

# Innovation in Point-of-Care Testing Technologies and Access

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I<sup>st</sup> Australasian Conference on POC Testing for Infectious Diseases

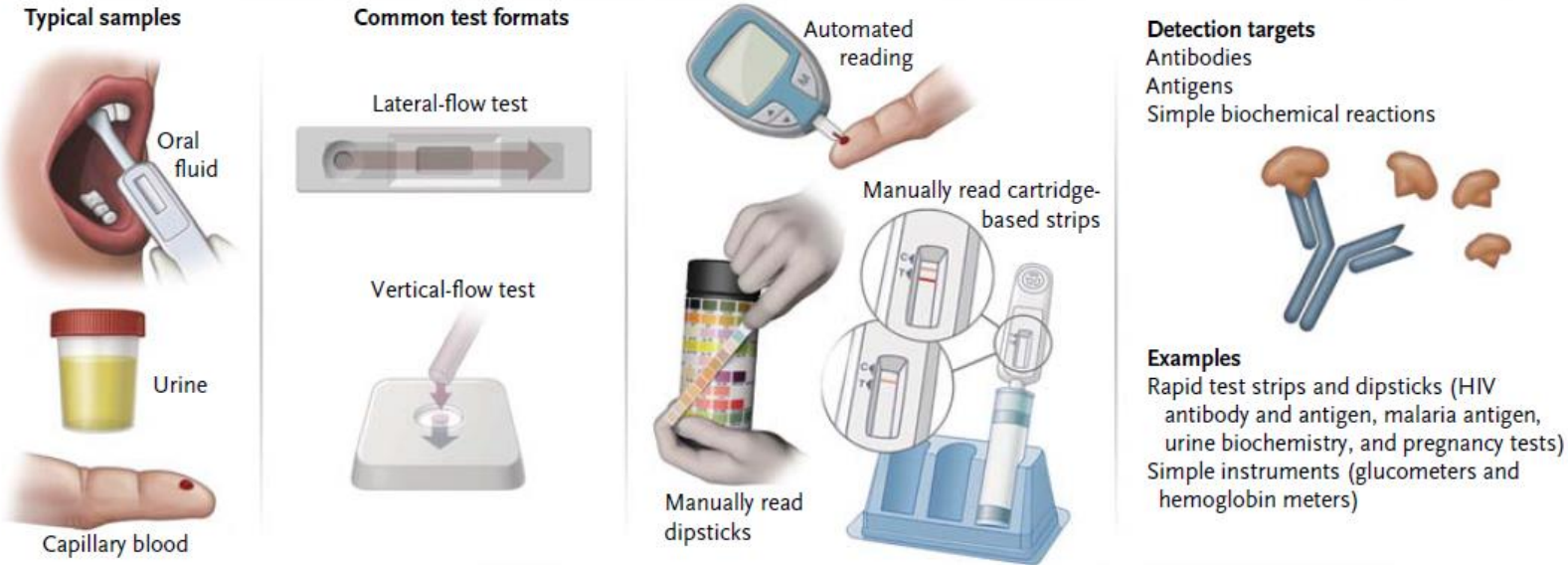
March 14, 2023



**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
SCHOOL *of* MEDICINE

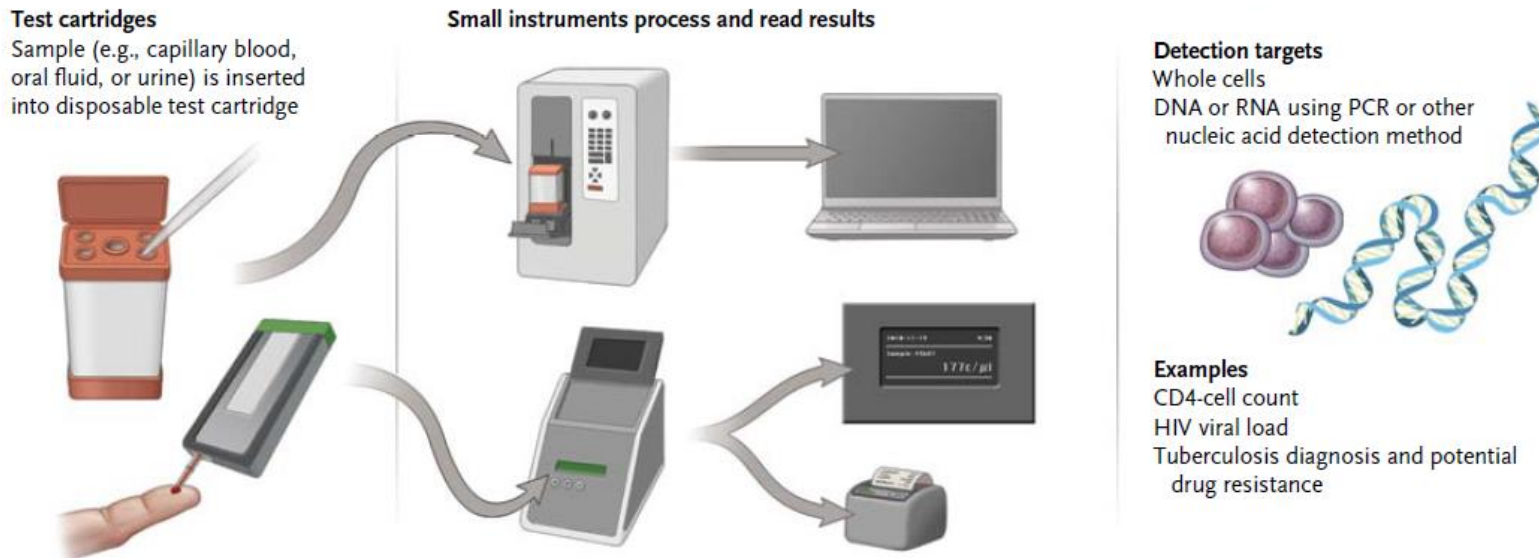
**Center for Innovative Diagnostics  
for Infectious Diseases**

## A First generation of POC diagnostic testing







- Influenza A & B, *Trichomonas vaginalis*<sup>2</sup>, bacterial vaginitis, hepatitis B, trypanosomiasis
- Limited to low CD4 (HIV) - *Cryptococcus neoformans*, tuberculosis (TB) LAM<sup>3</sup>
- Need confirmatory test – syphilis<sup>4</sup>, hepatitis C, HIV<sup>5</sup>
- Proof-of-concept *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*<sup>6</sup>

## B Second generation of POC diagnostic testing



- Sample-to-answer: chlamydia & gonorrhea, TB, SARS-CoV-2, influenza A & B, RSV, HIV, global fever panel (18 multiplex)<sup>7</sup>
- Plasma only - HIV viral load

# Diversification of Molecular Platforms

Company	Platform	Targets	Sample types	TAT (min)
	Xpert	TB, HIV, SARS-CoV-2, influenza A & B, RSV, NG/CT, enterovirus, Mpox, strep A, TV, GBS, C.diff, norovirus, AMR, biomarkers	Whole blood, plasma, nasal swab, vaginal swab, urine, stool, CSF	42-92 min
	SAMBA II	HIV, SARS-CoV-2, influenza, RSV		90 min
	m-PIMA	HIV (M, N, O subtypes)	Plasma	52 min
	TrueNat	HIV, tuberculosis, SARS-CoV-2, malaria, dengue, chikungunya, influenza A & B, salmonella, HBC, rabies, CT/NG, TV, HPV, GBS, hepatitis (A, E), Nipah, Scrub T, cholera	Whole blood, plasma, nasal swab, vaginal swab, urine, stool, CSF	40+ min extraction time (20 min)

