

Newsletter

January 2018

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TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

RFP

SAMRC and FIND pledge to combat AMR



The South African Medical Research Council and FIND convened a landmark summit of key regional stakeholders and international experts on antimicrobial resistance and diagnostics: AMR + Africa + Diagnostics. During the event, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two organizations, pledging a commitment to identify collaborative opportunities for joint research, development, manufacturing, introduction and scale-up of innovative health technologies and programmes that result in the reduction of mortality and morbidity due to AMR and tuberculosis. [More...](#)

FIND launches AMR strategy and signs 4 new collaboration agreements



During a landmark AMR stakeholders' meeting in South Africa on 30

TUBERCULOSIS SPECIMEN BANK

Q4 2016 - Q3 2017 ACTIVITY REPORT & UPDATES

FIND
Because diagnosis matters

Summary of activities

Number of specimens

Region	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Total
East Africa	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
West Africa	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
South Africa	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Other	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Total	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	16,000

Summary of activities (continued)

Number of specimens (continued)

Region	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Total
East Africa	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
West Africa	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
South Africa	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Other	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Total	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	16,000

January 2018 – the first to focus on the role of diagnostics in antimicrobial resistance – FIND announced four new collaboration agreements that will commence this year to address AMR and other diagnostic challenges in resource-poor settings: with BD; Fondation Botnar; the Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership (a joint initiative by WHO and DNDi); and the South African Medical Research Council. [More...](#)

FIND issues RFP for platform to diagnose priority diseases with outbreak potential



Request for Proposal

FIND
Because diagnosis matters

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Menu Expansion of Existing Platforms for Emerging Diseases
Ref: FIND-ETOB-001

Release Date: 17 January 2018

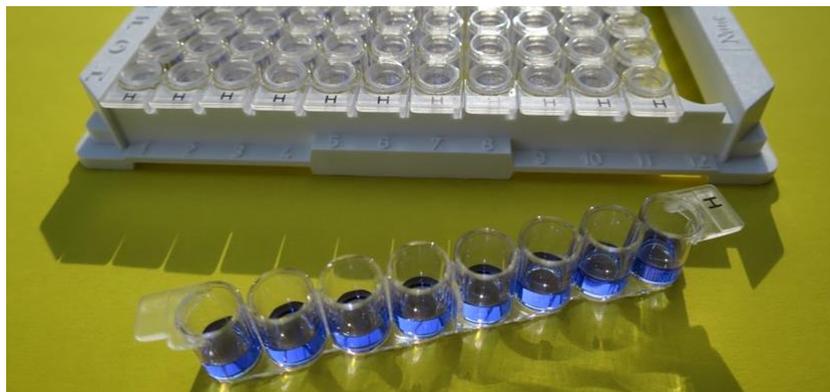
Issue Date: 17 January 2018
RFP Closing Date: 28 February 2018
RFP Closing Time: 10:00 Central European Time

Find out more at: [www.find-diagnostics.org](#)

Diagnostic platform to diagnose priority diseases with outbreak potential

As part of a broad programmatic effort to ensure the availability of diagnostics for outbreak response, FIND has issued a new Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP seeks proposals for partnerships to create a comprehensive, near patient testing (NPT) platform that can accommodate an array of assays to address multiple pathogens. The RFP targets NPT platform providers with nucleic acid testing technologies that have worked in epidemic-prone countries and are capable of developing new assays for the diagnosis of a range of outbreak-prone diseases. [More...](#)

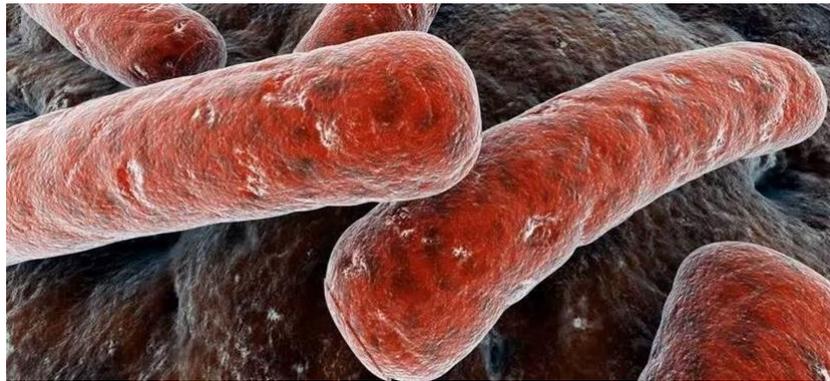
Affordable and sustainable alternative to patient samples to evaluate malaria tests



Earlier this month, Microcoat Biotechnologie GmbH and FIND announced the commercial launch of the *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax* lactate dehydrogenase recombinant panels for malaria diagnostic tests. These panels are being made commercially available to assess the limit of detection of the different malaria rapid diagnostic tests available on the market and will mainly be used to monitor lot-to-lot quality variation or lot degradation of malaria RDTs over time.

