



ACDx Alumni Interviews

2017

Babacar Ndoye

“The great challenges still remain for clinical services to play their role in improving the quality of life”

What did ACDx bring to you on both a personal and professional level?

ACDx brought me both personal and professional knowledge and competence first, but also the conviction about the need for more effective collaboration with clinical services, and the approaches to use to achieve this.

What in your opinion have been the most important advances and challenges in diagnostics over the past 10 years?

In my opinion, the deadlines for reporting laboratory results have been shortened, no doubt largely because of advances in molecular biology, but one of the great challenges still remains for clinical services to play their role in improving the quality of life and good practices from the pre-analytical phase of laboratory examinations.

Why does diagnostics remain so important?

The role of the laboratory is always important because it must guide the treatment and monitor the effectiveness of the treatment.

2015, 2017 & 2018

Joseph Kitukulu

“Quality of Results does not depend only on what happens inside the laboratory but also throughout the supply chain of reagents, consumables and specimens in general”

What did ACDx bring to you on both a personal and professional level?

Personal level

ACDx has made me to meet with different people from different parts of the world who have different ideas and opinions as far as Diagnostics and Quality are concerned. This interaction with them has increased my confidence standing in front of Diagnostics professionals and talk about diagnostics.

Professional level

From Experience of different people during these courses, I came to know more things on Diagnostics apart from those I learnt at School. This shows that experience on diagnostics is very important in widening knowledge of the same. On the other hand, I shared a lot I have as far as Diagnostics are concerned especially on Supply Chain and Post Marketing Surveillance. Not only that but also, I used most of the knowledge I got from these courses in my

daily activities as Senior Quality Assurance Officer of Diagnostics at Medical Stores Department Tanzania and share the same at National level when my knowledge was needed. A lot has been used in different documents and guidelines of diagnostics in Tanzania.

What in your opinion have been the most important advances and challenges in diagnostics over the past 10 years?

Advances

- Network for ACDx has increased to hundreds of members who participated this course.
- New topics were introduced from one course to another
- People Started to understand that Quality of Results does not depend only on what happens inside the laboratory but also throughout the supply chain of reagents, consumables and specimens in general. This led to my statement that “Maintaining Quality of Diagnostics is the role of everyone in Supply Chain, therefore wherever you are play your part”
- New Presenters for different topics are added or introduced each year. This should be in continuous situation as it will make the life of ACDx and make it to be the best course in the world.

Challenges

Since the Course is conducted at one location (France), some people may not attend and as a solution, organizers should see the possibility of conducting this course in other locations and make the Merieux to Foundation be like the University and other areas or sites to be its Colleges.

Why does diagnostics remain so important?

Diagnostics remains important because it is the source of the best treatment as if there is no diagnostics and treatment admitted to patient is a gassing situation. This is bad as it may lead to mistreatment and when talking about antibiotics, this leads to antimicrobial resistance which is one of the main problems currently.

2018

Joseph Tucker

“Artificial intelligence and machine learning will transform medicine over the next ten years and diagnostics will be at the forefront of these exciting developments”

What did ACDx bring to you on both a personal and professional level?

ACDx was an exceptional opportunity to immerse myself in the world of diagnostics - learn about cutting-edge scientific advances, chat with global thought leaders, and expand my network. Diagnostics is an increasingly important field and this conference has become a pre-eminent meeting within the field.

What in your opinion have been the most important advances and challenges in diagnostics over the past 10 years?

Over the past ten years, the widespread application of rapid diagnostic tests for HIV and other infectious diseases have pushed diagnostics out of the laboratory and into people’s lives. But unfortunately, these diagnostics are still thwarted by fragile health systems in many parts of the global south, demanding further research and action.

Why does diagnostics remain so important?

Diagnostics are a bedrock for development of drugs, vaccines, and interventions. Artificial intelligence and machine learning will transform medicine over the next ten years and diagnostics will be at the forefront of these exciting developments.

2017

Olga Perovic

“Placing diagnostics in the critical position for guiding patient management is the most progressive advances in diagnostic in the last decade”

What did ACDx bring to you on both a personal and professional level?

On personal ground ACDx has been a great platform for networking and making interactive engagement with other experienced colleagues at all levels. Professionally I enjoyed the diagnostic aspects for AMR and how this initiative has changed understanding of a role of diagnostics in combating AMR. As my specials are diagnostic stewardship, laboratory quality management, accreditation and training from ACDx advanced discussion on these aspects I have built my confidence and I have taken my responsibility and culpability to the next level.

What in your opinion have been the most important advances and challenges in diagnostics over the past 10 years?

Innovations and new diagnostic platforms have changed the way how we utilize diagnostic tests in laboratory as well as POC tests in community. Furthermore, placing diagnostics in the critical position for guiding patient management is the most progressive advances in diagnostic in the last decade. In support of this statement is the activity by WHO to develop Essential in Vitro Diagnostics (EDL) list. The biggest challenge of the diagnostic programs is implementation at all levels and in each country.

Why does diagnostics remain so important?

Without diagnostics there is no information on “One Health”. Nowadays, we have so many diagnostic tools, however having access is the most critical and important aspect to address. And to my opinion that is the benefit of having ACDx continuous presence in the scientific, research and decision-making world.

2013 & 2017

Patience Dabula

“Patients need to be managed correctly as soon as possible”

What did ACDx bring to you on both a personal and professional level?

- The network of laboratories in different countries
- Global Health and Africa CDC Antimicrobial Surveillance Network
- Point of Care testing devices and Quality assurance
- State of the art Diagnosis
- What in your opinion have been the most important advances and challenges in diagnostics over the past 10 years?
- Advantage: Use of point of care devices to speed up the diagnostics and treatment/management of the patients

- Challenge: Lack of laboratory staff in some countries.

Why does diagnostics remain so important?

Patients need to be managed correctly as soon as possible