

AUGUST 14 NCET WIRE

Please pass this **NCET WIRE** on to others interested in the prevention and control of TB in the U.S. and globally!

NCET IS BEING REORGANIZED TO BECOME “STOP TB USA” & COMMITS TO UPDATE THE NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS ELIMINATION PLAN!

Recent trends in the U.S. indicate a distinct slowing of the overall rate in decline in reported numbers of tuberculosis cases combined with a steady decrease public health funding are raising concerns about the potential for the devastating type of tuberculosis resurgence that we experienced just 20 years ago. The number of tuberculosis cases among foreign-born residents has not decreased over the past decade, and recent news reports have served to remind us that citizens of this country remain at risk for multidrug resistant tuberculosis occurring in other countries. It has become apparent that tuberculosis cannot be eliminated in the U.S. without addressing the disparity of tuberculosis that occurs among U.S.-born African Americans, our foreign-born residents and their U.S.-born children, and our global neighbors. The time to update and more effectively implement the national tuberculosis elimination plan that is linked to the global STOP TB Partnership is upon us.

A retreat on strategic planning for the National Coalition for the Elimination of Tuberculosis Elimination (NCET) was held August 2-3, 2007 in Atlanta with the support of the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination of CDC. The Steering Committee representatives attending the retreat were Jeff Caballero, Fran DuMelle, Sue Etkind, Dr. Phil Hopewell, Dr. Randall Reves and John Seggerson. CDC ex-officio members attending were Dr. Ken Castro and Phil Talboy. Dr. Kashef Ijaz, Dr. Wanda Walton, and Ann Cronin from DTBE also attended. This retreat also provided the opportunity to receive input and interact with energetic partners from ATS (Dr. Phil Hopewell and Fran DuMelle who are also Steering Committee members), National TB Controllers Association (Carol Pozsik), RESULTS (Sue Perez), STOP TB Partnership Secretariat (Nicole Schiegg and Thaddeus Pennas who is now with Edelman but formerly with STOP TB), USAID (Susan Bacheller), the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (Heather Ignatius) and the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation (Peg Willingham). The meeting concluded with specific recommendations and a timeline designed to provide updated and more effective strategies for the US national TB elimination plan. The recommendations and action plan were forwarded to the NCET Steering Committee members and readily approved. Here is a summary of the recommendations and action plan:

1. Change the identification from NCET to STOP TB USA to provide a more distinctive name, and clear linkage to the global STOP TB Partnership. The plan is to conduct some limited market research to identify a message that will facilitate this change.
2. Two workgroups were identified: one to develop the STOP TB USA launch activities and one to develop an updated TB elimination plan. Meetings will start within 1-4 weeks and likely be held at monthly intervals for the time being.
3. Present STOP TB USA and planned initiatives at the November 27-28, 2007 meeting of the Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (ACET).
4. Launch STOP TB USA at the IUALTD-North America Region Meeting in San Diego in February 2008. We have already committed to join STOP TB Canada in a jointly planned activity and we will explore including other North American STOP TB Partners.

5. Follow-up the initial launch with activities for World TB Day on or about March 24, 2008.
6. Present a new plan for US TB Elimination based on input from a full complement of national and global partners by late May 31, 2008.

On behalf of the Steering Committee for NCET, hence forth to be named STOP TB USA, I look forward to your participation in revising and reinvigorating the US national plan for the elimination of tuberculosis.

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TB FUNDING PLUS DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TB AUTHORIZATION BILLS

NCET partners, particularly the American Thoracic Society, RESULTS, the American Lung Association, and the National TB Controllers Association have been very active this year is supporting domestic and global TB-related authorization bills and in educating legislators about the need for increased TB appropriations globally and domestically for TB prevention and control and for the development of new tools.

The following updates on the status of TB funding and authorization bills have been provided by NCET partners:

FROM THE AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY:

House Passes Health Funding Bill

On July 19, the House of Representatives passed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Labor-Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations (LHHS) bill. The LHHS bill funds the NIH, CDC, the rest of the Public Health Service and other federal programs..... The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) received a 4.0% increase including a \$14 million increase for the TB control program. This is the first significant increase the TB control program has received in several years. However, the overall House bill exceeded the funding level recommendation put forth by the White House President Bush has stated his intent to veto any appropriations bill that exceeds his recommended spending limits. While the LHHS bill passed with enough votes to over-ride the threatened Presidential veto, it remains to be seen how Congress will respond to the potential budget show down with the President. (NOTE: The Senate Labor-Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill that includes the CDC TB appropriations has not yet been scheduled for Senate floor action.)

