Background

The Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) is a network of international partners dedicated to accelerating and expanding access to quality assured laboratory services in response to the diagnostic challenges of tuberculosis (TB), notably HIV-associated and drug-resistant TB. The GLI provides a focus for TB within the framework of a multi-faceted yet integrated approach to laboratory capacity strengthening. Scaling up laboratory services to meet the diagnostic challenges of drug-resistant and HIV-associated TB require a paradigm shift in laboratory policy development, setting laboratory norms and standards, guiding and coordinating technical assistance, and accelerating knowledge transfer.

In recognition of the critical constraints of TB diagnostics and laboratory services, unprecedented efforts in improving and expanding TB laboratory capacity are currently under-way, spearheaded by the WHO, GLI and a network of international partners. At the same time, the TB diagnostics pipeline is growing, new technologies are regularly assessed by WHO leading to rapid policy development and deployment, urgently addressing the issue of sustained and expanded technical support from international technical and funding partners, representatives from research organizations, non-governmental agencies, country TB control programmes, patient communities and other key stakeholders working in partnership. The meeting will highlight achievements and experiences of GLI Partners and countries improving laboratory services and advancing new diagnostics for TB.

Meeting Objectives

- Disseminate developments in WHO policy guidance on TB diagnostics, laboratory biosafety and accreditation;
- Provide an update on TB diagnostics pipeline and the potential impact of new technologies on laboratory strengthening efforts in different epidemiological and resource settings;
- Review progress with implementation of GLI projects including EXPAND-TB and TBXpert Projects;
- Discuss the need of scaling up technical assistance to countries for effective strengthening of laboratory networks;
- Share lessons learned and challenges for wide-scale implementation of Xpert MTB/RIF;
- Update country and technical partner plans for scale-up of Xpert MTB/RIF to ensure effective use of resources and identify possible synergies; and
- Evaluate the status of the SRL network and its activities.

Expected outcomes

- GLI partners are informed on the priority areas for TB laboratory strengthening;
- Update on GLI Partner support for global laboratory strengthening initiatives;
- Roll-out of Xpert MTB/RIF in different epidemiological and resource settings: lessons learned, impact and future plans;
- Roadmap for expanding activities of the SRLN in view of technical assistance requirements of linked countries; and
- Refined mechanisms for co-ordinating the SRLN activities.

Participants

The meeting will include representatives from international institutions and initiatives, academic institutions and associations, high-burden TB country health programmes, non-governmental organizations, research institutes from developed and developing countries, industry representatives and funding agencies.

### SESSION 1: ADVANCEMENTS IN TB DIAGNOSTICS AND NEW GLI TOOLS

**Chair:** Tom Shinnick

- **9:25** Achievements of the GLI and tools under development; Progress in reaching the targets of the Global Plan to Stop TB

- **10:00** Advancements in TB diagnostics
  - **Update on WHO TB diagnostics policies**
  - **New diagnostics pipeline**

- **10:30** Uganda SRL achievement

- **11:10** TB Laboratory accreditation
  - Approaches to improving lab quality
  - Country experiences in working towards accreditation: Uganda national reference laboratory
  - Uganda SRL achievement
  - Laboratory network accreditation
  - Country experiences in working towards

**Break**

- **10:40** Uganda SRL achievement

**Break**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:20</td>
<td>Xpert MTB/RIF global roll-out update</td>
<td>Fuad Mirzayev</td>
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<td>9:20-9:40</td>
<td>Country experiences, impact and plans</td>
<td>Drauira Barreira, Wendy Stevens</td>
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<td>9:40-10:00</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td>Global initiatives to roll-out Xpert MTB/RIF, including TBxpert and EXPAND-TB projects</td>
<td>Wayne van Gemert, Amy Placek</td>
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<td>10:30-10:50</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>10:50-11:10</td>
<td>Cost effectiveness of Xpert MTB/RIF in different diagnostic algorithms</td>
<td>Andrea Pantoja</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>11:30-11:50</td>
<td>Country experiences, impact and plans (cont’d)</td>
<td>Andrei Mosneaga, Zhao Yanlin,</td>
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<td>11:50-12:10</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Nguyen Van Hung, Celia Carlos</td>
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<td>12:10-12:30</td>
<td>COST EFFECTIVENESS OF XPERT MTB/RIF IN DIFFERENT DIAGNOSTIC ALGORITHMS</td>
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<td>12:30-12:50</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>13:00-14:30</td>
<td>MSF projects: roll-out of Xpert MTB/RIF</td>
<td>Martina Casenghi</td>
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<td>14:30-15:15</td>
<td>TB REACH – wave 2 results</td>
<td>Jacob Creswell</td>
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<td>15:15-15:30</td>
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<td>15:50-16:00</td>
<td>MSF projects: roll-out of Xpert MTB/RIF</td>
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<td>16:30-16:45</td>
<td>TB REACH – wave 2 results</td>
<td>Jacob Creswell</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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**Supranational Reference Laboratory Network Consultation**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Chair: Sabin Ruesch- Gerdes</th>
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<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Current status of the SRLN, priorities and challenges</td>
<td>Chris Gilpin</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>15:15</td>
<td>Presentation of activities from 4 SRLs:</td>
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<td>16:15</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>16:30-16:45</td>
<td>DST proficiency testing:</td>
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**Global Forum of Xpert MTB/RIF Implementers**

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<tr>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
<td>Facilitated discussion: What is needed to assist country uptake of new GLI tools</td>
<td>Amy Placek</td>
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<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td>EXPAND-TB Project overview</td>
<td>Daniel Orozco</td>
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<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td>EXPAND-TB country experiences</td>
<td>C.N. Paramasivan, Gulmira Kalambetova, Sarah Eyangoh, Sofia Viegas</td>
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<td>Research priorities for the SRLN</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>15:30-16:00</td>
<td>Options for Improving the functioning of the network</td>
<td>Chris Gilpin</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>16:30-16:45</td>
<td>GLI CORE GROUP MEETING (closed session)</td>
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