First meeting of experts on biomarkers to discriminate bacterial from other infectious causes of acute fever

A meeting convened by WHO, ReAct, MSF Access Campaign and FIND was held in Geneva on 22-23 Sept. 2015, gathering together more than 50 biomarker scientists, policymakers, implementers, clinical trialists and industry partners. It was the first biomarker-focused conference to bring together such a wide diversity of stakeholders representing the full “bench to bedside” pathway for acute fever diagnostics. The meeting generated important momentum in identifying the tools and resources needed to accelerate development of a point-of-care diagnostic assay for detecting bacterial infections in patients presenting with acute fever in low-resource settings. Read more...

Latest malaria RDT lot-testing results now available

The mid-year 2015 malaria lot testing results are now available. During the first 6 months of this year, lot testing centres screened malaria RDT lots representing approximately 140 million tests meant for distribution in about 50 malaria-endemic countries. Among the products tested, lots from two different products were rejected for failing to meet required performance cut-offs for \textit{P. vivax} detection (at 200 parasites/\mu L). The percentage of all malaria RDTs procured through global health mechanisms that meet WHO criteria has now reached 92\%, a significant improvement since lot testing and product testing began in 2007. Read more...

Why microbial diagnostics need more than money

In the Correspondence section of this month’s issue of \textit{Nature Biotechnology}, our Chairman, Mark Kessel, addresses ideas presented by Aaron Kesselheim and his colleagues in support of novel therapies and companion
diagnostics needed in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and highlights the challenges facing stakeholders in this arena. Read more...

Bas-Congo steps up its fight against sleeping sickness

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo and Angola have partnered with FIND to accelerate elimination of human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) or sleeping sickness. This is the latest project in a series of new diagnostics implementation strategies currently being carried out in several HAT-endemic countries. Among other aspects of this project, a large number of health facilities in the region have been equipped with the HAT rapid test, several have been upgraded with the LED fluorescence microscope, and others have received the new molecular test known as LAMP. Read more...

News from our partners

Postdoctoral fellowship in TB diagnostics research - McGill University: Starting in October, McGill is accepting applications from recent PhD or MD graduates for a one-year, full-time fellowship. The fellow will act as a junior investigator on a variety of projects relating to TB diagnostics, including meta-analyses, modeling and in-country field research.

Call for Applications: The Stop TB Partnership has launched the call for the seventh round of the Challenge Facility for Civil Society (CFCS). The deadline to complete applications is 16 October 2015.

Stop TB Partnership’s Global Drug Facility (GDF) has an answer to costly pills.

A new report from the Global Health Technologies Coalition and partners calls for the United Nations and its Member States to strengthen the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals by including indicators to measure global health research and development progress in the monitoring framework.

