

STOP TB NEWS

September 2009

TOP LINE NEWS

Stop TB Partnership highlighted at High-level Segment of UN Economic and Social Council

The High-level Segment of the [UN Economic and Social Council](#) in Geneva in July focused on improving global health. At a session called "Partnerships in health—lessons from multi-stakeholder initiatives", Dr Marcos Espinal, Executive Secretary of the Stop TB Partnership, addressed delegates about the Stop TB Partnership's achievements and the challenges it faces.

Other speakers on the panel were Michel Sidibé, Executive Director, [UNAIDS](#); Philippe Douste-Blazy, Special Advisor on Innovative Financing for Development and Chair of the Board of [UNITAID](#); Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director, [Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#); Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Executive Director, [Roll Back Malaria Partnership](#); and singer/actress Natalie Imbruglia, Spokesperson for the [Campaign to End Fistula](#).

[Read Dr Espinal's statement](#)

[Link to the site of the ECOSOC meeting](#)

New commitment to fighting TB from African ministers

In his remarks at the 59th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Kigali, Rwanda on 3 September, Dr Jorge Sampaio, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Stop TB, praised African health ministers for progress they have made on TB—particularly on integrating TB and HIV services—while at the same time urging stronger leadership on TB.

In the course of this special session on TB control, participants looked at progress achieved since the 2005 Regional Committee's African TB emergency declaration.

Several ministers made passionate interventions, notably about the potential threat of drug-resistant TB in the continent, the need to strengthen the laboratory network to better diagnose TB and to develop and build the capacity of health workers to address all aspects of TB in the African Region. All expressed strong support for strengthening partnership across the region to fight TB.

The session capped off a mission by a high-level delegation of the [Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board](#) and Dr Sampaio. The delegation included Dr Mario Raviglione, Director of the [WHO Stop TB Department](#); Carol Nyirenda, Communities Delegate to the Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board; Dr Jeremiah Chakaya, Vice Chair of the Board; and Dr Marcos Espinal, Executive Secretary of the Stop TB Partnership. Dr Hiro Nakatani, WHO Assistant Director General for HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria, supported the delegation and was present for a number of its activities.

President Sampaio and the Stop TB delegation took this opportunity to hold a series of meetings with the Ministers of Health of Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The object of the meetings was to offer support and practical assistance from Stop TB Partners and WHO in delivery of national TB control agendas.

On 2 September His Excellency Festus Mogae, the former President of Botswana, Dr Luis Gomes Sambo, newly re-elected WHO Regional Director for the African Region, and Dr Hiro Nakatani joined Stop TB Board members from the African Region, the Ministers of Health of Lesotho (Mphu Ramatlapeng) and Tanzania (Prof. David Mwakyusa) and the delegation at a dinner organized by the Stop TB Partnership and hosted by President Sampaio. Dr Sampaio also paid a visit to Rwanda's President, Paul Kagame.

[Read Dr Sampaio's speech](#)

NEWS

Rwanda leading the way in jointly tackling TB and HIV

In September, Dr Jorge Sampaio, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Stop TB and UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé together witnessed, first-hand, delivery of integrated HIV and TB services during a visit to the Socio-Medical Centre in Biryogo, Rwanda.

"It is gratifying to be at this clinic, which has intensified TB case finding in people living with HIV through TB screening and transferring confirmed cases to a TB clinic. In addition patients who enrol at the health centre with tuberculosis are also tested for HIV and those found to be HIV positive are given integrated care and support. It is a programme that reflects Rwanda's impressive progress nationwide on coordinating TB and HIV services," said Dr Jorge Sampaio, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Stop TB.

Dr Sampaio has made a Commitment to Action through the [Clinton Global Initiative](#) to increase engagement of global leaders in supporting the coordination of TB and HIV services, and ensure that their Ministries of Health implement nationwide programmatic scale-up and capacity building for these combined services (see [UN Special Envoy reports back to Clinton Global Initiative, below](#)).

Mr Sidibé highlighted the progress Rwanda has made in improving the outcome of TB and HIV co-infection through better collaboration and the use of innovative diagnostic technology and underlined the UN's commitment to effectively tackling the dual epidemics.

"I am pleased to see that Rwanda is leading Africa and the world in taking an integrated approach to dealing with the interlinked epidemics of TB and HIV. Rwanda's bold leadership is achieving impressive results that show the rest of Africa what can be achieved," he said.

Mr Sidibé emphasized that tackling TB and HIV jointly is a priority for UNAIDS and, as stated in the UNAIDS Outcome Framework 2009-2011, it is one of the nine key areas for achieving results with the final goal being that no person living with HIV should die of TB.

