

# Africabio Enterprises, Inc. Bi-Annual Newsletter



Volume 4, June 26, 2018

## Celebrate Lab Week 2018

The Celebrate Lab Week 2018 conference was held on April 24th and 25th at the Monrovia City Hall. The conference brought together diverse participants including lab technicians, policymakers, clinicians, and biomedical engineers, as well as donor partners in health system strengthening. The conference was co-hosted by the Ministry of Health, Republic of Liberia (MoH), and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) with the theme “**Building Sustainability Post Ebola.**” The event reviewed the impact laboratory system strengthening over the last four years. The Minister of Health, Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah, hosted the opening plenary on the first day.



Laboratory professionals who attended the conference.

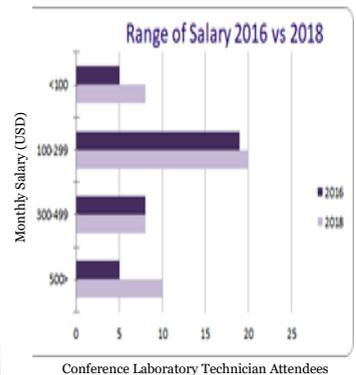
## ACCEL Support to Laboratory Strengthening in Liberia

Academic Consortium Combating Ebola in Liberia (ACCEL) is a CDC implementing partner in Liberia, working to strengthen laboratory quality management systems and accreditation of clinical and public health laboratories (ISO 15189). The leading national laboratories at the National Reference Laboratory and the Jackson F. Doe Memorial Hospital (Tappita) are rated at 3 and 2 stars, respectively (out of 5 stars). ACCEL won the prize for outstanding impact on laboratory system strengthening in Liberia as part of the Celebrate LabWeek 2018. ACCEL has been working toward Accreditation of 12 facilities in 10 counties in Liberia.



From (L-R) Dr. Mosoka Fallah (NPHIL), Dr. Desmond Williams (CDC), Luke Bawo (MoH), Lwopu Bruce (NBSU).

## *Market Salary Survey of Laboratory Technicians in Liberia*



## World Malaria Day Celebrated at Lab Week

A special World Malaria Day workshop was sponsored by WHO on Malaria Microscopy Quality Assurance (MMQA), to address the high malaria burden in Liberia. Dr. Easton Reid, Africabio Director, gave the keynote presentation on building a national MMQA training and certification program as well as a visual assessment exhibit on Plasmodium parasite identification. Victoria Katawera, WHO Laboratory Coordinator, moderated a panel discussion of national MMQA implementation with panelists: Alfred T. Nyuma, National Diagnostic Unit, Ministry of Health (MoH); P. Konah Nynsaiye, National Malaria Control Program, MoH; and Richard Mulbahi, Laboratory Coordinator, MoH. WHO is considering a certification workshop in the near future in collaboration with the National Malaria Control program.



Dr. E. A. Reid (Africabio)



A. T. Nyuma, P. K. Nynsaiye, R. Mulbahi, (MoH)



V. Katawera (WHO)

## Demand Generation for Women in Laboratory Science



Yah Eshun, GIZ; Gaeduo Stewart, Africabio Enterprises; Catherine Johnson and Ephemia Blamo. Lab Mentors at JHPIEGO pose with students who participated in the workshop.

GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), with the help of Africabio Enterprises, Inc., and Medica Liberia, conducted a two-day training workshop for thirty high school age girls. Equal numbers of participants came from Grand Gedeh, River Gee, and Sinoe counties to the meeting in Zwedru city. The objectives of this workshop were to increase the representation of females in health science professions by introducing students to professional laboratory research as a career, and to provide guidance toward postgraduate schooling, including sharing information on the GIZ scholarship program. Eight of the students attending the workshop sat for the Mother Patern College of Health Sciences entrance examination at the end of the training. Unfortunately, the results of the exam showed the need to increase support for girls in math and science as early as possible.



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### Lab Week 2018 Outstanding Awards

<u>Awards</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Partner Organization	ACCEL
Performance Award	Mustapha Sensie
Priority Award	C.B. Dunbar



Ellen Munemo, ACCEL, Program Director.

### JHPIEGO Human Resources for Health (HRH) Project

The MCSP HRH program, with the help of Africabio Enterprises, Inc., recently completed the development of the Pre-Service Education (PSE) standards for Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) programs in Liberia. The next step for JHPIEGO in the project's implementation plan is ensuring that all three supported MLT programs in the country are accredited. Toward this goal, from April 3-5, 2018, 24 medical laboratory technicians from around the country were trained as assessors for the purpose of accreditation of Pre-Service Education Institutions (PSEIs). The objectives of the training were to discuss the importance of an accreditation assessment within the MLT Pre-Service Education system; discuss the responsibilities of Accreditation assessors; conduct an effective PSEI assessment; collect and analyze evidence objectively; and evaluate and methodically report the data.

## **EBK Health Center Laboratory Grand Opening**



Dignitaries and VIPs attend the EBK Laboratory ribbon-cutting ceremony led by AFL and DHAPP with support from JWARG.

On April 27, 2018, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the grand opening of the Edward Binyah Kesselly Health Center Laboratory. In attendance was the Armed Forces of Liberia, and the newly appointed Minister of Health also graced the occasion. Before the renovation, the EBK lab was limited to Malaria Smears, few Rapid Diagnostic Tests, and Urinalysis. The renovated lab is now equipped to do hematology, chemistry and other advanced testing services. New equipment was added during the renovation as well as solar battery power for other improvements including greater storage capacity for reagents and a quality management system to improve productivity. The lab design was implemented by Africabio Enterprises, Inc.

## **Liquid Nitrogen Plant (LN<sub>2</sub> Plant) at the Liberia Institute for Biomedical Research**



Kermii M. Gopeya, Africabio, in the LN<sub>2</sub> plant freezer room.

capacity of 48,000 cryo-vials (2ml each) that will provide significant value to the institute's research capacity.

In 2016, under the leadership of Dr. Fatorma Bolay, LIBR received a Liquid Nitrogen Plant; the first of its kind in Liberia. Samples like blood, serum, and urine can be preserved over a long period of time. The plant is a liquid nitrogen condenser with an average production capacity of about 85.7 liters of liquid nitrogen per day. The plant absorbs air from the atmosphere and removes gases leaving only nitrogen. The nitrogen gas then goes through a helium process that transforms it into liquid. The nitrogen plant currently services an Air Liquid RCB 1001 liquid nitrogen freezer with a storage



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### Posters at Lab Week 2018

Prevalence of Malaria and Intestinal Helminths in the Outpatient Charlesville Clinic, Margibi County, Liberia (NPHIL)

Clinical and Laboratory Development at Phebe Hospital in partnership with ACESO and JWARG

Ethno-Botanical Survey of Indigenous Medical Plants used in North-Western and South-Central Liberia (NPHIL)

### Lab Week 2018 Sponsors