# HIV Self-Tests: WHO Pre-Qualified

Test (Manufacturer)	Specimen	Generation	Approval
OraQuick® In-Home HIV Test (OraSure Technologies, USA)	Oral	2 <sup>nd</sup> , HIV 1/2 antibodies	FDA / WHO PQ
OraQuick® HIV Self-Test (OraSure Technologies, USA)	Oral	2 <sup>nd</sup> , HIV 1/2 antibodies	WHO PQ
INSTI™ HIV Self Test (BioLytical Laboratories Inc., Canada)	Blood	2 <sup>nd</sup> , HIV 1/2 antibodies	WHO PQ
SURE CHECK® HIV Self-Test (Chembio Diagnostic Systems, Inc, USA)	Blood	2 <sup>nd</sup> , HIV 1/2 antibodies	WHO PQ
Mylan HIV Self-Test (Atomo Diagnostics Pnty. Ltd, Australia)	Blood	3 <sup>rd</sup> , HIV 1/2 antibodies	WHO PQ
Check Now™ HIV Self Test (Abbott Rapid Diagnostics, Germany)	Blood	3 <sup>rd</sup> , HIV 1/2 antibodies	WHO PQ

# Limited Menu of FDA Cleared STI Assays in US

## Point-of care



Binx NG/CT



Visby NG/CT/TV



Solana TV\*



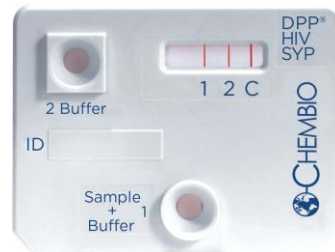
Cepheid NG/CT\*



Osom TV



Trinity syphilis



Chembio HIV/syphilis

## Over-the-counter (OTC) Self-Test

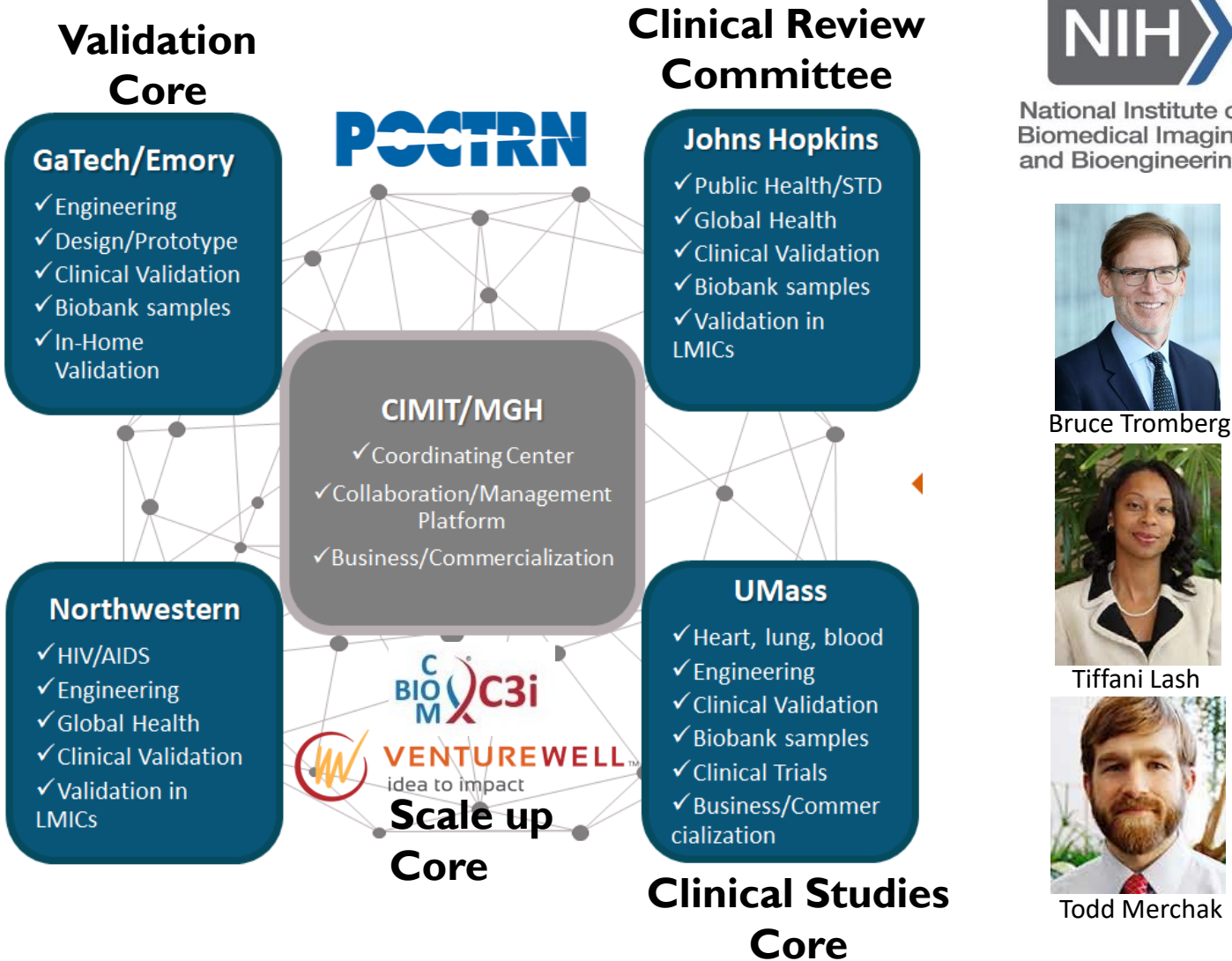


\*CLIA-waiver (use at POC by a paraprofessional without training) not yet granted

