

JUNE 20 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 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2007 National Coalition for Elimination of Tuberculosis (NCET) annual meeting was held Tuesday, June 12 at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia Hotel near Atlanta, GA. The meeting was chaired by NCET Chair, Dr. Randall Reves. The following is our report from the Annual NCET meeting:

NEW TB LEGISLATION (AUTHORIZATIONS)

DOMESTIC BILLS: Nuala Moore of the Washington Office of the American Thoracic Society addressed the new TB authorization bills recently introduced into Congress. The domestic-related TB bills introduced into the House of Representatives and the Senate are both entitled the “Comprehensive TB Elimination Act” (H.R. 1567/S.1551). Key components of the bills include: authorization of increased funding for CDC’s National Program for the Elimination of Tuberculosis to improve outbreak response to XDR-TB; expansion of CDC research on new drugs, diagnostics & vaccines, and studies of populations at risk of TB; authorization of vaccine development at NIAID; creation of a TB professional training program at Fogarty International Center; and funds for loan repayment for TB researchers. The House bill authorizes \$528 million for CDC’s TB program and the Senate bill authorizes \$300 million. Both bills also authorize funding for new tools/research of \$100 million. The House bill is sponsored by Reps. Green (D-TX), Wilson (R-NM) & Baldwin (D-WI) and has a total of 23 bipartisan cosponsors with additional sponsors anticipated. This House bill has been referred to the Energy & Commerce Committee. The Senate bill is sponsored by Sen. Brown (D-OH), Hutchison (R-TX) & Kennedy (D-MA) and there are 4 bipartisan cosponsors with additional sponsors anticipated. The Senate bill has been referred to Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee.

GLOBAL BILLS: The global TB authorization bills are both entitled the “Stop TB Now Act” (H.R. 1567/S. 968), and they have also been introduced. The legislation provides for implementation of the WHO plan to cut TB deaths and disease burden in half by 2015 and to eliminate TB as a global health problem by 2050. Key components of the bills include: expansion of directly observed treatment short-course (DOTS) coverage; strengthening of health systems; promotion of the International Standards of TB Care; increased resources for U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) & CDC; USAID funding of \$330 million in FY08 & \$450 million in FY09; and CDC funding of \$70 million in FY08 & \$100 million in FY09. The House global authorization bill is sponsored by Reps. Engel (D-NY), Wilson (R-NM), & Smith (D-WA) with 50 bipartisan House cosponsors and the House bill has been referred to Foreign Affairs Committee & Energy & Commerce Committee. The Senate Global TB bill is sponsored by Senators Boxer (D-CA) and Smith (R-OR) with 7 cosponsors; this bill has been referred to Foreign Relations Committee.

Ms. Moore stressed the importance of obtaining additional sponsors for the domestic and the global TB bills and she suggested calling, writing a letter, or e-mailing to ask your House Representative to cosponsor H.R.1567 and H.R. 1532 and your 2 Senators to cosponsor S1551 and S. 968. She said phone calls are better than letters. In response to a question, Ms. Moore said that she and the TB partners on the Hill do not have a specific goal for a certain number of sponsors for these bills, but they would like to get

as many as possible and she noted now is a good time to make the requests because of the heightened interest in TB and XDR TB.

(You can let the American Thoracic Society do the work for you to contact your Representative and Senators to request cosponsorship of S. 968/H.R. 1567 – the global TB bills – and use the TB action alert at: <http://www.thoracic.org/sections/about-ats/advocacy/take-action-now.html> You can also let the American Lung Association do the work for you in contacting your Representative and Senators to request them to cosponsor H.R. 1567/S.1551, the domestic TB bills. – use the TB Action Alert at: legislation http://lungaction.org/campaign/tb_2007 . Or you may visit the RESULTS website and let RESULTS do the work for you in asking members of Congress to support the domestic and global legislation at: <http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=9835131>)

NOTE – The appropriations process is separate from the authorization process and NCET will keep you informed as the appropriations process continues. The President’s proposed 2008 budget for CDC TB activities is \$136,791,000. We should have the related House language and Senate language soon.

REVITALIZING NCET:

Next at the NCET Annual meeting, NCET Chair Dr. Randall Reves (also Medical Director of the Denver Metro TB Program), NCET Chair-Elect, Mr. Jeff Caballero (also Executive Director of the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations – AAPCHO), and NCET Steering Committee member, Ms. Sue Etkind (also TB controller for Massachusetts), participated in a panel discussion about the future role(s) of NCET in promoting efforts to control and eliminate TB domestically and globally.

