



LONDON
SCHOOL of
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MEDICINE



Advanced Course on Diagnostics (ACDx) Special Edition on COVID-19

Virtual conference

March 15-17, 2021

PROGRAMME

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

The ACDx Special Edition conference will address the technical and public health issues dealing with the COVID-19 diagnostics in the world such as testing strategies, scaling-up of laboratory capacities and preparedness for rapid and effective diagnostic test implementation. The critical role of testing will be highlighted in the context of the COVID-19 vaccination and the discovery of new variants.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are very grateful to the following companies for their unrestricted educational grants:



ACDx Course Directors

- Rosanna Peeling, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
- François-Xavier Babin, Mérieux Foundation

Steering Committee

- Heather Alexander, US CDC
- Sandra Angèle, Mérieux Foundation
- François-Xavier Babin, Mérieux Foundation
- Catharina Boehme, FIND
- Alex Costa, UNICEF
- Noah Fongwen, LSHTM
- Yewew Kebede, Africa CDC
- Béatrice Halpaap, WHO TDR
- Nadia Khelef, Institut Pasteur
- Chloé Masetti, Mérieux Foundation
- Francis Moussy, WHO
- Bénédicte Pansier, Mérieux Foundation
- Rosanna Peeling, LSHTM
- Trevor Peter, CHAI
- Joseph Tucker, LSHTM
- Joanna Wiecek, Wellcome Trust

Organizing Committee

- Sandra Angèle, Mérieux Foundation
- Kaïleh Auguste, Mérieux Foundation
- Catherine Cochet, Consultant for the Mérieux Foundation
- Bénédicte Pansier, Mérieux Foundation

DAY 1: MONDAY 15th MARCH

12:00 – 15:00 (CET)

Session 1: COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented health crisis

Chair: Pr Rosanna Peeling, LSHTM

12:00 – 12:15 **Opening welcome remarks**

Mérieux Foundation
Rosanna Peeling, LSHTM

12:15 – 12:35 **Diagnostic testing – a pillar of outbreak response**

David Heymann, LSHTM

12:35 – 12:55 **WHO overview: critical role of diagnostics, issues with new variants and concerns**

Mark Perkins, WHO

12:55 – 13:10 **Q&A**

13:10 – 13:30 **Factors impacting the performances of the diagnostic tests**

Rosanna Peeling, LSHTM

13:30 – 13:45 **Q&A**

13:45 – 14:00 Break

14:00 – 14:45 **Roundtable (moderated by Rosanna Peeling)**

Diagnostic tests accessibility in Latin America, Africa and Asia

Carlos Gouvea, ALADDiV
Yenew Kebede, Africa CDC
Ava Kristy Sy Lee, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Philippines
Jaime Montoya, Executive Director, Council for Health Research and Development, Philippines

14:45 – 15:00 **Q&A**

DAY 2: TUESDAY 16th MARCH

12:00 – 15:30 (CET)

Session 2: Expanding COVID-19 testing in diverse LMIC settings: Strategies to enhance implementation.

Chair: Dr Joseph Tucker, LSHTM and Dr Yukari Manabe, Johns Hopkins University

12:00 – 12:05 **Opening welcome remarks**
Joseph Tucker, LSHTM

12:05 – 12:50 **Scaling up equitable and effective COVID-19 testing in diverse LMIC settings**
- William Waites, LSHTM
- Gaurav Dave, Center for Health Equity Research (CHER), University North Carolina
- Justen Manasa, University of Zimbabwe

12:50 – 13:00 **Q&A**

13:00 – 13:20 **Immunity to SARS-CoV-2 in the era of vaccines and variants**
Lorenzo Subissi, WHO

13:20 – 13:30 **Q&A**

13:30 – 13:45 Break

Session 3: Building country preparedness for rapid and effective test implementation.

Chair: Dr Alexandre Costa, UNICEF

13:45 – 13:50 **Opening welcome remarks**
Alex Costa, UNICEF

13:50 – 15:10 **Key considerations for rapid and effective test implementation**
- Amadou Sall, Institut Pasteur Dakar
- Pascale Ondoa, ASLM
10 min Q&A
- Laurence Baril, Institut Pasteur, Cambodia
- Jacques Boncy, National Public Health Laboratory, Haïti
10 min Q&A

15:10 – 15:30 **Open discussion**

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 17th MARCH

12:00 – 15:15 (CET)

Session 4: Global collaboration to equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics (ACT Accelerator)

Chair: Dr Sergio Carmona, FIND

12:00 – 12:05 **Opening welcome remarks**
Sergio Carmona, FIND

12:05 – 12:50 **Introduction to ACT Accelerator (focus on diagnostic pillar) and how it can change the ecosystem for epidemic preparedness?**
- Amy Toporowski, FIND
- Sebastien Cognat, WHO
- Martine Guillerm, Global Fund

12:50 – 13:00 **Q&A**

13:00 – 13:20 **How to integrate diagnostics into existing mechanisms for vaccine development and deployment in response to disease outbreaks?**
- Jilian Sacks, FIND

13:20 – 13:30 **Q&A**

13:30 – 13:45 Break

Session 5: Building a more resilient health system and a better future for diagnostics

Chair: Dr Joanna Wiecek, Wellcome Trust

13:45 – 13:50 **Opening welcome remarks**
Joanna Wiecek, Wellcome Trust

13:50 – 14:50 **Lessons learned on global and multi-sectoral cooperation to build equitable and resilient health systems.**
- François-Xavier Babin, Mériex Foundation
- Jeremy Farrah, Wellcome Trust (recorded interview)
- John Nkengasong, Africa CDC – (recorded presentation)
- Yukari Manabe, Johns Hopkins University

14:50 – 15:00 **Q&A**

15:00 – 15:15 **Final words from Rosanna Peeling**



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