# Generation 3

...molecular detection...faster, smaller, and battery operated

# COVID-19 Diagnostic Development: RADx Tech



Bruce Tromberg



Tiffani Lash



Todd Merchak

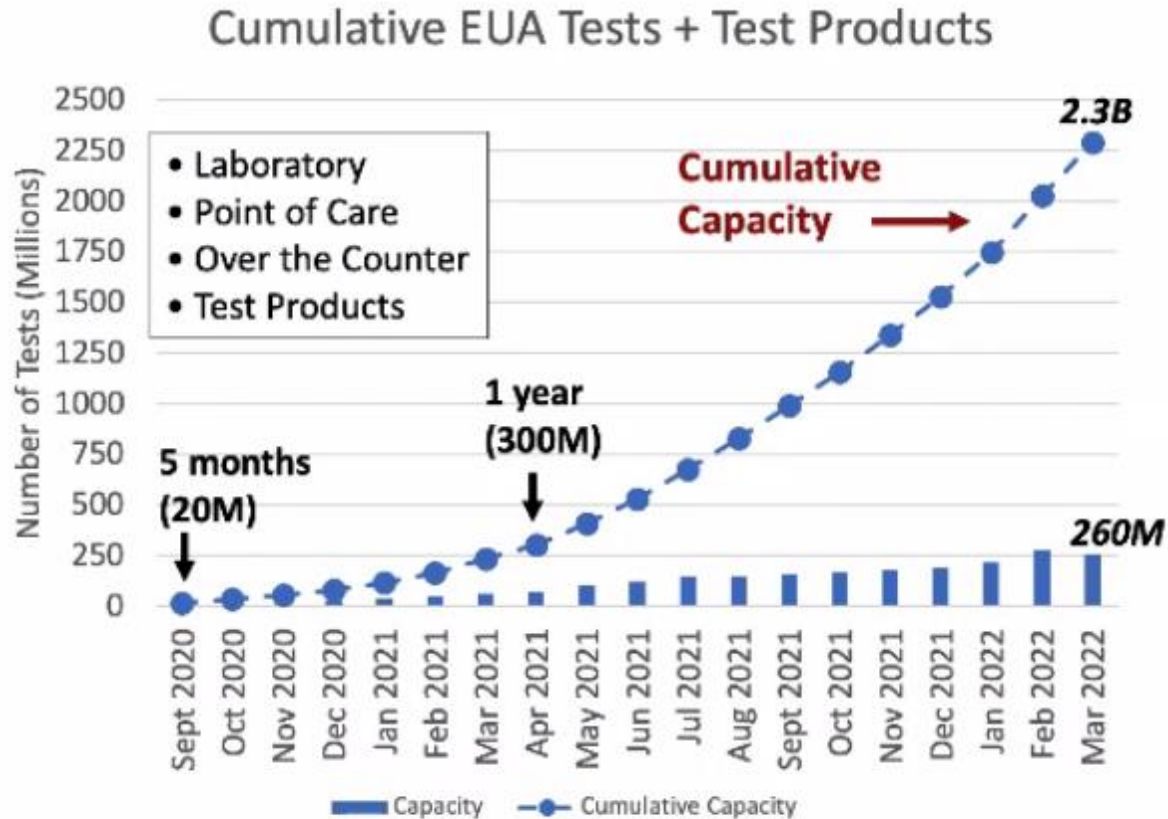


Lamar Alexander, Roy Blunt

**RADx Tech**  
**RADx Advanced Technology**  
**Platforms**  
**= ~\$1+ billion**



# RADx Tech Impact: OTC Tests & Paradigm Shift



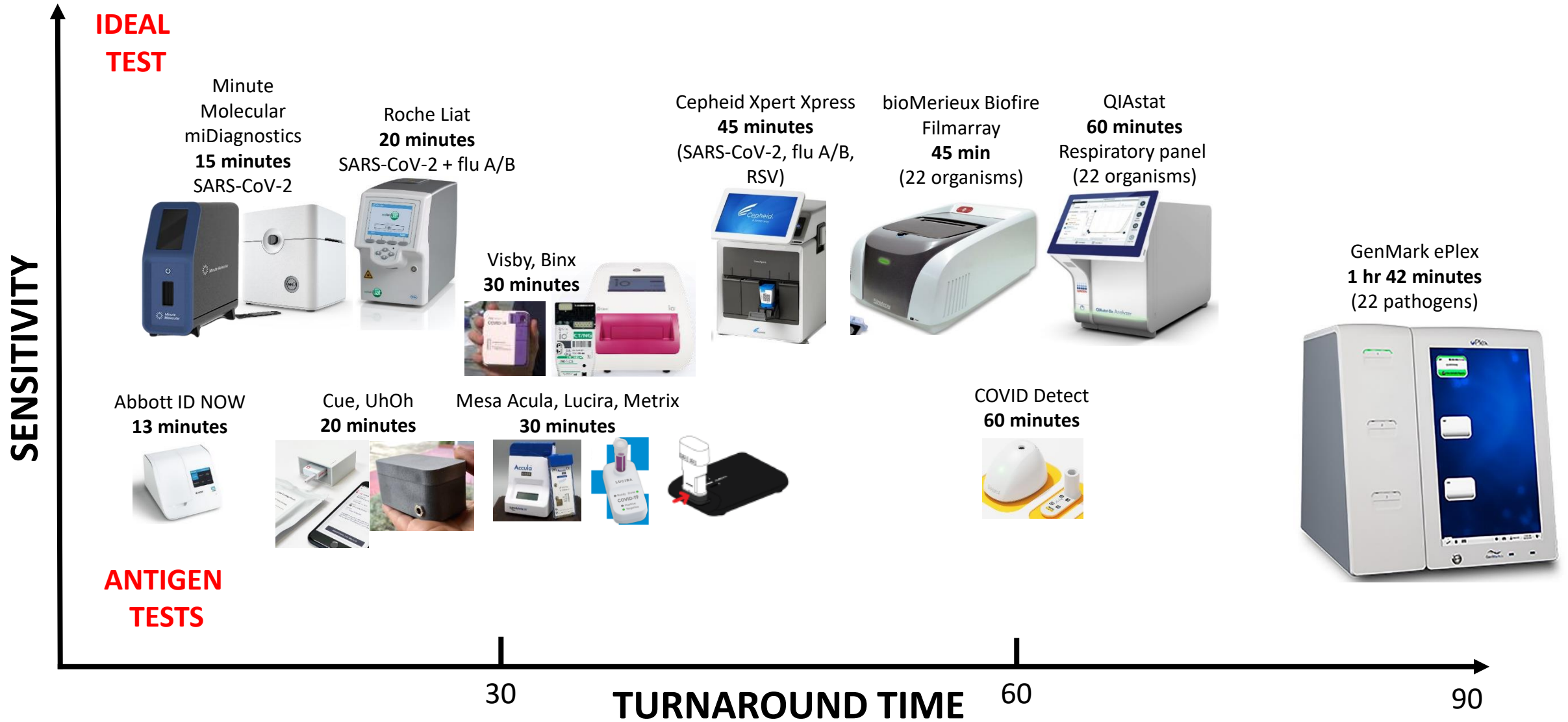
- 6 billion tests produced
- >50 EUA's: OTC, Antigen, Molecular
- 1<sup>st</sup> over-the-counter home-use test

