

Technical Review Committee for Seq&Treat

1. Terms of Reference:

The Seq&Treat project aims to enable rapid, comprehensive targeted gene sequencing solutions for drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis in LMICs. The Technical Review committee (TRC) for the Seq&Treat project is an independent team of experts established by FIND to support and guide the stage-gating processes of the Seq&Treat project (the "Project").

Specifically, members of the TRC shall:

- review scientific evidence report generated by FIND in Stage I and provide recommendations for progression of the Seq&Treat Project from Stage I to Stage II according to the stage-gating criteria set out in the Project Plan
- review scientific evidence report generated by FIND in Stage II and provide recommendations for progression of the Seq&Treat Project from Stage II to Stage III according to the stage-gating criteria set out in the Project Plan
- provide feedback on an ad-hoc basis on other aspects of the project if needed.

2. Requirements for membership:

- Members shall be independent, with no previous work and partnerships established with commercial manufacturers that may be involved in the Seq&Treat project
- Members shall represent the range of expertise relevant to the Seq&Treat project, including the following areas: drug-resistant TB, next-generation sequencing, molecular diagnostics evaluation, and drug-susceptibility testing for TB
- Members shall serve in a personal and private capacity with respect to professional or institutional affiliation and independent of the governments, organizations or other third party representatives who may have interests in the field of this Project
- Members shall be required to be able and available to participate in the TRC for the entire duration of the Seq&Treat project, as well as commit to join review meetings and discussions to ensure timely submission of recommendations for the stage-gating process.
- Subject-matter experts in relevant areas such market access and implementation may be invited at later stages in the project on an ad-hoc basis.

3. Member selection process:

- FIND will reach out to potential candidates that have been identified based on significant, demonstrated expertise and leadership in the areas relevant to the Seq&Treat project
- FIND will share the names and CVs of potential candidates with Unitaid for review
- FIND will shortlist candidates based on their availability to participate in the TRC and their ability to fulfil all the requirements for membership
- Members will need to complete and sign a declaration of interest (DOI form) to disclose any circumstances that may give rise to a potential conflict of interest related to the review process
- Members will need to complete and sign a confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement as they shall have access to certain information which may be confidential in nature, during the scientific review process

4. Working procedures

- FIND will share the Project Plan and terms of reference with the TRC.
- After completion of each stage of the stage-gating process, FIND will share the corresponding scientific evidence report on performance of End-to-End solutions with the TRC for review against the stage-gating criteria set out in the Project Plan.
- Upon review of the evidence report each TRC member will share a written recommendation on decision to progress to the next stage of the project.
- The above process will also apply to any ad-hoc review needs, where the request and the relevant supporting documents will similarly be shared with the TRC for reference and feedback.

- FIND will maintain documentation on correspondence with the TRC, as well as any meeting minutes and action points.
- FIND will analyze the recommendations from TRC members and submit a summary report to Unitaid, in order for the Unitaid secretariat to follow up on the progress and provide, where needed, its consent.

5. Transparency:

FIND will publish the composition of the TRC and the terms of reference on the FIND website

6. Definitions:

Seq&Treat: Unitaid funded three year project on “*Rapid, comprehensive targeted gene sequencing solution for drug-resistant TB diagnosis in LMICs*”.

End-to-End solution: A standardized and complete solution from sample to result.

Output 1: Dossier of trial data (Phase 1 – Analytical validation, Phase 2 – Clinical evaluation), costing analysis and modelling to support WHO guidance on End-to-End solutions for targeted sequencing for DR-TB diagnosis.

Output 3: Proof-of-principle of sustainable & scalable delivery models for sequencing-based diagnosis of DR-TB to inform implementation guidance in high-burden, pathfinder countries.

Stage I: Stage I refers to Phase 1 of Output 1, comprising the analytical validation of selected End-to-End solutions to determine inclusion in clinical trial based on technical performance using reference strain panels.

Stage II: Stage II refers to Phase 2 of Output 1, comprising the multi-centre clinical evaluation to assess diagnostic accuracy and operational characteristics of End-to-End solutions for diagnosis of DR-TB.

Stage III: Stage III refers to Output 3, comprising the proof-of-principle study to assess delivery models for use of End-to-End solutions in LMICs.