

# 2018 UPDATES



Annual SLMTA Newsletter

January 2019

## SLMTA in Numbers

As of December, 2018

52

# of countries that have implemented SLMTA

1333

# of laboratories enrolled in SLMTA

94

# of SLMTA laboratories that have been accredited to international standards

## 2019 Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar

### *illuminating the Path to ISO15189 Accreditation*

Regional Workshop

Johannesburg, South Africa

May 13-24

### *SLMTA TOT*

Regional Workshop

Johannesburg, South Africa

June 17-28

### *Quality Control and Method Validation*

Regional Workshop

Johannesburg

South Africa

August 12-23



SLMTA Nigeria Song and Dance, ASLM2018, Abuja, Nigeria

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# Highlights from the 2018 SLMTA Symposium



Left—Sten Westgard, Center—Wayne Dimech, Right—VIP speakers: Renuka Gadde, John Nkengasong, and Lorna Madurai (left to right)

Once every two years, we join ASLM's international conference to convene the SLMTA symposium, where program implementers come together to learn new skills, network, share lessons learned, celebrate each other's successes, and get re-energized. It has always been a highly anticipated gathering. On December 8-9, 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria, the 4th SLMTA Symposium was held with 300+ participants from all over the world.

It is not an overstatement that this symposium was the most memorable and exciting event in the whole conference. Cases in point:

- ◆ The Nigerian SLMTA members performed an amazing SLMTA song and dance. This performance not only showcased their SLMTA spirit but also their multitude of cultures and unique language (pigeon English). It was so impressive that they reprised this performance the next day at ASLM2018 Opening Ceremony, where it brought the house down with many in the audience on their feet.
- ◆ This symposium was graced by some of the most recognized names in the world of medical laboratories - Sten Westgard, of the "Westgard rules" fame, gave a keynote speech and taught a QC workshop titled "Six Sigma to 90-90-90." Wayne Dimech, the General Manager of NRL Australia, also taught a QC workshop titled "Understanding QC for Infectious Disease Testing."
- ◆ Dr. Gilchrist Lokoel from Kenya, a speaker of Expert Panel #4, won the Best Laboratory Champion Clinician Award at ASLM2018.
- ◆ Special door prizes were raffled off throughout the symposium, including flash drives in the shapes of James, Sten and Joan Westgard, as well as autographed books.
- ◆ The Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria hosted a cocktail party for the symposium participants, which provided another opportunity for the participants to network.

In the closing ceremony, Dr. Talkmore Maruta paid a touching tribute to Nqobile Ndlovu - SLMTA alumnus, first-generation African Master Trainer, and now acting ASLM CEO – and put tears in many people's eyes. He summed up the symposium eloquently with four resolutions (see side bar on the next page).

Go to [www.slmta.org](http://www.slmta.org) for the symposium's presentations, photo album, and the Nigerian SLMTA song and dance video.

## Patience Dabula Received "The Patron of SLMTA" award

Patience Dabula, National QA Manager from South Africa's National Health Laboratory Service, was presented with the Patron of SLMTA Award for her continuous support – both logistical and financial – for the regional SLMTA workshops held in Johannesburg. Twice the regional workshops risked being cancelled due to budget issues. Patience stepped in and rescued the workshops by providing necessary funding to keep them going. This award shows our appreciation to her as our guardian angel.



Nqobile Ndlovu (acting CEO of ASLM) presenting the award to Patience Dabula



Talkmore Maruta holding up a door prize — a flash drive in the shape of James Westgard

## Noteworthy Quote

"I am sitting here in wintery Connecticut, with fond memories of Abuja. Of all the places I visited this year, and I visited many, none was so full of energy, drive, and hope as SLMTA and ASLM."