Dr Sampaio and Mr Sidibé proceeded to another joint visit to Rwanda's National Reference Laboratory in Kigali, where they saw evidence of the country's major investment in laboratory services and congratulated the laboratory staff on their excellent work, recognizing the key role they play in reducing deaths from TB among people living with HIV.

They highlighted the need for much greater investment in strengthening laboratory services and committed to advocating for increased investment in research for a faster, simpler and more accurate TB test.

[Click here](#) to view a slideshow of images relating to this article.

Stop TB Partners on high-level visit to South Africa **South African Ministry of Health and Stop TB issue joint statement**

A Stop TB Partnership delegation paid a high-level visit to South Africa in July, greeted by Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and meeting at length with Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, with whom they discussed the findings of the recent TB programme review led by WHO and several partners. The review found that management of TB has significantly improved in South Africa since 2005, and Dr Motsoaledi expressed his confidence on the ability of the country's health system to continue to respond to the TB pandemic even in the context of HIV and AIDS.

The delegation and the Minister then discussed the way forward for accelerating action on TB and TB/HIV, and issued a [joint statement](#).

Members of the delegation included: Irene Koek, Chair of the Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board; Dr Marcos Espinal, Executive Secretary of the Stop TB Partnership; Giorgio Roscigno, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics; Dr Stella Anyangwe, WHO Representative to South Africa; Dr Leopold Blanc, Coordinator in the WHO Stop TB Department; and Dr Bah Keita, Regional Adviser for Tuberculosis for the WHO African Region; and Catherine Sozi, UNAIDS Country Coordinator, South Africa.

The Stop TB Partnership delegation also met with UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé, who was visiting South Africa.

UN Special Envoy reports back to Clinton Global Initiative

"We have seen major strides this year," said Dr Jorge Sampaio, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Stop TB as he spoke to assembled participants in the [Clinton Global Initiative](#) during his update on the TB/HIV Commitment in September in New York.

One year previously, Dr Sampaio had formally endorsed a commitment with the Clinton Global Initiative to increase engagement of global leaders in supporting coordination of tuberculosis and HIV services and ensure that their health ministries implement nationwide programmatic scale-up and capacity building for these combined services.

"One of my first steps was a request to the WHO Regional Director for Africa for the 59th Regional Committee to include a special ministerial discussion on tuberculosis, including integrated approaches to tuberculosis and HIV," he said (*see [New commitment to fighting TB from African Ministers](#), above*).

Dr Sampaio pointed to several other important advances over the past year: the adoption of TB/HIV response as one of the nine priorities of the new UNAIDS administration; intensified support from WHO; a call from the Board of the [Global Fund](#) that all projects proposed for HIV must address tuberculosis and vice versa; preparation by the [World Bank](#) of a project with African countries hard-hit by HIV that aims to improve their integrated public health laboratory networks; support from the [Gates Foundation](#) for joint TB and HIV advocacy and further field research through the [Consortium to Respond Effectively to the AIDS/TB Epidemic](#) (CREATE); and scaling up of civil society action for integrated service delivery.

The Clinton Foundation has made new efforts with industry to support access to rifabutin, which is needed in TB treatment among HIV-infected individuals (*see [Clinton Foundation teams up with Pfizer and Matrix to reduce cost of HIV and TB drugs](#), below*). Other strides include major support for tuberculosis and HIV interventions from [PEPFAR](#) and US Congressional reauthorization of PEPFAR, including a recommended US\$ 4 billion for TB control over 5 years; the opening of [NIH](#)-supported HIV clinical trial sites for tuberculosis research; and announcement of the Obama Administration's Global Health Initiative, which includes HIV and TB efforts.

G8 leaders commend achievements on TB and TB/HIV, but call for more commitment

In their joint declaration, [Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future](#), issued in July in L'Aquila, Italy, the leaders of the [G8 Summit](#) pledged to implement further efforts towards universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010, with particular focus on prevention and integration of services for HIV/TB. "We will combine this with actions to: combat TB and Malaria...In this regard, we stress the importance of addressing gender inequality," they wrote.

In a separate Experts' Report, "Promoting Global Health" the leaders noted that where there have been substantial investments and good performance, impressive results have been achieved. This is especially evident in the dramatic increase in coverage on several disease fronts, notably tuberculosis, HIV, child immunization, polio and malaria, they stressed. "Despite these major advances, the job is far from done. Sustained political leadership and commitment are needed," they wrote.

