SLMTA: The Laboratory Medicine Game Changer

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Humble Beginnings...

Before

Adwa Hospital Laboratory

After

Awash Health Center Laboratories
Reference Laboratory - Early Days
“THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO THE RIGHT THING.”

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Launch of the WHO AFRO Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process Towards Accreditation, 2010
The Case for Lab Strengthening

Laboratory Systems and Services Are Critical in Global Health

Time to End the Neglect?

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Key Words: National laboratory systems; Laboratory strengthening; Global health; Public health; Infectious diseases

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A Shifting Paradigm in Strengthening Laboratory Health Systems for Global Health

Acting Now, Acting Collectively, but Acting Differently

John N. Nkengasong, PhD

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Neglected Lab Infrastructure
Improving Quality Management Systems of Laboratories in Developing Countries

An Innovative Training Approach to Accelerate Laboratory Accreditation

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Key Words: Accreditation; Management; Laboratory quality management system; Laboratory management; Task-based training

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“Although challenges remain, the improvement of laboratories under PEPFAR support and guidance has been a signature achievement of the program ----During the committee’s country visits, this was a theme emphasized with near universality”
Five Lessons Learned
What gets Measured gets Done
Results of Laboratory Audits at Baseline and Exit (n=302)

Average Score 39% 64%

Average Implementation Time = 16 months

Define, Improve, Measure = Impact and Accountability

Source: Yao et al. 2014
Produce in Africa and exported: SLMTA took off like a bullet

Year when SLMTA was initiated: 2010 2011 2012 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010-2013</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># countries</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># labs enrolled</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># people trained</td>
<td>1,923</td>
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Source: Yao et al. 2014
SLMTA became a networking platform = produced a chain effect of people to people
What is SLMTA?
Dancing with the Stars

ASLM 2016-South Africa SLMTA Song and Dance
ASLM 2016-Cameroon SLMTA Song and Dance
ASLM 2016 - Kenya SLMTA Song and Dance

SLMTA in Action
SLMTA in Print
SLMTA in Motion
Rising Sea Tides Lift all Boats: An Instrument for other health systems
Driving hospital transformation with SLMTA in a regional hospital in Cameroon

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Background: Inspired by the transformation of the Regional Hospital Buea laboratory through implementation of the Strengthening Laboratory Management Toward Accreditation (SLMTA) programme, hospital management adapted the SLMTA toolkit to drive hospital-wide quality improvement.

Objective: This paper describes changes in the hospital following the quality improvement activities in hygiene and sanitation, the outpatient waiting area and the surgical and maternity wards.

Methods: In March 2011, hospital management established a quality improvement task force

“SLMTA is an invaluable tool for every lab director, every hospital manager and health policy maker because of its value in ensuring quality improvement within the laboratory and its potential in contributing to strengthening the entire health system at little or no cost.” (Director of a Regional Hospital in Cameroon)
View from the top: Involvement of Namibia’s health ministry in laboratory quality improvement

Introduction

Laboratories form the backbone of health systems, providing critical test results that aid diagnoses and identify the cause of disease outbreaks. Accurate laboratory results improve healthcare outcomes.

“As quality improvements become institutionalised in hospital laboratories, it is becoming evident that entire hospital systems are in dire need of similar quality improvement programmes. The Namibia MoHSS calls on international agencies to develop and adapt programmes such as SLIPTA and SLMTA for use throughout hospital systems so as to ensure continuous quality patient care.”
SLMTA and SLIPTA brought out the best from us: Adult moment in the continuum of health systems
Hi Sibongi-

In Botswana on TBIC evaluation- saw notebook with SLMTA written on it- a lab at Palapaye Hospital keeping track of microscopy turn around times- they have been reduced from 3-5 days to reach surrounding clinics to 24 hours- based on their records and reports from clinics- go SLMTA! The lab is also calling clinics directly when they have a smear+ specimen.

Cheers-

Courtney
The Right Champion and Partnerships
Katy Yao - Champion’s Champion and Grandmother of SLMTA

International Excellence In Partnering Award

Katy Yao receiving the award

Katy Yao with Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, CDC Director

Photo at the award ceremony
Leadership and Commitment Strategic and Partnerships and Relationships
ASLM MISSION
To advance professional laboratory medicine practice, science, systems and networks in Africa needed to support preventive medicine, quality care of patients and disease control through partnership with governments and relevant organizations.
Meet the Ministers at ASLM Launch 2011
“-----Together, SLMTA and SLIPTA have revolutionised laboratory improvement in LMICs. As the global community considers the call to action by Horton and colleagues, 4 lessons learned from the past decade’s successes will be crucial in facilitating progress in the years ahead. Flagship programmes such as SLMTA and SLIPTA must continue to be supported and scaled up. Tools similar to SLMTA/SLIPTA could be developed to strengthen microbiological laboratories for antimicrobial resistance testing and testing of other diseases. It is important that vertical programmes such PEPFAR and the Global Fund continue to fund this programme---”
Conclusion

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Bigger, Bolder, Better
Thanks!