

2016 UPDATES



Annual SLMTA Newsletter

January 2017

SLMTA in Numbers*

47

of countries that have implemented SLMTA

63

of SLMTA master trainers

31

of SLMTA laboratories that have achieved accreditation

1103

of laboratories enrolled in SLMTA

Top 3 countries for # of laboratories enrolled:

1. Kenya	141
2. Ethiopia	138
3. Uganda	109

*As of December, 2016

Key 2017 Events

[Mark your calendar](#)

Regional SLMTA 2 workshop

Johannesburg
South Africa
August 21-25

Regional Quality Control and Method Evaluation Workshop

Johannesburg
South Africa
November 6-15



The SLMTA Spirit Award, SLIPTA/SLMTA Symposium, ASLM2016

In This Issue

- SLMTA in Numbers
- Highlights from the 2016 SLIPTA/SLMTA Symposium
- New Training Tools
- The SLMTA Ripple Effects
- SLMTA Ventures into Pacific Island Countries
- The SLMTA Journey



“Shosholozza “ - South Africa showcasing their SLMTA Spirit with an invigorating song and dance

Highlights from the 3rd SLIPTA/SLMTA Symposium at ASLM2016

Once every two years, we join ASLM’s international conference to hold the SLIPTA and SLMTA symposium, where the program implementers come together to get updates, network, share lessons learned, celebrate each other’s successes, and get re-energized. On December 3-4, 2016, we returned to Cape Town and held the third SLIPTA/SLMTA symposium.

210 participants from 29 countries, including France, India, Japan, Switzerland, USA, and Vietnam, as well as 22 African countries, attended the two-day symposium. Participant feedback has been very positive—the best testimony came from Dr. Ernest Makokha, CDC-Kenya, who stated that *“In my honest opinion, [the] symposium offered more life than all other ASLM2016 sessions I managed to attend. Many thanks for putting together such a wonderful and impactful show!”*

Leading to the symposium, countries were challenged to prepare a song and dance to showcase their SLMTA spirit and compete for a trophy. Three countries — Cameroon, Kenya and South Africa — took on the challenge and each gave an unforgettable and moving performance. After a long and hard deliberation, the three judges (Dr. Emmanuel Idigbe, MOH-Nigeria; Dr. Talkmore Maruta, ASLM; and Anna Murphy) declared all three countries to be winners.

Dr. Nkengasong presented with “The Patron of SLMTA” award

Since the launch in 2009, SLMTA has grown from a spark to a global forest fire (see page 5 *SLMTA Journey InfoGraph*). Throughout this journey, Dr. John Nkengasong, Chief of the International Laboratory Branch at the Division of HIV & TB, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has been our biggest advocate, visionary and guardian. As he was transitioning to his new role as the first director of Africa-CDC, he graced the symposium with a keynote speech. In a surprise ceremony following the keynote, we presented him with “The Patron of SLMTA” award to show the appreciation of the global SLMTA community.



Dr. Emmanuel Idigbe (chair, SLMTA governance board) presenting the award to Dr. Nkengasong



The Kenya (left) and Cameroon (right) country teams shared the SLMTA Spirit Award trophy with the host country.

The SLMTA Ripple Effect

As SLMTA established its efficacy in transforming laboratories, SLM-TAnS have been tapped by hospital management to help implement quality improvement initiatives hospital-wide. The effort led by Elde Paladar, SLMTA master trainer/mentor, at two hospitals in Malawi (Malamulo Mission Hospital and Blantyre Adventist Hospital) has yielded great results, as reported by Jason Blanchard, CEO of Malamulo Hospital, at the SLIPTA/SLMTA symposium.

- ◆ Out-patient process time reduced from 220 min to 45 min
- ◆ Percentage of rejected x-ray film reduced from 20% to 15%
- ◆ In-patient discharge process time reduced from 5 hours to 0.5 hour
- ◆ Turnaround time for repair maintenance requests reduced from 5 days to 2 days
- ◆ Percentage of lab tests done but not billed reduced from 23% to 14%
- ◆ Percentage of drugs administered or procedures performed but not billed reduced from 24% to 12%



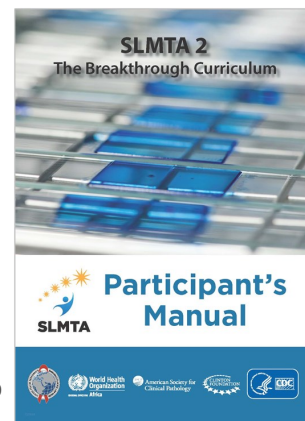
SLIPTA/SLMTA Symposium at ASLM2016, Cape Town

New Training Tools

This year two new training tools were added to the SLMTA toolbox — the 5-day classroom-based SLMTA 2 Breakthrough curriculum and video recordings of Anna Murphy delivering the lectures from the 8-day Statistical Quality Control and Method Evaluation curriculum.