The report calls specifically for strengthening of basic TB control, management of MDR/XDR TB, integrated HIV-TB care and increased availability of labs and diagnostics. And it reaffirms the G8 Commitment to halting the spread of TB. "We will also support the [Global Plan to Stop TB, 2006-2015](#), which aims to cut TB deaths in half by the year 2015 compared to 1990 levels, saving some 14 million

lives over 10 years, and call upon all donors and stakeholders to contribute to its effective implementation," they wrote.

"We commend the G8 leaders for their recognition of recent achievements in TB and HIV/TB control—and also for their call for scale-up of prevention and treatment and stronger political leadership," said Dr Marcos Espinal, Executive Secretary of the Stop TB Partnership.

New study confirms economic benefits of Global Plan implementation in Africa

The benefits of fully implementing the [Global Plan to Stop TB](#) in sub-Saharan Africa would outweigh the costs nine to one, according to an analysis published in the July/August issue of [Health Affairs](#). The study, authored by Ramanan Laxminarayan and coauthors, is a follow-up to a World Bank research report, [Economic Benefit of Tuberculosis Control](#), completed on behalf of the Stop TB Partnership in 2007. That study found that 22 countries with the world's highest numbers of TB cases could earn significantly more than they spend on TB diagnosis and treatment if they signed onto the Global Plan.

The researchers' results are based on an epidemiological and economic model that projects TB incidence and mortality under various approaches and calculates the economic costs of additional treatment and monitoring versus the economic benefit of averting TB-related deaths.

Health Affairs, published by [Project HOPE](#), is a leading peer-reviewed journal of health policy.

[Read the abstract of the new study](#)

Clinton Foundation teams up with Pfizer and Matrix to reduce cost of HIV and TB drugs

In August, the [William J. Clinton Foundation](#) and the pharmaceutical companies [Pfizer](#) and [Matrix Laboratories Ltd](#) announced an agreement that will lower the cost of second-line antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) for drug-resistant forms of HIV and of the tuberculosis drug rifabutin.

Pfizer will offer rifabutin in 10 countries for US\$ 1 per dose, or US\$ 90 for a full course of treatment over six months. Rifabutin is the best TB drug for use in people taking second-line ARVs because other medicines have undesirable interactions with protease inhibitors—the class of ARVs that represent the backbone of second-line treatment. To counteract this effect, ARV dosage is often increased, but this leads to greater toxicity, worse treatment outcomes and higher costs. Pfizer's rifabutin does not interfere with protease inhibitors.

Matrix, a unit of U.S.-based [Mylan Inc.](#), will make four second-line drugs for HIV treatment available at a cost of US\$ 475 per year, with further reductions in 2010.

[UNITAID](#) helped to make these second-line ARV price reductions possible through its Second-Line Project.

GDF Contracts New Procurement Agent PFSCM for First-Line Anti-TB Drugs and Diagnostics

The Stop TB [Global Drug Facility](#) (GDF) has selected the [Partnership for Supply Chain Management](#) (PFSCM), a non-profit organization, as procurement agent for first-line anti-TB drugs and related health products from 1 July 2009.

PFSCM, which was selected through a competitive process, will take over from the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit](#) (GTZ), GDF's contracted procurement agent for the period August 2006–June 2009.

GDF and the procurement agents have taken measures to ensure a smooth transition period for client countries. The two agents will work in parallel for an interim period until all orders that were placed with GTZ before 30 June 2009 have been fully executed. GDF client countries will be informed about the responsible agent coordinating the delivery of their orders.

UNITAID launches thank-you campaign

[UNITAID](#) launched a global "Thank You" campaign on 28 September to highlight achievements in global health thanks to the steady support of its contributors.

Launched by Brazil, Chile, France, Norway and the United Kingdom in 2006, UNITAID is an international facility that uses innovative, long-term financing to expand access to treatment for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in developing countries.

Funded by a small levy on airline tickets applied in a dozen countries and through governments' multi-year contributions, UNITAID aims to thank air travellers and taxpayers in the 29 countries that support it today, and to encourage more countries to back the initiative.

UNITAID is a major funder of the Stop TB Partnership, with over US\$ 200 million invested in testing and treating tuberculosis in 72 countries.

[View the campaign](#)

NEWS ON AWARDS AND GRANTS

Winners of Stop TB awards for journalism and photography will be announced at the Cancun Union Conference

The 2009 winners of the [Images to Stop Tuberculosis Award](#) and [Award for Excellence in Reporting on Tuberculosis](#) will be announced at a ceremony and reception on 3 December on the occasion of the Union World Conference on Lung Health. The awards aim, respectively, to promote creation of outstanding photos depicting prevention and treatment of tuberculosis; and to foster, recognize and award outstanding reporting in print that materially increases the public's knowledge and understanding of tuberculosis. Both awards are sponsored by the [Lilly MDR-TB Partnership](#).

