

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
THE GLOBAL LABORATORY INITIATIVE WORKING GROUP, STOP-TB PARTNERSHIP

The Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) is announcing a call for nominations for members to serve on the GLI Core Group in 2014-2015

A balance in Core Group Membership is sought to encourage active participation of and representation from technical partners, scientific and academic institutions, civil society, relevant funding agencies, and high-burden TB countries

Closing date for applications: 1st March 2014
Results of selection process to be announced on: 15th March 2014

Background

The Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) is a Working Group of the Stop TB Partnership (TBP), with the GLI Secretariat hosted by the Global TB Programme (GTB) of the World Health Organization (WHO).

The GLI works closely with National TB Programmes, non-governmental organizations, technical and financial agencies, scientific and academic institutions, and the WHO Country and Regional Offices in strengthening TB laboratory services.

GLI main achievements:

- GLI serves as coordination and communication platform for global TB laboratory strengthening for a network of over 100 international Partners interfacing with other laboratory networks to facilitate and expand integrated country laboratory capacity development, quality assurance, and coordination of technical assistance.
- Provides strategic global guidance and evidence for policy through effective knowledge sharing in the area of laboratory diagnostics, including new diagnostic tools, and standardised quality assurance.
- Provides essential tools and guidance to help TB endemic countries improving quality of individual laboratories and laboratory networks, by developing laboratory standards, including biosafety standards, EQA systems and training tools, and by implementing quality management systems towards TB laboratory accreditation.
- Collaborates to the global scale-up of rapid diagnostics tools such as Xpert MTB/RIF for TB and MDR-TB detection.
- By strengthening the TB Supranational Reference Laboratory Network (SRLN) and by establishing a large pool of TB laboratory consultants, the GLI assists countries to develop National TB Laboratory Strategic Plans and provides monitoring and evaluation support as well as global analysis on laboratory strengthening progress.
- Promotes advocacy, resource mapping, and resource mobilisation.

GLI strategic priorities:

- Assist countries to develop National TB Laboratory Strategic Plans
- Strengthen and expand the TB SRLN to provide technical assistance and external quality assessment (EQA)
- Develop guidance for the accreditation of National TB Laboratories and TB Laboratory Networks
- Conduct a comprehensive review of existing GLI tools and guidance
- Develop consensus guidance on EQA, validation, and verification of the Xpert MTB/RIF assay
- Develop training materials for the Xpert MTB/RIF assay and other molecular tests
- Develop a laboratory consultant manual and a consultant training strategy

What is the GLI Core Group?

The GLI is a network of international partners dedicated to accelerating and expanding access to quality assured laboratory services in response to the diagnostic challenges of tuberculosis, notably HIV-associated and drug-resistant TB. The GLI provides a focus for TB within the framework of a multi-faceted yet integrated approach to laboratory capacity strengthening.

The GLI Core Group (CG) consists of individuals with expertise in multiple disciplines from constituencies, stakeholders, and institutions involved in global and country-level strengthening of laboratory systems. The CG serves as an independent, technical, expert advisory group to the Stop TB Partnership, WHO, development, technical and funding agencies and WHO member states. The GLI Secretariat is provided by the Laboratories, Diagnostics and Drug Resistance (LDR) Unit of the WHO Global TB Programme (GTB), and is hosted by the WHO-headquarters in Geneva.

What do GLI Core Group members do?

The primary tasks of the GLI Core Group are to:

1. Attend all CG meetings and participate in CG decisions;
2. Advise the WHO on issues related to strengthening of TB laboratory systems;
3. Promote TB laboratory services in member countries to scale up diagnostic access for management of TB and drug-resistant TB;
4. Promote and expand laboratory technical assistance capacity related to technology transfer and strengthening TB laboratory systems;
5. Participate in the analysis of data on new methods and approaches to TB laboratory diagnosis and in the dissemination of evidence-based policies on TB diagnostics.
6. Actively contribute to the development of strategic and technical guidance for strengthening TB laboratory systems.

To apply for GLI Core Group membership:

Nominations are currently awaited from individuals to become members of the GLI Core Group. Interested individuals/institutions are invited to send their nominations to the GLI Secretariat at gli_secretariat@who.int, attaching a current CV with a cover letter expressing their interest in and suitability for GLI CG membership.

Selected individuals will be expected to actively and constructively contribute their time and expertise, and to provide leadership in the development of GLI partnership projects focused on technical and management aspects of effective laboratory practices and systems. Interested individuals may be nominated by their organization/institution or may choose to self-nominate their availability. Final selection will be based on considerations of expertise, experience, and support by the individual's institution. CG membership will be balanced by gender, region, disease burden and GLI constituency.

Applications will be accepted until 1st March 2014

Institutions must be prepared to allow their representative sufficient time to carry out GLI CG responsibilities, including participation in at least two annual face-to-face meetings and monthly teleconferences. A letter of support from the nominating individual's institution will be sought for all short-listed candidates.

GLI Secretariat

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