Sten Westgard

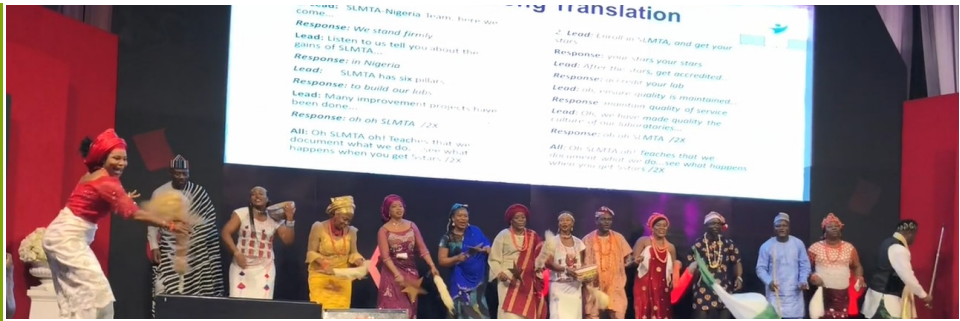
## Our Resolutions

Recognizing the evolving needs of our Laboratories, *The SLMTA Program* will continue to evolve to respond to these changing needs, beginning with next version that combines both SLMTA 1.0 and 2.0 “Illuminating the Path to ISO 15189 Accreditation

To reach the ASLM 2020 Vision of enrolling 2,500 laboratories and accredit 250, *ASLM* shall launch the next “country driven” frontier where SLIPTA is institutionalized within ministries of health departments with ASLM retaining the overarching coordination role supported by strong collaborations with various stakeholders, donor agencies and implementing partners

To ensure reliability and standardization to the SLIPTA audit process, *ASLM* shall review the SLIPTA audit process, the training, certification and maintenance of competency of certified auditors

Recognizing the need to ensure uninterrupted testing service by minimizing equipment downtime, *countries* shall invest in capacity building of biomedical/equipment service technicians, implement Service Level Agreements and use strategic sourcing approaches like reagent rental/equipment placement



## New Training Tools

### A Workshop and A Web-based Video Library

#### Illuminating the Path to ISO 15189 Accreditation

##### Why is this important?

The original SLMTA curriculum (SLMTA 1) helped many laboratories achieve 2-3 SLIPTA stars, while SLMTA 2 was designed to propel them to 4-5 stars with focus on four persistently challenging Quality Systems Essentials. We are now merging and enhancing these two programs into a new curriculum aimed at teaching a process-based approach to designing a cost-effective Quality Management System (QMS) that meets ISO15189 requirements.



##### What's new?

The goal is no longer acquiring SLIPTA stars, but to earn and sustain ISO accreditation.

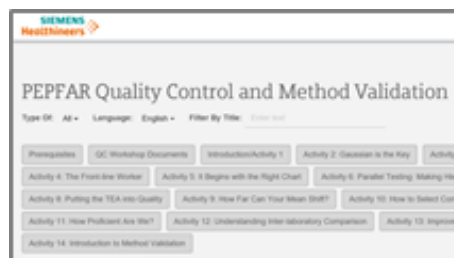
##### Participants will learn to:

- ◆ Translate ISO15189 clauses into daily laboratory practice
- ◆ Recognize QMS as a whole and its interconnected processes
- ◆ Design and implement those processes for a cost-effective QMS that fulfills ISO15189 requirements
- ◆ Establish a practical QMS that enables laboratories to reach and sustain accreditation status

##### Target Audience:

- ◆ Those who have successfully completed a SLMTA TOT and have been conducting SLMTA trainings in country
- ◆ **IMPORTANT** - Participants must be very familiar with the original SLMTA curriculum and have gone through the Teachback-style TOT workshop

### Web-based Video Library—Statistical Quality Control and Method Evaluation Lecture Series—now available on Siemens PEP Connect



Through collaboration with Siemens under the Public Private Partnership, we captured Anna Murphy's lectures from the 9-day classroom-based course into 48 videos totaling 14+ hours of viewing time. Trainers who wish to teach the curriculum can rehearse with these videos. Those who wish to learn the concepts can also

benefit from the videos. It can be accessed, free of charge, at <https://pep.siemens-info.com/en-us/pepfar-qc-workshop>).