Call for Nominations: Tuberculosis Survival Prize 2009

The Tuberculosis Survival Prize, an annual award of US\$ 2000 sponsored by the [Lilly MDR-TB Partnership](#), recognizes innovation in TB/MDR-TB advocacy and social mobilization. Nominations are currently open for individuals, groups or NGOs working in the field of HIV/TB or TB/MDR-TB. Applications from people directly affected by TB/MDR-TB are also actively encouraged, as are those from organizations who were previously nominated for the prize.

The call for nominations for the Tuberculosis Prize 2009 closes on 31 October 2009. The prize entry form and more information about the application procedure are available on the [Tuberculosis Survival Project website](#).

TB PEOPLE

Video report about footballer Luis Figo and his role as a Stop TB Ambassador

In July, [MTV Latin America](#) launched a 5-minute special report covering the [3rd Stop TB Partners' Forum](#) and featuring footballer Luís Figo as an Agent of Change. An additional one-minute spot ran for three weeks on MTV Latin America, featuring an MTV reporter interviewing Figo in Milan about his role as a Stop TB Ambassador. MTV's programming reaches an estimated 17 million youth across Latin America.

[View the 5-minute special report on MySpace](#)

[View the 1-minute spot on MySpace](#)

[Read the press release in English](#)

[Read the press release in Spanish](#)

New Executive Director for RESULTS UK

Aaron Oxley took up the role of Executive Director of [RESULTS UK](#) on 21 September, after more than a decade of involvement with the charity as an activist, donor, and Board member.

In addition to his work with RESULTS UK, Oxley—who holds an MSc in Global Politics from the London School of Economics—has set up microfinance banks in Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe and done groundbreaking work in micro-insurance with [MicroEnsure](#).

RESULTS UK works closely with affiliates in Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Mexico and the United States.

GDF chief operating officer seconded to pandemic flu effort

Robert Matiru will serve as project manager for pandemic influenza vaccines deployment for the next half a year. The Stop TB Partnership has agreed to release Mr Matiru from his role as GDF's chief operating officer to take on this role at the request of Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General. Mr Thomas Marion Moore will take up stand in for Mr Matiru during this time, taking up his duties in early October. Formerly Principal Program Associate, Management Sciences for Health, in Arlington, Virginia; he has most recently served as a consultant for GDF, providing technical assistance in TB medicine supply systems and sourcing of TB medicines. From 2002-2003 Mr Moore was on staff at the Stop TB Partnership and helped establish GDF.

Stop TB Secretariat's advocacy and governance team leader moving on

After nearly five years with the Stop TB Partnership Secretariat, Louise Baker will be moving to Jakarta, Indonesia to work with the Tobacco Free Initiative. She will be based at the WHO country office and hopes to draw on the strong links between tobacco and TB to continue working with many Stop TB Partners in the region.

COUNTRY NEWS

New laboratory and clinical facility for TB vaccine studies in Uganda

Clinical trial site is one of few in the world capable of conducting large-scale TB vaccine studies

The [Makerere University Infectious Disease Institute](#) (IDI) has opened a new mycobacteriology laboratory and clinical facility that will be critical to conducting world-class tuberculosis vaccine clinical trials in Uganda, one of the countries most severely affected by TB.

The laboratory, inaugurated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Makerere University's Department of Medical Microbiology in Kampala on 28 August, is designed to work with the bacterium that causes TB and has the capacity to detect difficult-to-diagnose TB infection.

"I salute all the funders and organizations that have contributed to or continue to contribute to Makerere's success," said Uganda's Second Deputy Prime Minister The Honourable Henry Kajura in a speech on behalf of President Yoweri Museveni at the ceremony, which was also attended by Makerere University officials and Dr Jerald Sadoff, President and CEO of the [Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation](#).

The previous day saw the opening of a case verification ward at Buluba Hospital in Iganga, which includes state-of-the-art equipment that—in conjunction with the new lab—will allow researchers to establish whether babies are infected with TB.

The mycobacteriology laboratory was funded by Aeras, and the Makerere University Department of Medical Microbiology provided space. The [European and Developing Countries Clinical Trial Partnership](#) (EDCTP) will provide ongoing support for the lab. The case verification ward was funded by EDCTP and Aeras, with space provided by Buluba Hospital.

