

UNITID laboratory acquires state of the art equipment for screening TB

UNITID recently acquired an instrument for the diagnosis of mycobacterium other than tuberculosis from Hain-Life Sciences .The equipment is called the Hain óLine Probe assay(LPA) . The GenoType® Mycobacterium commonmycobacteria / additional species (CM/AS) assay (Hain Lifescience, Nehren Germany) is a new commercial kit developed to differentiate and identify different species of NTM from cultures. It involves DNA amplification targeting the 23S rRNA gene region, followed by reverse hybridization to specific oligonucleotide probes immobilized on membrane strips. There are two kits ó the CM, which identifies 15 Mycobacterium species, including *M. tuberculosis* complex while the AS kit aims to differentiate 16 additional less common NTM species available for differentiation.

The equipment assembly includes GT-Blot 48, GenoScan System, and TwinCubator.

The equipment will be used by the post graduate with interest in Mycobacterium. Speaking during the Launch and training the PHD student Dr Jared Mecha, who is also the Project Director of CRISSP and PACT CoE noted the importance of reducing the turnaround time for identification and speciation of mycobacterium and this increases the treatment outcome particularly in the pediatric populations who are co infected with HIV.