Lab Twinning: There and Back Again

Patrick F. Luedtke MD, MPH
Senior Public Health Officer
Chief Medical Officer
Dept. of Health & Human Services
Lane County, Oregon
Disclaimer(s)

- Every twinning project is different

- This presentation is about OUR twinning project

- Nothing prepares you better for tomorrow than preparing for the day after tomorrow
Objectives

• Participants will learn what Lab Twinning is and how they and their PHL can be involved
• Participants will learn how APHL supports the development of the relationship that forms the basis of the partnership
• Participants will learn how laboratories benefit from the partnership and exchange of information
What It’s All About

• In the beginning, it’s about the possible

• In the middle, it’s about the plausible

• In the end, it all becomes the probable

• Suggestion: Never forget the possible
Barbados and Utah

- WHO grant: Independent applicants twinned independently

- APHL: “care and feeding”

- Lab Staff: visioning and operationalizing
WHO: The Catalyst

• Our grant foci: Shared expertise & experience

• Small amount of seed money, but large amount of political capital (don’t underestimate the latter)

• Reporting not onerous (but APHL helped!)
APHL

- Grant management, travel assistance, fiscal agent
- In-country expertise (Global Health staff)
- Access to subject matter experts
- Knowledge broker for other twinning projects
Lab Staff

- Project visioning, prioritizing, planning, and implementing

- Heart and soul, passion and energy

- Opportunities to excel in new arenas
Twinning Projects

• Wet lab & Epi training

• ISO 15189 prep

• LIMS creation & devo

• MOH, PS, PM: toward a new lab
Surprises

• Growth of Utah staff resulting in several BS and MPH degrees….and a PhD for Edmund

• Identification of IT expertise

• Unifying force of a common goal amidst chaos

• How small seed money created a 10+ year relationship and a new $10+ million lab
Two Twinning Themes

• There and Back Again
  ---Enviro training Utah
  ---LIMS training Barbados
  ---Epi training Utah and Barbados
  ---Crosswalk with lab training needs of Mozambique PHL staff

• Preparing for the day after tomorrow
  ---Clear early on new lab needed to reach the day after tomorrow
  ---A small country cannot support three separate labs (Lepto, LRU, PHL)
  ---“Pursuing the possible”: a scientific project gains a political facet
  ---Make no small plans
Success Has Many Fathers…

Angela Best Richards and Gillian Best-Tasker, daughters of Cecil Best, cut the ribbon at the official opening of the Best-dos Santos Public Health Laboratory last Friday. (B.Hinds/BGIS)

Barbados Public Health Lab Grand Opening: 1-5-2018
Welcome to
The Official Opening
and Naming Ceremony
of the
Amalgamated
Public Health Laboratory

Master of Ceremonies –
Dr. Manquita Gittens-St Hilaire, Director, Lesrospira Laboratory

Guests’ Arrival –
 Prelude Performance- Ruk-A-Tuk International with Stilt Men

Invocation – Fr. Clement Paul

Welcome – Dr. Kenneth George, Chief Medical Officer, Ag.

Lab Design and Structure – Mr. Lou Kruynick, Architect

Poetry – Dr. Manquita Gittens-St Hilaire

Remarks –
Her Excellency Ms. Linda Taglialatela, United States Ambassador to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean and the OECS

Feature Address –
The Honourable John D. E. Boyce, M.P., Minister of Health

Performances –
Louise Woodvine Dance Collective- Sound of Silence,
Bay Primary School & Gabby

Closing Remarks –
Ms. Stephanie Hector, Manager, Public Health Laboratory, Ag.

Ribbon Cutting and Unveiling –
Official Party

Blessing – Archdeacon Eric Lynch

Tours & Reception
The Bajan Way---Is The Only Way!
Questions?