## Shifting the Paradigm

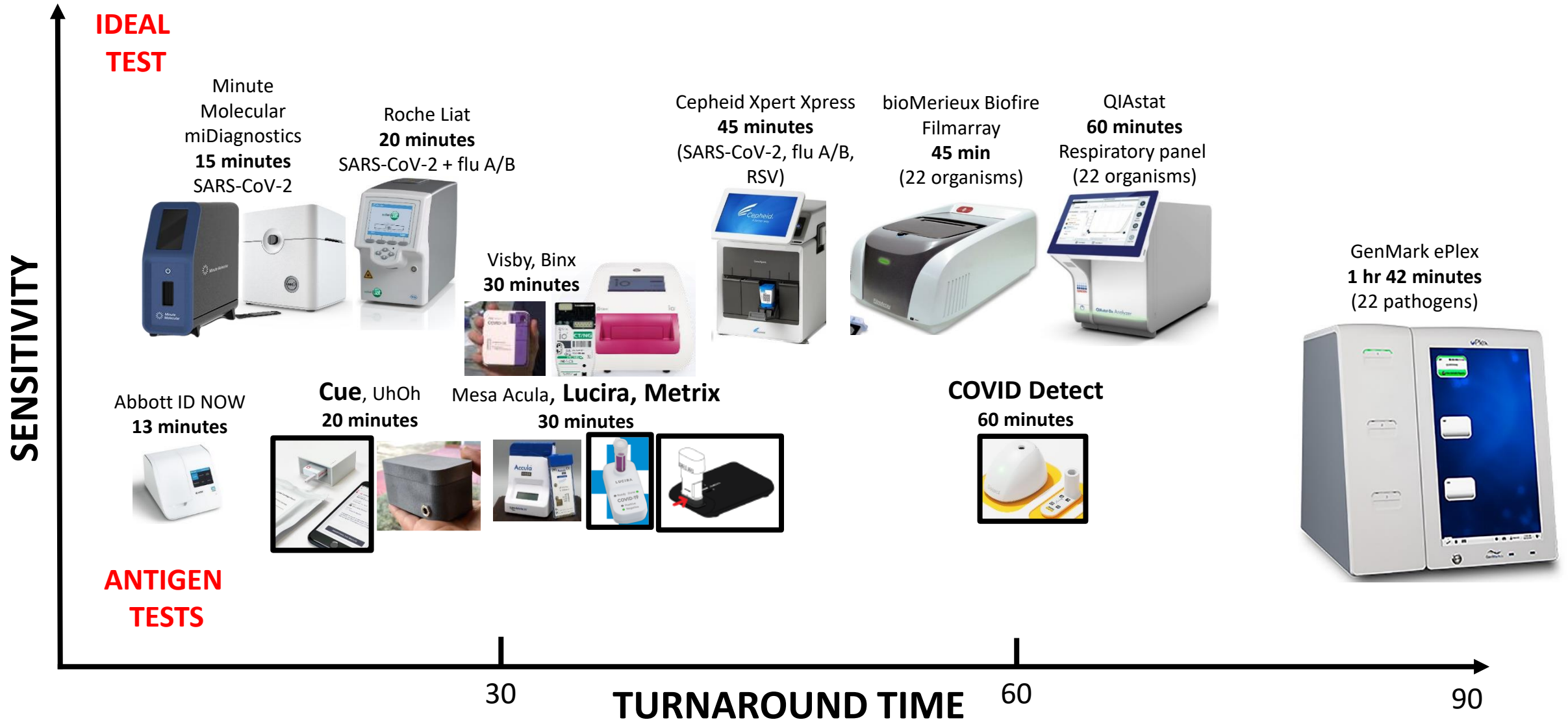
**Public** >>Private → **Private**>>Public  
**Lab** >>POC → **OTC, POC** >>LAB



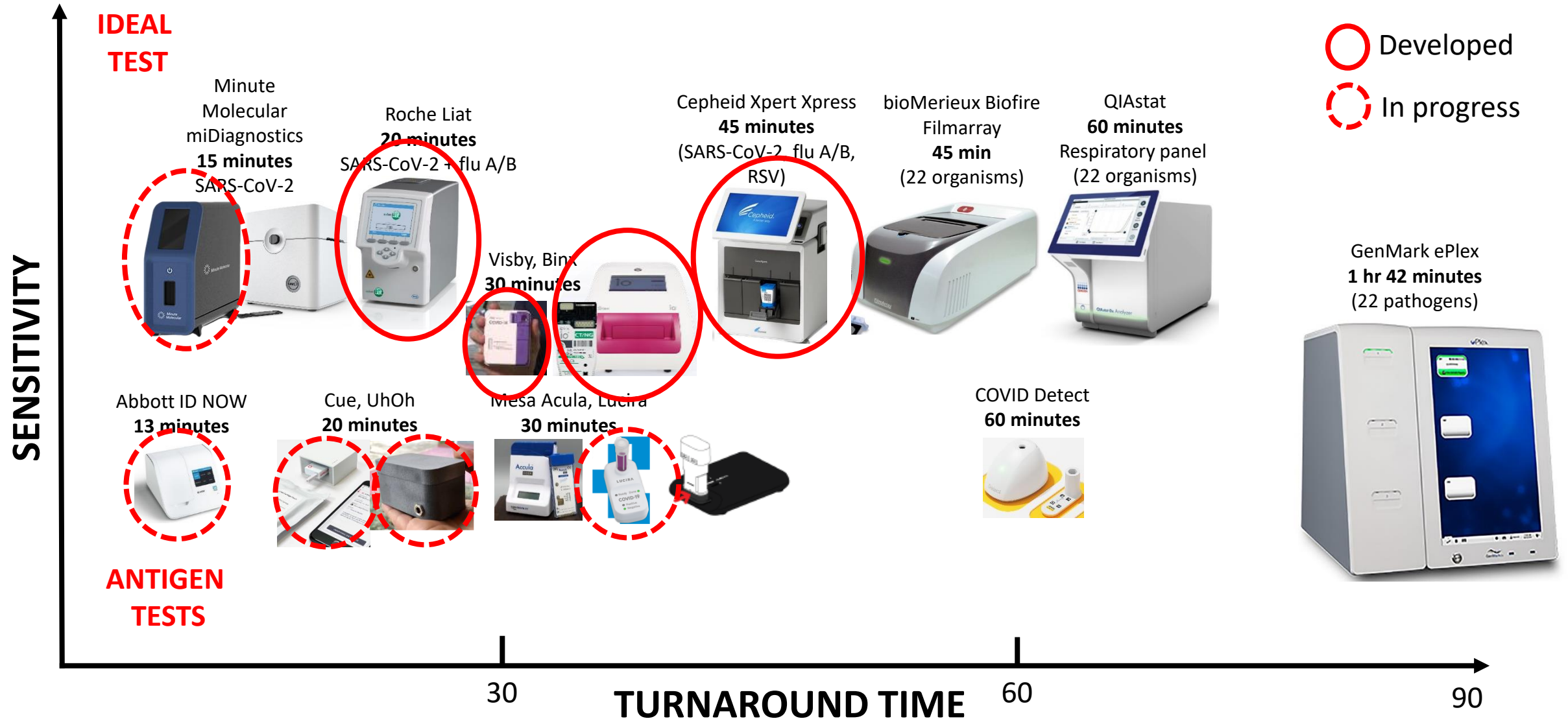
# Automated POC Molecular Testing Platforms



# Automated POC Molecular Testing Platforms: OTC



# POC Platform Pivot to STI's



# Lessons learned from COVID-19 in US

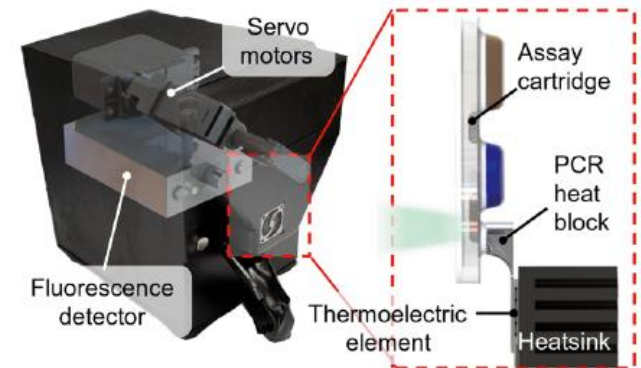
- Public health testing capacity is limited
- Monetary investments can accelerate development (RADx)
- Paradigm shift toward POC/ self-testing (regulatory barriers)
- Mail-in self-collection increased in popularity for STI testing during pandemic times and increased access to testing
- Economies of scale – repurposing platforms for other infectious diseases

# What are the key features for POCT?

- <20 minutes – willingness to wait threshold unless you change clinic workflow
- Easy to perform – able to be performed by paraprofessionals
- Affordable – low cost of goods (COGS) for device and consumables
- Small footprint – many labs in clinics have limited real estate
- Multiplex or parallelization, random access