The Spirit of Ramadan: Celebrations bring help to those affected by TB

In the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region organized donation campaigns for tuberculosis patients and their families. Keeping the spirit of Ramadan—in which millions of Muslims around the world donate to charity—the TB programmes and partners collected cash and in-kind support from people of all walks of life. The campaign, led by the [Eastern Mediterranean Partnership to Stop TB](#), was backed and implemented jointly by the region's TB programmes and national partnerships.

Pulling strings to inform and empower Tokyo's homeless

In August, homeless former TB patients put on a puppet show in Tokyo for other homeless local residents to raise TB awareness among marginalized people and empower them to seek diagnosis and treatment.

It is estimated that there are more than 1000 homeless people in Tokyo, many alcohol-dependent or chronically unemployed. Most homeless people diagnosed with TB obtain DOTS treatment at a health centre, and many are eligible for housing and financial support if they meet certain criteria. However, there are still some who are reluctant to seek treatment.

The [Research Institute of Tuberculosis](#), the Shinjuku Homelessness Support Institute, [RESULTS Japan](#), the [Big Issue Foundation Japan](#) and health centre staff collaborated on this programme. Some of the puppeteers are now in temporary housing.

Nigerian Stop TB Partnership launched

The Nigerian chapter of the Stop TB Partnership was launched in April 2009 and will be led by a 16-person protem Executive Committee, with Prof Gregory Erhabor as Chair. The Nigerian Stop TB Partnership has already formulated an operational plan, a constitution and a website, and has engaged national media as well as international partners. Nigeria will hold a national TB conference in March 2010. Tuberculosis is a major public health problem in Nigeria, which has the highest TB burden in Africa and ranks 4th worldwide.

Egyptian Stop TB Partnership established

The Egyptian National Partnership to Fight Tuberculosis was formally inaugurated in August in the presence of officials from the Ministry of Health, the media, civil society and NGOs. Led by the former Minister of Health and leading personalities from different segments of Egyptian society, the National Partnership aims to bring all partners together for quality TB care services in the country, which in 2008 achieved the Global Plan targets of 70% case detection and 85% cure rates.

Stop TB Afghanistan launches a sub-national partnership

In June, the Stop TB National Partnership Afghanistan—established in 2008—launched its first sub-national partnership, in the Herat province.

On the occasion of the launch, Italian Ambassador to Afghanistan Claudio Glaentzer and Afghan Public Health Minister Dr Amin Fatem inaugurated a new TB/HIV collaborative centre, which will be financed with grants from the [Global Fund](#), the [Italian Cooperation](#) and the [World Bank](#).

Further sub-national partnerships are planned for other provinces with the objective of providing local solutions to TB control.

Pakistan reconstitutes Coordinating Board of National Stop TB Partnership

The Stop TB National Partnership in Pakistan reconstituted its Coordinating Board with a larger and stronger presence of development and civil society in August, in the context of the national TB programme's annual review by WHO and other international partners. The review commended the programme and its partners on making consistent and impressive progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

Constituted in 2006, the National Partnership was revitalized in 2009 to meet the growing needs of the largest national TB care system among the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region.

New project to raise TB awareness in China's Qinghai Province

[The Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria China](#), [Eli Lilly & Co.](#) and the [Chinese Center for Disease Control](#) are collaborating on a two-year programme to promote TB awareness among students in Qinghai Province, an impoverished region in western China with a high TB prevalence rate. The programme, which kicked off with a launch event and partners' meeting on 14-15 September, will also help to ensure that those infected obtain timely and appropriate treatment.

[Click here](#) for further information.

Jeddah Stop TB Group assists Saudi Ministry of Health on H1N1

In September, the Jeddah Stop TB Group assisted Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Health in designing and implementing a 10-day awareness campaign on H1N1, launched at Jeddah's [Serafi Mega Mall](#) by Health Affairs Department officials. The group has been very active in awareness and support activities for TB patients and is well reputed for its activism.

South Africa: Tackling TB in the workplace

The [Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, TB & Malaria](#) and the [Lilly MDR-TB Partnership](#) are running a series of workshops in South Africa to help companies manage TB and HIV-TB in the workplace.

During the first two workshops, held in May and August, participants—mostly health and corporate social responsibility managers from major South African companies—increased their knowledge and understanding of the dual epidemics in South Africa and the basic components of a workplace TB program. The third and final workshop, to be held in October in Johannesburg, will stress the importance of larger companies extending their TB programmes to small- and medium-sized enterprises in their supply chain.

For more information, contact Sihle Zulu: szulu@gbcimpact.org.