Senate Committee to Vote on Domestic TB Bill

The domestic TB control bill (authorization), the Comprehensive TB Elimination Act, S. 1551, sponsored by Sens. Brown (D-OH), Hutchison (R-TX) and Kennedy (D-MA), is advancing in the Senate. The bill is expected to be considered by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee in early September. All ATS members and friends are urged to contact their two Senators to request their cosponsorship of the bill to ensure that it passes through the Senate HELP Committee and proceeds to a Senate floor vote. Visit the ATS action alert at: <http://www.thoracic.org/sections/about-ats/advocacy/take-action-now.html>

FROM THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

Increase Funding for Tuberculosis

The key to control is prevention. Without proper funding, the United States will be at risk from one of the world's most infectious diseases, tuberculosis... Tuberculosis is an infectious disease that usually attacks the lungs, but can attack almost any part of the body. It is spread from person to person through the air and remains a leading infectious cause of death worldwide – even though the disease is both preventable and, in most cases, treatable. Please send a letter today in support of proper CDC funding to prevent the looming tuberculosis problem from becoming a public health crisis. To help ensure additional funding is available for TB, please go to: http://lungaction.org/campaign/TBFunding_2

FROM RESULTS: House Foreign Affairs Committee Passes global TB Bill

RESULTS praises the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for action to approve the Stop TB Now Act of 2007 (H.R.1567) so that it can now be considered by the full House. This bill, if passed by the full Congress, will put in place policies and authorize funding to help reverse the spread of dangerous drug resistant TB, expand access to effective TB treatment globally, and contribute to saving an estimated 14 million lives over 10 years. "Today's action by the House Foreign Affairs Committee is an immensely important step in ramping up the U.S. response to TB worldwide before deadly drug resistant TB literally reverses global progress in AIDS treatment scale-up and TB control," said Joanne Carter, associate executive director of RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund. "We hope that the full House will move quickly in September to pass this critical bill and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will also approve the Senate companion bill (S.968) at its first opportunity." A new editorial packet on XDR-TB and the impending legislation is now available on the RESULTS homepage at:

<http://capwiz.com/results/utr/1/OSHUHMVGQE/FXWNHMHVCB/1347145906>

SAVE DATE/ABSTRACT CALL: 12th IUATLD NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Save these dates! The 12th Annual Conference of the North American Region of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) will be held **February 28-March 1, 2008** at the Bahia Resort Hotel in San Diego, California, USA. NCET will host a special STOP TB meeting as part of this conference. The meeting Abstract Committee is calling on submission of abstracts for poster or oral presentations of research on all aspects of tuberculosis control (including epidemiologic, clinical, basic science, nursing, social, behavioural, psychosocial and educational studies) to be presented at this conference. Abstracts must be submitted **on or before November 15, 2007**. Abstracts received after this date will not be accepted. Forms are available at www.bc.lung.ca. The committee will consider only abstracts submitted in accordance with the guidelines. The committee is now accepting applications for travel grant awards for people from North, Central and South America including the Caribbean and Haiti. Forms are available on the above website. For more information, please contact www.ctca.org or contact Dr. Menn Biagtan at 604-731-5864 or at biagtan@bc.lung.ca.

REGIONAL TB TRAINING AND MEDICAL CONSULTATION CENTERS (RTMCCs)

The four CDC-funded TB Regional Training and Medical Consultation Centers provide free TB-related medical consultation, develop TB educational materials, and also provide training and technical assistance for TB program staff. The Centers are regionally assigned to cover all 50 states and U.S. territories. Additional information about the Regional Training Centers, their services and programs, can be obtained from their telephone numbers and websites (below). Upcoming courses are also listed below by Center. (Please note: Regional Tuberculosis Training and Medical Consultation

Centers are obligated to prioritize participants from within their respective regions for training courses - but they may accept applicants from all areas when there is available space.)

NEW RESOURCE FROM CDC FOIR TB ELIMINATION EFFORTS:

Forging Partnerships to Eliminate TB: A Guide and Toolkit -

<http://www.cdc.gov/tb/pubs/forge/default.htm>

Forging Partnerships to Eliminate Tuberculosis: A Guide and Toolkit was prepared by the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, Communications, Education, and Behavioral Studies Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The purpose of the guide is to provide TB controllers and state and local TB programs with the basic information they need to create and sustain productive TB partnerships. The purpose of the toolkit is to make it easier to implement the tips and strategies provided in the guide. The guide and toolkit emphasize reaching and involving nontraditional partners in TB prevention and control efforts.

