicable Disease Threats in Africa and the Role of Laboratory Medicine Justine Davies, The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology  Developing Cancer and Pathology Capacity in Africa Blair Holladay, ASCP  Rising Tides Lift All Ships: Lessons from HIV/AIDS Laboratory Systems for NCD in Africa Wafaa El-Sadr, Columbia University	
10:30			<b>BREAK (10:30 – 11:00)</b>		<b>BREAK (10:30 – 11:00)</b>	
11:00			<b>ORAL ABSTRACT PRESENTATIONS (11:00 – 12:30)</b>  1. New Technologies for Disease Control and Elimination 2. Preparedness and Lessons Learned from Outbreaks 3. Emerging Trends of Antimicrobial Resistance in Africa 4. Strategies for Scaling Up Diagnostics		<b>ORAL ABSTRACT PRESENTATIONS (11:00 – 12:30)</b>  1. Emerging Epidemics of Silent Killers in Africa 2. Novel Approaches in Cancer Diagnostics and Surveillance 3. Solutions in the Fight Against Neglected Tropical Disease 4. Surveillance and Outbreaks: Containment of a Plague	
12:30			<b>LUNCH (on own)</b> <b>Poster Sessions (12:30 – 13:30)</b> <b>POSTER</b>	<b>Oral Posters</b> 1. Quality and Biosafety 2. Role of Laboratory Networks in Disease Detection and Outbreak Preparedness	<b>LUNCH (on own)</b> <b>Poster Sessions (12:30 – 13:30)</b> <b>POSTER</b>	<b>Oral Posters</b> 1. Epidemiology and Detection of Chronic Diseases in Africa 2. Special Haematology Issues
13:30			<b>SPECIAL SESSION (13:30 – 15:00)</b>  <b>Global Health Security: Needs for Africa</b> Moderator: Zoë Mullan, The Lancet Global Health  <u>Speakers: 6 maximum on stage including moderator</u> Kevin De Cock, Keith Klugman, Jordan Tappero, Matshidiso Moeti, Prof. Isaac Folorunso Adewole, Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi		<b>SPECIAL SESSION (13:30 – 15:00)</b>  <b>Non-Communicable Diseases and Laboratory Medicine in Africa</b> Moderator: Justine Davies, The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology  <u>Speakers: 6 maximum on stage</u> Wafaa El-Sadr, Eric Goosby, Blair Holladay, Minister Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu, Dr. Sujha Subramanian	
					<b>SYMPOSIA (13:30 – 15:00)</b>  1. Quality Management Systems and Patient Care in Africa Co-Conveners: Nontombi Mbelle, NHLS; Fausta Moshia, MOH Tanzania  2. Strengthening the Interface between Diagnostics and Care: Scaling up HIV Viral Load Co-Conveners: Shannon Hader, CDC Atlanta; Wendy Stevens, NHLS  3. Updates on SLIPTA and Accreditation Co-Conveners: Trevor Peter, ASLM; Emmanuel	

					Idigbe, Nigeria NIMR	
	<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b> (14:00 – 16:00) Welcome					
14:30						
15:00		<b>BREAK</b> (15:00 – 15:30)	<b>BREAK</b> (15:00 – 15:30)	<b>BREAK</b> (15:00 – 15:30)		
15:30	Ambassador Deborah Birs, US Global AIDS Coordinator Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu, Minister of Health, Ethiopia Dr. Osagie Ehanire, Minister of State for Health, Nigeria Mr. Bahar Abu Garda, Minister of Health, Sudan Dr. Ali M. Elbireer, ASLM CEO  Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health, South Africa <b>Keynote Address</b> Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa	<b>SYMPOSIA</b> (15:30 – 16:30)  1. Antimicrobial Resistance: A Global Threat <b>Co-Conveners:</b> Keith Klugman, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Iruka Okeke, University of Ibadan  2. Global Health Security, Public Health Institutes, and Laboratory Networks <b>Co-Conveners:</b> Isatta Wurie, Sierra Leone; Jordan Tappero, CDC Atlanta	<b>Late Breaking Oral Sessions</b> (15:30 – 16:30)  1. Late Breaking News for Global Health Emergencies  2. Maximizing Public Health Impact Through Improved Diagnostic Access and Use	<b>SYMPOSIA</b> (15:30 – 16:30) 1. Sleeping Giants Awakening: Viral Hepatitis and cancers in Africa: Epidemiology, diagnostic, and management <b>Co-Conveners:</b> Stefan Wiktor, WHO Geneva; Richard Njouom, Institut Pasteur Cameroon  2. Strengthening Systems for Pathology in Africa: leapfrogging to meet the needs <b>Co-Conveners:</b> Blair Holladay, ASCP; Doreen Ramogola- Masire, Botswana- UPenn Partnership	<b>Late Breaking Oral Sessions</b> (15:30 – 16:30)  Partnerships in Achieving Global Health Security	<b>CLOSING SESSION</b> (15:30 – 16:30)  Opening Remarks: <b>Prof. Wendy Stevens</b> <b>Prof. Anthony Emeribe</b>  Rapporteur Summaries • GHS A Rapporteur (TBD) • GHS B Rapporteur (TBD) • Partnerships Rapporteur (Mah-Sere Keita) • NCDs Rapporteur (Julie Ndasi)  <b>ASLM AWARDS CEREMONY</b> (16:30 – 17:30) Award Presentations Address by Lifetime Achievement Award Winner  <b>CLOSING RECEPTION</b> (17:30 – 19:00)
16:00	<b>OPENING RECEPTION</b> (16:00 – 17:30)	<b>BREAK</b> (16:30 – 17:00)	<b>BREAK</b> (16:30 – 17:00)			
16:00		<b>ROUND TABLES</b> (17:00 – 18:30)  1. HIV Laboratory Services for 90/90/90: Lessons from the HIV Impact Assessments. <b>Co-Conveners:</b> Jessica Justman, ICAP; Mah-Sere Keita, ASLM 2. Reconstruction of Health Systems Post- Ebola: Three Years Later <b>Co-Conveners:</b> Lucy Maryogo- Robinson, APHL; Dr. Foday Dfafe, Disease Prevention and Control, Ministry of Health and Sanitation 3. Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Preparedness and Networks <b>Co-Conveners:</b> Mick Mulders, WHO Geneva; Cheryl Cohen, National Institute for Communicable Diseases	<b>ROUND TABLES</b> (17:00 – 18:30)  4. Diagnostics for the future: integrated management of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and infectious diseases <b>Co-conveners:</b> Rosanna Peeling, LSHTM; Lawrena Okoro, Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria 5. Laboratory Medicine: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals and Health Economics <b>Co-Conveners:</b> Justine Davies, The Lancet; Philip Onyenbujoh, WHO AFRO 6. Non-Communicable Disease Pathology in Africa Jeannette Guarner, Emory University; Babatyi Malope-Kgokong			
18:30 – 20:30			<b>SPECIAL GUEST RECEPTION with ASLM Updates</b> (By Invitation Only)			



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