



## Message from the Chair and the Secretariat of the TB/HIV Working Group, July 2011

Dear members of the TB/HIV Working Group and friends of TB/HIV,

We are pleased to share with you the recent activity by members of the Working Group and the Secretariat. We are definitely raising the visibility of TB/HIV globally. Thanks to the UN Special Envoy for TB, WHO, UNAIDS and the Stop TB Partnership, TB got high visibility during the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS in June. We have a new WHO Goodwill Ambassador on TB and HIV/AIDS. For the first time since WHO started collecting TB/HIV implementation data from countries, information on the implementation of TB screening and IPT has exclusively been reported through the HIV monitoring and evaluation system for 2010 and data is being analyzed.

Continued progress depends on disseminating information and tapping into our expanded social media network outreach. We invite and ask you as a Working Group member to participate in these efforts! Please see below for more details on activities and social media outreach.

### **1. Appointment of WHO Goodwill Ambassador on Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS**

Madame Peng Liyuan, an acclaimed Chinese soprano singer was appointed by WHO Director-General, as the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Ms Peng is the head of the Chinese Song and Dance Ensemble in the General Political Department of the People's Liberation Army and ranked first class in the civil service with the military rank of major general. A strong advocate of health and the control of tuberculosis and HIV, Ms Peng became the Minister of Health's Ambassador for HIV/AIDS Prevention in the People's Republic of China in January 2006 and the National Ambassador for TB Control and Prevention in March 2007. As WHO Goodwill Ambassador, Ms Peng will increase international attention on these two diseases and advocate for stronger action to ensure those in need can access prevention, care and treatment services.

### **2. TB at the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS**

The UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS provides the opportunity to review progress in realizing *The Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS* and *The Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS* and to chart the future course of the global HIV response. It also offers the perfect platform for raising the profile of TB among HIV stakeholders. This year's High Level Meeting, convened from 8-10 June 2011, brought together more than 3000 HIV stakeholders, including 30 Heads of State and comprised official plenary and five panel sessions, and more than 40 side events. Thanks to the unstinting support and initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tuberculosis, WHO, UNAIDS and the Stop TB Partnership, concerted efforts were made to ensure that TB/HIV gained higher visibility at this year's High Level Meeting than ever before. Prior to the meeting on 6th June a publication outlining a new epidemiological model – *Time to act: Save a million lives by 2015 – Prevent and treat tuberculosis among people living with HIV* was launched. The new model, developed by the World Health Organization, the Stop TB Partnership and UNAIDS, shows that it is possible to prevent 1 million HIV related deaths by 2015 through the scale up of the collaborative TB/HIV activities. The document can be found at the link below:

[http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/resources/publications/acsm/TB\\_HIV\\_Brochure\\_Singles.pdf](http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/resources/publications/acsm/TB_HIV_Brochure_Singles.pdf)

During the High Level Meeting, TB/HIV also featured on the agendas of several panel discussions, in particular, the panel on “Integrating the AIDS response with broader health and development agendas”, which examined the integration of HIV and TB services, sexual and reproductive health, and maternal and child services. During the discussion HE Mr Jorge Sampaio, the UN Special Envoy on TB highlighted how unacceptable it is that people living with HIV are dying of a curable illness, demanding political leadership and concrete action to treat and prevent TB in people living with HIV. During the Fourth Panel discussion on Women and HIV, celebrity, Alicia Keys called for an end to TB, the third leading killer of women worldwide. Other sessions where TB/HIV gained high visibility were the panel discussion on innovation, where the Director General of WHO was a panelist and the side event with Heads of State, where HE Mr Jorge Sampaio intervened. For recordings of the panel discussions please visit the following link: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/c/thematicpaneldiscussions.html>

### **3. Update on social media and news resources**

Thanks to Rebecca Martinez, the Secretariat has set up a **Facebook** page called “The TB/HIV Working Group of the Stop TB Partnership” which we have been using to share and disseminate links and news on TB/HIV for almost a year now. If you are a Facebook user, we suggest you visit our Facebook page and click “Like” so that you can be kept up-to-date with our news stream and broaden the network by actively sharing the links with others. Click on this link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/TBHIV-Working-Group-of-the-STOP-TB-Partnership/106177126100931> We also have a **Twitter account** called HIVTB which we plan to use on a regular basis to tweet and re-tweet breaking news about TB/HIV. If you tweet, we invite you to re-tweet our messages and forward important links to us that you think warrant tweeting or re-tweeting.