SLMTA 2 Breakthrough Curriculum

Several years in the making, this new tool supplements the original SLM-TA curriculum and is designed to help laboratories break through their glass ceiling of 2-3 stars and continue their ascent to 5 stars and accreditation. This curriculum focuses on the four quality system essentials (QSEs) that continued to challenge those laboratories that have completed SLMTA. The four QSEs were identified through a meta-analysis of 126 laboratories from 12 countries by comparing their baseline and exit audit scores (*Luman E, Yao K, Nkengasong J. A Comprehensive Review of the SLMTA Literature Part 2: Measuring Success. Afr J Lab Med 2014;3(2):19-26*), and validated by observations from countries and ASLM's auditors. This new tool was piloted in September 2016 to great reviews. One testimony most representative of the overall sentiment came from pilot participant, Dr. Julie Ndasi from Cameroon, who said, "[with this tool] **I strongly believe that our 2-3 star labs will soon be celebrating accreditation.**"



Statistical Quality Control and Method Evaluation Lecture Series—to be available on the web

Through collaboration with Siemens under the Public Private Partnership, we captured live delivery of lectures from the 8-day classroom-based course into videos. These lectures were delivered by Anna Murphy—QC expert, master trainer, and developer of this curriculum. Once completed, Siemens will make them available on the web to maximize this course's reach and impact. Additionally, trainers who wish to teach the curriculum can rehearse with these videos in preparation for their step-down training in country. Participants at the SLIPTA/SLMTA symposium got a sneak peak of the video to much excitement. We expect to launch this tool in 2017.

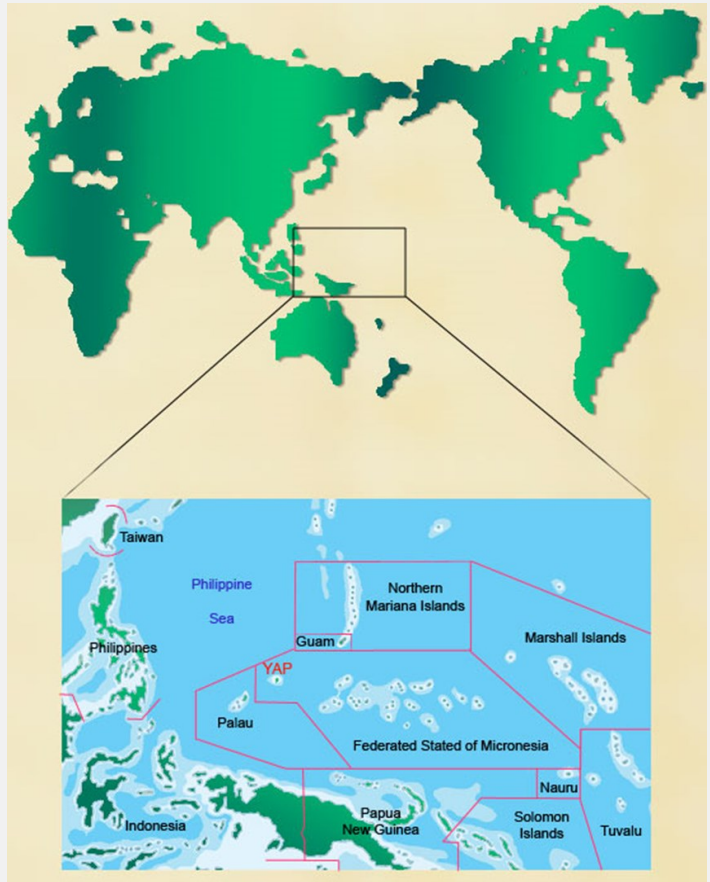


SLMTA Ventures into Pacific Island Countries

The SLMTA journey in Pacific Island Countries begins in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (see map). On December 5-9, 2016, SLMTA trainers Vasiti Uluiviti (Regional Laboratory Coordinator, The Pacific Island Health Officers Association [PIHOA]), Manasa Mainaqelelevu (President, Association of the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands Laboratories), and Elde Paladar (Malawi-based SLMTA master trainer and mentor), with the financial support from PIHOA*, officially launched the SLMTA program in Yap Hospital Laboratory.

The three SLMTA trainers introduced the SLIPTA checklist to the entire laboratory staff and gained their buy-in and ownership of the program. They conducted a baseline audit together with the laboratory manager, quality officer and safety officer. A non-conformity report and a corrective action plan were then produced in collaboration with the laboratory team before presentation to the hospital management. Finally, they introduced SLMTA as a useful tool to address “how-to-do-it.”

SLMTA workshop 1 will begin in February, 2017. It was also agreed that additional training, such as the Quality Control and Method Evaluation workshop and concepts covered in SLMTA 2, will be incorporated into the whole Yap Hospital Laboratory’s journey towards accreditation. It is the vision of PIHOA that a successful laboratory quality management system implementation through SLMTA at Yap Hospital Laboratory will serve as a model in strengthening laboratory management in other member countries.

