To help ensure that laboratories can continue to effectively play their critical role in the prevention, detection, and control of diseases, laboratory directors and senior laboratory managers worldwide need specialized training in leadership and management.1,2

Towards this end, leading organisations are partnering to develop a Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP) targeting human and animal health laboratories, as well as laboratories with public health impact (e.g. environmental, agricultural, food, or chemical laboratories). The partners include:

• The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
• The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
• The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
• The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
• The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
• The World Health Organization (WHO)

Building global consensus on laboratory leadership competencies will help harmonize education and training programmes and speed their uptake by implementing agencies.3

The Laboratory Leadership Competency Framework4

International experts agree that laboratory leaders need certain core competencies to meet national, regional, and global disease prevention and control objectives. The GLLP encapsulates these in nine core competencies:

• Laboratory System
• Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Investigation
• Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery
• Biosafety and Biosecurity
• Leadership
• Management
• Communication
• Quality Management System
• Research

OUR GOAL: Foster and mentor current and emerging laboratory leaders to build, strengthen, and sustain national laboratory systems.

GLLP Learning Package

These core competencies will guide the development of the forthcoming GLLP learning package, which will provide the materials necessary to implement programs in any country or educational institution in the world, including:

• Competency framework
• Core course materials
• Guidance for programme development, planning, implementation and evaluation

A flexible programme, GLLP may be adapted to meet country-specific workforce needs.

For more information

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References:

3 Adilya Albetkova; Critical gaps in laboratory leadership to meet global health security goals, Bull World Health Organ, Volume 95, Number 8, August 2017, pages 547-547A. http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.17.195883.