**HIV This Week** is a selective scan of new HIV-related information found in scientific journals published by UNAIDS. The Editors interpret original abstracts and provide editorial commentary, so that information may be easily understood by people responding to the HIV epidemic in many diverse settings. The recent May edition of HIV This Week Issue 91 features the new TB screening rule for people living with HIV in resource-constrained settings. For this issue please see the link below:

[http://hivthisweek.unaids.org/sites/default/files/UNAIDS\\_CSA-RO\\_HIVthisweek\\_91\\_110515.pdf](http://hivthisweek.unaids.org/sites/default/files/UNAIDS_CSA-RO_HIVthisweek_91_110515.pdf) Links for subscribing to blogs, e-mail or twitter can be found on the top right-hand side of the home page at <http://hivthisweek.unaids.org/>

Over the next year, supported by the Secretariat, Health and AIDS Treatment in Practice, better known as **HATIP**, will continue to provide an interactive web-based and e-mail bulletin service for the distribution of up-to-date, evidence-based information on tuberculosis prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with HIV to networks of people living with HIV, health care workers, treatment advocates and CBO's involved in HIV care. For the HATiP website click on this link: <http://www.aidsmap.com/hatip>

Whatever media you prefer, in order to maximise our information gathering potential, we ask that you forward to us links on news items, case studies and scientific articles for posting on the appropriate sites to [TBHIV@who.int](mailto:TBHIV@who.int) Likewise, in order to maximise our distribution network we would kindly ask you to disseminate relevant news items, links and newsletters to your networks.

### **4. Upcoming Events**

#### ***Accelerating Advocacy on TB/HIV, 6th July and Scaling up the implementation of collaborative TB/HIV activities in the Region of the Americas, 7th – 8th July 2011, Panama***

Final preparations are being made for the two-day regional meeting aimed at sharing regional and global experiences and best practices for greater political advocacy, resource mobilization and scale-up in the implementation of collaborative TB/HIV activities and

integration of TB and HIV services in the Region of the Americas. On 6<sup>th</sup> July, prior to the regional meeting and as part of the Working Group's commitment to increase the capacity of Civil Society to push for increased access for collaborative TB/HIV services, a one-day meeting is being convened for civil society from the Americas, in preparation for their participation at the regional meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, which they have also been invited to attend. The objectives of this meeting will be to familiarize participants with the key facts about TB, drug resistance and links with HIV, introduce them to strategies to address the dual burden and prepare them for pushing the agenda at the subsequent meeting convened on 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July.

***TB/HIV research meeting in conjunction with IAS 2011.***

The World Health Organization and the TB/HIV Working Group, in collaboration with the Consortium to Respond Effectively to the AIDS/TB Epidemic (CREATE) is organizing a meeting to promote high level scientific interchange of ideas and research priorities on the specific issues related to childhood TB and HIV and development of new and novel anti-TB drugs for people living with HIV. This HIV/TB Research meeting will be held in conjunction with the 6th Conference of HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2011) in Rome on Sunday July 17, 2011. The meeting will focus on two issues: the development of new and novel anti-TB drugs for people living with HIV, and issues around the prevention, diagnostic, care and treatment of HIV-related TB in children. The meeting will share new data from ongoing studies and discuss potential implementation, discuss controversial issues and identify critical research questions. The meeting will be held in Grand Hotel Ritz Rome, via Chelini 14, located within walking distance from the Conference centre. The agenda is at the following link: [http://www.stoptb.org/wg/tb\\_hiv/assets/documents/agenda\\_ias\\_meeting\\_2011.pdf](http://www.stoptb.org/wg/tb_hiv/assets/documents/agenda_ias_meeting_2011.pdf)

***Next Core Group Meeting***

As reported in our last letter, the next TB/HIV Core Group meeting will be hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Health and will be held in Beijing on 9th – 11th November 2011.

Regards

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Chair

Haileyesus Getahun, MD, PhD  
Secretariat