The 51st Union World Conference on Lung Health

SATELLITE SESSION

TESTING TO TURN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC – THE OPPORTUNITY FOR TB

FIND and The Global Fund are co-convenors of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator Diagnostics Pillar – part of a global collaboration to accelerate the development, production and equitable access to new COVID-19 tools including diagnostics.

In addition to developing new tests, the ACT Accelerator Diagnostics Pillar aims to strengthen LMIC countries’ ability to procure, import, distribute tests and manage data to assist governments in decision making. Tests developed to enable rapid diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB) are now being used to diagnose COVID-19. Could global diagnostic networks and new COVID-19 tools be utilized to combat TB in the future?

Introduction by session Chairs
Eliud Wandwalo, The Global Fund
Carolyn Gomes, ACT-Accelerator Diagnostics Pillar

Panel discussion
TB, COVID-19 and ACT-A Dx
– mitigating the impact and protecting TB gains
Catharina Boehme, FIND
John Nkengasong, Africa CDC
K. S. Sachdeva, Central TB Division (CTD), Ministry of Healthy and Family Welfare, India
Peter Sands, The Global Fund

Presentations
TB tests being “repurposed” for COVID-19
– experience with Truenat, GeneXpert, digital X-rays and next-generation sequencing
Morten Ruhwald, FIND

Ending TB amid the COVID-19 pandemic
– a community led response
Carol Nawina (Nyirenda) Kachenga, CITAM+

Access to TB diagnostic services during COVID-19
– experience from South Africa
Wendy Stevens, University of the Witwatersrand and National Priority Programme, National Health Laboratory Service, South Africa

Q&A session facilitated by session Chairs
Eliud Wandwalo, The Global Fund
Carolyn Gomes, ACT-Accelerator Diagnostics Pillar

*Participants registered to the conference can attend the session