



All hands on deck to improve Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response

ASLM2021 Symposium 6

Co-convenors

- **Thomas Nyirenda**, European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership
- **Leonard Peruski**, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Summary

In 1998, the WHO African region adopted a strategy called Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR). The IDSR framework is designed to make surveillance and laboratory data more usable and timelier to improve detection and response to the leading causes of illness, death, and disability in African countries. While significant progress has been made within IDSR, the recent pandemic and major outbreaks have revealed systematic weaknesses in existing national disease control and surveillance systems. Successful approaches and solutions to this challenge require meaningful participation of a broad range of multisectoral stakeholders spanning the private, academic, and governmental sectors that are critical to developing approaches and innovative solutions necessary for improving ISDR and making it more responsive and effective at all levels.

To address some of these issues, the Africa CDC established the Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Network (RISLNET) to coordinate and integrate all public health laboratory's surveillance and emergency response assets, including public health data, to effectively support prevention and rapid detection and response to current and emerging public health threats within defined geographic regions of Africa. The RISLNET facilitates close networking among national public health institutes (NPHIs), academic institutions, private and public laboratories, centres of excellence, non-governmental and civil society organisations, and veterinary networks for the development and implementation of regionally appropriate plans for antimicrobial resistance, pandemic preparedness, rapid response, etc. It promotes partnerships and collaboration on public health research, training, knowledge exchange and experience sharing at the regional level in Africa.

Symposium seeks to address the following topics:

- How to ensure that excellence within existing research and public health networks can structurally contribute to disease surveillance and public health intervention? What are the barriers? What can be done differently?

- Who should be setting research priorities for research around infectious diseases? What is the responsibility of external donors in this decision-making process?
- How can national policymakers demand more relevant research to inform the surveillance and the epidemic response that can impact the health of Africans?
- Can the capacity of the private laboratories/ industry/not for profit be harnessed to the national routine surveillance systems?

Session Programme

Presenter & Affiliation	Title
Thomas Nyirenda (European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership)	Welcome, introduction and opening remarks
Dr Aliou Barry (Institut Pasteur de Dakar)	Leveraging the excellence of Institut Pasteur Dakar to supporting national sentinel syndromic surveillance in Senegal
Raji Tajudeen (Africa CDC)	Setting research priorities for research around infectious diseases
Mohammed Lamorde (Infectious Diseases Institute, Makerere Uganda)	Driving national policy for more relevant research to inform surveillance and the epidemic response
Eili Klein (CDDEP)	Harnessing the capacity of the private laboratories/ industry/not for profit for surveillance and response
All session participants	Question/Answer panel discussion
Leonard Peruski (US CDC)	Summary and closing remarks