TOP LINE NEWS

**GDF to expand MDR-TB drug stockpile with new UNITAID grant**
UNITAID has committed US $14.9 million to the Global Drug Facility to expand the Strategic Rotating Stockpile for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis medicines.

**Communities join Mark Dybul to call for end of 'evil twins' TB and HIV**
Representatives of communities affected by TB made their presence felt at the 2103 International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections.

**Global Fund Donors Pledge US $12 Billion**
Pledges at Fourth Replenishment total US $12 billion for the next three years, the largest amount ever committed to fight AIDS, TB and malaria.

**World AIDS Day Statement from Lucica Ditiu**
The Executive Secretary of the Stop TB Partnership urges partners to call with one voice for zero AIDS deaths and infections and zero TB deaths and infections.

**Major boost for TB/HIV integration as Global Fund mandates unified funding applications**
The Global Fund has made a bold change to the way it approaches treatment programmes in countries with high rates of both TB and HIV.

**Partners rally to support patients in Afghanistan after fire at TB drug warehouse**
Local and international partners, including the Global Drug Facility, provided a swift emergency response to ensure the supply of TB drugs.

**Advocates warn of escalating TB and HIV crisis in Eastern Europe and Central Asia if funding drops**
Projected reductions in funding could leave the region with rising rates of HIV and drug-resistant TB, global health groups say.
Funding for TB research falls for first time in eight years
The 2013 Report on Tuberculosis Research Funding Trends, 2005-2012 found that funding for TB research and development dropped in 2012.

From MDR-TB to E-cigarettes, The Union World Conference tackled challenges to lung health
A record 3000 delegates visited Paris for the 44th Union World Conference on Lung Health.

WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2013: Gains in TB fight are at risk
Global TB deaths decreased from 1.4 million in 2011 to 1.3 million deaths in 2012, but further gains are under threat, WHO reported.

First-ever targeted roadmap outlines steps to end childhood TB deaths
The deaths of more than 74 000 children could be prevented each year through measures outlined in an action plan developed specifically on TB and children.

TB REACH kick-starts sustained efforts to free Gambia’s children from TB
Funding from the Stop TB Partnership’s TB REACH programme has provided the foundations for a long-term effort to find and treat children with TB in The Gambia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Red Ribbon Award - Nominations now open to honour and promote community leadership and action on AIDS
Community organizations working on TB and HIV are eligible to apply in categories including advocacy and human rights and treatment, care and support.

Online session submissions now open for 2014 Union Conference
Submissions are now open for sessions to be included in the scientific programme of the 45th Union World Conference on Lung Health.

Call for applications to serve as members on the Global Drug-resistant TB Initiative (GDI) Core Group during 2014-2015
The working group aims to ensure universal access to care and appropriate treatment for all drug-resistant TB patients.

Challenge Facility for Civil Society launches call for proposals
Successful applicants, which must be civil society organizations focusing on Global Fund processes, will receive grants of US $5000 to US $20 000.
TB PEOPLE

Stop TB Partnership honours life of Nelson Mandela
The Stop TB Partnership joined the many people and organizations from around the world honouring the life of Nelson Mandela.

Coordinating Board appoints new Vice-Chair and Committee members
Dr Joanne Carter, Executive Director of RESULTS has been elected as Vice-Chair and will serve for a period of three years.

Global Coalition of TB Activists selects new leadership team
The GCTA has selected a chair, vice-chair and six regional representatives for its Global Steering Committee, the body that will set the GCTA’s strategic direction.

BLOGS AND OPINION

Ramping up rifamycins to shorten TB treatment
Treatment Action Group’s Erica Lessem argues that high doses of rifampicin and rifapentine may shorten TB treatment.

One child dying from tuberculosis is one too many
An interview on childhood TB with Dr Georgina Russell, who leads a research partnership with Médecins Sans Frontières.

Drug-Resistant TB Officially a 'Crisis' - Now What?
ACTION’s Kolleen Bouchane says that decision makers have an obligation to heed the evidence and ramp up our slowing fight against an ancient disease.

MSF: First new TB drug in fifty years risks being squandered without better research and pricing strategies
Médecins Sans Frontières issues warning at the World Conference on Lung Health in Paris.

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

Aeras wins PR Daily award for ‘Exposed’ film series
Vaccine developer Aeras has won PR Daily’s Best Cause-Related Video award for its film series EXPOSED: The Race Against Tuberculosis.
Challenge Facility grantee calls for TB programmes that target vulnerable populations in Ghana
RISE-Ghana has called for the urgent launch of TB programmes that target prisoners, miners and other vulnerable populations.