# Improve Amplification Technology

- Concentration capture sample processing innovation → Increases sensitivity
  - Membrane filtration, magnetic bead processing<sup>1</sup>
  - Could pair well with LFA or isothermal approaches that are often less sensitive (LAMP, HDA, RPA, CRISPR, endonuclease)
- Increase speed of PCR to decrease TAT – rapid heating and cooling (15 min)
  - MobiNAAT – miniaturization of heat block minimizing thermal mass<sup>2</sup>
  - Dash (Minute Molecular)
- Multiplex – multiple pathogens or AMR detection
  - Novel probe design; melt curve analysis; ratiometric fluorescence detection
- Simplify the read-out – paper LFA after amplification



loop-mediated amplification LAMP, helicase-dependent amplification HDA, Recombinase polymerase amplification RPA,

<sup>1</sup>Credle J Mod Pathol 2021; <sup>2</sup>Trick A, Sci Transl Med 2021  
Hsieh K Lab Chip 2022

# Trade-offs: Speed, Sensitivity, Cost, Eco Footprint

## Lateral Flow Assays



Lower sensitivity  
Low cost

## Isothermal One-Pot



LAMP, CRISPR, endonuclease  
Intermediate sensitivity  
Intermediate cost

## Molecular POC PCR



High sensitivity  
High cost  
Now MUCH faster

# Innovation

## Lateral Flow Assays



Lower sensitivity

Low cost



Increase signal-to-noise

Increase time of antibody antigen interaction

Electrical resistance detection (faster)

Increase surface area for capture (nanotubes)

Amplify signal

Concentration of larger volume

## Isothermal One-Pot



LAMP, CRISPR, endonuclease

Intermediate sensitivity

Intermediate cost



Bring down cost of goods

new isothermal technology-RPA

lateral flow output + battery → OTC



## Molecular POC PCR



High sensitivity

High cost



Suitable to context

Lower consumable costs

Less plastic

lateral flow output + battery → OTC





# Issues Remaining

## Lateral Flow Assays



Lower sensitivity  
Low cost



Adds cost and/or time  
No reporting for surveillance

## Isothermal One-Pot



LAMP, CRISPR, endonuclease

Intermediate sensitivity  
Intermediate cost



Still expensive  
Often has a smartphone or  
GUI that may not work in  
RLS

## Molecular POC PCR

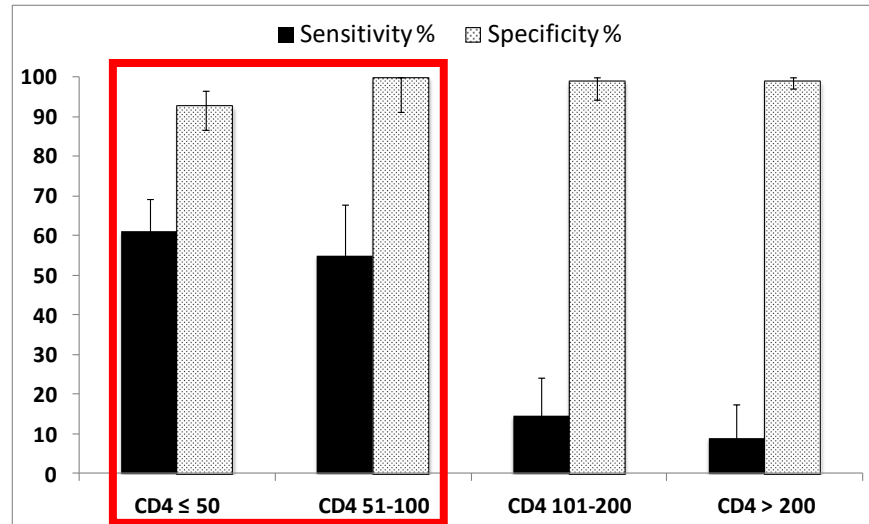


High sensitivity  
High cost

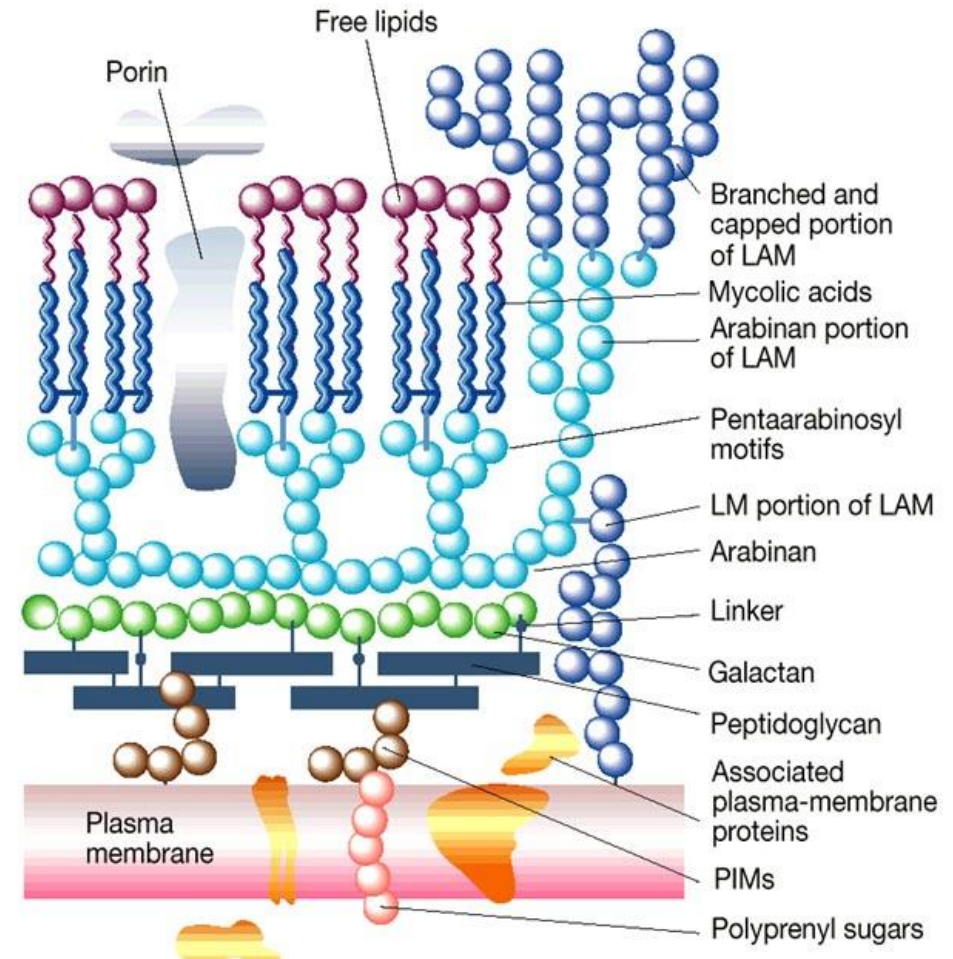


Generates a lot of trash  
Needs continuous electricity  
Often very expensive if all-in-one  
(no device)

