



## **The Role of Diagnostic Integration in Strengthening Laboratory Systems**

ASLM2021 Satellite Session

### **Sponsor**

ASLM Laboratory System Strengthening Community of Practice (LabCoP)

### **Date and Time**

18 November 2021, 7AM-9AM GMT

### **Summary**

The Maputo Declaration envisioned diagnostic integration as the consolidation and coordination of existing diagnostic infrastructure and supportive systems for multiple disease programs to improve and sustain access to laboratory services. The COVID-19 pandemic response has demonstrated the importance of test integration as many countries were able to scale up testing using existing HIV/TB infrastructure. Therefore, identifying practical, cost- and efficient solutions while ensuring the quality of care is ever more critical, especially in the reality of limited funding for global health.

An assessment of few countries by the ASLM LabCoP demonstrates that testing integration with valuable lessons and experiences exist on how integrated testing approaches have been implemented to improve health outcomes for HIV/TB/HPV/ COVID-19 and other diseases. However, to date, we lack a formal way of defining and measuring the success of diagnostic integration as an intervention to improve diagnostic networks and patient outcomes. The ASLM LabCoP is piloting an integration readiness assessment tool based on a capability maturation model to help countries identify gaps in critical components of integration and develop solutions to address them to successfully integrate testing services to improve diagnostic networks and clinical outcomes. Using the case of molecular testing, this session focuses on diagnostic integration as an intervention for the empowerment of diagnostic networks to address the unmet need for essential testing to attain better health outcomes, UHC, IHR targets, among others. We will share some highlights on test integration from our recent country visits and explore the perspectives of multiple stakeholders (manufacturers, donors, implementing agencies, disease program managers and health workers) on how we can facilitate and measure the success of testing integration at the national level.

**Goal**

To promote understanding of why and how mapping and network optimization can be powerful ways to design a diagnostic network and strengthen the lab system for public health impact

**Target Audience**

Government officials, programme managers, laboratorians, funders and donors, implementing partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), clinicians, diagnostic suppliers, and civil society.

**Speakers**

- Nqobile Ndlovu (ASLM)
- Robert Luo (WHO)
- Paolo Maggiore (CHAI)
- Anyelwisy Kabuje (Ministry of Health, Tanzania)
- Adjima Combary (Ministry of Health, Burkina Faso)
- Collins Otieno Odhiambo (ASLM)
- Jesse Wambugu (Hologic)
- Francesco Marinucci (Abbott)
- Jonathon Keytel (Roche Diagnostics)
- Philippe Jacon (Cepheid)
- Smiljka de Lussigny (Unitaid)
- Pascale Ondo (ASLM)