

Pre-Conference Meeting at the 2014 STD Prevention Conference

Monday, June 9, 2014 – 2:00pm-4:00pm

Hazelnut room (M2), Omni Hotel, 100 CNN Center Atlanta, Georgia

ORGANIZERS

Public Health Agency of Canada and the Ontario HIV Treatment Network, CIHR Centre for REACH in HIV/AIDS

MEETING DESCRIPTION

The aim of point-of-care testing (POCT) is to bridge the gap between rapid diagnosis and the patient. POCT can be performed in a variety of settings including: physicians' offices; labour and delivery wards; emergency departments; community venues (e.g., universities, bars); and at home. POCT has the potential to: overcome challenges in transporting laboratory specimens; decrease lag time between testing, diagnosis, and treatment; and prevent onward transmission during the waiting period. The emergence of new diagnostic technologies such as multiplex POCT (used to test for multiple STBBI pathogens) may have the potential to identify those with co-infections. Expanded screening programs using POCT may decrease the number of undiagnosed in key populations and facilitate timely access to care.

OBJECTIVE

This meeting is an opportunity to bring together STD Prevention Conference participants interested in POCT and to explore potential interest in collaboration for public health implementation research in the area of POCT. Multiplex POCT strategies (e.g. HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis C) among key populations (e.g., men who have sex with men (MSM) and commercial sex workers) will be explored.

PROPOSED OUTCOME

- To identify individuals (working group) that are interested in developing research ideas for submission for future funding opportunities (Canadian Institute of Health Research/National Institutes of Health), and
- To identify priority areas or next steps using a program science framework.