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March 23, 2022

Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH

Director

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Road, NE

Atlanta, GA 30333

Transmitted via email

Dear Dr. Walensky,

On behalf of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the world's largest and oldest international scientific organization of experts dedicated to reducing the worldwide burden of tropical infectious diseases and improving global health, we write today as strong supporters of the CDC and in particular the CDC's parasitic laboratory services.

We recognize the CDC has a long and distinguished history in public health and providing high-quality diagnostic services for parasitic infectious disease. It is with this in mind, that we write to express our deep concern about the interruption parasitic disease laboratory services at CDC's Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria (DPDM).

Clinicians and public health officials greatly rely on DPDM's testing for parasitic diseases. The pause in laboratory services has a profound impact on clinicians and patients causing delay in diagnosis leading to delay to treatments, which puts patient health at risk. The interruption is especially felt in underserved populations creating additional inequity in their health care. These services are essential and are relied upon day in and day out to diagnose and treat patients in the US.

The CDC has long been the gold standard in what it does, parasitic laboratory services included. It is essential that the parasitic

laboratory resumes with all due haste. As much diagnostic testing for as many parasitic infections as possible must be brought back online, particularly for those tests that are not available elsewhere. We understand the complexity of the task at hand, and we offer our support and expertise in whatever way may contribute to the quickest and best result for clinicians and patients. It is imperative that access to these diagnostic tests is restored as soon as possible.

We appreciate the communication from DPDM to the Society and we encourage the rapid sharing of information about timelines for availability of testing. We stand by ready to share communications with the Society's members.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Goraleski
CEO



Daniel G. Bausch, MD, MPH&TM,
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