

CelebrateLAB[®] West Africa



Value Proposition 2024
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www.celebratelab.org

Value Proposition

The experience of recent infectious diseases outbreaks in West Africa and the responses thereafter has further exposed the critical gaps in the region's healthcare systems and brought to the fore, the urgency of building the needed capacity to improve access to health diagnostics and treatment, and to prevent the spread of diseases.

Many of the significant barriers that were revealed during the 2014-2016 Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the region have continued to exist and have become more evident through the outbreak of the ongoing Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19), and the world's response to the global pandemic. These barriers that continue to impact West Africa's healthcare outcomes include:

- Sub-standard laboratory systems;
- Disjointed research agendas;
- Lack of expertise and knowledge in the analysis of emerging infectious agents;
- Lack of standards across laboratory systems at the national level and across countries;
- Inadequate data exchange amongst researchers and academics;
- Absence of collaboration between laboratory scientists and physicians to inform decisions in patients' care; and
- Lack of effective surveillance mechanisms in both the clinical and research laboratory environment.

The situation is compounded by over dependency on donor and external sources for diagnostic products, reagents, medical equipment and supplies, and for healthcare solutions that are sometimes unfit for purpose — thus, leaving West Africa lagging in critical clinical solutions suited for the region.

Addressing Health Inequity Through Self-sufficiency

Notable entities such as World Health Organization (WHO) and the Africa Centers for Disease Control (Africa CDC) and Prevention have continually echoed the importance of creating the enabling environment for local manufacturing of vaccines, drugs, and, medical supplies to enhance the continent's access to products, treatments, and vaccination beyond the current Covid-19 pandemic. This requires improving diagnosis of diseases of interest, widening the knowledge gap in surveillance and response, and identifying and upgrading localized expertise in clinical laboratory science and research. The capacity to create regional networks as well as networks across the continent is critical to the overall success of self-sufficiency in the years to come.

CelebrateLAB® West Africa Conference

CelebrateLAB® West Africa is a Liberian women-owned registered not-for-profit organization that is a regional forum connecting stakeholders of Laboratory Systems Strengthening (LSS) and stakeholders in product creation and innovation in W. Africa. In its 10th year, CelebrateLAB® continues to be the only forum in the W. Africa region that brings together life sciences experts from W. Africa and beyond to share knowledge and build the networks necessary to link diverse groups of stakeholders, including clinical and research laboratory science professionals, regulators, academics, manufacturing and product development professionals.

Building the CelebrateLAB® W Africa ecosystem over a period of 10 years has required a focus on creating triangular relationships. These triangular relationships over time have proven to provide the opportunity for

knowledge exchange, partnerships, and growth over the W. Africa region. Representation of regulators, laboratory science professionals, research professionals from both the public and private sector in W. Africa has increased consistently over the past 9 years. CelebrateLAB® W. Africa 2023 in Abuja Nigeria had 6 West African countries represented as well as the United States, United Kingdom, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. in person and online. The existing platform has proven to align with global health initiatives focused on enabling an environment of surveillance in W. African states. Notable triangular collaborations discussed at the conference included progress in African Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative, progress in integrated disease responses, and the creation of sentinel sites in countries such as Nigeria. Primary concerns centered around the need to ensure proper diagnostics and data availability through disease surveillance and research focused on diseases of interest such as lassa fever and malaria.

Discussions have also highlighted the progress made to speed up the process towards vaccine manufacturing on the African continent. The MOU signed by Senegal and Rwanda with BioNTech to produce mRNA vaccines, Ghana's plans to produce Covid-19 vaccines and to establish a National Vaccine Institute as well as Nigeria's MOU with Biovaccine Nigeria Ltd to manufacture COVID-19 doses are all welcoming news.

CelebrateLAB® West Africa (CLWA) continues to be the venue where broader collaboration begins in order to build regional expertise in clinical research and laboratory science in diseases of importance to Africa, and to create better diagnostics, drugs, vaccines and medical devices in Africa for Africa.