RESEARCH NEWS

Stop TB Partnership Japan launches research fund

In July, the [Stop TB Partnership Japan](#) launched a fund to support advancement of clinical trials for new TB drugs and diagnostics under development by private Japanese enterprises in developing countries. The M/XDR-TB Frontier Fund will provide grants-in-aid to health facilities in developing countries deemed capable of conducting clinical trials in accordance with International Conference on Harmonization / WHO [Good Clinical Practice standards](#).

The grants-in-aid will be used for construction or renovation of hospital wards and microbiology lab facilities, provision of diagnostic and IT equipment, staff training and information sharing with individuals and institutions involved in the trials.

TBVI receives \$3 million grant from the Gates Foundation

[TuBerculosis Vaccine Initiative \(TBVI\)](#) recently received a three-year, US\$ 3 million grant from the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#). This grant enables the non-profit organization to strengthen its fundraising and communication activities in order to increase awareness and support for TB vaccine research and raise funds for the development of safer and more effective vaccines.

TBVI financially and practically supports and facilitates a growing international network of more than 30 universities, institutes and industries involved in the research and development of new TB vaccines. The organization evolved from TBVAC, a European Union-funded project to identify good candidates for new TB vaccines. TBVAC has yielded five new TB vaccine candidates, fifteen candidate biomarkers and three candidate adjuvant molecules. These hopeful candidates are now in preclinical development or even clinical phase.

[Read the news release](#)

Collaboration between TB Alliance and Tibotec to accelerate TB drug development

A new landmark collaboration between the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development, a not-for-profit, product development partnership, and Tibotec Inc., a global pharmaceutical company, was announced in June at the [Pacific Health Summit](#). The two organizations will share their expertise and resources in the development of TMC207, which could become the first TB drug with a new mechanism of action in 40 years.

The interim data from an ongoing Phase II study of TMC207 were published in June in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#). In the placebo-controlled study of 47 patients with multidrug-resistant TB, it was found that 48 percent of patients receiving TMC207 in combination with standard treatment converted to negative sputum culture after 8 weeks compared with 9 percent of those who received placebo and standard treatment.

[Click here](#) for further information.

RECENT EVENTS

Global health partners gather in New York to honour the Global Fund

A crowd of more than 200 people including high-level government representatives from dozens of countries and heads of UN Agencies gathered at a reception in New York City in September to celebrate the millions of lives saved through the support of the [Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#). The reception was hosted by the Stop TB Partnership, the [Roll Back Malaria Partnership](#) (RBM), [UNAIDS](#) and [UNITAID](#).

The assembled dignitaries were greeted by fashion icon and public health advocate Christy Turlington Burns; Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Chair of the Board of the Global Fund and Minister of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; and Yvonne Chaka Chaka, songstress and public health advocate. Ms Chaka Chaka also treated the guests to a song, delivered a capella.

The event took place amid the flurry of activity related to the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

German research centre hosts photo exhibit on tuberculosis

The [Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research](#) is hosting a photo exhibition from 27 August to 31 October in cooperation with the Stop TB Partnership. "Tuberculosis—Face to face with a worldwide threat" features photographs by Evelyn Hockstein, Jean Chung, Riccardo Venturi and Sailendra Kharel. The photographs are part of the Stop TB Partnership's "Images to Stop Tuberculosis" collection.

The exhibition, which is intended to raise awareness about tuberculosis and the people who are affected by it, will also be shown from 1 November to 1 December at the [House of Science Braunschweig](#).

The Helmholtz Centre, which employs some 600 staff from more than 40 countries and is supported by the federal government of Germany and the state of Lower Saxony, is engaged in basic research on TB—chiefly the study of the molecular biology of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. In May, the centre ran an open-door event, with hands-on exhibits and access to TB researchers.

International AIDS Society pre-meeting calls for new research commitment

In July, more than 200 people attended a pre-meeting to the [International AIDS Society](#) meeting in Cape Town. Participants in the pre-meeting—entitled "Catalysing HIV/TB Research: Innovation, Funding, and Networking"—included people living with HIV, activists and researchers, including [NIAID](#) Director Anthony Fauci and Nobel Laureate Françoise Barré-Sinoussi of the [Institut Pasteur](#). The meeting was organized by WHO and the Stop TB Partnership's TB/HIV Working Group in collaboration with the International AIDS Society, the [Consortium to Respond Effectively to the AIDS/TB Epidemic](#), [Treatment Action Group](#) and the [Desmond Tutu HIV Centre](#).

