

# Roche Diagnostics together with ASLM: *Working towards a healthier Africa*

At Roche Diagnostics we remain committed to developing laboratory diagnostic capacity in Africa.

As a pan-African professional body aimed at improving laboratory services across the continent, the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) believes that quality medical laboratories save lives and ensure positive health outcomes for patients.<sup>1</sup>

This goal closely aligns with Roche's vision for quality healthcare and diagnostics on the African continent, which is why we are proud to support ASLM as a strategic partner of the 2018 ASLM Conference.

## Addressing diagnostic challenges in Africa

Roche is the largest in-vitro diagnostics company in the world.<sup>2</sup> Our portfolio ranges from POC testing to sophisticated sequencing technologies for personalised healthcare. Our broad portfolio, coupled with our presence and experience in Africa, enables us to deliver impactful solutions for the continent.

As countries scale up their programmes to address MTB, STI testing, HPV screening and hepatitis management, we are ready to partner with you to deliver actionable and cost effective solutions.

In the future, as the healthcare landscape shifts from a focus on infectious diseases to also include non-communicable diseases, Roche remains committed to strengthen the role of diagnostics to improve patient outcomes.



## Innovating for our continent

We are committed to live the Roche vision to "Do now what patients need next" by developing innovative, customer oriented solutions. Roche is proud to have pioneered the use of Dried Blood Spot (DBS) sample types for early infant diagnosis of HIV in infants. The program established a benchmark to address logistical challenges of cold chain supply of sample transport across the continent, and was a contributing factor to the reduction of HIV related infant mortality rates.



Roche innovations have expanded and evolved beyond DBS over the years to include:

- First to introduce workflow innovation in the serum work area, leading to full lab integration with tracked solutions
- Built-in contamination control for molecular solutions, e.g AmpErase®
- Introduction of high medical value biomarkers, e.g cardiac markers, pre-eclampsia and Alzheimer's disease
- Validated pre-analytical automation and post-analytical solutions
- Plasma Separation Card
- Digital solutions through dashboards and mobile apps

## Public Private Partnerships

Over the past 5 years, Roche Diagnostics and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) partnered to strengthen laboratory medicine training and knowledge on the African continent. The partnership aimed to improve the capacity of laboratories and strengthen laboratory systems in African nations highly impacted by HIV/AIDS.

Valued at nearly \$10 million over five years, the goal of the partnership was to build institutional capacity of regional and national partners by developing certification programmes for laboratory technicians, strengthening pre-service curricula, and institutionalising quality improvement in diagnostics services. Under the partnership, we have trained more than 500 participants in 12 countries on various systems and quality curricula at the Roche Scientific Campus.



### The five-year public-private partnership focused on:

- Developing competency and certification for laboratory human resources for health
- Developing pre-service training curricula
- Quality improvement for laboratory services – including certification courses for pathologist, molecular diagnostics and quality management
- Collaboration with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) to strengthen local capacity and to promote country ownership and sustainability

**Roche will stay committed to improving laboratory medicine training and knowledge. Going forward, we will expand our focus beyond just HIV, to MTB, HPV and other priority disease areas that impact global public health.**