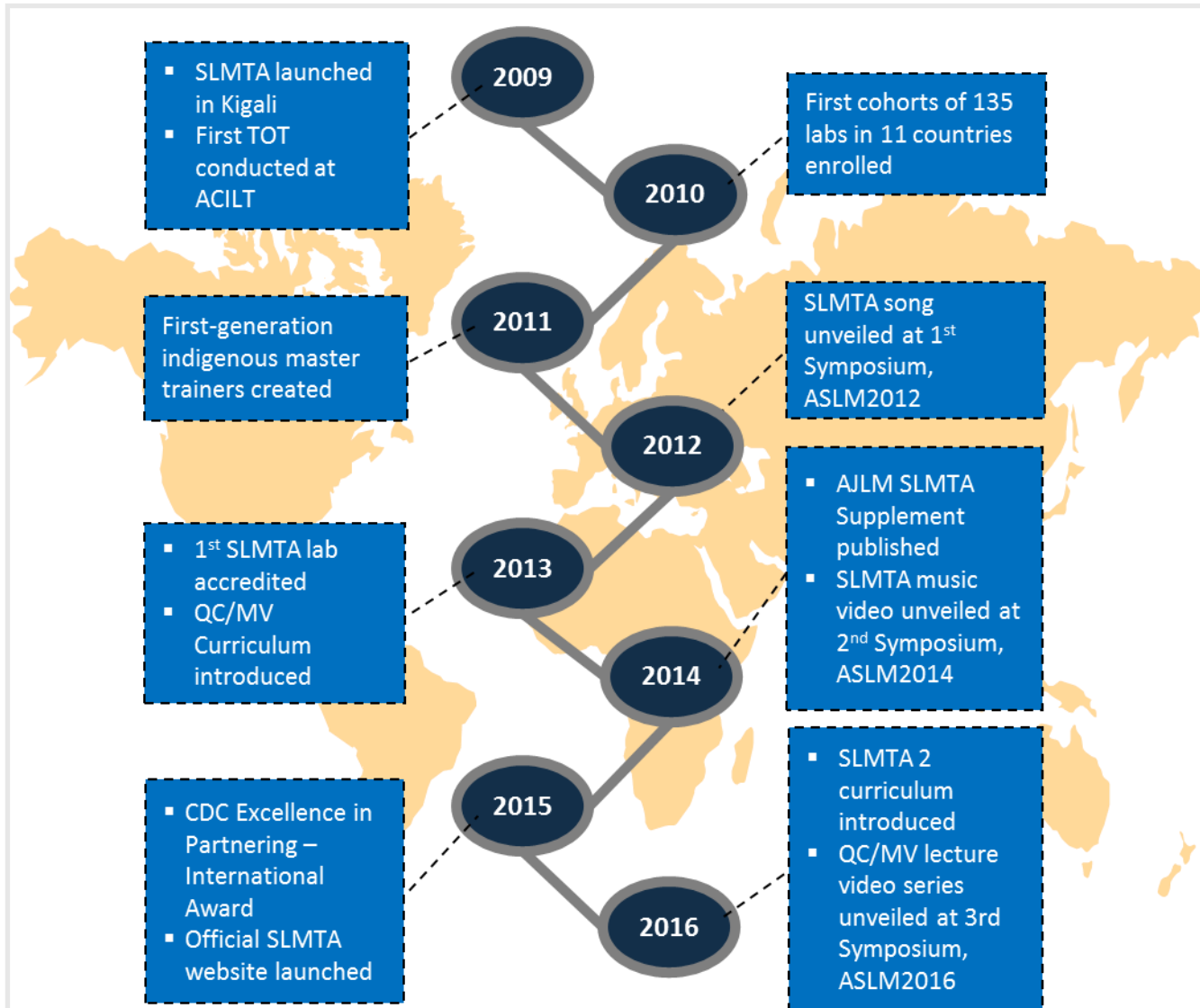


From left to right: Vasiti Uluiviti, Manasa Mainaqelelevu, and Elde Paladar

*The Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) is a non-profit organization that is governed by and represents the collective interests of the Ministers, Secretaries, and Directors of Health of the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Island Countries and Territories of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. PIHOA’s mission is to improve the health and well-being of the Pacific communities it served by providing, through consensus, a unified credible voice on health issues of regional significance.

The SLMTA Journey

Key Milestones



Coming soon to www.slmta.org:

- ◆ Photos and presentations from the 2016 SLIPTA/SLMTA Symposium
- ◆ Videos of the SLMTA song and dance country performances
- ◆ SLMTA 2 and Statistical Quality Control and Method Evaluation training tools
- ◆ New SLMTA Heroes

In planning:

- ◆ “Ask the Expert” discussion forum