UPCOMING CLINICAL SEMINAR ON MDR-TB and XDR TB

Please pass on the information about this Web-based seminar on Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB) and Extensively-Drug Resistant (XDR) TB. The **target audience for this seminar is State and local TB program staff and clinicians who diagnose and treat TB**. This telephone conference clinical update will **be jointly** presented by the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in joint sponsorship with the TB Regional Training and Medical Consultation Centers on **Friday, August 17, 2007, at 2:00-3:30pm EDT, 1:00-2:30pm CDT, 12:00-1:30pm MDT, 11:00-12:30pm PDT.**

The audio dial-in-number is 888-323-9795. The audio passcode is 8181827. The Leader Name is Amera Khan. Slides for the seminar may be accessed at: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/>. The Website Conference Number: PG1315484. The direct Weblink:

www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PG1315484&p=8181827&t=c

Learning Objectives - At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to: (1) Describe the global and national epidemiology of MDR and XDR TB; (2) Describe the development of drug-resistant TB; (3) Describe laboratory diagnosis of drug-resistant TB; (4) List the general principles of treatment of MDR and XDR TB; (5) Discuss the challenges in managing contacts of MDR and XDR TB cases; and, (6) Identify mechanisms for obtaining training and expert consultation on management and treatment of MDR TB and XDR TB.

The Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center in Gainesville, Florida: Phone: 352-265-7682 Website: <http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/>

UPCOMING COURSES:

Comprehensive Clinical Course, September, 2007; September 17- 20; at AG Holley Hospital in Lantana, FL, 2nd FL Auditorium; Cost: \$300.00; Format: Clinical course: 4 day comprehensive clinical TB course. For additional information, please visit: <http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/Training.aspx>

Tuberculin Skin Testing: Train the Trainer, September 2007; September 21; at AG Holley Hospital in Lantana, FL, 2nd FL Auditorium; Format: Train-the-trainer: TST Train the Trainer

components are highlighted in this course. For additional information, please visit:
<http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/Training.aspx>

TB Program Management Course: October 2 – 4; Jackson, Mississippi; Format: Workshop. This course is designed to improve the planning and managerial capabilities of TB Program Managers from the southeastern US region. Complete the course application to be considered for this course. Further details will be provided to participants. For additional information, please visit:
<http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/Training.aspx>

TB In Corrections: Contact Investigation and Discharge Planning Course: October 23 – 25; Jacksonville, Florida; Format: Workshop. This course is designed to improve the communication and collaboration between TB program and correctional staff. Registration will begin in early August. For additional information, please visit: <http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/Training.aspx>

Pediatrics and TB Webinar Series: October 17 • October 24 • October 31 • November 7: The SNTC, in response to feedback from our region, is developing a web-based seminar series, *Pediatric TB for Private Providers*. Drs. Ana Alvarez (FL) and Amina Ahmed (NC), co-chairs of the curriculum development committee, have identified learning objectives and content for four one-hour sessions designed to provide current information regarding the epidemiology of pediatric TB, pediatric TB management, including evaluation, diagnosis and treatment, LTBI, and conducting contact investigations involving children. In addition to Drs. Alvarez and Ahmed, course faculty includes Dr. Jeff Starke (TX) who will provide the overview lecture and Dr. Rob Lawrence (FL). The series will occur weekly on four consecutive Wednesdays this fall. Additional information and registration materials will be posted on the SNTC website.

New Jersey Medical School Global Tuberculosis Institute in Newark, New Jersey: Phone: 973-972-3270 Toll-Free: 800-482-3627 Website:
<http://www.umdnj.edu/globaltb/home.htm> (Check this website for additional descriptions and application information about the courses below.)

UPCOMING COURSES:

Best Practices in TB Control (# 3): Legal Interventions in TB Control; September 11; This national web-based course will explore successful and innovative approaches to implementing legal interventions in TB control programs in the United States. Experts will share legal and ethical considerations, as well as hands-on experiences, practical steps, and legal tools that can be used to improve outcomes of case management, treatment outcomes, and contact investigations. Case presentations will be included. Target audience: TB program managers and clinical staff who will order or provide supportive documentation for implementation of legal interventions to enhance TB control efforts in local program areas. No fee is required. For more information, or to obtain an application please visit:
<https://gtbi.webex.com/mw03021/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=gtbi&service=6>

Cultural Awareness in TB Control: September 24. This course will provide a basic foundation for understanding cultural differences in health attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, and language, which can help individuals function more effectively in cross-cultural activities. The training will focus on a cultural general perspective and will include discussions of broad concepts related to working with those from other cultures, self-assessments of cultural competency, and communicating effectively with interpreters. Public health nurses and TB control staff (outreach workers, disease investigators, etc.) who interact with TB patients as part of their job responsibilities. Registration will close on September 3. For more information, or to obtain an application please visit:
<http://www.umdnj.edu/globaltb/courses/brochures/culturalawareness.htm>

TB Program Managers' Workshop: October 3-5, 2007. This three-day interactive workshop is designed to enhance the managerial skills of new and seasoned TB supervisors and managers. The course integrates basic administrative policies and procedures with practical applications and covers TB epidemiology, the interpretation and application of data, treatment strategy, infection control principles and practices, quality assurance, program planning and evaluation, and more. The target audience for the course is entry level and mid-level managers and experienced supervisors in TB control programs. For more information, or to obtain an application please visit: <http://www.umdny.edu/globaltb/courses/brochures/programmanagers.htm> You may also contact Valerie Gunn at (973) 972-9103 or gunnv1@umdny.edu for additional information. Registration for this course will close on Friday, September 21st.