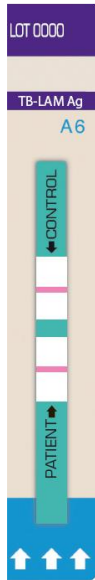
# Cautionary Tale: TB LAM Detection



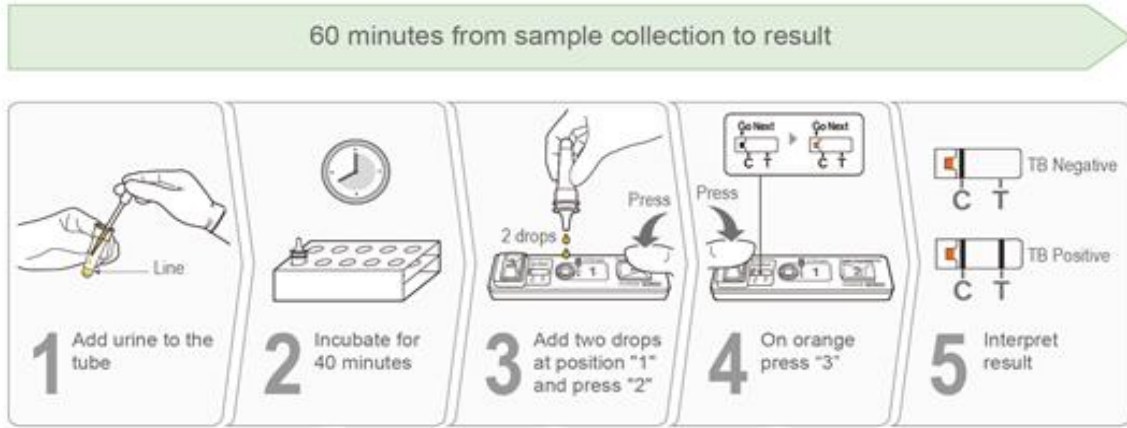
- Drop of urine on LFA → Results in 25 minutes
- Room temperature storage, easy transport
- Individualized foil strip packaging
- Inbuilt procedural control
- **DETECTS DISSEMINATED INFECTION** in very immunocompromised HIV



# Cautionary Tale: FujiLAM



## TB Test Procedure



Results in **60 minutes**

**Multi-step, more hands-on time**

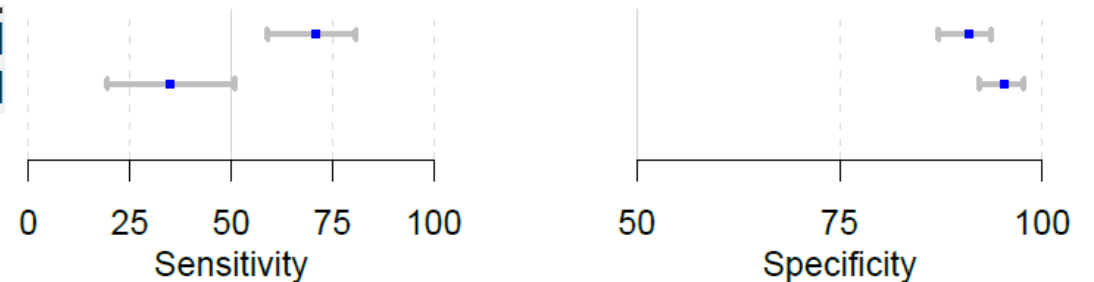
Silver amplification immunochromatography

Limit of detection is  $\geq 30\text{pg LAM/ml}$  urine

30-fold lower cut-off **MORE SENSITIVE**

**Production issues** → less specific

Test	N	TP	FP	FN	TN	Sn	[95% CI]	Sp	[95% CI]
FujiLAM	1595	541	76	183	795	70.7	[59.0 – 80.8]	90.9	[87.2 – 93.7]
AlereLAM	1595	307	41	417	830	34.9	[19.5 – 50.9]	95.3	[92.2 – 97.7]
Diff Sn and Diff Sp						35.8		-4.4	



# **Generation 4**

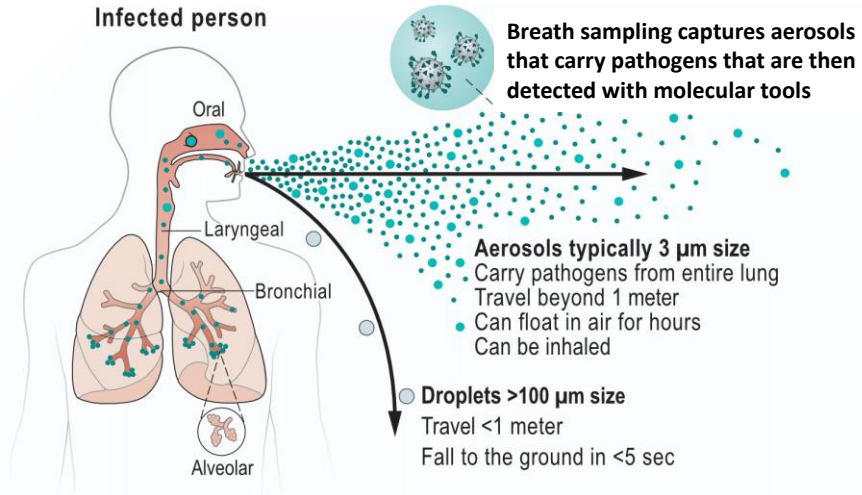
...New approaches...innovation

# Beyond Amplification Technology

- Improve Performance
  - Increase signal to noise to achieve high sensitivity- nanotubes
  - Leveraging the decreasing cost of sequencing to detect multiple pathogens and variants<sup>1</sup>
  - Assays that assess host response (VirScan)<sup>3</sup>
- Pheno-molecular approaches to AMR<sup>4</sup>
  - Brief antibiotic exposure prior to quantitative detection of nucleic acid (NAAT)
  - Overcomes need to know the exact genetic basis of resistance
  - Can also target mRNA transcription

<sup>1</sup>Wong KH Curr Protocols in Molecular Biol 2013, Hoff K Langmuir 20216; <sup>2</sup>Karthikeyan S Nature 2022; <sup>3</sup>Xu GJ Science 2015; <sup>4</sup>Savelle ES PLoS Biology 2020

# Breath Aerosol – TB, COVID-19



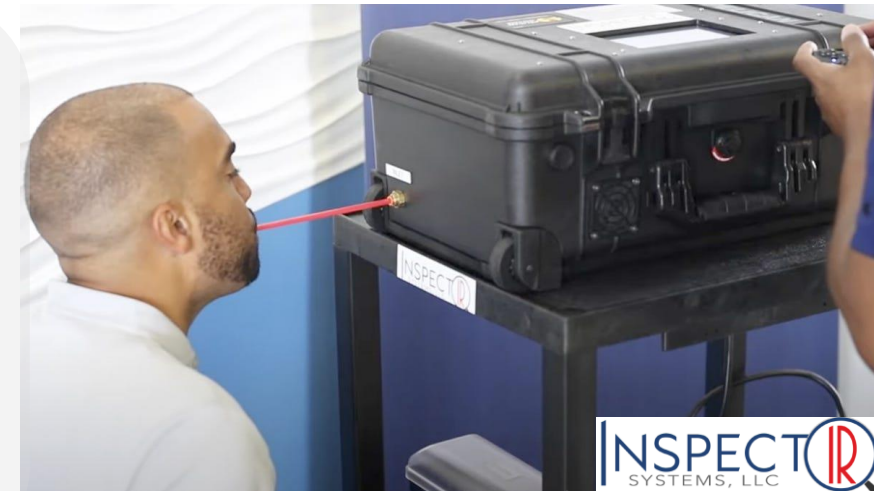
Breath sampling captures human aerosols that carry pathogens. After collection the pathogens' DNA or RNA is detected. (Adapted from Wang.Science.2021;373(6558):eabd9149)

