IV TB Research and Innovation Meeting of Bahia subsidizes the Subcommittee for poverty related diseases

From 24 to 26 July, the city of Salvador held the IV TB Research and Innovation Meeting of Bahia. The event gathered national and international experts and prompted important contributions on social determinants of TB, highlighting the need to strengthen partnerships and foster new studies and researches. Prevention and diagnose were also part of the debate.

During the opening ceremony, the state health sub secretary, Maria Lucia Rocha stressed that their biggest challenge is to increase cure rates. To the researcher and professor from the Public Health Institute Mauricio Barreto, the last decade brought many achievements on new diagnoses and new drugs. However he underlined the importance in the social conditions improvements had in this process and the key role researches have to evaluate the health public policies.

According to Eduardo Mota, also from the Public Health Institute, events such as this must subsidize actions in the services and governmental plans. The will to organize the event shows their persistence to discuss the theme and also involve the participation of three different levels of governance.

In the occasion, the president of the Parliamentary Front to Fight TB, Congressman Antonio Brito discussed the preliminary data from the Subcommittee of diseases related to poverty, implemented last March in the National Congress.

The first public hearing to subsidize the Subcommittee took place in the Legislative Assembly of Rio de Janeiro and it aimed to hear civil society. The second is scheduled for August 13th, in Brasilia, where the governmental institutions will be heard.

He also highlighted that, given the relevance of the event and the liability of the University of Bahia, the discussions and debates held during the event will also subsidize the Subcommittee. It is notable the relevance to hear the scientific community and address to their challenges when it comes to research in the country.

The congressman also argued that Brazil has proved that it is possible to articulate technically and politically in order to combat TB. He encourage society on the importance of bringing to the Parliament information and data on TB so that both houses are able to articulate and present legislative projects in favor of those affected by the disease.
Throughout the meeting, researchers met and built a formal document that should be included on the Subcommittee final report.

After the opening ceremony, researcher and the prior president of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), Paulo Buss initiated the seminary cycle. He brought issues such as the macro social determinants as the main challenges to promote health. To him inter sector articulation is essential to ensure the right for TB patients, promoting treatment effectiveness and health equality.

“The unrest social movement that has taken many people to manifestations reflects, on my opinion, the social determination process”, he stated. Buss also congratulated the National TB Programme (NTP) for introducing a chapter on Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization in the Recommendation Manual for TB Control in Brazil.

NTP representatives have signaled that the theme will be deepened in the second edition, based on the experiences and actions developed since the launch of the first edition, in 2011. It was also part of the NTP speech the creation of a specific work area in the programme to deal with access to services and vulnerable populations.