

## Partnering to Build Tuberculosis Laboratory Capacity in Haiti

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**Background:** Haiti has high tuberculosis (TB) burden as well as increasing rates of drug resistance. We present a partnership between the UF Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Medicine (IDGM) and Haiti to build laboratory and technical capacity for TB control.

**The Partnership:** IDGM constructed a biosafety level 3 laboratory and is training an initial cohort of three technicians from high TB burden regions of Haiti. The six-month training will be conducted in Haiti and the Emerging Pathogen Institute (EPI), UF.

**Preliminary Results:** The trainees successfully completed one month training at EPI and have started the second phase in the newly operational UF BSL-3 laboratory in Gressier, Haiti. We overcame obstacles in getting necessary equipment through Haitian customs, acquiring US visas, and language barriers. The laboratory is expected to complete proficiency certification by the WHO supranational laboratory *Institut Pasteur de Guadeloupe*. The trainees will return to their respective laboratories in Haiti to apply their new skills to the fight against TB.

**How Program Addresses Diversity:** We are educating a cohort of laboratory technicians and building capacity for better TB research and diagnostics resulting in the improvement of the health of the Haitian people. Our project is in line with UF's mission of education, research and service.

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