POINT-OF-CARE (POC) FOR HIV AND RELATED CO-INFECTIONS: QUO VADIS?

PART III: PANEL DISCUSSION FROM EVIDENCE TO POLICY
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PART III: PANELISTS

- Dr. Thomas Wong (Public Health Agency of Canada)
- Dr. Rosanna Peeling (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK)
- Dr. Gilles Lambert (INSPQ, Canada)
- Dr. Marina Klein (McGill University Health Center, Canada)
- Dr. Nimâ Machouf (Clinique médicale l’Actuel, Canada)
- Dr. Martin Potter (Relais Methadone)
• Dr. Wong: What are the barriers towards enhanced uptake of POC technologies in Canada?

• Dr. Peeling: What are the challenges faced by POC technologies globally?

• Dr. Lambert: Barriers towards sustainable implementation of POC technologies in Quebec?

• Dr. Machouf: What key issues do we face in management of POC programs in clinics?

• Dr. Klein, Dr. Potter: Is there a space for point-of-care technology in MUHC, Relais Methadone.
Challenges: implementation

- Use of POC tests as laboratory tests or as definitive tests without confirmatory diagnosis
- Performance by Health professionals with inadequate training
- Quality assurance and quality control
- Approval of cheap and poor quality rapid tests
  - Lack of oversight on the part of regulatory authorities
- Result:
  - Missed diagnosis; improper screening
  - Missed prevention and treatment opportunities
FROM EVIDENCE TO POLICY: AREAS TO IMPROVE

- Science, Research and Evidence.
  - Methodological issues in study conduct and study implementation (implementation of research standards)
  - Outcomes - secondary outcomes -- definition -- documentation
- Optimization of performance -
  - Algorithms: best/optimized cost effective
  - Reference standards -
    - single or combination
    - imperfect, perfect
- Quality
  - Quality control and Quality assurance and compliance
  - Bad or poor quality diagnostic tests
- Sustainable or green tests
FROM EVIDENCE TO POLICY: AREAS TO IMPROVE

- **Systems**
  - Federal regulatory changes
    - Approval of cheap or poor quality POC tests
    - Harmonization of guidelines, approvals across agencies.
  - Quality assurance in field settings
    - Training of health care professionals and accreditation
    - An enhanced emphasis on Quality control

- Integration of POC diagnostics into routine clinical care
  - Changes in attitudes and perceptions of health care professionals
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• Caroline Vadnais
Thank you for your time and attention!

Eckhart Tolle

“What matters is to live in the present, live now, for every moment is now. It is your thoughts and acts of the moment that create your future. The outline of your future path already exists its pattern created by your past.”