PUBLIC NOTICE

Guideline Development Group meeting to update the recommendations for the use of urine LAM assays in PLHIV

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Biographies of members of the Guideline Development Group

SCHÜNEMANN, Holger Jens

Constituency: GRADE methodologist and Chairman of the Guideline Development Group
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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.

ALEXANDER, Heather

Constituency: Technical expert, Laboratory specialist
Title: PhD
Heather Alexander joined the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2005. During her tenure as a microbiologist in the Division of TB Elimination, International Research and Programs Branch, Dr. Alexander worked with the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) to manage collaborative multidrug-resistant TB diagnostic evaluations and implementation studies in several countries including the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Nepal, and the Philippines, contributed to the development of WHO TB diagnostic policies, and conducted applied TB research in collaboration with DTBE’s Laboratory Branch. In 2010, Dr. Alexander joined the Division of Global HIV/AIDS (DGHA), International Laboratory Branch (ILB) as the Tuberculosis and Opportunistic Infections Unit Lead. In this capacity, she focused on improving access to and uptake of rapid and accurate TB/HIV laboratory diagnostic services in PEPFAR-supported countries through strategic planning; laboratory quality management systems strengthening; implementing and assessing the impact of new TB diagnostics; and improving linkages between diagnostic testing and TB and HIV treatment. In 2015, Dr. Alexander accepted a position as the CDC Division of Global HIV and Tuberculosis (DGHT) TB and Clinical Monitoring Team Lead, expanding her efforts in support of integrated, patient-centered diagnostic laboratory capacity building. Dr. Alexander received a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics from Emory University (Atlanta, USA) in 2004 and currently is completing a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at the same institution. She has been an active member of the GLI Core Group since 2011.

CHURCHYARD, Gavin John

Constituency: Technical expert, TB expert
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I am a specialist physician with a PhD in infectious disease epidemiology, internationally-renowned for my contributions in tuberculosis (TB). I am the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Aurum Institute NPC, an independent, not for profit, proudly South African, public benefit organization that
focuses on TB and HIV service delivery, management and research. I play a scientific leadership role with respect to TB in the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) and HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN). In the ACTG I am the Chair of the ACTG Transformative Science Group (TSG) for TB, a member of the ACTG Scientific Advisory Steering Committee, the Lead Chair of the PHOENix MDR TB (A5300) protocol evaluating treatment of latent TB infection with multidrug resistant TB using delamanid. Within the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, I am the Chair of the HVTN Network Evaluation Committee, co-Chair of the TB vaccine committee, member of the Scientific Governance Committee, I have served on the HVTN Protocol Committee, Concept Working Group and Efficacy trials working group. I am the Principal Investigator of the Aurum Clinical Trials Unit funded through the HVTN. I have initiated and led clinical trials evaluating TB drugs, vaccines and diagnostic and HIV vaccines. I was the principal investigator of a large cluster randomized trial of community-wide isoniazid preventive therapy among 80,000 South African gold miners, which is the largest trial of isoniazid preventive therapy ever conducted. I play a leadership role in developing national and international policy and guidelines. I was the Chair of the World Health Organization (WHO) Task Force for the Development of New Policies for the Treatment of TB. I was a member of the WHO Strategic Technical Advisory Group for TB. I was the past Chair the National TB Think Tank that advises the national department of health on TB policy, implementation and research. I have managed grants in excess of $260 million since 1998 that focus on TB and HIV service delivery, management and research and currently manage more than 3000 staff deployed in all nine provinces in South Africa, USA, Ghana and Mozambique. I have established an expansive clinical research infrastructure that includes four Clinical Trial Sites in Klerksdorp, Rustenburg, Tembisa and Welkom; 20 clinical research sites in gold mines, 9 in prisons and more than 80 primary health clinics. I have overseen the recruitment of more than 90,000 participants into TB and HIV related studies. I am strongly committed to building local research capacity and currently have nine PhD students at the Aurum Institute.

ENGLAND, Kathleen

Constituency: Technical experts, researcher
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Kathleen England began her career in TB research focused on drug discovery at Colorado State University (PhD, 2009) and the U.S. National Institutes of Health (Fellow, 2011). Over the past 8 years she pursued field support as a TB diagnostic and laboratory specialist under: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Stanford University School of Medicine, KNCV TB Foundation, and USAID funded projects. Currently, Kathleen promotes access to TB diagnosis and development of new technologies at affordable pricing for all populations under MSF Access Campaign.

