



Advocates meet with Stop TB Partnership Executive Director Lucica Ditiu at the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on TB Vaccines

## **Working Group on New TB Vaccines Convenes Advocates' Workshop at 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum**

The Stop TB Partnership Working Group on New TB Vaccines (WGNV) convened a workshop on 19 February 2018 in New Delhi for advocates participating in the [5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on TB Vaccines](#). The objective of the workshop, held the day before the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum, was to strengthen the advocates' understanding of key scientific topics in order to build their research literacy capacity and to help them more actively engage in the discussions at the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum. Eleven advocates from India, Kenya, Peru, Romania, South Africa and the USA participated in the workshop and in the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum. Several of the advocates also had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Lucica Ditiu, Executive Director of the Stop TB Partnership, to discuss upcoming advocacy opportunities.

The workshop and the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum also served as the culmination of the WGNV's pilot TB Vaccine R&D Advocacy program, which was launched at the Union World Conference on Lung Health in Guadalajara in October 2017. Five applicants were selected to participate in this program – from Romania, South Africa, India, and the USA. The program consisted of trainings and discussions on TB vaccines research and development, both in-person and by teleconference, with the goal of building the research literacy capacity of the participants and preparing them to effectively advocate and build support for TB vaccine R&D, and to broaden the network of advocates who are informed and engaged in this area. All five program participants attended the workshop and the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum, and the WGNV will continue to engage with them to strengthen their knowledge and understanding of TB vaccine R&D and to develop and implement effective TB vaccine advocacy strategies and programs.