	Initial screening		6-week follow-up					Outcome	20-week follow-up			
	Sputum sample	Face-mask sample	Sputum sample	Face-mask sample	Chest radiography	Bronchoalveolar lavage result	PET-CT		Sputum sample	Face-mask sample*	PET-CT	Outcome
2	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	Treatment withheld and observed	-	-	-	Alternative diagnosis made
3	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	Tuberculosis treatment commenced	-	-	-	Completed treatment
7	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	Tuberculosis treatment commenced	-	-	-	Completed treatment
13	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	Tuberculosis treatment commenced	-	-	-	Completed treatment
17	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	Tuberculosis treatment commenced	-	-	-	Completed treatment

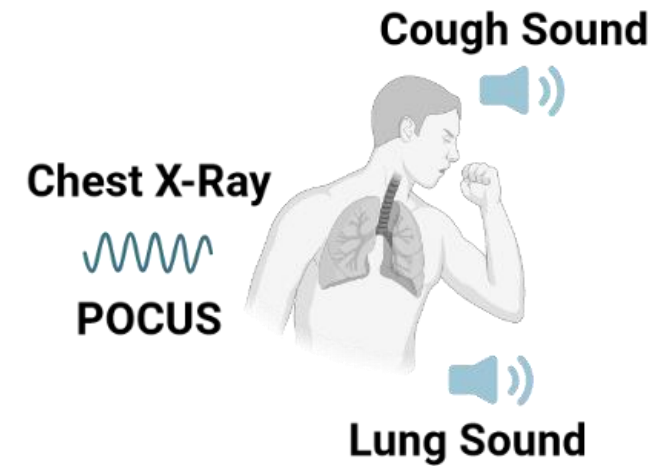
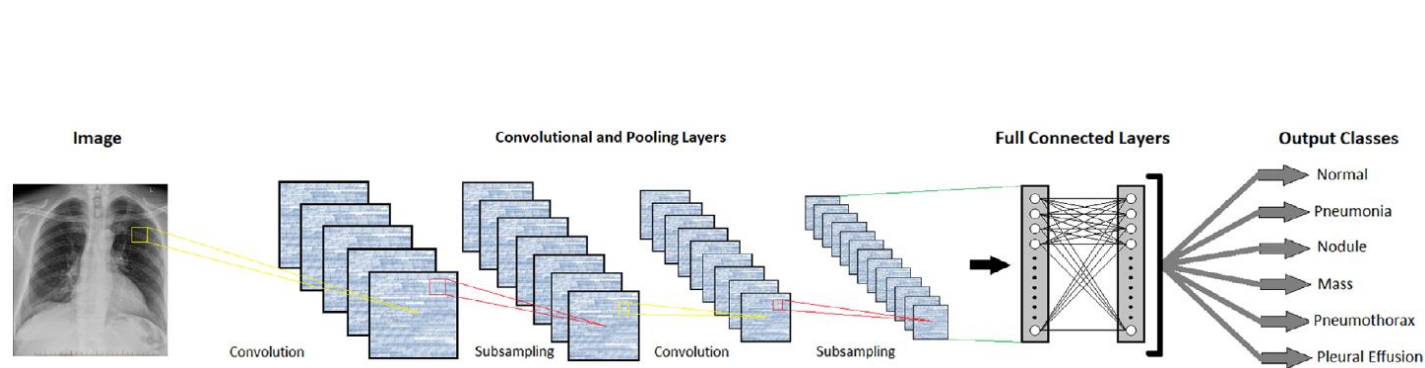
- Non-invasive sampling methods (face mask)
- Link to infectiousness and transmission- TB

## COVID-19: Received EUA

- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) measured by mass spectrometry
- Symptomatics sensitivity 97.8% specificity 99.1%; asymptomatics sensitivity 91.2%; specificity 99.1%



# Artificial Intelligence-Based Diagnostics



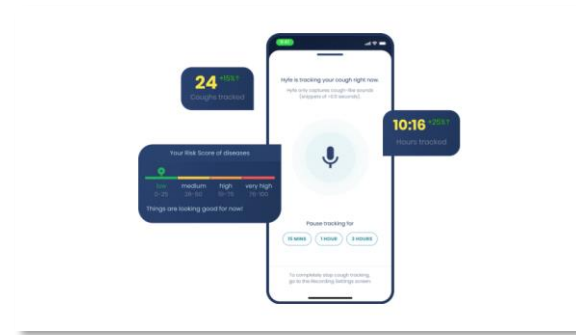
**CAD**



**POCUS**



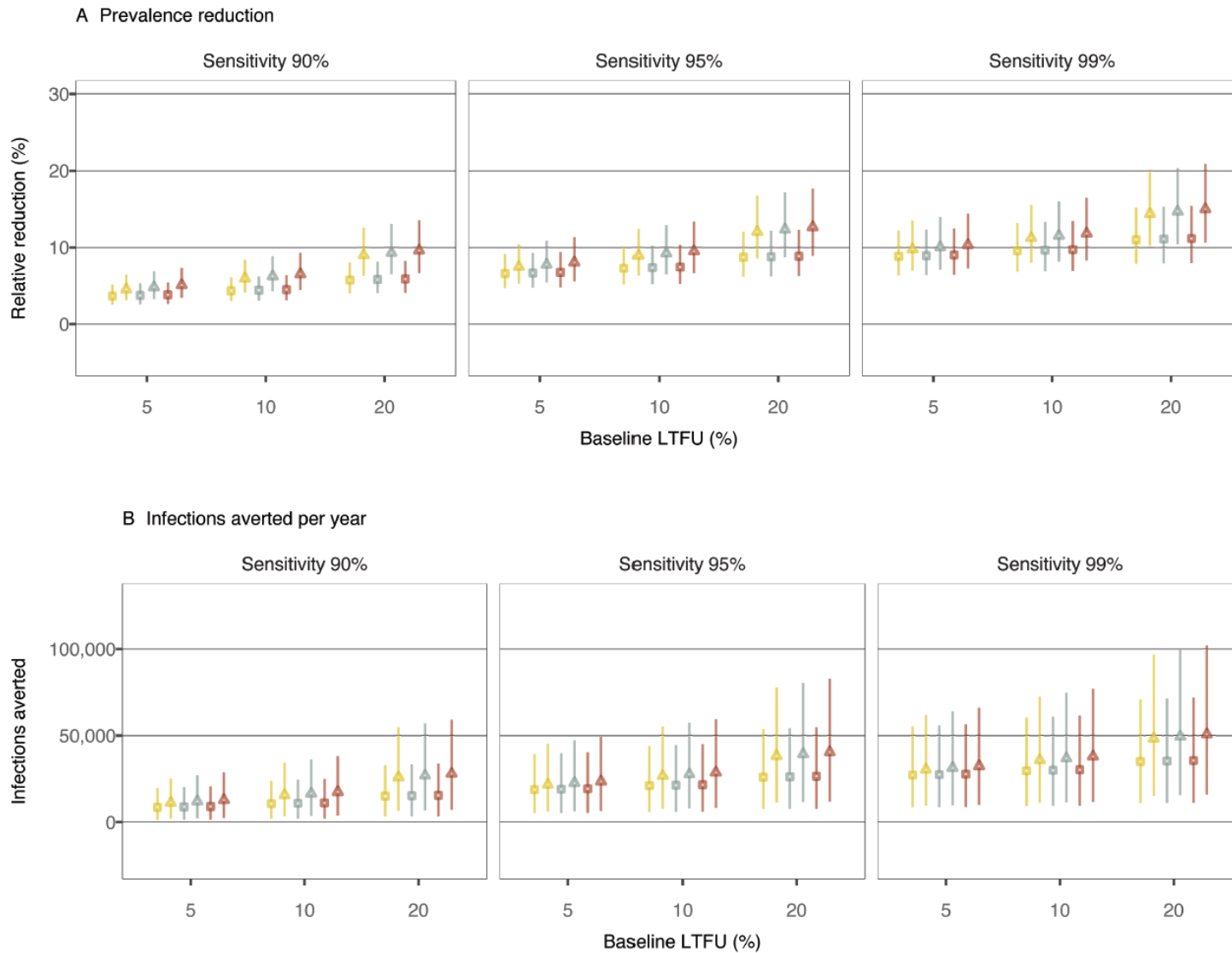
**e-Stethoscopes**



**Cough Apps**

# “A test that is never performed has 0% sensitivity.”

--Kevin Delaney



- Used a transmission model of chlamydia in the US.
- Increase screening frequency 20% with a POCT
- Sensitivity analyses: POCT sensitivity 90-99%; baseline LTFU 5-20%; treatment delay 1-3 weeks; proportion treated immediately 30-100%

