Minimally invasive tissue sampling, or MITS, is a promising approach that can provide a more accurate and specific cause of death diagnosis than would otherwise be available.
Why MITS?

High-quality mortality data is limited in low- and middle-income countries. Many facilities lack the resources and infrastructure needed to carry out complete diagnostic autopsies, which are considered the gold standard in determining cause of death.

The MITS technique:

• Is a less-invasive alternative to a complete autopsy, targeting only certain organs.
• Can be performed competently by pathology technicians with specialized training.
• Has been validated through studies across all age groups.
• Can frequently identify causes of death as accurately as a full autopsy, according to initial studies.

When used with other data, MITS can help governments, health institutions, and global health stakeholders better understand causes of mortality, and therefore help them better plan and prioritize health policies and interventions—ultimately saving lives around the world.
WHO WE ARE

The MITS Surveillance Alliance aims to expand the use of MITS globally:

• As its **Secretariat**, RTI International—an independent, nonprofit, and multi-disciplinary research institute—brings together experts to standardize procedures and trainings on the MITS technique, creates forums to share best practices and lessons learned, and provides access to tools, materials, and expertise to facilitate pathology-based surveillance.

• An **Executive Committee** with representatives from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, RTI, ISGlobal, and the Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) Network provides technical and programmatic direction and guidance to the Alliance.

• Our **members** gather for an annual meeting, and four **technical working groups**—Classification of Cause of Death, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Data, and Pathology/Microbiology—support the Alliance’s Mission.

• The Alliance is **funded** by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
OUR MEMBERS REPRESENT MORE THAN 14 COUNTRIES
and include institutions and investigators conducting postmortem
research using MITS or minimally invasive autopsy.

HOW WE WORK
As an Alliance, we support the:

**Collaboration**
needed to drive high-quality
and rapid learning on MITS

**Expansion**
of MITS among interested
institutions and researchers,
growing the network of
partners using pathology-
based surveillance in
different contexts

**Improvement**
of MITS-generated data
by assessing and adapting
procedures
JOIN US

Clinical researchers, epidemiologists, pathologists, microbiologists, and other researchers and specialists interested in or already implementing MITS or related postmortem studies are welcome to join the Alliance.

Members receive access to:

- The latest resources and news on MITS and cause of death
- Opportunities for collaboration, including an annual meeting and ongoing technical working groups
- Incentive program funding through small grants to support postmortem studies with MITS

Visit our website or email us for more information on the Alliance, how to join, and our current members.

MITSalliance.org
MITSadmin@rti.org

The MITS Surveillance Alliance aims to expand the use of MITS globally. We facilitate the use of MITS by interested institutions and researchers and help grow the network of partners using pathology-based surveillance in various populations, geographies, and contexts.

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