

## TSEHAYNESH MESSELE

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR LABORATORY MEDICINE



Welcome to the second international conference of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM)!

ASLM2014 is pleased to provide you with a comprehensive programme focusing on current scientific, programmatic and policy-related issues, with more than 40 seminar sessions and 700 plenary, symposia, roundtable, oral and poster presentations.

ASLM2014 offers unique roundtable and plenary sessions, where successes and challenges of laboratory medicine in Africa, as well as the latest developments of technologies, practices and policies, are to be addressed.

The conference schedule also covers diverse topics such as laboratory quality improvement, point-of-care diagnostics, drug resistance, biosafety, laboratory networking and surveillance. ASLM looks forward to fostering this week's invaluable scientific discussions across a wide range of disease areas and building upon these conversations to offer sustainable solutions to advance laboratories across the continent.

ASLM2014 also brings renewed attention to the ASLM2020 strategic vision which focuses on the following objectives:

- >> Strengthen the laboratory workforce to meet international targets
- >> Transform the quality of laboratory testing in preparation for achieving accreditation by international standards
- >> Develop strong, harmonised regulatory systems for diagnostic products to ensure patient safety and laboratory result accuracy
- >> Strengthen national laboratory networks to improve early disease detection and collaborative research

Quality laboratories save lives and ensure positive health outcomes. ASLM commits to build on knowledge and experiences shared at ASLM2014 to further enhance quality laboratory systems throughout the continent.

I hope best practices and experiences shared at this conference are inspiring and will be useful to enrich and improve works in your respective countries. I also hope the conference will give an opportunity for networking and new partnerships. ASLM extends its appreciation to the various governments, regional bodies, Ministers of Health, partner organisations, as well as ASLM Ambassadors and members for their support towards making this conference a success.

#### **Tsehaynesh Messele**

ASLM Chief Executive Officer (CEO)