Guideline Development Group meeting to Molecular assays intended as initial tests for the diagnosis of pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB in adults and children. Policy Update

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Dr Schünemann is chair of the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact at McMaster University. He began his research career in respiratory and exercise physiology as a medical student in the Department of Physiology at the Medical School of Hannover and with an award from the German government at the University at Buffalo (UB), State of New York. He is trained in internal medicine, epidemiology and preventive medicine. Having contributed to over 500 peer-reviewed publications (across a broad area of health care questions), he has been named by Thomson Reuters as one of the most influential 3,000 scientific minds of current times across scientific disciplines. He is co-chair of the GRADE working group, co-director of the World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating centre for evidence informed policy-making, the director of Cochrane Canada, a member of the Guidelines International Network Board of Trustees, the Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR), the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group, and several other committees. He led or participated in numerous high profile guideline panels, including for the WHO, the American College of Physicians, American Thoracic Society, the World Allergy Organization and he was a key contributor to the revised methods for WHO guideline development in 2006. For the past 16 years, he has been advisor to ministries of health, other governmental organizations and professional societies for their guideline programs. His work also focuses on practical application of his work by researchers and clinicians through contributions to the guideline development tool (www.gradepro.org), the guideline checklist (cebgrade.mcmaster.ca/guidecheck.html) and GRADE evidence to decision frameworks (www.decide-collaboration.eu). Maintaining an active clinical practice fulfils his passion for patient care and ensures his research is people-oriented.
ARAKAKI-SANCHEZ, Denise

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Dr Arakaki-Sanchez is a public health doctor from Brazil who undertook additional studies in infection, tropical medicine, health system management, monitoring & evaluation. Since 2016 she has been the general coordinator of the Brazilian TB programme at the Ministry of Health. In the past she held different positions, including most recently TB consultant for PAHO in Brazil (2011-2015), technical advisor for the National TB programme (2009-2011) and national AIDS programme (2002-2005), advisor and later director of programmes for the International Centre for Aids Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP)/Mailman School of Public Health / Columbia University in Mozambique (2005-2009).

ANNAPOORNI, Mercy

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Mercy is an Executive Director for an Indian non-profit organization, Blossom Trust. Her programs are focused on the health and community involvement of marginalized individuals, primarily women and children. She is also an active member of a variety of different boards, primarily based on health related topics such as Tuberculosis.

BRANIGAN, David

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David Branigan is the TB Project Officer at Treatment Action Group (TAG) in New York, where he leads TAG’s TB diagnostics advocacy portfolio, researches the latest developments
in TB diagnostics, and engages external partners and affected communities to advocate for equitable access to TB diagnostics. He previously worked as a journalist covering intellectual property and global health policy, and as a researcher in the field of economic and social rights. David holds an MS in International Affairs from The New School, and has more than a decade of experience working in international development.

CHAKAYA, Jeremiah Muhwa

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Dr Chakaya has been a leader in TB control throughout his career, in his home country of Kenya and on the global stage. Until recently the Chief Research Officer for the Kenya Medical Research Institute, he has led the National TB Control Programme as its head from 2003 to 2006 and continues to act as a technical expert for the National Programme. Dr. Chakaya is President of the Board of Directors of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. Until recently, he was the chief research officer for the Kenya Medical Research Institute, and led the National TB Control Programme as its head from 2003 to 2006, and continues to act as a technical expert for the National Programme. Dr. Chakaya is also technical advisor and executive director of the Kenya Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. On the international stage, Dr. Chakaya has been active in both the Stop TB partnership and at the World Health Organization, serving as the chair of the DOTS Expansion Working Group of the STOP TB Partnership as well as chair of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis at WHO.

HALL, Patricia

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Dr Hall is a Team Lead in TB and Clinical Monitoring Team in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Got her PhD degree in 2015, Emory University; Microbiology and Molecular Genetics; Magna Cum Laude. Dr Hall is providing expertise to international public health laboratories, national tuberculosis (TB) control programs, and Ministries of Health (MOH) on the implementation, routine use, monitoring and evaluation, and targeted improvement of diagnostic tests and algorithms for the detection of TB. She is proactively proposing, designing, conducting, and overseeing the implementation of experiments in a CAP-accredited, BSL3 TB laboratory to support quality assurance of TB laboratory activities for partner countries. Serving as an ILB-appointed laboratory liaison and TB/ HIV laboratory subject matter expert, for collaborative quarterly reviews of data from seven PEPFAR DGHT country programs. Functioning as a subject matter expert and ILB point of contact for seven DGHT TB laboratory initiatives supported by the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) in India and the US National Action Plan to Combat Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB) in China and Mexico. Serving as a member of the US Government TB Working Group, PEPFAR Laboratory Technical Working Group, PEPFAR Diagnostics Working Group, Stop TB Partnership TB REACH Proposal Review Committee, and Stop TB Partnership Global Laboratory Initiative’s TB Connectivity Task Force to strengthen international TB laboratory systems with national and global partner agencies and organizations. Served as an international TB laboratory expert for (i) a WHO-coordinated review of the 2nd National Namibian TB and Leprosy Programme Strategic Plan and (ii) a joint US Government – Global Fund mission to design a national TB/ HIV integrated sample referral network for Nigeria with MOH stakeholders.

