



## EDITORIAL

---

### **TUBERCULOSIS: IS BETTER CONTROL IN SIGHT?**

Tuberculosis (TB) is an old disease which has been known since it was first described by Dr Robert Koch on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1882. A lot of progress has been made to improve diagnosis and its treatment. Control at community level, however, still remains a big challenge.

TB diagnosis has remained a challenge particularly in cases where extra-pulmonary cases are involved and when the yield from sputum is low. To improve diagnosis, better tools are urgently required. We urgently need tests to replace AFB microscopy in smear positive cases; tests to improve the differential diagnosis of AFB smear negative tuberculosis;

tests to detect recent infections when *Mycobacteria* are not readily detectable; and tests to improve or simplify antibiotic susceptibility testing. We should endeavor to roll these out at County level when they become available.

COVID-19 has and will also worsen the control of TB at community level because of delays in diagnosis as a result of altered health seeking behaviour in the face of the current pandemic. A lot of resources will be required in order to adopt new technology in diagnosis, enhance the directly observed treatment strategy and conduct research on shorter treatment regimens as well as early diagnosis.



*African Journal of  
Health Sciences*

Dr. Hudson A. Lodenyo,  
Consultant Physician & Gastroenterologist  
*Centre for Clinical Research*

**KENYA MEDICAL RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE (KEMRI)**