Project Coordinator  
TB NAAT Scale Up Support

Organization: 
Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) is established in India as an independent non-profit organization created under Section 8 (Indian) Companies Act, 2013 with its office in New Delhi. The organization is dedicated to activities that result in 1) new diagnostic tools; 2) expanded access to these tools; and 3) strengthened diagnostic testing capacity for poverty-related diseases. FIND India has several projects in TB, Hepatitis C (HCV), COVID-19, Malaria, Fevers and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

Overall objective of the project: 
India’s National TB Elimination Program (NTEP) has incorporated TrueNat™ in its diagnostic algorithm and is scaling up diagnosis through them. With this there are two NAAT (nucleic acid amplification test) based technologies in the program i.e. GeneXpert and TrueNat. Till 2020, ~1200 GeneXpert machines and ~1500 TrueNat machines were installed. The country plans to scale up further with intention to replace sputum microscopy at Designated Microscopy Center level over the next 3-4 years. It is important to compliment rapid scale up of technology with a solid implementation and monitoring plan for improving uptake, ensuring accurate results and timely diagnosis of TB in the community. Under the project, FIND will support NTEP and coordinate implementation and scale up of TB NAAT testing across the country.

For more information about the organization, please visit http://www.finddx.org/

Location: New Delhi

Key Job responsibilities:
- Support NTEP in the identification of appropriate sites for placing the TB NAAT and coordinate with states, NRLs, IRLs and sites in their preparations for deployment
- Update training and implementation package for TB NAAT:
- Support updating SOPs and training material for sample collection, testing, quality management, troubleshooting, recording & reporting, operation and maintenance of equipment and storage of test reagents in close consultation with CTD, NRLs, IRLs and Molbio
- Support in converting these materials into short training videos for uniform learning as well as for conducting refresher trainings remotely.
- Support NTEP in development of quality assurance guidance document for TB NAAT testing
- Support in development of case studies on trouble shooting and implementation of corrective action plans for various quality/ compliance/ risk issues identified in the field
- Support in pilot testing and support in phased deployment of a connectivity software for monitoring the performance of this lab network and enable seamless data transfer to Nikshay.
• Support NTEP for organizing and conducting training of trainers (TOT) for key staff from NRLs and IRLs for performing testing, related documentation, and implementation
• Support IRLs and NRLs in conducting cascade training for district and site level staff for performing testing and maintaining testing related documentation.
• Support NRLs, IRLs in conducting need based operational research for strengthening the scope of TB NAAT testing
• Support in regular mentoring through online sessions on trouble shooting and site visits as appropriate.
• Support NTEP in monitoring performance of the network through customized dashboards on usage and maintenance of machines to help in ensuring optimal utilization and quality of testing.
• Provide technical assistance and real time troubleshooting support to sites in the field as well as support online training interventions.
• Support NTEP in implementing quality assurance program for TB NAAT testing.
• Any other responsibilities as identified from time to time by the Director, FIND India

Experience and Desired qualifications:
• Ph.D. in Microbiology, with minimum three year of experience in TB laboratory OR
• Master’s degree in Microbiology/ Medical Microbiology/ Applied Microbiology/ Clinical Microbiology/ Biotechnology/ Medical Biotechnology, with minimum 5 years of work experience in the field of TB diagnostics
• Preferably experience of molecular TB diagnostics.
• Experience of coordinating on lab systems strengthening
• Experience of developing training material for public health laboratories
• Experience of conducting training for laboratory staff
• Experience of technical writing, data analysis and presentation

Skills and Attitude:
• Ability to collect and manage data, collating analysed content together
• Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
• Competency in various Microsoft applications including Word, Excel and Presentations
• Demonstrated interpersonal skills in facilitation and stakeholder engagement and coordination
• Ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team and in short timelines
• Willingness to travel as and when required

Nature of Appointment: The selected candidate shall be offered fixed term employment contract for a period of one year.
Compensation: FIND India offers a competitive salary and shall be commensurate with the skill and experience of the selected candidate.

Deadline to send your application: 10 June 2021.

Please mail a motivation letter, a detailed resume and three references to HR-IN@finddx.org

Due to high applicant volume, you may not receive a response from FIND India. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. (But don’t wait until the deadline! We will start screening right away and if we find the right person, we will stop searching)