

Tuberculosis Program

The Tuberculosis (TB) program at APHL monitors key TB diagnostic testing issues; identifies and prioritizes relevant laboratory diagnostic information for dissemination to public health laboratories and other partners; evaluates emerging TB issues; and develops recommendations and guidelines as needed.

APHL plays a key role in facilitating communication between CDC and local and public health laboratories (PHLs) to improve tuberculosis-related testing and prevention. APHL also engages regulatory organizations and governmental agencies on members' behalf with issues relating to TB diagnostic testing, regulations and funding.

With the re-emergence of TB and the emergence of multiple-drug resistant and extensively drug resistant TB, the role of PHLs in diagnostic and as support for clinicians and epidemiologists is as important as ever. APHL assist PHLs in their role by facilitating exchange of information to promote quality TB laboratory practice, and address knowledge and capacity gaps in TB diagnostic and resistance testing practice. This sharing of expertise consists of participation at conferences or symposia and dissemination of guidelines or guidance.

In order to promote, discuss, define and explain the unique challenges faced by public health laboratories, APHL works to:

- Monitor and address CDC with TB funding issues.
- Assist CDC with studies to evaluate new technologies and alternate testing methodologies.
- Engage conversation with CDC and commercial manufacturers to address drug susceptibility testing issues.

Ultimately, these activities will support the improvement of Tuberculosis laboratory practice.

Other specific activities this year include:

- In conjunction with CDC, publish a series of reports/issue briefs based on analyses of the APHL/CDC National TB Services Survey.
- Monthly conference calls with the APHL TB Steering Committee including one in-person meeting to discuss a strategic plan for the upcoming year.
- Develop a core curriculum for TB Laboratory Services Training.
- Monitor FDA's decision on the re-classification of TB molecular diagnostics from Class III to Class II.

Links:

- <http://www.aphl.org/aphlprograms/infectious/tuberculosis/pages/default.aspx>
- <http://www.aphl.org/conferences/proceedings/Pages/2011TBConference.aspx>

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