A complete calendar of this Center's upcoming training courses is available at:
<http://www.umdny.edu/globaltb/courses.htm>

The Heartland National Tuberculosis Center in San Antonio, Texas: Phone: 800-TEX-LUNG (800-839-5864) Website: <http://www.heartlandntbc.org>

UPCOMING COURSES:

TB Contact Investigation – September 10-11 – Location: Arizona - Target: Nurses, LVNs, contact investigators, public health technicians, and allied health workers - Contact: erica.orosco@uthct.edu

TB Intensive – September 25 – 27 – Location: Chicago, IL - Target: Physicians and nurse experts actively engaged in the management of patients with, or at risk of, tuberculosis – Contact: maria.robles@uthct.edu

TB Update –(Four Corners TB Controllers Meeting) October 29-30 – Location: Durango, CO. This conference is for TB Controllers and TB Nurse Consultants. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is necessary. Contact: erica.orosco@uthct.edu

TB Intensive –December 4-7– Location: Tyler, TX.- Target: Physicians and nurse experts actively engaged in the management of patients with, or at risk of, tuberculosis – Contact: Jeanne.Laswell@uthct.edu .

Tuberculosis Along the US/Mexico Border: Partnering for Patient Care and Public Health –August 22-23– Location: El Paso, TX- Target: Physicians, nurse experts, and medical professionals who are actively engaged in the management of binational patients with, or at risk of Tb. Contact: Mary.Long@uthct.edu

TB101 and Facilitator Training – November 6-8 – Location: Wichita, Kansas – Target: This is a two part training targeted to new nurses in the field of Tuberculosis and for experienced nurses to learn facilitation techniques for training other staff. Contact: Jeanne.Laswell@uthct.edu

Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center in San Francisco, California: Phone: 415-502-4600 Fax: 415-502-4620 Website: <http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu> (Check this website for additional descriptions and application information about the courses below.)

NOW AVAILABLE: TB PROGRAM MANUAL TEMPLATE

This *Tuberculosis Program Manual Template* provides **standardized guidance to public health staff in low-incidence regions**. The *Template* presents national TB control guidelines for use in the field in a set of fully editable Word files. It is one of several tools being developed by the TB Epidemiologic Studies Consortium Task Order 6 (TO6), which focuses on developing, implementing, and evaluating regional tools for TB control and elimination in low-incidence areas. TO6 is being implemented through the Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center of the University of California, San Francisco, and involves four low-incidence states in the western U.S: Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. The template was created from the latest CDC guidelines, expert opinion, and input from an advisory panel of representatives from these states, the *Template* covers a comprehensive range of topics designed to meet the needs of low-incidence states/jurisdictions.

UPCOMING COURSES:

September 4-6, 2007 - San Francisco, CA - **Clinical Intensive III** - For physicians and other licensed medical professionals who diagnose and treat tuberculosis. For more information on this and other courses, check the following website: <http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/training/schedule.cfm>

Thursdays, September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2007: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Pacific Time) - **Core Clinical Topics in TB Control – a Web-based Workshop**. This web-based workshop will be held on four consecutive Thursdays in September. These four sessions will provide the basics on the clinician’s role in TB control. It covers the basics of the diagnosis of TB, TB radiology, TB treatment, treatment in special situations (such as HIV, pregnancy, renal disease, drug intolerances), latent TB infection (LTBI) screening and treatment, strategies to prevent drug-resistant TB, and pediatric TB. This web-based workshop is intended for physicians and other licensed medical professionals who diagnose and treat tuberculosis. For complete course description and application information, please visit: <http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/training/webinar.cfm>

November 7-8, 2007 - Spokane, Washington: **Building Foundations for Effective Collaborations for TB Care and Control in Native American Populations**. This course is intended for local healthcare staff from tribal clinics, Indian Health Service clinics, community agencies/clinics, and public health departments in counties in the Western region of the U.S. who work with American Indian populations on targeted TB testing, TB treatment and case management, and TB investigations. For more information on this and other courses, check the following website: <http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/training/schedule.cfm>

November 13-16, 2007 - San Francisco, CA - **Tuberculosis Case Management and Contact Investigation II** - For nurses, communicable disease investigators, and medical social workers. For more information on this and other courses, check the following website: <http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/training/schedule.cfm>

NCET CONTACT INFORMATION:

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