NOTE TO THE MEDIA

WINNERS OF THE STOP TB AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN REPORTING ON TUBERCULOSIS ANNOUNCED IN BERLIN

11 November 2010 – Berlin, Germany -- The Stop TB Partnership today announced the winners of the Award for Excellence in Reporting on Tuberculosis 2010. The award, which is supported by the Lilly MDR-TB Partnership, recognizes outstanding reporting and commentary in print and on the web that materially increases the public's knowledge and understanding of tuberculosis (TB) and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), in countries affected by the disease. The Partnership confers first, second and third prizes in two categories: for journalists based in low- and middle-income countries and those based in high-income countries*.

Low- and middle-income country category:

The first prize winner in this category, who will receive an award of US$ 3000, is Lungi Langa of South Africa. Her article, "I didn't think I'd have TB", published in The Daily News, recounts the writer's personal saga of confronting the disease. Anna Biernat of Poland takes second prize for her article “Zpamiętnika suchotnika” ("The diary of a consumptive"), another personal account of battling TB that was published in Polityka, a weekly news magazine. Ms Biernat will receive US$ 2000 in prize money. The third place winner, who will receive a $US 1000 award, is Sabina Aliyeva of Azerbaijan. Her article, «Палочка Коха, уносящая жизни» ("Koch bacillus takes lives") was published in the «Каспий» newspaper and recounts the life of the widow of a man who died of multidrug-resistant TB.

High-income country category:

Two journalists tied for the first prize in this category and will each receive US$ 2500 in prize money (an equal share of the first and second prizes combined). Andrew Jack's "Diagnosis: Hope", published in the Financial Times (United Kingdom), points to the troubling lack of funding for TB research. Jen Skerrit's six-part series, "The Forgotten Disease" published in the Winnipeg Free Press, draws attention to the ever-present toll of TB in Canada’s most isolated rural communities. Jenna Sloan and Kate Wighton of the United Kingdom will share the third prize of US$ 1000 for their article "Singer joins campaign to wipe out TB across the globe" which appeared in The Sun and chronicles the travels in South Africa of Craig David, Goodwill Ambassador against TB.

The Stop TB Partnership, which is hosted by the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, consists of more than 1200 international organizations, countries, donors from the public and private sectors, and nongovernmental and governmental organizations that are working together to eliminate TB. The Partnership's Global Plan to Stop TB (2011-2015) sets forth a roadmap for halving TB prevalence and deaths compared with 1990 levels by 2015.

The Lilly MDR-TB Partnership is a public-private initiative that encompasses global health and relief organizations, academic institutions and private companies and is led by Eli Lilly and Company. Its mission is to address the expanding crisis of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). The partnership is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to fight MDR-TB through increasing drug supply at concessionary prices; research; providing training in prevention, treatment, and surveillance; promoting awareness and community support programs and sharing drug manufacturing technology with nations most at risk of MDR-TB.

*World Bank criteria: World Bank Country Classification

For further information, please contact:

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