Ms. Etkind noted NCET is a totally volunteer organization which makes it difficult over time to sustain organizational enthusiasm and related efforts for preventing and controlling TB. She cited the tremendous potential for NCET and believes we may be able to attract additional interest and even resources by aligning the organization more closely in name and effort with the Global STOP TB organizations. Mr. Caballero cited his involvement in NCET since the beginning in the early 1990’s and he noted the TB partners now have a great deal of competition for resources. He addressed the need for NCET to get better at advocacy, address the threat of XDR TB, and he also cited the need to obtain additional support. He called for NCET to expand the number of active local NCET partners. Attendees at this NCET meeting commented on the need to: better define NCET and make it more visible; broaden the NCET membership and support; and the need to come up with new strategies and resources to support the organization’s mission and then build on that to help eliminate TB. There was support for finding ways to align NCET more closely with global TB-related efforts. Dr. Reves asked participants and the entire TB community to think about additional ways that NCET can more effectively address the domestic and global TB-related needs and he asked them to send their suggestions to NCET’s John Seggerson at: jseggerson@tbcoalition.com. The next step will be for NCET to convene a small retreat group to consider the suggestions and develop a strategy for moving forward to revitalize and perhaps “reinvent” NCET. NCET members will be kept up-to-date on these efforts through the **NCET WIRE**.

NTCA/ALA/NCET PRESS CONFERENCE – THURSDAY – JUNE 14

The National TB Controllers Association, the Southeast Region of the American Lung Association, and NCET sponsored a press conference on June 14 to highlight the need for resources for TB control. The joint press release reported that “Worried public health officials note the emergence of XDR-TB here and abroad, and recall the resurgence in TB between 1985 and 1993, when outbreaks of MDR-TB, a strain resistant to multiple TB drugs, erupted at a time when TB treatment programs were reduced in size and

scope.” Mr. James Cobb, President of the National TB Controllers Association commented that TB control in this country has developed into a highly-effective partnership between DTBE and local and state TB controllers, but he said “When we look at the recent trends and events, we (TB Controllers) are worried about the future of TB control in this country.” NCET Chair Dr. Randall Reves noted CDC’s Division of TB Elimination (DTBE) is a superb example of how a federal agency can work collaboratively with local and state agencies and other partners in protecting the public health. San Francisco’s TB Control Director, Dr. Masae Kawamura, cited the need for direct support from DTBE to state and local TB programs to ensure curative treatment. She also noted CDC’s important funding for developing new tools for diagnosis and treatment of TB, for maintaining the expertise of the Nation’s TB workforce, and for critical outbreak investigations. Charles J. White, CEO of the American Lung Association - Southeast Region – noted that “Once Congress increased federal funding from \$22.5 million in 1990 to \$142 million in 1994, TB cases saw a steady decline with the revitalization of TB control programs at the national, state, and local levels.” He said funding for CDC/DTBE remained relatively flat with a 2006 total of \$141.5 million, representing only \$79 million in 1990 dollars. “With TB funding going down again, signs are emerging that our grip on TB is slipping” he added, “this will come despite a 44% reduction in DTBE resources (based on the Consumer Price Index compared to 1990 dollars) due to 12 years of flat funding and congressional rescissions.” The press conference was attended by written press and television (CNN and ABC, CBS, NBS and Fox Atlanta affiliates). You may request a complete electronic copy of the NTCA/ALA/NCET press release from: jseggerson@tbcoalition.com

50TH ANNUAL BLACK MOUNTAIN TB/RD INSTITUTE - “YOU ARE INVITED!”

The American Lung Association of North Carolina (NC), in partnership with the American Lung Association of South Carolina (SC), NC Dept. of Health and Human Services Division of TB Control, and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, TB Branch, is sponsoring the 57th Annual TB/RD Institute in Black Mountain, North Carolina. The primary focus of this three-day conference, held July 20-22, 2007 is to provide continuing education for health care professionals in the form of current diagnostic, management and research concepts as presented by local and regional experts. Participants at the TB/RD Institute will receive continuing education on TB and respiratory disease while enjoying a relaxing stay in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville—home to the first TB Sanatorium in the United States. For more information on the institute, visit the website at www.lungnc.org or contact Susan King Cope at the ALANC—skingcope@lungnc.org or call 919.832.8326 x 22.

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.)

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

UPCOMING COURSES:

Tuberculin Skin Testing Course: Date: July 9, 2007: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm EDT: Location: Wake Commons Building, Raleigh, North Carolina. This course is designed for licensed healthcare professionals and includes, but is not limited to, nurses working in employee health, hospitals, home health agencies, skilled nursing facilities and physicians' offices. This course will impart the skills and knowledge needed for correctly performing a Mantoux Tuberculin Skin Test (TST). Each participant will rotate through skills stations to practice and demonstrate proficiency in administration, reading, interpretation and documentation of the TST. This course is approximately seven (7) hours in length. Enrollment is limited. Registration is free; however online registration is required at: <http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/Training.aspx>

Contact Investigation and Interviewing Skills: Date: July 23-24, 2007; Location: Grenada, MS. This course is designed for outreach workers, nurses, program managers and other staff working in tuberculosis programs at the state, regional/district, and local levels who interact with clients during the course of a contact investigation. This interactive, "hands on" course was developed to improve contact investigations and interviewing skills through didactic lecture, skill-building exercises, and role playing. The goals are to train attendees to effectively identify TB contacts, make referrals as appropriate, and monitor clients on treatment for latent TB infection (LTBI) through completion of therapy. Enrollment is limited to 50 participants. Registration is free; however online registration is required at: <http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/Training.aspx>