Symposium focuses on how the law can uphold TB patients’ rights
GIZ-supported symposium demonstrated the link between HIV, TB and human rights and shared success stories on how the law can uphold patients’ rights.

EU invests €8.5 million in the fight against poverty related diseases
A new collaborative programme called the European Research Infrastructures for Poverty Related Diseases began in November this year.

First results of tuberculosis vaccine candidate MTBVAC encouraging: says TuBerculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI)
A phase I safety study of TB vaccine candidate MTBVAC showed encouraging results in the first intermediate analysis.

Smartphone based educational videos for TB patients
A new smartphone app, ExplainTB, has been developed to aid healthcare providers and improve the understanding of TB among patients.

REACH Lilly MDR-TB Partnership Media Fellowship training programme
The training workshop, was conducted for the fourth consecutive year, for 12 journalists from different parts India.

TB Alert wins Public Health England Award
The UK charity beat over 700 other entries to win the award for ‘best public health content’ at the annual Public Health England conference.

Making sense out of sequencing data
PolyTB, a web-based resource has been designed to explore Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex genomic variation at a global scale.

Innovative prison TB/HIV programme goes behind bars, and beyond them, to stop TB
TB/HIV Care project has delivered impressive results in 2013, screening more than 15 000 prison inmates.
**Furthering the science of community engagement**
Workshop at the Union conference brought together more than 110 delegates to discuss the practice of engaging communities and stakeholders in TB research.

**SSI and Aeras announce initiation of trial for TB vaccine candidate**
Statens Serum Institut and Aeras announced the initiation of a Phase I/IIa clinical trial for a candidate TB vaccine.

**Japanese fund to invest in promising technology against malaria, TB and Chagas Disease**
The Global Health Innovative Technology Fund, a new public health partnership, announced grants worth US $5.7 million to six global partnerships.

**Japanese companies collaborate for joint development of new TB vaccines**
Three Japanese companies and a global biotech non-profit organization have come together for the joint development of new TB.

**Community participation in the management of TB cases**
Plan Senegal with the support of Plan Canada has been appointed Principal Recipient of the community component of the a Global Fund project.

**ExTBCam: an open-source solution for laboratory TB data management in Cameroon**
Centre Pasteur and the National TB Programme of Cameroon have developed an electronic solution to transmit results from EXPAND-TB network laboratories.

**Pakistan prevalence survey report released**
TB CARE I has announced the publication of the Pakistan TB prevalence survey, designed to help the national programme develop universal access strategies.

**US Centers for Disease control wins scarecrow contest**
Scarecrow named Edgar Allan Crow won first place in the contest’s non-professional entry category.

**MDR-TB in Central Asia: a survey of drug-resistant TB in Uzbekistan**
Uzbekistan has made progress in recent years to diagnose MDR-TB patients and place them on treatment, but efforts need to be scaled up (link to research paper).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Info</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 January</td>
<td>134th WHO Executive Board session</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
<td><a href="#">Info</a></td>
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<td>22 January</td>
<td>World Economic Forum</td>
<td>Davos,</td>
<td><a href="#">Info</a></td>
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<td>31 January</td>
<td>Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board Meeting</td>
<td>Switzerland, Cape Town, South Africa</td>
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<td>4 February</td>
<td>10th Global Fund SIIC meeting</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<td>10 February</td>
<td>Training of consultants on integrated community-based TB activities</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
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<td>17 February</td>
<td>Course: Ensuring Product Quality in Procurement and Supply Chain of Health Commodities</td>
<td>Hyderabad, India</td>
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<td>27 February</td>
<td>18th Conference of The Union North America Region</td>
<td>Boston, USA</td>
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<td>4 March</td>
<td>Global Fund 31st Board Meeting</td>
<td>Jakarta, Indonesia</td>
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<td>24 March</td>
<td>World TB Day</td>
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<td>7 April</td>
<td>Course: Leading Management Teams</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
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<td>12 May</td>
<td>Course: Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
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<td>19 May</td>
<td>67th World Health Assembly</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<td>16 June</td>
<td>Course: Project Management</td>
<td>Entebbe, Uganda</td>
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<td>7 July</td>
<td>Course: 4th Advanced TB Diagnostic Research Course</td>
<td>Montreal, Canada</td>
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<td>20 July</td>
<td>20th International AIDS Conference</td>
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