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Launch Dutch TB Laboratory partnership to control tuberculosis worldwide

Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation and RIVM have now joined forces and have established **DTLab**: the **Dutch TB Laboratory partnership**. The initiative will be launched tomorrow at the second WHO Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) meeting in Annecy, France.

DTLab aims to coordinate and improve the quality and effectiveness of TB laboratory diagnostic services. This is done in collaboration with partners in development countries and contributes to TB-control in a significant way. In the Netherlands, the amount of TB laboratory expertise is remarkable: KIT, KNCV and RIVM all have long-time and complementary experience in international TB-control. DTLab is able to support a large range of specific components in the field of TB laboratory services. The interventions are always tailor-made, evidence-based and are designed to maintain and enhance local ownership and sustainability.

“Our approach is simple and efficient. DTLab stimulates partnerships and therefore international control of tuberculosis. The advantage for people or institutes seeking support is that there is one point of contact for every client. Our clients will receive a joint-proposal from the three members on how we can address their needs. We use our own networks, or will recruit from other organizations, including those from developing countries”, according to Dr. Linda Oskam, DTLab Secretary

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More than 1.7 million people lose their lives to tuberculosis every year. With early detection and proper treatment, most people with tuberculosis will fully recover. Our efforts and investment in tuberculosis control help to save millions of lives worldwide. For more information, please visit

www.kncvtbc.nl

www.tuberculosis.rivm.nl

www.kit.nl