

Center for Point-of-Care Diagnostics for Global Health

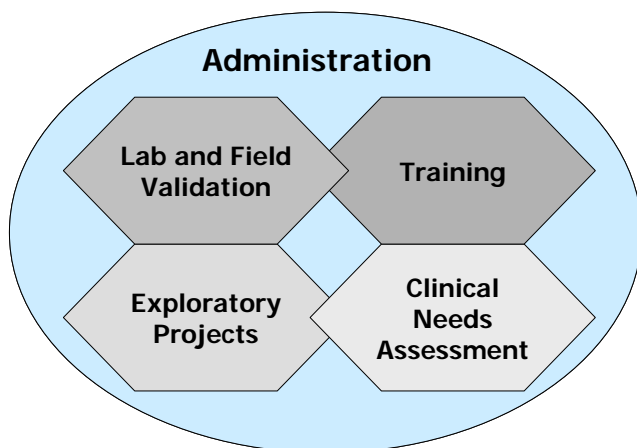
What is the GHDx Center?

The Center for Point-of-Care Diagnostics for Global Health (GHDx Center) works to improve the availability, accessibility, and affordability of essential point-of-care diagnostic tests for use in low-resource settings around the world.

The GHDx Center focuses on four core activities:

- Clinical needs assessments
- Supporting exploratory technology projects
- Clinical testing of prototype point-of-care diagnostics
- Training on the clinical realities of designing point-of-care products for low-resource settings

In low-resource settings, where many diagnostic tests are difficult to perform and laboratories are often inaccessible, there is a great opportunity to make significant improvements to global health. Effective diagnosis at, or near, the point of care enables better application of available treatment, avoids overuse of antibiotics (which can promote resistant strains of pathogen), and allows health care workers to track outbreaks and mobilize resources quickly. The GHDx Center focuses on increasing the clinical effectiveness and affordability of tests and on bringing tests closer to patients in low-resource settings.



Opportunities

- Grant awards for exploratory technology projects. Next solicitation: April 2009.
- Grant awards for field testing of prototype point-of-care diagnostics. Accepting letters of intent as of February 2009.
- Training fellowships for technology developers and users. Now accepting applications for summer 2009.

In addition to the training program and the upcoming solicitations, the GHDx Center offers a chance to become part of a network. We are open to new technologies, new partnerships in research and in commercialization, and new potential field sites in low-resource locations. We welcome questions and contacts.

Notification and further information

Our website provides more information on our activities and an opportunity to subscribe to our mailing list.

Visit <http://www.path.org/dxcenter/>

We would also like to hear about what you are working on.

Email us at dxcenter@path.org.

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Center Activities

Assessing clinical needs

Understanding the opportunities and barriers to deployment of effective, appropriate point-of-care diagnostic technologies in low-resource settings helps target and address the most pressing global health challenges. The GHDx Center conducts clinical needs assessments to inform the selection of technologies for consideration as exploratory projects or for clinical evaluation. The GHDx Center also offers clinical needs analyses to help technology developers navigate potential pitfalls on the pathway to successful commercialization and adoption.

Supporting exploratory technology projects

Novel and emerging technologies create new opportunities to address clinical needs in low-resource settings. Through a competitive solicitation process, the GHDx Center identifies, selects, and supports innovative and promising technologies that could have a significant positive impact on public health outcomes. Candidate technologies are assessed for anticipated health impact, relevance to the needs and realities of low-resource settings, and commercialization prospects in those markets.

In 2009, the GHDx Center will select up to two more exploratory technology projects for development toward the early prototype stage, each funded up to \$250,000 over a 2-year period. More information is available at: <http://www.path.org/dxcenter/>

Clinical testing of prototype point-of-care diagnostics

The GHDx Center also strives to accelerate the development and deployment of diagnostic tests essential to low-resource settings by conducting laboratory and field-based clinical testing of selected prototype point-of-care diagnostic tests.

These are collaborative efforts between PATH, the field site evaluators, and technology developers. Awardees will provide ongoing feedback about test performance, the appropriateness of required supplies, and the usability and acceptability of the product. Sites are selected for disease

prevalence and suitability to the test, as well as for appropriate local expertise and clinical infrastructure.

In 2009, the GHDx Center will issue a solicitation to identify and select up to two prototype technologies that will be provided technical and financial support for clinical testing. Selection criteria will focus on health impact, stakeholder acceptance, and relevance to the needs, realities, and market issues of low-resource settings.

Training technology developers and users

Led by the University of Washington (UW) departments of Global Health, of Medicine (Division of Infectious Diseases), and of Laboratory Medicine, the GHDx Center offers a four-tier training program open to individuals from both high- and low-resource settings with varied experience and backgrounds in assay and device development, research and clinical laboratories, and disease specialties. The training courses create a networked group of researchers trained in state-of-the-art technology and challenges for global health in low-resource settings.

Key UW professors and staff manage curriculum content, with input from PATH's diagnostics development team. Courses are taught by UW professors and PATH researchers, including recognized leaders in the fields of infectious diseases, laboratory diagnostics, point-of-care test development, and needs assessment in low-resource settings.

Partners and Funders

The Center for Point-of-Care Diagnostics for Global Health is managed by PATH in collaboration with the UW Departments of Global Health, of Laboratory Medicine, and of Medicine (Division of Infectious Diseases). The GHDx Center is funded by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering under the National Institutes of Health.

Activity Leaders

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<i>Clinical Testing</i>	Matt Steele, PhD
<i>Exploratory Technology</i>	Gonzalo Domingo, PhD
<i>User Needs Assessment</i>	Tala de los Santos, MBA, MS
<i>Training</i>	Pat Totten, PhD Karen Stephens, PhD Roger Peck, BS

