



SLMTA

STRENGTHENING LABORATORY
MANAGEMENT TOWARD
ACCREDITATION

2014 Updates

The Groundbreaking SLMTA Supplement Unveiled

At ASLM2014, the African Journal of Laboratory Medicine (AJLM) unveiled a Special Supplement for the SLMTA program. This historic publication contains 27 articles and provides a comprehensive collection of program results from 12 countries and one region as well as analyses of global program data. Together, they paint an impressive picture of a program that has transformed the laboratory landscape in the developing world by empowering laboratory teams to strive for continuous quality improvement and accreditation, despite limited resources. Evidence from these papers also shows that SLMTA has the potential to make a substantial and sustainable impact on the quality of laboratory testing and patient care. Additionally, SLMTA has emerged as a vital strategy for the fulfilment of ASLM's 2020 Vision "By 2020, to enroll 2500 laboratories in the SLIPTA program and enable 250 laboratories to achieve accreditation to international standards."

Check out the article titled "*Evidence from 617 laboratories in 47 countries for SLMTA-driven improvement in quality management systems.*" It con-

tains powerful evidence that will boost your advocacy effort. You may access it at <http://www.ajlmonline.org/index.php/ajlm/article/view/262>.

Each country was given 40 copies at ASLM 2014 in Cape Town. Please contact the CDC Laboratory Advisor



Authors signing the poster for the SLMTA Supplement

in your country if you'd like a copy. You may also access the entire supplement at AJLM's website <http://www.ajlmonline.org/index.php/ajlm/issue/view/6>.



Key 2015 Events

Mark your calendar

Regional SLMTA TOT

Johannesburg
South Africa

March 2-13, 2015

August 3-14, 2015

SLMTA 2 Break-through Curriculum

Johannesburg
South Africa

April 13-24, 2015

October 19-30, 2015

From the Desk of Katy Yao
Global SLMTA Program Director

International Laboratory Branch
Division of Global HIV/AIDS
CDC-Atlanta, USA



SLMTAns Re-energized at the SLMTA / SLIPTA Symposium

November 28-29, 2014, Cape Town, South Africa

Once every two years, we piggy-back onto ASLM's international conference and hold the SLMTA symposium, where the program implementers come together to receive updates, share lessons learned, network, celebrate each other's successes, and get re-energized. This was the second SLMTA symposium and the first time we combined it with the SLIPTA program.

135 participants from 27 countries attended the two-day symposium, including 20 African countries, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, USA, and Vietnam. By all account, this symposium was a huge success. Many participants commented that they had enjoyed the meeting tremendously and it was even better than the first one.

A music video of the SLMTA song, courtesy of CDC-Vietnam, was premiered at the Symposium. Three SLMTA master trainers were featured in this video (in addition to the recording artist David C. Murray and a volunteer). It generated a lot of excitement — which program can boast of having its own MTV?! Only SLMTA!!!

At the closing ceremony of the symposium, 27 master trainer certificates were handed out. Each lead author of a paper in the supplement was recognized.

A special "Friend of SLMTA" award was given to three non-SLMTAns to acknowledge their significant contributions to the SLMTA movement. They are: **Cheri Paladar** (who wrote the lyric for the SLMTA song), **David C. Murray** (a professional singer who recorded the soundtrack of the SLMTA song), and **Elizabeth Luman** (AJLM's senior science editor, who suggested the SLMTA supplement and then worked tirelessly to make it a reality). Each received a beautiful glass trophy.

The meeting agenda, presentations, and Call to Action can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/268jw1vxy5psu44/AAC33EyKSDpNI-RVqWBA4gZa?dl=0>.

The SLMTA music video can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/yjm79owyx1d08g/THE%20SOUND%20OF%20SLMTA.mov?dl=0>.



David C. Murray's Friend of SLMTA award



Panel discussion featuring four accredited SLMTA laboratories



Première of the SLMTA music video



SLMTA the Talk of the Conference at ASLM 2014

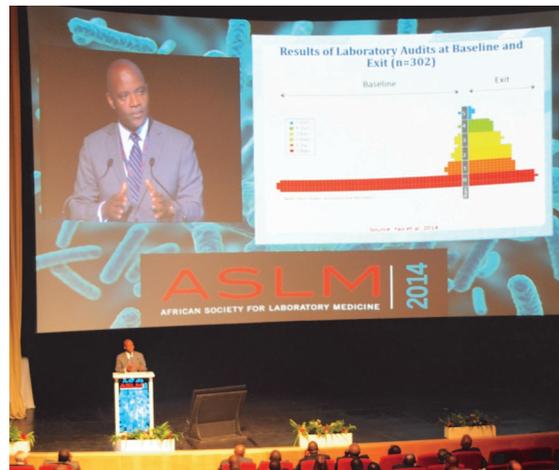
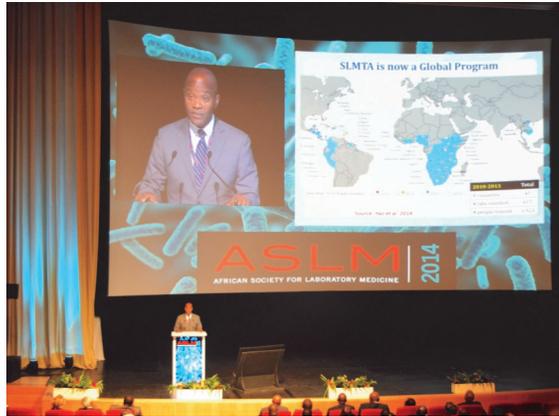
November 30-December 4, 2014, Cape Town, South Africa

SLMTA accomplishments were highlighted by ASLM2014's keynote speaker Dr. John Nkengasong at the opening ceremony and other invited speakers throughout the conference.

Twenty SLMTA abstracts were accepted for oral sessions, two for oral posters and at least six for non-oral posters.

Eric Wakaria's beautiful poster titled "*Quality Improvement Initiatives towards Provision of Safe and Sufficient Blood in Kenya*" won AJLM's second place award in the "Visual Communication" category.

Dr. Charles Awasom (former hospital director of the Regional Bamenda Hospital in Cameroon) has been a staunch SLM-



Above 2 photos—Dr. Nkengasong highlighted SLMTA results at his keynote speech

TA champion. At ASLM2012, he made a passionate, unforgettable speech about SLMTA. This year at ASLM2014, he was the recipient of ASLM's "*Best Laboratory Champion Clinician Award*." The previous recipient of this award was the Nigeria Minister of Health at ASLM2012.

At the closing ceremony, SLMTA loomed again in the rapporteurs' summary report with the quote, "*SLMTA is a nation without borders. Its citizens have all been infected with Quality Viral Disease (QVD). QVD is very contagious and not curable. It has even infected outsiders!*" What a perfect way to end a perfect conference!

Have a happy holiday and a productive 2015.
Keep the SLMTA fire burning!!!



One of many SLMTA sessions at ASLM2014



Dr. Awasom (second from right) with staff from the Bamenda Hospital Laboratory at the award ceremony



SLMTA volunteers working to put the SLMTA supplements into conference bags