Another Busy Year with Big Accomplishments

This year we continued to see program expansion all over the world. Together, we have added 4 new countries and 99 additional laboratories to join our incredible journey to improving quality patient care.

This is also a year where we’ve seen many SLMTA laboratories awarded with official SLIPTA stars; a few laboratories have also begun preparing for international accreditation. Big congratulations to Kenya’s HIV National Reference Laboratory for having received ISO15189 accreditation.

To keep up with the rapid scale-up, 6 Training of Trainers workshops were offered regionally and in country: Botswana, Dominican Republic, Ghana, South Africa, and Vietnam. A total of 140 people graduated.

Thanks to the TOT hosted by Dominican Republic, we now have a cadre of Spanish-speaking trainers to spread the SLMTA fire wider and deeper in the Latin American region. Two Africa-based master trainers helped lead the Dominican Republic TOT – Africa is now exporting technical assistance to the rest of the world!

Have you heard?

SLMTA has been customized for TB laboratories. Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics piloted the SLMTA/TB curriculum in April and conducted the first TOT in Lesotho in November. For more information, contact Heidi Albert at Heidi.Albert@finddiagnostics.org

14 PEOPLE RECOMMENDED AS MASTER TRAINERS

- Modukanele Mosetsana-gape (Botswana)
- Juliana Ndasi (Cameroon)
- Rosa Hazim (Dominican Republic)
- Rowland Adukpo (Ghana)
- Beatrice Efua van der Puije (Ghana)
- Mathabo Lebina (Lesotho)
- Jean Marie Vianney Ngendakabanyina (Rwanda)
- Luciana Kohatsu (USA)
- Cuong Duong Ngoc (Vietnam)
- Thuong Nguyen Thi (Vietnam)
- Quoc Cuong Nguyen (Vietnam)
- Thuy Nguyen Xuan (Vietnam)
- Davy Nsama (Zambia)
- Nsofwa Mutale Dailess (Zambia)
What are those rumbling noises heard around the world?

Those noises came from the accolades by people who attended Anna Murphy’s **QC/Method Validation workshop** held at the Roche Scientific Campus November 4-12, Johannesburg, South Africa. There were also sounds from people kicking themselves for missing this highly acclaimed training.

Are you thinking you already know enough about QC? That’s what most participants thought when they arrived at the workshop. After a week, they admitted they had known little before the training. (See left photo)

For a more detailed account of the QC workshop, see Anna Murphy’s report (attached).

Click [here](#) for the link to a short video of the workshop.

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<th>Amount of QC Knowledge Before the Workshop</th>
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**Broadcasting Our Successes to the World**

We are extremely excited about the **SLMTA Supplement** to be published by African Journal for Laboratory Medicine next year. It will have 30+ papers and provide hard evidence for the impact of the program. Its publication will be a landmark event providing a huge advocacy push for the program. Here is a sneak peek of the papers (subject to acceptance) in the supplement:

- SLMTA: Transforming the Laboratory Landscape in Developing Countries
- View From The Top: Involvement Of Health Ministry In Laboratory Quality Improvement
- Effect of Institutional Mentorship on SLMTA Roll out
- Maximizing Mentorship: Variations in Laboratory Mentorship Models Implemented
- Weighing the Costs: Implementing the SLMTA Program
- The Road To Laboratory Accreditation: Key Success Factors
- The Impact of SLMTA in Improving Laboratory Quality Systems
- Creating a Sustainable Culture of Quality Through the SLMTA Program in a District Hospital Laboratory
- Attitudes and Perceptions of Laboratory Professionals and Hospital Chief Executive Officers towards the SLMTA Program
- Building Laboratory Quality Improvement Ownership from Within: Lessons Learnt from the Integration of SLMTA into Ministry of Health Laboratory

**Is there life after SLMTA?**

Yes, and it is called **SLMTA 2.0**. We have gathered input from 14 countries for the most common gaps and challenges that have prevented SLMTA laboratories from reaching 5 stars. **SLMTA 2.0** will be a supplemental curriculum that is hands-on, practical and prescriptive focusing on top-priority deficiencies: *internal audit*, *occurrence management*, *root cause analysis*, and *corrective action* (in addition to QC & method validation). We hope to unveil it in the fall of 2014.