HAAS de, Petra

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KNCV consultant Petra de Haas worked for close to 20 years at the Mycobacteria department at the National institute of public Health in the Netherlands (RIVM), as a laboratory manager and as researcher in the development of new diagnostics and the epidemiology for tuberculosis. In 2007 she started as a TB/HIV laboratory manager in the ZAMSTAR project, were she was based in Zambia via the London school of Hygiène and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). When she returned to the Netherlands she worked as a laboratory advisor for doctors without borders (MSF) for two year after
which she joined KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV) in 2015 as Laboratory Technical Advisor. In this role she is providing technical assistance and advise on laboratory network systems through National TB programs and other TB partners within countries KNCV is involved in. The role of technical advisors at KNCV is to ensure that countries are up to date with new guidelines and endorsed diagnostic tools and support them with the implementation of these new tools and help with future strategic planning to reach the END TB strategy.

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Rumina Hasan has acquired FRC degree in pathology from Royal College of Pathologists, UK in 2000; PhD in Immunology from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London in 1990; MSc from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and The Royal Post Graduate Medical School, University of London, in 1983 and MBBS, University College Hospital, University of London in 1980. She has research interests in Tuberculosis and Antimicrobial resistance. Currently she maintains position of Professor in Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, The Aga Khan University, Pakistan.

JOLOBA, Moses
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Prof. Moses Joloba used to be a Chair of the Department of Medical Microbiology, Makerere University College of Health Sciences. He is the current Head of Laboratories and also heads the appointments and promotions committee of the department. Dr Joloba completed his MbChB at Makerere University
Medical School, Kampala, Uganda, in 1994, did his Master of Science in Microbiology in 1996 and PhD in Molecular Microbiology 2003 at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, in 2001, he joined Makerere University College of Health Sciences as a faculty member, and in 2003 he established the Molecular Biology laboratory in the Department of Medical Microbiology. This laboratory focused on TB research and in 2006, molecular detection of MTC infections as a routine was introduced for the first time in Ugandan research labs. Dr Joloba has won grants from WHO/TDR, SIDA-SAREC, NIH, EDCTP and the European Union for TB research ranging from basic to applied and clinical. His research focus is bacterial quorum sensing, TB-molecular epidemiology and drug resistance.

KUMARASAMY, Nagalineswaran

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Dr. N. Kumarasamy is a clinician and a researcher in infectious diseases with more than 20 years’ experience in the field of HIV medicine. He is the Chief Medical Officer at YRGCARE Medical Centre, and directs the clinic which provides medical care for more than 20,000 people with HIV in Chennai, southern India. He is the Chief and Site Leader of the Chennai Antiviral Research and Treatment clinical research site (CART) of the US National Institutes of Health, which conduct multisite clinical trials on therapeutics (ACTG) and prevention (HPTN). He is also involved as Clinical Investigator in several ongoing clinical research projects with the University of California, San Diego, and Brown University.

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Leen Rigouts graduated as a Master in Biological Science in 1987, and successfully completed a postgraduate course on Tropical Medicine (ITM) in 1988. In 1989 she joined the Unit of Mycobacteriology at ITM, and executed various studies on serological diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB),
identification of mycobacteria by fatty-acid analyses, and molecular epidemiology of bovine and human TB. The latter was the subject of her PhD thesis defended in 2000. Since then she supervised and accomplished studies covering various aspects of human and bovine TB. In 2011, part of the unit’s research collection became publically available through the ISO9001-certified BCCM/ITM mycobacterial culture collection, managed by Leen Rigouts. Since 2008 she is professor in tropical infectious diseases at the University of Antwerp (UA), and from the start at ITM she was mentor of many bachelor and master student. Under her promotorship, two students have graduated as PhD, and about 6 are currently being supervised and guided.

SHINNICK, Thomas

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Dr Shinnick is focused on understanding the biology, and genetics of the pathogenic mycobacteria, elucidating mechanisms of pathogenicity and drug resistance of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, developing rapid methods for the diagnosis of mycobacterial infections, using genotyping to support TB control programs and elucidate the dynamics of transmission. His programmatic work focuses on building laboratory capacity for the diagnosis of tuberculosis in resource-limited settings and in high burden countries. Got his PhD in 1978 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. Now he is an Independent TB Consultant.