The conference is recognized by international and regional bodies and has support from the national bodies that govern health services, public health, and laboratory professionals as well as clinicians who seek to ensure growth in disease management. It is the regional W. Africa public-private endeavor.

Conference objectives include:

- Creating continuing education opportunities for clinical laboratory and research professionals;
- Networking and sharing best practices across the W. African region;
- Promoting the development of public-private partnerships to enhance clinical laboratory and research infrastructure and national policies;
- Providing a venue for W. Africa, and external stakeholders to share lessons learned and provide resources of information in the promotion of clinical research and surveillance strategies;
- Strengthening the clinical research and laboratory professional workforce for cross-border trade in skill, knowledge and experience;
- Showcasing vendors and suppliers to share expertise and technology best suited for W. Africa; and
- Creating an environment that supports the growth of product development and manufacturing in W. Africa.

The main event takes place during the internationally marked Medical Laboratory Professionals' Week that celebrates the contributions of laboratory professionals to health outcomes, and the joint roles of laboratory scientists, clinicians, researchers; and those who set the right regulatory environment in effective healthcare delivery. In between the annual event, a series of smaller conversational events focused on knowledge sharing in the areas of standardization, quality assurance, biosafety, human resource development, research and product development, are held.

Conference Planning Structure

The conference is planned collaboratively with the co-host Association of Laboratory Scientists in the host nation, partner organizations and our Conference Ambassadors. The experts involved in planning the conference and scientific showcases have the rich desire to grow and promote collaboration, convene scientists from top universities and leading experts in clinical laboratory science and research. The influence of improvements in W. Africa’s public health facilities, private life sciences companies, the regulatory environment for production, and manufacturing in vaccines and diagnostics are highly prioritized. In 2023 the conference was expanded to a 3-day event with the first day focused on connecting scientists, institutes, and companies in the region with an emphasis on showcasing the research agenda and strategies for impacting W. Africa’s unmet needs.

This annual conference relies on partnerships with the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists, Ministries of Health, health services and the private sector. There are two workshop tracks totaling 16 sessions, two plenary sessions that open each day of the conference



and an Opening Ceremony with senior level representation from critical government ministries, agencies, and other regional and international organizations. Conference delegation is composed of laboratory professionals, researchers, physicians, regulators, policy makers, representatives of regional multilateral organizations, healthcare solution providers, product manufacturers and suppliers participating. To achieve the delegate strength needed to ensure a successful conference, partnerships are imperative.

CelebrateLAB® West Africa 2024 Conference

The CLWA 2024 Conference planning is ongoing. The hybrid event will take place in Abuja, Nigeria, from April 23-25, 2024. The goal of the 2024 Conference is shared experiences and knowledge transfer aimed at improving the state of the region's diagnostics and research environment. The event is being organized in collaboration with the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists Nigeria.

Partnership Proposal

West Africa remains vulnerable to communicable and non-communicable diseases that threaten economics and the lives of populations in the region. “Disease crises can destabilize governments by eroding public trust and confidence, posing a threat to public order and governance, and producing an overall risk to security and economies.” (GHSA, 2018¹).

The need for collaboration between stakeholders to improve epidemiological responses is critical to effectively managing the contagions of infectious diseases in the region — this cannot be over emphasized.