Contact Investigation and Interviewing Skills: Date: July 26-27, 2007; Location: Hattiesburg, MS. This course is designed for outreach workers, nurses, program managers and other staff working in tuberculosis programs at the state, regional/district, and local levels who interact with clients during the course of a contact investigation. This interactive, "hands on" course was developed to improve contact investigations and interviewing skills through didactic lecture, skill-building exercises, and role playing. The goals are to train attendees to effectively identify TB contacts, make referrals as appropriate, and monitor clients on treatment for latent TB infection (LTBI) through completion of therapy. Enrollment is limited to 50 participants. Registration is free; however online registration is required at: <http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/Training.aspx>

Grand Rounds: A 10-year History of the TB Trials Consortium: What Have We Learned?: Presented by Margarita Elsa Villarino, MD, MPH, Team Leader, TB Trials Consortium, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Date: July 18, 2007 10:00 am - Noon EDT; Location: Via webinar (phone and online) or live at A.G. Holley TB Hospital, Lantana (Palm Beach), Florida. Hear about the past ten years of TB trials research funded by the CDC and join in the discussion live at A.G. Holley TB Hospital in Lantana, Florida or participate via telephone and computer. Presented by the Team Leader of the TB Trials Consortium (TBTC), this Grand Rounds presentation will provide insight into the research that has been conducted and will offer details on what has been learned, including potential application for use in the field. Enrollment is free; however it is limited to 90 participants. Register to participate in this session at the SNTC website: <http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/Training.aspx>

TB Morbidity and Mortality Review: Date: July 18, 2007 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm EDT. Location: Via webinar (phone and online) or live at A.G. Holley TB Hospital, Lantana (Palm Beach), Florida. During this TB Morbidity and Mortality Review selected tuberculosis cases are presented for discussion by clinical staff from A.G. Holley Tuberculosis Hospital with an emphasis on patient treatment and management issues. Additional topics of discussion may include substance abuse, adherence, multi-drug resistance and TB/HIV issues. Enrollment is free however it is limited to 90 participants. Register to participate in this session at the SNTC website: <http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/Training.aspx>

The Northeastern Regional Training and Medical Consultation Consortium in Newark, New Jersey: Phone: 973-972-3270 Toll-Free: 800-482-3627 Website: <http://www.umdny.edu/globaltb/home.htm> (Check this website for additional descriptions and application information about the courses below.)

UPCOMING COURSES:

How to Teach Tuberculin Skin Testing: A Train-the-Trainers Workshop: July 25-26, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. 225 Warren Street, Newark, NJ. This intensive two-day skills-building workshop covers the principles of adult learning, teaching strategies, and planning and conducting a tuberculin skin test (TST) training. The course includes some lecture sessions, however, the format is highly interactive with an emphasis on role-plays, group exercises, and practice teaching of course content and TST demonstration. Participants will receive feedback from experienced trainers as they practice these skills. The target audience for the course includes licensed healthcare professionals (i.e. physicians, nurses, and physician assistants) who are responsible for training others in tuberculin skin testing.

Overview of MDR TB: August 15, 2007; 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. Because MDR TB occurs infrequently in the United States, healthcare providers and TB program staff may be unfamiliar with its manifestation. However, the global incidence of MDR TB is increasing, and may be further complicated by the emergence of XDR TB. Given the increasing prevalence of TB in the non-US born, it is particularly important for healthcare providers and TB program staff to be knowledgeable of the presentation and treatment principles of MDR TB. This web-based seminar will provide an overview of the epidemiology of MDR TB, the pathogenesis of drug resistance, and the basic principles of case management and treatment of MDR TB. A case presentation will be included. The target audience includes physicians, Nurses and TB Program Staff.

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: July 17-19 - San Antonio, Texas: Target: Nurses, LVNs, contact investigators, public health technicians, and allied health workers – apply at: <http://www.heartlandntbc.org/register.asp?courseSessionId=59>

Preventing Tuberculosis on College Campuses: July 31 – Columbia, MO.

Contact: erica.orosco@uthct.edu Target audience: Public health department and college campus workers involved in implementing TB prevention practices on a college campus.

TB 101 and facilitator Training – August 29 – 31 – Location: Wichita, Kansas - Contact: jeanne.laswell@uthct.edu

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 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 .

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.)

UPCOMING COURSES:

July 31 - August 3, 2007 - San Francisco, CA - **Program Manager's Intensive** - For nurses, physicians and other health professionals working as tuberculosis program managers.

September 4-6, 2007 - San Francisco, CA - **Clinical Intensive III** - For physicians and other licensed medical professionals who diagnose and treat tuberculosis.

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 clinicians 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 a complete course description and application information, please visit:

<http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/training/webinar.cfm>

November 13-16, 2007 - San Francisco, CA - **Tuberculosis Case Management and Contact Investigation II** - For nurses, communicable disease investigators, and medical social workers.

NCET CONTACT INFORMATION:

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