



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



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Advanced TB Diagnostics

A capacity-building workshop for countries in Africa

9 December 2024 – 13 December 2024
Johannesburg, South Africa

This five-day workshop will feature a comprehensive agenda, including lectures, panel discussions, and practical site visits. International and African faculty will guide participants through the latest advances in TB diagnostics, focusing on African contexts. Topics covered include rapid TB diagnostics, diagnosis in special populations (paediatrics, PLHIV), subclinical TB and screening strategies, cutting-edge tools like targeted next-generation sequencing for drug resistance detection, and AI-driven radiology.

This is an excellent opportunity for professionals involved in TB care and research to enhance their diagnostic skills and practice.

Apply Now

Closing date: 25 October 2024

Purpose

South Africa and other countries in the African region are committed to Ending TB by 2030. Closing the diagnostic gap and improving the quality of diagnostic services is a key priority. Collaborative efforts from National TB programs, National TB Reference Laboratories, Technical Agencies, Research Institutions, Academia, the Private sector, and Industry partners are critical for generating high-quality evidence on the accuracy and clinical impact of the new tools to develop evidence-based policies on TB diagnostics and successfully deliver them.

Description of the Capacity Building Workshop

Over five days, participants will explore the latest innovations in TB diagnostics, with contributions from leading international and African experts. Day 1 will cover TB diagnostic challenges and solutions, discussing universal access to rapid diagnostics, non-sputum samples, and subclinical TB. Day 2 focuses on paediatric TB diagnostics, diagnosing TB in people with HIV, product innovations, and a rotating group session for networking and visiting the onsite diagnostic facility. Day 3 emphasises drug-susceptibility testing and sequencing for new TB regimens and site visits to national TB reference labs and a DR-TB treatment centre. Day 4 will dive into optimising diagnostic networks, molecular diagnostics, quality assurance, and new treatment monitoring tools. The final day, Day 5, will address regulatory pathways, TB networking across Africa, and a tech pitch session showcasing new diagnostic tools from innovators.

This comprehensive agenda promises hands-on learning and critical discussions on improving TB diagnostics in Africa, driving innovation, and meeting global standards for TB care.

Workshop objectives

The ultimate goal of this Advanced TB diagnostics workshop is to contribute to improved policy development in Africa by strengthening TB diagnostics research capacity and collaborating with the key stakeholders involved in TB research and implementation.

At the end of the workshop, the participants will understand

- Value chain for TB diagnostics development, pipeline of emerging low-cost diagnostics, market dynamics, WHO policies on new diagnostics, and challenges for scale-up
- Principles and practice of diagnostic research, from accuracy to impact on patient outcomes
- Development of diagnostic policy, using the GRADE approach and use of systematic review and meta-analyses of data
- Principles of implementation research, collecting evidence for scale-up, cost-effectiveness analyses in TB diagnostics
- Translation of research evidence into policy and implementation at scale

Venue: Faculty of Health Sciences, Wits University, 7 York Road, Parktown, 2193, Johannesburg, South Africa

Enrolment: Thirty participants currently involved in TB diagnostic research in South Africa will be selected from the applications received. Thirty participants from other African countries will also be nominated. In addition, select participants from academia, the NGO sector, and the diagnostics industry will be eligible to apply.

Registration: No registration fee is required. Nominated participants will be provided travel and accommodation support. All others would need to cover their travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. To apply, please fill out the application form and send it to nina.vonknorring1@wits.ac.za

Last date for applications: 25th October 2024

For further information, contact Dr Nina von Knorring: nina.vonknorring1@wits.ac.za