¹ GHSA 2024 Framework

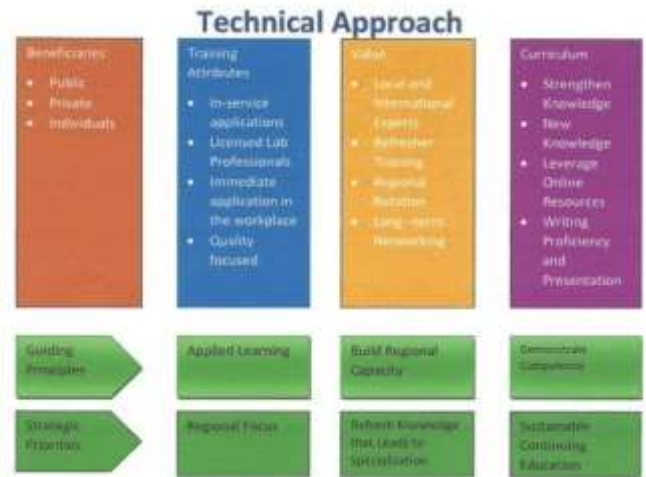


CelebrateLAB® is the only event of its kind in West Africa focused on clinical research and health laboratory systems strengthening and skills development. In furtherance of the Africa for Africa solutions, CelebrateLAB® needs your partnership to continue pushing this in the ECOWAS region to help in creating the enabling environment and build capacity for solutions that are fit for the region stakeholders can strengthen the hand of multisectoral interventions against the destabilizing effects of infectious disease outbreaks. Organizations that have a presence in W. African countries continue to contribute to the growth of clinical laboratory science and research. Collaboration and advocacy must go along with fine-tuning the region’s efforts in building capacity towards self-sufficiency.

Past Partners and Collaborators

Over the years, several entities continue to participate in this endeavor including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Ministry of Health, Liberia and Ministry of Health, Ghana, the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, the Ghana Health Service, Akai House Clinic, the Ghana Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists and other national professional bodies have co-hosted the CelebrateLAB® West Africa Conference.

Each entity has contributed to the program content to create an environment of knowledge-sharing while ensuring their organization’s individual goals are addressed and met. Annually, the program content planning committee has included organizations such as the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Africa CDC, Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine (HJF) in support of the U.S. Military HIV Research Program (MHRP) and Emerging Infectious Disease Branch (EIDB), JHPIEGO; a Johns Hopkins affiliate, Nigerian Institute of Medical Research, Institute of Human Virology Nigeria and CelebrateLAB® conference Ambassadors.



In addition, a host of private partners and collaborators such as Africabio Enterprises, Inc., Akai House Clinic, DCL Laboratory Products, Randox, MedSystems, Sysmex, Nova Biomedical, Biomerieux, Bollre Logistics, and Coca-Cola Bottling Company among others, have found the event as a true public-private-partnership in the sector.

CelebrateLAB® W. Africa 2024 Conference Sessions

Pre-Conference Opportunities for Potential Partnerships

- Clinical Case Studies
- Webinars
- Preconference Workshops

Full Conference Sessions

Technical Sessions

Technical sessions will showcase a high-level overview of topics that are of particular interest to scientists working at the bench. It is intended for a subject expert to provide participants with in-depth information, technical insight, and relevant data on a specific topic.

Policy-focused Sessions

Policy discussions will provide an opportunity to brainstorm on strategies and solutions for common problems, and get feedback on early concepts followed by Q&A. It will provide participants with several shorter



presentations on a specific topic and an opportunity to share project overviews, gain insights, and exchange country experiences.

Building Networks and Collaboration

This opportunity will provide research institutions, product development companies, tech transfer individuals, and life sciences manufacturers a stage to showcase agendas, discuss unmet needs in W. Africa, promote strategy for operations in W. Africa, and communicate any potential areas of partnerships with organizations with complimentary platforms. Throughout the event, dedicated private meeting spaces will be provided onsite.

Vendor Supply Chain Pavilion

The coordination and distribution of diagnostics products, other medical supplies, and equipment are paramount, during health emergencies. However, a combination of rising costs, supply chain disruptions, limited product availability, and inadequate quality control has made managing and optimizing these required resources increasingly challenging. This is an opportunity to offer solutions through vendor strategies for pooled – procurement and other potential mechanisms that may offer lower prices and better quality of goods. CelebrateLAB[®] W. Africa has the opportunity if the right partner has access to diverse clinical supply chains.

