

## Questions and Answers

**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 ASL Science Webinar: From the Lab to the Market place: ABCs of Diagnostic Product Development**

by

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**Q1: Do we have fellowship/capacity building on the same?**

*Response:* Yes, IPD and Stellenbosch university established African STARS training programs on biomanufacturing with the support of MasterCard Foundation (<https://www.starsfellows.africa/fr/apply/>)

**Q2: Under the medical production phases: phases, phase 1: concept & feasibility. is this section for the funder or for the intended country? example countries from Africa they need such production but due to financial limitation, it is not effective though the intended produced material could have high feasibility on the other hand, funders they do have their own interest. So, how can you explain.**

*Response :*All development phases are for the manufacturer to conduct and control. However, funders may decide which phases they want to support.

**Q3: It has been said that one of the key opportunities to improve access to in vitro diagnostics (IVDs) is the use of lateral flow assays (LFAs). Indeed, LFAs can support rapid and decentralized testing, particularly during disease outbreaks and pandemics—as demonstrated during the COVID-19 response.**

However, in the context of routine primary healthcare development, LFAs may not always be the preferred option due to concerns around the quality and reliability of test results. Primary healthcare is not solely focused on outbreaks and emergencies; the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) also requires accurate and reliable diagnostics.

**Given this, what is your perspective on the appropriate role of lateral flow assays in strengthening diagnostic capacity at the primary healthcare level?**

*Response:* It is true that RDT may show lower performance than standard laboratory methods but recent advances in bio nanotechnology contributed to enhancing the performance. The integration of isothermal amplification into LFAs and the use of enhanced nanoparticles combined with readers are good examples. On the other hand, the true value of LFAs relies in their abilities to be user-friendly; portable and affordable (see ASSURED criteria from Prof. Rosanna Peeling). They can be used at home or in remote testing, several times during the disease course, allowing them to outperform standard diagnostics performance.

**Q4: Thank you very much for the presentation**

**Please share the presentation and details on fellowship/ training opportunities**

*Response: No problem, presentation will be shared. See Q1 for training opportunities*

**Q5: Do we have fellowship/capacity building on the same?**

*Response: Thank you Festus for the question. Once in a while opportunities arise and can be found in the IPD or collaborating partners websites. For Example this one <https://africacdc.org/event/call-for-applications-biomanufacturing-fellowship-programme/> (But please note the deadline has passed)*