Baseline treatment delays    Delay 1wk    Delay 2wk    Delay 3wk    Treated immediately    30%    60%    100%



# Development Approaches

	Technology-Driven	Clinical Needs-Driven	Value-Based
What is the motivation?	Innovate	Solve problems	Achieve desired outcomes
What guides development?	Technological capabilities	Technical specifications	Systems-level needs
What are the metrics?	Analytical performance	Clinical performance	Clinical/Process/Economic Outcomes
What perspective matters?	Developer interests	Clinical perceptions	Stakeholder perspectives
How important is context?	Context-free	Cross-context	Context-specific
How is the technology marketed?	Innovation potential	Business Case	Value Proposition
What are the cost considerations?	Development costs	Cost of test/device	Total cost
What is the main adoption issue?	Finding clinical champions	Integrating test into workflow	Integrating test into care pathway
What informs purchasing?	Health Technology Assessment	Traditional Procurement	Value-Based Procurement

**Adopters are making value-based decisions**



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# The *Lancet* Commission on diagnostics: transforming access to diagnostics



*Kenneth A Fleming, Susan Horton, Michael L Wilson, Rifat Atun, Kristen DeStigter, John Flanigan, Shahin Sayed, Pierrick Adam, Bertha Aguilar, Savvas Andronikou, Catharina Boehme, William Cherniak, Annie NY Cheung, Bernice Dahn, Lluís Donoso-Bach, Tania Douglas, Patricia Garcia, Sarwat Hussain, Hari S Iyer, Mikashmi Kohli, Alain B Labrique, Lai-Meng Looi, John G Meara, John Nkengasong, Madhukar Pai, Kara-Lee Pool, Kaushik Ramaiya, Lee Schroeder, Devanshi Shah, Richard Sullivan, Bien-Soo Tan, Kamini Walia*

- 47% of the global population has little to no access to diagnostics
- Democratization of diagnostics will empower patients
- Affects major global health priorities: universal health coverage, antimicrobial resistance, and global health security

**“Innovation without access is not innovation at all.”**

# Frugal Innovation – Cost-Conscious Optimization

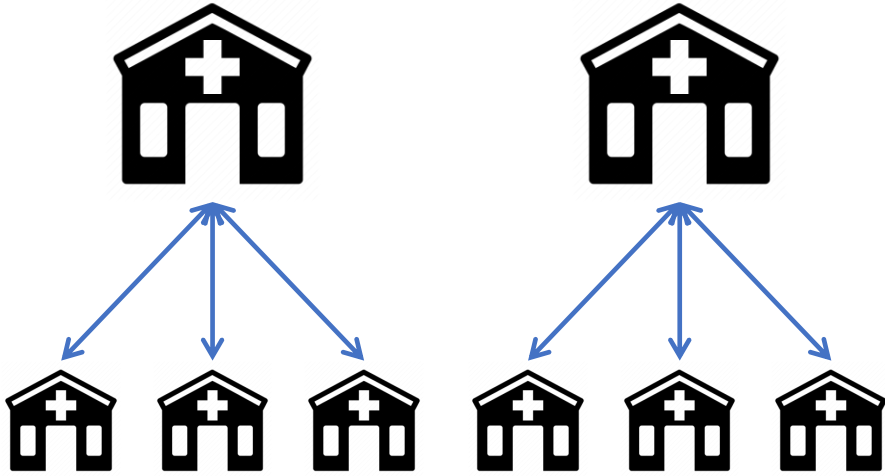
- **[R:** real-time connectivity]
- **E:** ease of specimen collection, environmental friendliness
- **A:** affordable
  - **Low cost without compromising quality**
  - **Consideration of cost of goods up front**
- **S:** sensitive
- **S:** specific
- **U:** user-friendly
- **R:** rapid
- **E:** equipment-free
- **D:** delivered



# Resource-Limited Settings: Not Monolithic



High Throughput  
High complexity  
Surveillance  
Public Health



Unreliable electricity  
Medium throughput  
Skilled Human resource  
Unreliable supply chain



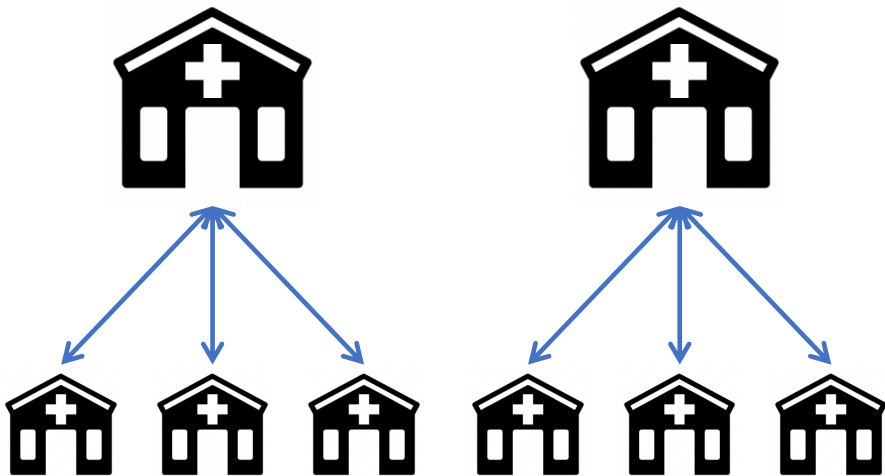
Individual diagnosis  
Low price/test  
Low infrastructure



# Resource-Limited Settings: Not Monolithic



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Unreliable electricity  
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Unreliable supply chain



Individual diagnosis  
Low price/test  
Low infrastructure




**Consideration for USE CASE should be made early together with clinicians...  
...this is often missing in medtech development**

# Unraveling the Gordian Knot: Using POC Assays to Improve Public Health



- Incentivize pivoting platforms from COVID-19 to other infectious diseases (RADx)
- Move true 'beyond PCR' innovation from proof-of-concept to commercialization
- RLS in both US and in LMIC will need cost-effective solutions to improve access to diagnostics

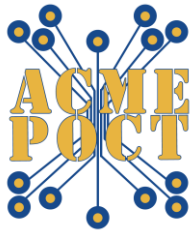
A vibrant rainbow arches across a cloudy sky above a cityscape. The rainbow is the central focus, with its colors clearly visible. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. In the foreground, the tops of several buildings are visible, including a prominent one with a blue roof. The overall scene is a mix of natural beauty and urban environment.

**Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, but  
learning to dance in the rain**

# Acknowledgements



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