

Strengthening laboratory capacity for diagnosis of neglected tropical diseases

A 10-day practical course



10–21 June 2019

Public Health Laboratory – Ivo de Carneri

Chake-Chake, Pemba, Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania



Introduction

The Public Health Laboratory Ivo de Carneri (PHLIdC) (<http://www.phlidc.org>), in Pemba, Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, has been a WHO Collaborating Centre for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) since 2005. It operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Health, Zanzibar.

PHLIdC's activities include assisting relevant health programmes to implement disease control strategies, undertaking operational research and strengthening capacities of health staff. It also provides the local population with routine services for selected laboratory tests. To date, PHLIdC has been actively involved in organizing various international training courses and workshops in tropical medicine and global health.

In order to enhance the capacity of laboratory personnel on the diagnosis of selected NTDs, including providing a leadership role in research and monitoring & evaluation of infectious disease programmes, PHLIdC – in collaboration with the Ivo de Carneri Foundation (<http://www.fondazioneivocarneri.it/en/>) and support from the World Health Organization (<https://www.who.int>) – is organizing a training

course on diagnosis of schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, lymphatic filariasis, leprosy, dengue fever, rabies and diarrhoeal diseases, with a focus on good laboratory practice (GLP), notably quality assurance (QA), quality control (QC) and adherence to standard operating procedures (SOPs).

Course objectives

The objective of the course is to build capacities on field-applicable laboratory procedures intended to diagnose NTDs in endemic countries. The training will be directed to laboratory personnel either based in such countries, or willing to get familiar with laboratory practice in a tropical setting. Specific objectives include:

- To provide training to laboratory personnel on execution of diagnostic testing (specimen collection, sample preservation, storage, processing and disposal) regarding schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, lymphatic filariasis, dengue fever, leprosy and rabies; and to provide an orientation on diagnosis of diarrhoeal diseases;
- To orientate participants on the importance of GLP with the focus on QA/QC;
- To ensure that participants familiarize themselves with and are able to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for performance of laboratory techniques (microscopic methods and rapid-diagnostic test) for the above-mentioned diseases.

Methodology

The training course will focus on plenary sessions, practical sessions with hand-on-experience, and field work. Expected outcomes include:

- Strengthening of participants' capacities in the following areas:
 - Laboratory diagnosis of schistosomiasis
 - Laboratory diagnosis of soil-transmitted helminthiasis
 - Laboratory diagnosis of lymphatic filariasis
 - Laboratory diagnosis of dengue fever
 - Laboratory diagnosis of leprosy
 - Laboratory diagnosis of rabies
 - Laboratory diagnosis of diarrhoeal diseases
 - Orientation of GLP with emphasis on QA/QC
 - Preservation of specimen for further testing, including molecular techniques
 - Storage of prepared slides for QC
 - Safe disposal of laboratory waste
 - Preparation of SOPs
- Strengthening of networking among laboratory staff working on NTDs
- Reinforcement of the network of laboratories and research centres working on NTDs

Trainers and facilitators

The course will rely on PHL-IdC's expertise as well as on knowledge drawn from a range of different institutions in the United Republic of Tanzania and abroad. Facilitators and trainers will be both locals and foreigners, from higher education and research organizations.

Venue and course duration

Venue and course duration

The course will take place at the Public Health Laboratory – Ivo de Carneri (PHL-IdC), P.O. Box 122, Wawi, Chake-Chake, Pemba, Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania (<http://www.phl-idc.org>).

The duration of the course is 10 working days (2 x Monday to Friday), from 10 to 21 June 2019.

Eligibility and priority

Laboratory personnel already working in NTDs or willing to deepen their knowledge in this area of work are invited to apply. The course is open to all nationalities, but priority will be given to applicants based in NTD-endemic countries.

Course registration fee and sponsorship

With the aim of encouraging participation, no course registration fee will apply. Selected participants are, however, expected to cover costs related to travel, accommodation and meals.

A limited number of all-inclusive sponsorships is available, for which expenses related to travel, accommodation and meals will be fully covered.

If you are interested in obtaining a sponsorship, please mention it when you apply.

How to apply

Information on the course is available from the websites of PHL-IdC (<http://www.phl-idc.org>), Ivo de Carneri Foundation (<http://www.fondazioneivodecarneri.it/en/>) and WHO (https://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/en/).

Interested applicants should send an email to info@phl-idc.org by Friday 24 May 2019. The email should explain the motivations supporting the application, and an updated curriculum vitae should be attached. The email should also mention if the applicant is interested in obtaining a sponsorship, or not.