2024 World Malaria Day Session

West Africa is a low resource setting with high malaria burden (See Figure 2). Building capacity to diagnose and treat malaria has been stymied by the inadequate number of certified laboratory professionals and a lack of malaria microscopy training in some countries.

This session will focus on topics that create strategies and initiatives to advance opportunities for collaboration in building expertise across the region. A technical working group to track the growth in the number of

Microscopy experts in this region will be established and featured at the annual meetings.

Other endemic hematological diseases like **sickle cell anemia**, can also be tracked for prevention purposes as part of malaria burden initiatives in order to achieve economies of scale in a resource limited region. W.Africa must bring to discussions how to ensure those diseases are also the focus in W. Africa's unmet needs.

Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)

Since 2015, CelebrateLAB[®] has showcased speakers like the head of GHSA and experts who focus on strategies across W. Africa to combat threats of epidemiological proportions.

CelebrateLAB[®] joins over 65 nations and over 100 organizational stakeholders to fight infectious diseases through the Global Health Security Agenda.

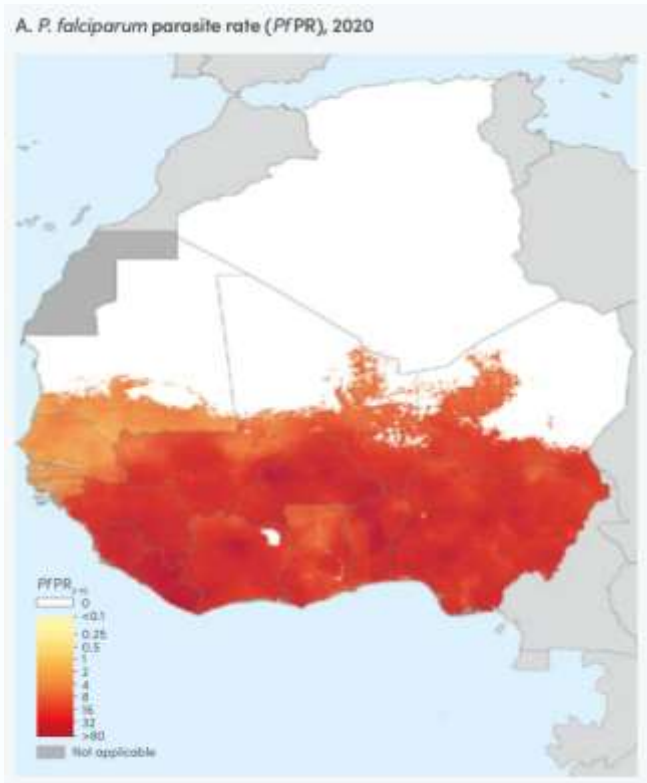


Figure 2. P. falciparum parasite rate (PfPR), 2020; World Malaria Report 2021

Partnership Levels for CelebrateLAB® W. Africa 2024

W. Africa must promote partnerships in this endeavor and CelebrateLAB® W. Africa must identify where synergies exist with partners on the continent and beyond to create opportunities. The conference will be held in Nigeria in 2024. The following are established partnering opportunities for the conference:

Packages Emphasized

Anti-microbial Resistance
Biosafety and Biosecurity
Emergency Operations Centers
2019 GHSA Action
Immunization
National Laboratory Systems
Zoonotic Disease Surveillance
Workforce Development

Eight Action Packages for multisectoral collaboration;
GHSA, 2018

Headline Partner – One (1) Opportunity to headline the full CelebrateLAB® event

Hosts – Two (2) Opportunities to Host one day each of the event

Recognition Levels – Two (2) Opportunities at each level to be recognized as a Partner of the event

- Platinum
- Gold
- Silver

While our available opportunities are fixed to maximize the partnership benefits, CelebrateLAB® is open to discussing with your organization how we can partner to make your partnership a mutually beneficial arrangement in Nigeria. We will provide some guidance on the additional benefits that will enhance our partnership.

Please contact us to set up a meeting.



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