[More...](#)

Confidence Graded Mutations List - what is it and why do we need it?



Milan, Italy & Geneva, Switzerland – 08 January 2018 – A global TB consortium announced today the publication of the first graded list of mutations associated with predicting drug resistance in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex, based on systematic and comprehensive analyses of over 1,700 published datasets. The paper was published in the *European Respiratory Journal* by the consortium comprising 30 organizations, including IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele; FIND; Critical Path Institute; and other ReSeqTB partners. [More...](#)

George F. Gao & Shobana Kamineni join FIND Board of Directors

Geneva, Switzerland – 31 January 2018 – FIND announced today the appointment of two new Directors to the Board. Professor George F. Gao joins the FIND Board of Directors with immediate effect and Ms Shobana Kamineni will join from 1 April 2018. “We are delighted to welcome to the Board of FIND Professor Gao and Ms Kamineni, both highly regarded healthcare experts,” said Mark Kessel, Chairman of the Board. “The expertise and experience of Professor Gao and Ms Kamineni will be instrumental to helping FIND to expand its activities and provide significant benefits to patients through diagnostic innovation across Asia.” [More...](#)



Acute febrile syndromes: Sabine Dittrich explains which tools are necessary

The Head of FIND's Malaria & Fever programmes gave an interview earlier this month with the *Brazilian Society of Tropical Medicine* to talk about i) the kind of diagnostic tools and platforms that are needed for the millions of people who present with unknown-source fever, ii) the

work being done at FIND to address severe fevers, iii) innovations we can expect in the years ahead to address diagnostic gaps in handling acute febrile diseases, and much more. [Read article](#)



Help WHO present HIV testing guidelines in a useful new format



The HIV Department at WHO is developing a new smartphone and tablet application (app) for HIV testing services (HTS) guidelines and information. WHO is launching a short survey to gain insight into the kinds of content, features, and resources that can support the work of future app users.

The survey is web-based, will take between 10 and 15 minutes to complete, and will run through February 7, 2018. To take it, click the following link: <https://hivsurvey.org>.

Participating will help WHO to design an app that serves HTS guidelines users like you. Thanks in advance for your help! If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Magdalena DiChiara at barrdichiam@who.int.

Partner News & Resources

Access to Medicine Foundation has developed the [Antimicrobial Resistance Benchmark 2018](#), the first independent and public tool for measuring how pharmaceutical companies are responding to AMR.

WHO: [High levels of antibiotic resistance found worldwide, new data shows](#) - WHO's new Global Antimicrobial Surveillance System (GLASS) reveals widespread occurrence of antibiotic resistance

among 500 000 people with suspected bacterial infections across 22 countries.

Scientific articles by FIND staff & SAC

Rafferty P, Condell O, Wasunna C, Kpaka J, Zwizwai R, Nuha M, Fallah M, Freeman M, Harris V, Miller M, Baller A, Massaquoi M, Katawera V, Saindon J, Bemah P, Hamblion E, Castle E, Williams D, Gasasira A, Nyenswah T. **Establishing Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) diagnostics using GeneXpert technology at a mobile laboratory in Liberia: Impact on outbreak response, case management and laboratory systems strengthening.** *PLoS NTDs*, Jan 2018. [View article](#)

Incardona S, Mwancha-Kwasa M, Rees-Channer RR, Albertini A, Havumaki J, Chiodini P, Oyibo W, González IJ. **The inverted cup device for blood transfer on malaria RDTs: ease of use, acceptability and safety in routine use by health workers in Nigeria.** *Malaria Journal*, Jan 2018. [View article](#)

Jobs at FIND & RFPs

FIND India, New Delhi:

[Manager, Project Operations](#) – Application deadline: 10 Feb 2018

[Monitoring & Evaluation Lead](#) – Application deadline: 10 Feb 2018

[Deputy Finance Officer](#) – Application deadline: 10 Feb 2018

FIND Headquarters, Geneva:

[Medical Officer, AMR](#) – Application deadline: 2 Feb 2018 (new date)

[Monitoring & Evaluation Officer](#) – Application deadline: 2 Feb 2018 (new date)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

[Project Manager, HCV Programme](#) – Application deadline: 2 Feb 2018 (new date)

RFP

[Platform to diagnose priority diseases with outbreak potential](#)

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