

## Call for proposals for evaluation of new TB diagnostics and testing strategies

The NIH-funded Initiative for *Feasibility of Novel Diagnostics for TB in Endemic Countries* (FEND-TB) led by Rutgers University and FIND (Grant [1U01AI152084-01](#)) invite developers of TB diagnostics to submit proposals for evaluation of early-stage TB diagnostics and novel testing strategies.

The FEND-TB initiative provides access to adaptable and open trial protocols, with the aim to conduct clinical studies, laboratory evaluations of prototype assays, and economic analysis, along with transmission modelling.

### Benefits from participating in the FEND-TB initiative

- Free-of-charge independent evaluation in state-of-the-art clinical trials conducted in up to 5 sites across Africa, Asia, and South America for feasibility and evaluation studies
- Rapid feedback on the performance of the technologies and their most effective use in endemic settings
- Laboratory-based evaluation of assays using banked samples before entry to clinical evaluations to assess if prototype modifications are warranted to improve functionality or accuracy
- Economic and transmission modelling to examine the impact of novel TB diagnostic assays on performance of the TB care cascade, long-term health outcomes and cost-effectiveness
- Support from FEND-TB experts to tailor fit-for-purpose product development plans to accelerate evidence generation for policy and regulatory review

### FEND-TB accepts submissions from the following test categories

- Non-sputum-based diagnostics and/or sampling strategies for detection of *M. tuberculosis* bacterial and host targets
- Diagnostics developed for Pediatric TB
- Diagnostics developed for subgroups, e.g., HIV-infected individuals
- Sputum and non-sputum-based diagnostics developed for use at the point of care (POC)
- Diagnostics enabling rapid drug susceptibility testing at or near POC

FEND-TB studies will be done at 5 clinical sites encompassing multibacillary and paucibacillary TB, pulmonary (PTB) and extra-pulmonary TB (EPTB), drug susceptible and drug resistant PTB, both sexes and all ages, HIV-positive and negative people, and key comorbidities including diabetes mellitus.

### Partner eligibility and selection process

Expressions of interest (EOI) are to be submitted via FIND's [Technology Scouting Submission Webform](#). Please select 'Tuberculosis' as the 'Disease Area' and 'FEND-TB' as the 'Disease Area Subtype' on the form and upload the completed submission template and supporting materials.

Following submission, technologies will be reviewed by the FEND-TB Evaluation Committee, and selected technologies will be invited to a joint development of a tailored project plan.

FEND-TB will review submissions at quarterly intervals and submissions are encouraged as early as possible for planning purposes. The deadline for receipt of EOIs for this round is **15 September 2024**.

If required, FIND can sign a Confidentiality Disclosure Agreement with interested developers prior to their form submission. Please contact us on [fend@finddx.org](mailto:fend@finddx.org)