HASAN Rumina

Constituency: Technical experts, Microbiologist  
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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.

HAVLIR, Diana

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The goal of my research is to develop therapeutic strategies to improve the lives of persons living with HIV, to reduce the global burden of HIV, and to advance public health in East Africa. Antiretroviral therapy is one of the greatest successes in medicine, yet we have not fully used it to eliminate HIV or
tuberculosis (TB). My current areas of focus include 1) optimal HIV treatment approaches in the US with special attention to vulnerable populations in San Francisco, 2) optimal treatment strategies for HIV and TB, including new TB drug agents, 3) strategies to reduce the burden of HIV and malaria in children and pregnant women, and 4) testing of innovative approaches to early treatment of HIV using a community-based multi-disease approach following 320,000 persons in Uganda and Kenya to benefit the overall health, education and economics of communities in East Africa in the SEARCH study.

SIKWESE, Kenly

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Kenly Sikwese worked in the private sector for 15 years before moving to the UK in 2001. He is motivated by the AIDS related death of his two brothers and his own HIV diagnosis 2003. Kenly joined the HIV movement in the UK with the Uganda AIDS Action Fund and Terrence Higgins Trust (East). Returning to Zambia in 2007, he has volunteered in HIV treatment at Our Lady’s Hospice and worked at the Zambian Action Against HIV and AIDS in Lusaka, and the Network of Zambian People Living with HIV (NZP+). At the NZP+ Kenly worked as the Country Coordinator implementing the PHIV Stigma Index and other research tools in partnership with GNP+ and World AIDS Campaign. He is a member of the African Community Advisory Board (AFROCAB) and collaborates with the Treatment Advocacy and Literacy Campaign to promote GIPA in the national HIV response. He has attended The National Institute for Public Administration (NIPA), Business School in Manchester, Thames Valley University, the Chainama College of Health Sciences and The Foundation for professional Development . He is a member of the International AIDS Society Steering Committee on Treatment as Prevention and a member of the Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund International Steering Committee among. He speaks in different forums on the issues affecting PLHIV among others. Kenly is married to his second wife Caroline and they have four children.

MUTHONI, Karanja Evelyn

Constituency: Technical experts, General Practitioner
Title: MD
Current position: Coordinator
Institutional affiliation: National AIDS and STI Control Program Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Dr Evelyn Muthoni Karanja is involved in policy development process and expert support of end-users within the Kenyan Ministry of Health.

KUMARASAMY, Nagalineswaran

Constituency: Technical experts, HIV clinician
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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 on-going clinical research projects with the University of California, San Diego, and Brown University.

ROSS QUIROGA, Gracia Violeta

Constituency: Affected communities, Former TB-HIV patient
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Current position: Elected National President
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HIV positive Advocate, Anthropologist, Speaker, Researcher on HIV, Gender and Violence, TB, Human Rights & UHC. Extensive experience with mass media in several topics such as: Access to Integral care and support; Stigma and Discrimination reduction; Human Rights of people living with HIV; Women, gender and HIV/AIDS; Travel restrictions for people living with HIV; Migration and HIV/AIDS; The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Latin America and the Caribbean; Faith Based Organizations in the context of
the HIV epidemic; Intellectual property issues and access to medications; Market dynamics on HIV, TB and Malaria.

STEvens, Wendy

Constituency: Technical experts / TB / Laboratory Expert
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Professor Stevens is currently Professor and Head of the Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology at the University of the Witwatersrand and the National Health laboratory Service (NHLS) the largest haematology department in South Africa. Her research efforts have been largely focussed in HIV for the past 15 years and this can be supported by over 200 peer reviewed publications and as many conference presentations. She has contributed significantly to the development of capacity for affordable, accessible HIV diagnosis and monitoring in South Africa and over 60 centres in sub-Saharan Africa. Research activities have included the expansion of early infant diagnosis of HIV, affordable viral load, CD4 and investigation of HIV drug resistance. In 2006, she received an award from the National department of Science and Technology for her contribution to the development of laboratory capacity in Southern Africa. In 2013, She won the NHLS awards for innovation, service excellence and the Best NHLS laboratory. She has been an advisor to and investigator for the following HIV research networks: the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) (New York), the HIV VaccineTrials Network (HVTN)(NIH funded, Seattle), the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG)(NIH funded), the Microbicide Development Program (UK based funding), amongst others.

Tudor, Carrie

Constituency: Groups affected by potential recommendations, Nurse
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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.

VASSALL, Anna

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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).