

Activities with WHO 2019-2020

- i. December 2019: 3rd WHO Technical Consultation on Point-of-Care Diagnostic Tests for Sexually Transmitted Infections, Verona, Italy**
Francis Ndowa attended this WHO meeting whose objectives were to discuss the preliminary results of the independent multi-country clinic-based and utility evaluation studies of STI point-of-care tests (POCT); to discuss an investment case to support the introduction of STI POCT into national STI-screening, case-management and surveillance systems; and to initiate the development of WHO guidelines on STI-testing, including STI POCT and to determine the scope and positioning of the guidelines.
- ii. April 2020: Development of Guidelines for the Syndromic Management of STIs**
WHO embarked on the process to elaborate guidelines for the syndromic management of STIs and Francis Ndowa was invited to be on the WHO STI Guideline Development Group. The expected outcome of the meeting will be recommendations on STI case management of priority STI syndromes.
- iii. Meetings on Gonococcal vaccines and development of GC Vaccines PPCs**
January 2019, WHO convened a multidisciplinary international group of experts to lay the groundwork for understanding the potential health, economic, and societal value of gonococcal vaccines and their likely acceptance and use. Francis Ndowa participated in that meeting and the outcome of the meeting was published in 2020, (Ref. [Gottlieb SL, Ndowa F, Hook EW 3rd, et al. Gonococcal vaccines: Public health value and preferred product characteristics; report of a WHO global stakeholder consultation, January 2019. *Vaccine*. 2020;38\(28\):4362-4373. doi:10.1016/j.vaccine.2020.02.073](#))
- iv. June 2020: WHO Think-Tank Meeting on STIs**
Following the restructuring in WHO in Geneva, there was a transfer of programmatic normative STI work to the Department of HIV, Hepatitis and STI (HSS). Subsequently, the HSS Department convened a global consultation attended by Francis Ndowa with partners to seek input on strengthening the global STI response, including issues of strengthening political commitment, financing and delivery of STI services at country level.
- v. August 2020; WHO BPG Administration Training Tool Advisory Group**
Francis Ndowa joined an Advisory Group supporting the development of WHO-led Training Tools on benzathine penicillin G (BPG) administration targeting health-care workers to promote appropriate use of BPG in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of syphilis and in treating other conditions, such as rheumatic heart disease.