Skill sets for NTD Diagnostic Technical Advisory Group

NOTE: In some cases, multiple skill sets may be possessed by a single individual

- Understanding of the epidemiology of and strategies for preventive chemotherapy diseases
  - Epidemiological characteristics and distribution of the disease and how this might impact testing needs
  - Stages of the programme that require diagnostics and how this might impact testing needs
  - Sampling strategies used by programmes and how this might impact required test characteristics

- Understanding of the epidemiology of and strategies for innovative and intensified disease management diseases
  - Epidemiological characteristics and distribution of the disease and how this might impact testing needs
  - Stages of the programme that require diagnostics and how this might impact testing needs
  - Key control interventions and surveillance of diseases and corresponding diagnostic needs
  - Sampling strategies used by programmes and how this might impact required test characteristics

- Understanding of the epidemiology of and strategies for zoonotic diseases
  - Distribution of the disease and how this might impact testing needs
  - Stages of the programme that require diagnostics and how this might impact testing needs
  - Sampling strategies used by programmes and how this might impact required test characteristics
  - If animal testing is required, and a veterinarian is not a member, it would be important for the person to understand special considerations for testing a particular species of animal

- Understanding of the epidemiology of and strategies for vector-borne diseases
  - Distribution of the disease and how this might impact testing needs
  - Stages of the programme that require diagnostics and how this might impact testing needs
  - Sampling strategies used by programmes and how this might impact required test characteristics

- Entomologist
  - Testing of vector infections (sandflies, mosquitoes and blackflies) should be considered

- Epidemiologist
  - Likely to be covered by the 1st 4 skill sets, but may want a non-NTD epidemiologist to bring in novel ideas from other areas
- Expertise in hospital epidemiology
- Laboratory professionals (lab technician, lab technologist etc)
  - Preferably with experience both in laboratory and field diagnostics
  - Experience in laboratory quality assurance mechanisms
- NTD programme manager and public health expert
- Someone with experience with regulatory aspects of new diagnostic development (e.g. someone recently involved in the roll out of a new diagnostic)
- Someone with experience with targeted approaches to new diagnostic development (e.g. omics: genomics, proteomics, metabolomics)
- Someone with experience developing new diagnostics from outside the NTD space (e.g. from malaria or vaccine preventable diseases)
- Immunologist
  - Someone who can give input considerations for tests that will be used in specific populations (e.g. children)
- Clinician with experience in NTD diagnostic issues
- Diagnostic experts with research/academic and field experience in NTD diagnostics development, implementation and evaluation
- Clinical health systems experts or Health care systems engineering

Other potential skill sets
- Veterinarian (depends on whether animal testing is expected to be important)
- Statistician (to discuss impact on performance characteristics on sampling methods, this may be better as an ad-hoc technical advisor)