

AMADOU SALL

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Following on the success of the ASLM2012 conference, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I welcome you to the second international conference of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM). ASLM2014 is being held in a particular context as West Africa and the world experience the worst Ebola virus disease (EVD) epidemic in history which has led to exceptional mobilisation globally. The unprecedented magnitude of this epidemic and its devastating impact on health, economies and societies in West Africa not only sound an alarm on the need to reinforce health systems in most African countries but also call to rethink the model in each of its components.

In that perspective, the EVD epidemic in West Africa emphasises the need for the laboratory to be innovative in its approach to deliver and deploy appropriate tools and services at the point-of-care and be fully integrated with clinical management systems for an efficient response and control. For that reason, the theme for ASLM2014 “Innovation and Integration of Laboratory and Clinical Systems” is very much relevant and timely, and should be an opportunity to discuss how we can “reshape the future” of emerging and neglected diseases that are threatening African development.

ASLM2014 is Africa’s leading technical conference and exposition for laboratory medicine professionals, and brings together global leaders from more than 50 countries to address the role that professionals, systems and emerging technologies must play in the laboratory services revolution within Africa. ASLM is uniquely positioned to lead efforts to optimise and standardise the laboratory services experience throughout the continent and, in this particular context, has an historical opportunity to make a major difference.

I hope that participants at this conference will not only contribute to this challenging but exciting endeavour by actively participating in the proceedings, but also take the best practices presented here to our respective countries and areas of work. We look forward to your participation and support to help us continue to make this the most successful and premier meeting for laboratory professionals.

Amadou Alpha Sall

ASLM2014 Conference Co-Chair