

Special Issue

Highlights of Molecular Laboratory Diagnostics in South Africa

Message from the Guest Editors

The backbone to South Africa's HIV, TB and COVID-19 prevention and treatment programs is a national laboratory network of connected diagnostics. Molecular diagnostics is central to this network. The country felt the pressure of diagnostic needs for COVID-19 and leveraged its national molecular diagnostic platform for SARS-CoV-2 testing. Limited supply catapulted the country's innovative thinkers to strengthen public-private partnerships to expand molecular testing and develop protocols to rapidly evaluate new molecular technologies. Complementing South Africa's molecular diagnostic program is the integration of digital health innovations with the LIS that automates specimen tracking, monitors specimen and service quality and enables rapid priority disease test result return for linkage to care.

The purpose of this Special Issue is to highlight the role molecular diagnostics and companion innovations have played in South Africa's healthcare programs, as well as their impact. We invite authors to share their lessons learned, scaled implementation successes and innovative molecular diagnostic approaches to improve patient care.

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