TAHSEEN, Sabira

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Dr Sabira Tahseen is a TB laboratory expert, a medical graduate with specialization in clinical pathology. She started her professional carrier in 1989 and has remained affiliated with TB diagnostic laboratories since 1993. She joined National TB control Programme Pakistan in 2003 and is heading the National
TB reference laboratory. Her key contribution includes technical guidance for scale up of QA diagnostic services and successful implementation of National TB disease and drug resistance surveys. As Technical advisor (NTP), she provides guidance on policy making, planning for roll out of new diagnostics, programmatic management of drug resistant TB and surveillance of drug resistance. As a core group member of Global laboratory initiative (GLI) and regional Green Light Committee (rGLC) for Eastern Mediterranean region, she also contributes in the development of various handbooks and tools and international TB Review and monitoring missions.

__TAVORA, Ezio__

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Since 2015, Ezio is the Coordinator of the Community Engagement component of the STREAM study, by The Union/ Vital Strategies (VS) in Mongolia, Moldova, Georgia, India, South Africa, Uganda and Ethiopia, under USAID TREAT-TB grant. Has recently establish a Brazilian National TB CAB; is a member of the Global TB CAB since 2012; member of the REFLATE Scientific Committee; was a member of the CDC’s TB Trials Consortium (TBTC) Community Research Advisory Board (CRAG) for five years. He has long experience in Community Engagement in TB since 2002 both in Brazil and internationally. He has served in different International organizations and institutions: member of the Regional Green Light Committee by the Pan-American Health Organization (2011-12); member of the Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board (2006-09); served as the Country Focal Point to organize the Global TB Partners’ Forum in Rio de Janeiro in March 2009; member of the Brazilian NTP Technical Advisory Panel (2009-2012).

__TUDOR, Carrie__

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Dr Carrie Tudor, has worked in global health for nearly 20 years. She earned a BA from Indiana University, a MPH from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, and a BSN and PhD from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Following her PhD, she completed a Fogarty Global Health Post-doctoral research fellowship based at K-RITH in Durban, South Africa. Her research interests are focused on occupational risk factors for TB among healthcare workers and preventing TB in healthcare workers. She has published several articles on infection, prevention and control and occupational TB in healthcare workers. She is experienced in both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Dr Tudor is currently the TB Project Director for the International Council of Nurses (ICN) working to build the capacity of nurses related to TB/MDR-TB and patient-centered care in China, Russia, and six sub-Saharan African countries. Prior to joining ICN she was a Senior Research Coordinator at the John Hopkins University School of Medicine based in South Africa. She currently serves as the Chair of the Stop TB Partnership’s End TB Transmission Initiative working group and the Chair of the Nurses and Allied Professionals Sub-section of the Union.

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Anna Vassall is a health economist with around twenty years’ experience in economic analysis. Her first degree is in economics. She then worked in the NHS supporting funding/contracting. She then
took an MSc in Health Planning and Financing at the LSHTM, thereafter working for DFID as a health economist in the UK and Pakistan. This was followed by a period at Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) Amsterdam working on health planning and financing, aid effectiveness and the cost-effectiveness of tuberculosis and reproductive health in a wide range of low and middle income countries. Thereafter she directed and provided economic support to European Community and World Bank funded health sector reform and development projects in Yemen, East Timor, Syria and Sudan. Her PhD is in the economic evaluation of tuberculosis control. She has worked as an academic since 2010 (at LSHTM) specialising in research into the economics of HIV and TB, with a particular focus on health services and systems. She has published over 50 papers; and is a member of the TB modelling and analysis consortium (TB-MAC).

Associate professor Nguyen Viet Nhung is currently Director of the National Lung Hospital, Manager of the National Tuberculosis Control Program, President of the Vietnam Association against TB and Lung Diseases and Head of TB and Lung Diseases Faculty of Ha Noi Medical University, Viet Nam. Dr. Nhung is an active member of ATS, ESMO, IASLC and IUATLD. He obtained his medical degree from Hanoi Medical University and did his 3-year residency specialized in tuberculosis and lung diseases at the National Lung Hospital in Hanoi and completed his PhD scholarship in the Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic in 2000 with thesis on “the role of immunohistochemistry in typing and prognosis of lung cancer”. He was appointed as associate professor of the Ha Noi Medical University in 2012 and he is also a guest lecturer in Army Medical University, Hanoi School of Public Health. He has been a member of regional Green Light Committee (rGLC) Western Pacific from 2011-2015 and a current member of WHO Task Force on development of policies for the rational introduction of new TB drugs and a member of the WHO STAG TB from 2016. Prof Nhung research interests are primarily in the areas of lung cancer, tuberculosis, asthma and COPD. Since 2010, he is deputy editor in chief of National Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases. His research interests are primarily in the areas of TB, lung cancer, asthma and COPD and published 137 scientific articles, 45 scientific abstracts and 41 books.
ZHAO, Yanlin

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