



Accelerating Access to Diagnostics

ASLM2021 Satellite Session

Sponsor

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Chatham House, UK

Date and Time

17 November 2021, 6PM-7PM GMT

Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased awareness of the importance of diagnostics not just within the health care sector but also the general population. Yet access to quality-assured diagnostics for diseases of public health importance is often delayed or blocked by gaps, unnecessary duplications, and barriers along the bench-to-bedside pathway of development, evaluation, regulatory approval, policy development and implementation. The length and current complexity of this access pathway substantially increases developer costs and lowers the impact that the diagnostic can have on patients' outcomes and disease control, including epidemic response and overuse of antibiotics.

To address this problem, Wellcome Trust and Innovate UK funded the Accelerated Diagnostics Access Project (ADAP) led by London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Chatham House focused on accelerating the uptake of diagnostics in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). ADAP will explore opportunities to decrease the time that it takes for test evaluation, licensing and introduction to use, and thereby accelerate access to diagnostics in LMICs. ADAP will also examine options to leverage the substantial progress that has been made in this area for medicines and vaccines in recent years.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the bench-to-bedside access pathway for diagnostic development, evaluation and implementation
- Be aware of the gaps, duplications and barriers along the access pathway
- Describe some of the options for accelerating access, taking into consideration the mechanisms used to accelerate access to medicines and vaccines in recent years

Target Audience

Policy makers, regulators, medical technicians/scientists, diagnostic companies

Session Programme

Presenter & Affiliation	Title
Prof. David Heymann Professor of Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Accelerating Diagnostic Access
Yenew Kebede Tebeje Head of Laboratory Systems, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention	COVID-19 Testing: why does it matter?
Ilesh Jani Director General, Instituto Nacional de Saúde, Mozambique	Diagnostics for endemic and epidemic infectious diseases: a country's perspective
Dr. Noah Fongwen London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; Innovation Hub, Africa CDC	Perspective from other regions: what we can learn