The meeting highlighted a new TB vaccine trial begun recently in South Africa and other progress in TB research, but participants pointed to development of a rapid new form of point-of-care TB diagnosis as a high but unmet research priority amid encouraging signs for greater commitment to TB/HIV collaborative activities.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS/MULTIMEDIA/WEB

Comprehensive web site on TB diagnosis now live

A new website, [Evidence-Based Tuberculosis Diagnosis](#), was launched in August by the Stop TB Partnership's [New Diagnostics Working Group](#) in collaboration with the [Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics](#), the [Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases](#), the [Global Laboratory Initiative](#) and the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#).

The site aims to provide the most comprehensive single source of evidence synthesis, policies, guidelines and research agendas on TB diagnosis. It offers access to relevant systematic reviews; policies, guidelines and research agendas; and reports, monographs, training modules and presentations.

It is also a source for complete up-to-date information on the current TB diagnostics pipeline. Standard operating procedures and package inserts for several tests also are available.

All information is provided as open access, with no registration or fee requirements.

TREAT TB launches searchable online database of information on new diagnostic tools

A new database launched in August by the [International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease](#) provides access to information collected by the Union in its broad environmental scan of the fieldwork being conducted in the area of new diagnostic tools for TB. The scan was carried out under the USAID-supported TREAT TB Initiative.

The database is searchable by diagnostic technology, country, and research organization and can be found at <http://www.treattb.org/NewDXtools.aspx>.

Feedback on utility and content of the tool is welcome; please contact Dr Anne Detjen at adetjen@theunion.org

TBTEAM launches "one-stop shopping" website for TB technical assistance

TBTEAM, the TB Technical Assistance Mechanism launched by the Stop TB Partnership and managed by the WHO Stop TB Department, has launched a new [website](#) designed to make it simple for regions, countries and technical assistance providers to track technical assistance activities planned around the world.

The site provides information about technical assistance missions, a calendar of events of interest to people working on tuberculosis and profiles of technical assistance providers. It also maps the countries where technical partners are most active and countries where TBTEAM focal points have been established at national level; and will display a roster of experts by area of expertise (feature under development). For more information, please contact tbteam@who.int.

WHO Global Task Force on TB Impact Measurement: Website now live

The WHO Global Task Force on TB Impact Measurement launched its [website](#) in August. The site will be updated regularly with information on important meetings, workshops and conferences. It will also be an invaluable resource for materials on TB impact measurement.

To contact the Task Force, please e-mail tbimpactmeasurement@who.int.

WHO policy on TB infection control now online

The "WHO policy on TB infection control in health-care facilities, congregate settings and households" and its annex are now available on-line at:

<http://www.who.int/tb/publications/2009/en/index.html>.

New TB Alliance Publication Explores "What Countries Want" from new drug regimens

Treatment shortening would be welcomed as a primary goal for future TB drug regimens, according to a new study from the [Global Alliance for TB Drug Development](#).

The recently published study, "New TB Regimens: What Countries Want", is one of the TB Alliance's recent initiatives to increase market understanding. The report is an analysis of interviews with 211 key stakeholders in Brazil, China, India, Kenya and South Africa—five countries with high TB burdens—and with 11 global stakeholders. These 222 individuals influence global and country-level decisions to recommend and adopt new TB treatment regimens.

The interviews and resulting report explore, for the first time, a wide range of issues relevant to both the development and use of new TB drug regimens, and offer new insight into how decision makers prioritize various attributes when considering adoption of new TB regimens.

[Click here](#) for more information and to download the report.

New TB white paper issued by the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission

The United States–México Border Health Commission has issued a new white paper on tuberculosis along the United States–México border. The document is available [here](#).

UPCOMING COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Mass Media and Communications for TB Control, December 2009

In order to help build effective communications capacity among TB organizations, the [International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease](#) will host a special, one-week course—Mass Media and Communications for Public Health—addressing critical communications skills imperative to promoting an organization's work. The course will take place 15–19 December in Singapore and will cost €1000, covering breakfast, lunch, dinner, lodging, and all course materials.

[Click here](#) to register for the course, or contact imdp@theunion.org for more information.

Hospital DOTS Linkage Action Plan Development Workshop: January 2010, Yogyakarta

The TBCTA Regional Training Centre Asia, in collaboration with the [Faculty of Medicine of the Universitas Gadjah Mada Indonesia](#), [The Union](#), [KNCV](#) and financial support from [USAID](#) will organize a Hospital DOTS Linkage Action Plan Development Workshop on 25–30 January 2010 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Public-Private Mix focal points from high-burden countries who are directly involved in implementation of Hospital DOTS Linkage activities are invited to participate, as a group of 4 to 5 persons per country.

