



The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure

International Pathology Day 2016
Roundtable

Responding to 'Countries in Need'



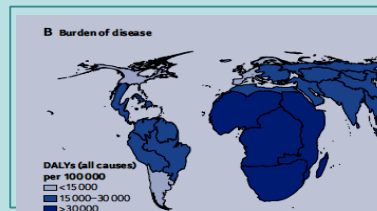
Professor Lai-Meng Looi
Chair, Countries in Need Programme
World Association of Societies of Pathology
& Laboratory Medicine
(WASPaLM)



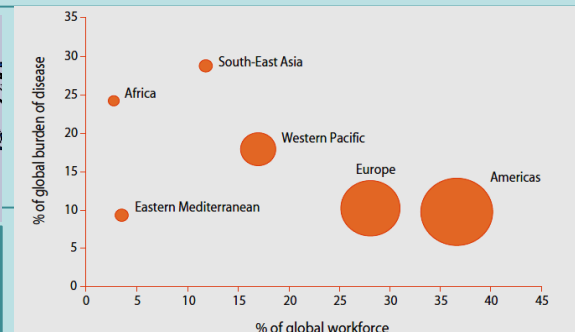
About WASPaLM

- **Global network of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (1947-)**
 - 45 Societies in all WHO regions
 - Mission: Promote global health by promoting the teaching and practice of all aspects of Pathology/Laboratory Medicine
 - Acts through collaboration with Member Societies and cooperation with other international organisations (e.g, WHO, CIMOS, IFCC, APFCB, ISO TC212., Labs-are-vital)
 - Activity focus: (1) Global issues - evolving roles and practices of the profession (2) Inequalities of health - **challenges in countries-in-need**

'Countries in Need': What are the facts?



LMIC: Highest disease burden



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Shortage of pathologists: SSA - 1 AP:1 million; Laos - 1 AP:5 million; Cambodia - 8 pathologists to 14 million; Vietnam 1: 250,000; Myanmar 1:170,000; China needs another 100,000 pathologists.

Variable standards. Lab accreditation: India (1%); Africa (10%); Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia (none). EQA not a standard practice.

10/90 Gap: Only 10% of global spending on health research is devoted to diseases or conditions that account for 90% of the global disease burden.



Addressing the challenges: WASPaLM's approach

• Capacity-Building

- Education for countries-in-need
 - Intensive seminars and workshops in South-East Asia, Sri Lanka, India, Middle-East and Africa
- World Pathology Foundation Gordon Signy Fellowships (1975-)
 - 52 beneficiaries from 22 countries (LMIC)
- Support of WASPaLM Societies
 - RCPaLM (UK) initiative in Myanmar
 - Value add to National Conferences (LMIC)

• Collaborations

- WHO collaborative work-plan on essential pathology services for LMICs
- Disease Control Priorities-3
- WASPaLM-APFCB: Education & Lab Accreditation
- WASPaLM-IFCC: Young Scientists

The impact of our work



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An Essential Pathology Package for Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Kenneth A. Fleming, MBChB,^{1,2} Mahendra Naidoo, MBChB,¹ Michael Wilson, MD,^{4,5} John Flanagan, MD,¹ Susan Horton, PhD,⁶ Modupe Kuti, MBBS,⁷ Lai Meng Looi, MBBS,⁸ Chris Price, PhD,³ Kun Ru, MD,⁹ Abdul Ghafur, MD,¹¹ Jianxiang Wang, MD,¹⁰ and Nestor Lago, MD¹²

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WHO list of priority
medical devices for
cancer management





Key lessons

- **Activities so far focussed largely on**
 - Capacity-building in middle-income countries
 - Mainly enhancing expertise
- **Many needs still not met**
 - Quality, Accreditation, Management, Leadership
 - Low-income countries in Asia, Africa, South America
 - Needs different strategy
 - Lack national training programmes
 - Needs critical mass to spin home-grown programmes
 - Needs advocacy to policy makers

Replication & sustainability?

- **Sustainability depends on....**
 - **Larger panel of contributors**
 - Involvement of stronger Societies, Collaborative partners; Gordon-Signty Fellows
 - Build up web-based educational materials and archives
 - Better use of IT, telepathology, digital pathology
 - **Development of stronger global voice**
 - Collaboration for evidence-based advice to policy makers
 - WHO
 - Projects, guidelines, statements



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