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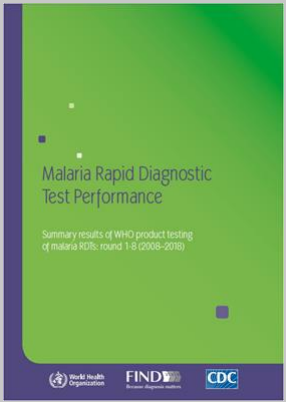

End of year message from our CEO

Dear friends, partners and colleagues,

A busy December wraps up an action-packed year, and we end on a high note with the news that our team in India has just been awarded the prestigious **Public Health Initiative prize** at the India Health & Wellness Summit and Awards, recognizing our work in paediatric TB diagnostics.

Last month we announced the **launch of our AMR Accelerator**, headed by Professor Piero Olliaro who joins us from WHO, alongside new AMR initiatives in companion diagnostics for gonorrhea, and to protect against substandard and falsified medicines. Pandemic preparedness remains a hot topic, with global health security featuring strongly on the agendas of many major events this year, including the African Society of Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) meeting last week (10–13 December). There we hosted a symposium on the **role of the laboratory in preventing and controlling viral epidemics and viral pandemics**, alongside key scientific presentations.

Also this month we kicked off our **HEAD-Start project in India** with the Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences (ILBS), to enhance availability and accessibility of HCV tests in the National Capital Region of Delhi.

We have focused a lot this year on the importance of integration, a critical topic that encompasses elements such as lab strengthening, clinical trial capacity building and health systems support – all strong suits of ours, and featured not just in our emerging threats programme, but also notably for TB, malaria and fever, and HCV. Our neglected tropical diseases programme expanded into schistosomiasis, a disease affecting 240 million people yet without effective diagnostics (announcement of our first projects coming soon). We have also continued to play our part in bringing sleeping sickness elimination ever closer, with essential surveillance in countries including Uganda and DRC.

And of course it has been a huge year for TB, which took centre stage at the UN General Assembly in September – where we announced a **call for trial partners** to support development of a new, potentially transformational, TB LAM test. The recently

published **TAG report** even showed that funding for TB R&D is starting to show an uptick, although we are still far short of the US$1.3M annual funding gap that must be filled to hit global TB targets, so we cannot rest on our laurels.

Our work in connectivity also ramped up this year, with the launch of **SIMplicity** back in February, and this month, together with WHO, we convened a **key workshop** to define the role of electronic clinical decision-support algorithms in translating diagnostic results into therapeutic decisions. The meeting brought together researchers, software developers, implementers, government officials and representatives from international organizations and funding agencies.

Under the auspices of the **Dx Ambassadors**, we are also excited to have established the Voices for Diagnosis annual prize, to recognize individuals and organizations that implement innovative approaches to improve access to and create demand for timely, cost-effective diagnostic solutions. The closing date for 2018/19 entries is 31 March 2019 and we invite applications at **www.finddx.org/voices.**

There's so much more that I don't have space to mention here. But none of our work would be possible without the expertise and continued dedication of all our partners, donors, and of course our staff. To you all: thank you.

I wish you all a peaceful holiday season, and a healthy and happy 2019.

Catharina

*Message on our **website***

FIND at ASLM2018

Recent press releases

FIND & UK government spearhead new diagnostics initiatives to fight antimicrobial resistance; FIND launches Diagnostics Use Accelerator

FIND awarded for expanding paediatric TB diagnosis in India

ILBS & FIND kick off capacity-building activities to implement the HEAD-Start project

FIND explores new diagnostic technologies with the potential to confirm hepatitis C infection in community settings

FIND establishes "Voices for Diagnosis" annual prize to recognize and enable innovative approaches that improve diagnostic access in low- and middle-income countries

FIND in the news

The Lancet: **Boosting quality diagnostics could give Africa better health**, article by Munyaradzi Makoni featuring Heidi Albert, Head of FIND South Africa

World AIDS Day, Global Cause campaign: **Why early detection of hepatitis C can be a life-saver,** article by Francesco Marinucci, Head of HCV & HIV, FIND

From our partners

The 5th McGill Summer Institute in Infectious Diseases and Global Health will take place 10–21 June 2019 in Montreal. This year, they are offering a selection of their most popular courses in a shortened 3-day format, in addition to an original 5-day course on TB research methods. **More information here.**

Africa CDC, together with several partners, has launched the **Africa Collaborative Initiative to Advance Diagnostics (AFCAD)** to address existing barriers to quality diagnosis on the African continent.

WHO: **Results of WHO product testing of malaria RDTs: round 8 (2016-2018)**. This report, published in conjunction with a summary overview of results of rounds 1–8, is the eighth and final report in a series of laboratory-based evaluations of rapid diagnostic tests for malaria.

Calls for partners

We have issued the following calls for partners

- for a demonstration project to find adapted, practical solutions for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to tackle the problem of antimicrobial resistance and to provide better healthcare to people presenting in health facilities with an acute febrile illness. **Submission deadline: 20 January 2019.**

- for trials aimed at evaluating the performance of Fujifilm SILVAMP TB LAM for the detection of tuberculosis (TB) in people living with HIV (PLHIV). **Submission deadline: 31 January 2019**.

More information **here**.

Work with us

Access Officer – Diagnostic Network Design
Submission deadline: 21 December 2018 (South Africa or India preferred). **More information**

Data Analyst – Diagnostic Network Design
Submission deadline: 21 December 2018 (South Africa or India preferred). **More information**

Head of Tuberculosis programme (Geneva)
Submission deadline: 10 January 2019. **More information**

Head of Diagnostics Innovation (Geneva)
Submission deadline: 10 January 2019. **More information**

Head of Sequencing (Geneva)
Submission deadline: 10 January 2019. **More information**

Biobanking Data Scientist – full-time maternity-leave replacement for 6 months (Geneva)
Submission deadline: 20 January 2019. **More information**

Expressions of Interest – Consultants

Scientific articles by FIND staff

For all our articles published in 2018, click **here**.

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FIND
Campus Biotech
Chemin des Mines 9
1202 Geneva
www.finddx.org