By the end of the training, participants will be able to develop action plans for involvement of hospitals in DOTS strategy and for building linkages with the public health network based on the actual situational analysis using the log frame approach.

The deadline for applications is 15 November 2009.

The TBCTA Regional Training Centre Asia is also planning a regional training on Public-Private Mix and TB control in July 2010, following the success of its recent training in July in Yogyakarta, attended by 20 participants from 12 countries. The course was held in collaboration with KNCV and The Union with financial support from the USAID.

[Click here](#) for further information.

New course teaches how to conduct and publish operational research

A new operational research training course that teaches participants to conduct and publish their own research has been developed by [International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease](#) and its collaborator, [Médecins Sans Frontières–Belgium](#). The course consists of three 5-day modules held over a 7-month period.

In Module 1, participants work individually with course facilitators to develop their own research. They then start to collect relevant data. In Module 2, they learn how to set up an electronic system and use a data-entry and analysis software called Epi-data for entering and analysing their data sets. They return for module 3 with data collected and analysed, and learn how to write their own scientific paper, which is then submitted within two weeks to an international peer-reviewed journal.

Module 1 was held for the first time in Paris in August, with 6 participants from Africa and 6 from Asia. The course will continue with Module 2 in October and Module 3 in early 2010.

Participants for the first course were selected through a competitive selection process. Future courses will be open to applications. More details will be published as they become available in the Union E-news and on the ["Courses" section of the Union website](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS/HIGHLIGHTS

Union World Conference will examine issues of poverty and lung health

The dynamic between poverty and lung health will be an underlying theme in many sessions of the 40th Union World Conference on Lung Health. Delegates from around the world are expected at the annual event, which will be held on 3-7 December in Cancún, Mexico. Highlights of the scientific programme range from a postgraduate course on public health ethics to the colliding epidemics of tobacco smoking, tuberculosis, HIV and COPD.

For details and registration, please visit the conference website at www.worldlunghealth.org.

As in previous years, the Stop TB Partnership Secretariat is compiling a list of meetings, report launches, announcements and other important events or activities that the Stop TB Department, Working Groups or Partners would like to highlight or might be interested in attending. A spreadsheet containing all the information we have available at the moment is available [here](#).

Union North American Region Meeting: 11-13 March 2010, Orlando

The 14th Annual Union North American Region Meeting will be held in Orlando Florida on 11-13 March at the Rosen Plaza Hotel. General Session topics will include: (1) TB-HIV Co-infection: A Sum Greater than Its Parts; (2) Basic Science: From the Bench to the Bedside; (3) Social Determinants of TB Transmission; (3) Diagnosis and Treatment; and (4) Assessing the Roles, Results and Confounders of Newer Laboratory Methods. Related sessions will include a Stop TB North American Meeting, the annual Stop TB USA Advocacy Session, the annual Nursing Assembly, a Latin American Liaison Meeting, and plenty of networking opportunities as well as a "Clinical Conversations" session where clinicians and others to discuss challenging cases.

[Click here](#) for more information or contact Kitty McAndrews at the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest: kmcandrews@lungil.org.

American Thoracic Society 2010 New Orleans International Conference: Call for abstracts

The [American Thoracic Society](#) welcomes the submission of abstracts for consideration for the American Thoracic Society (ATS) 2010 New Orleans International Conference, scheduled for 14-19 May 2010 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

For the first time, the ATS will be accepting two different types of abstracts for presentation at the International Conference: (1) Scientific Abstracts: Research on all aspects of respiratory disease, critical care and sleep medicine (including basic and clinical science, epidemiology and social, biobehavioural, psychosocial and educational); and (2) Case Reports: Interesting and unique reports describing a single clinical case. Membership in the ATS is not a prerequisite for participating in the programme.

The electronic submission deadline is Wednesday 4 November 2009 at 23:59 Eastern Standard Time.

[Click here](#) for more information about abstract submission.

EVENTS CALENDAR

October 2009

15-16 October	Moving forward in diagnosis of infectious diseases in developing countries: focus on TB	Annecy, France	Info
26-30 October	7 th Global Health Promotion Conference	Nairobi	Info

December 2009

1 December	World AIDS Day	Worldwide	Info
3-7 December	International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease 40 th World Conference on Lung Health	Cancún, Mexico	Info

March 2010

11-13 March	International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease 14 th Annual North American Region Meeting	Orlando, USA	Info
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May 2010

14-19 May	American Thoracic Society International Conference	New Orleans, USA	Info
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