2018 UPDATES

SLMTA in Numbers
As of December, 2018

52
# of countries that have implemented SLMTA

1333
# of laboratories enrolled in SLMTA

94
# of SLMTA laboratories that have been accredited to international standards

2019 Upcoming Events
Mark your calendar

Illuminating the Path to ISO15189 Accreditation
Regional Workshop
Johannesburg, South Africa
May 13-24

SLMTA TOT
Regional Workshop
Johannesburg, South Africa
June 17-28

Quality Control and Method Validation
Regional Workshop
Johannesburg, South Africa
August 12-23

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SLMTA Nigeria Song and Dance, ASLM2018, Abuja, Nigeria
Once every two years, we join ASLM’s international conference to convene the SLMTA symposium, where program implementers come together to learn new skills, network, share lessons learned, celebrate each other’s successes, and get re-energized. It has always been a highly anticipated gathering. On December 8-9, 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria, the 4th SLMTA Symposium was held with 300+ participants from all over the world.

It is not an overstatement that this symposium was the most memorable and exciting event in the whole conference. Cases in point:

♦ The Nigerian SLMTA members performed an amazing SLMTA song and dance. This performance not only showcased their SLMTA spirit but also their multitude of cultures and unique language (pigeon English). It was so impressive that they reprised this performance the next day at ASLM2018 Opening Ceremony, where it brought the house down with many in the audience on their feet.

♦ This symposium was graced by some of the most recognized names in the world of medical laboratories - Sten Westgard, of the “Westgard rules” fame, gave a keynote speech and taught a QC workshop titled “Six Sigma to 90-90-90.” Wayne Dimech, the General Manager of NRL Australia, also taught a QC workshop titled “Understanding QC for Infectious Disease Testing.”

♦ Dr. Gilchrist Lokoel from Kenya, a speaker of Expert Panel #4, won the Best Laboratory Champion Clinician Award at ASLM2018.

♦ Special door prizes were raffled off throughout the symposium, including flash drives in the shapes of James, Sten and Joan Westgard, as well as autographed books.

♦ The Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria hosted a cocktail party for the symposium participants, which provided another opportunity for the participants to network.

In the closing ceremony, Dr. Talkmore Maruta paid a touching tribute to Nqobile Ndlovu - SLMTA alumnus, first-generation African Master Trainer, and now acting ASLM CEO – and put tears in many people’s eyes. He summed up the symposium eloquently with four resolutions (see side bar on the next page).

Go to www.slmta.org for the symposium’s presentations, photo album, and the Nigerian SLMTA song and dance video.
Our Resolutions

Recognizing the evolving needs of our Laboratories, *The SLMTA Program* will continue to evolve to respond to these changing needs, beginning with next version that combines both SLMTA 1.0 and 2.0 “Illuminating the Path to ISO 15189 Accreditation

New Training Tools

A Workshop and A Web-based Video Library

**Illuminating the Path to ISO 15189 Accreditation**

**Why is this important?**
The original SLMTA curriculum (SLMTA 1) helped many laboratories achieve 2-3 SLIPTA stars, while SLMTA 2 was designed to propel them to 4-5 stars with focus on four persistently challenging Quality Systems Essentials. We are now merging and enhancing these two programs into a new curriculum aimed at teaching a process-based approach to designing a cost-effective Quality Management System (QMS) that meets ISO15189 requirements.

**What’s new?**
The goal is no longer acquiring SLIPTA stars, but to earn and sustain ISO accreditation.

**Participants will learn to:**
- Translate ISO15189 clauses into daily laboratory practice
- Recognize QMS as a whole and its interconnected processes
- Design and implement those processes for a cost-effective QMS that fulfills ISO15189 requirements
- Establish a practical QMS that enables laboratories to reach and sustain accreditation status

**Target Audience:**
- Those who have successfully completed a SLMTA TOT and have been conducting SLMTA trainings in country
- **IMPORTANT** - Participants must be very familiar with the original SLMTA curriculum and have gone through the Teachback-style TOT workshop

**Web-based Video Library—Statistical Quality Control and Method Evaluation Lecture Series—now available on Siemens PEP Connect**

Through collaboration with Siemens under the Public Private Partnership, we captured Anna Murphy’s lectures from the 9-day classroom-based course into 48 videos totaling 14+ hours of viewing time. Trainers who wish to teach the curriculum can rehearse with these videos. Those who wish to learn the concepts can also benefit from the videos. It can be accessed, free of charge, at [https://pep.siemens-info.com/en-us/pepfar-qc-workshop](https://pep.siemens-info.com/en-us/pepfar-qc-workshop).