WELCOME

AARON MOTSOALEDI

SOUTH AFRICA MINISTER OF HEALTH



Dear participant,

On behalf of the South African people and the National Department of Health, I welcome you to the second African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) conference, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa on 30 November-4 December 2014. This conference is hosted by ASLM and supported by the South African National Health Laboratory Service.

The theme of this second international conference is "Innovation and Integration of Laboratory and Clinical Systems: Reshaping the Future of HIV, TB, Malaria, Flu, Neglected Tropical Diseases and Emerging Infections in

Africa". This is a theme which is very close to the heart of South Africa's healthcare policies and strategies. It mirrors the Republic of South Africa and our neighbours' efforts to improve the health services provided to our people through national and regional strategies and agreements.

ASLM is a much needed organisation, one which will help the development of integrated and holistic laboratory services. ASLM is filling a huge gap in Africa: it supports the development of laboratories and those professionals that make for quality and accurate diagnostics. It serves to unite laboratory services in Africa, which we all know, are the cornerstone of any public health system.

I welcome participants from all over the world to our beautiful city of Cape Town. We encourage delegates to participate in this invaluable conference, but also to take the opportunity to experience the culture and history of the city of Cape Town.

We welcome you and look forward to your participation at this conference.

Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi

Minister of Health, South Africa