



3/24/09 TB WIRE

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STOP TB USA was formerly known as the National Coalition for Elimination of Tuberculosis (NCET). Please pass this information on to your colleagues who are interested in TB elimination.

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**WORLD TB DAY IS TODAY - MARCH 24**

Annual events on and around World TB Day commemorate the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *M. tuberculosis*, the bacteria that causes TB. STOP TB USA and key partners continue to plan for World TB Day, which is officially on March 24 of each year. TB awareness is raised through celebrations and activities on March 24 and around that date. STOP TB USA representatives will participate in the CDC March 24 World TB Day activities in Atlanta.

To find out about some of the key STOP TB USA partner activities, check the WORLD TB DAY websites of our partners:

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/WorldTBDay/default.htm>

CDC also posted plans for World TB Day activities in at least 18 states and you can see them at this site: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/WorldTBDay/2009/activities.htm>

GLOBAL STOP TB PARTNERSHIP: [http://www.stoptb.org/events/world\\_tb\\_day/2009/](http://www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/2009/)

The GLOBAL STOP TB PARTNERSHIP is also posting and regularly updating plans for World TB Day activities from around the entire world at this site: <http://www.worldtbd.org/>

NOTE: STOP TB USA information is regularly posted on the coalition's website at: <http://www.stoptbusa.org/>

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**A CALL FOR ACTION ON THE U.S. ELIMINATION PLAN!!**

In 2007, a National Coalition for Elimination of Tuberculosis retreat was held in Atlanta and coalition members voted unanimously to change the group's name to STOP TB USA. This was done to better align the coalition with its "Stop TB" partners in other countries such as Stop TB Canada and Stop TB Mexico, and to clarify its role as a partner in a larger group rather than a stand-alone US entity.

The initial charge for this newly renamed coalition was to develop an updated TB elimination plan for the U.S. STOP TB USA convened a Writing Committee composed of volunteers that included TB experts and other partners from the private and

public sectors. They are now finalizing this much-awaited document. The Committee is on schedule for this updated TB elimination plan to be presented in mid-May at the 2009 ATS International Conference, in San Diego. The plan will be entitled "*A Call for Action on the Tuberculosis Elimination Plan for the United States.*" The plan is the culmination of much work and collaboration of the coalition with a wide array of partners, and it is expected to be a key element of the Nation's efforts to address the continuing challenges of TB control.

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### **U.S. TB TRENDS 2008 - PROGRESS TOWARD TB ELIMINATION SLOWING!!**

The annual report on tuberculosis incidence has been released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and reports that "In 2008, a total of 12,898 incident tuberculosis (TB) cases were reported in the United States; the TB rate declined 3.8% from 2007 to 4.2 cases per 100,000 population, the lowest rate recorded since national reporting began in 1953. This report summarizes provisional 2008 data from the National TB Surveillance System and describes trends since 1993. Despite this overall improvement, progress has slowed in recent years; the average annual percentage decline in the TB rate decreased from 7.3% per year during 1993--2000 to 3.8% during 2000--2008. Foreign-born persons and racial/ethnic minorities continued to bear a disproportionate burden of TB disease in the United States. In 2008, the TB rate in foreign-born persons in the United States was 10 times higher than in U.S.-born persons. TB rates among Hispanics and blacks were nearly eight times higher than among non-Hispanic whites, and rates among Asians were nearly 23 times higher than among non-Hispanic whites. In 2008, among persons with TB whose country of origin was known, approximately 95% of Asians, 76% of Hispanics, 32% of blacks, and 18% of whites were foreign born. Among U.S.-born racial and ethnic groups, the greatest racial disparity in TB rates was for U.S.-born blacks, whose rate was seven times higher than the rate for U.S.-born whites. Intensified efforts are needed to address the slowing decline in TB incidence and the persistent disparities that exist between U.S.-born and foreign-born persons and between whites and minorities in the United States." The complete report is available from CDC online at the following website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5810a2.htm>

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### **ATS MARKS WORLD TB DAY WITH BRIEFING SERIES ON CAPITOL HILL**

The American Thoracic Society (ATS) commemorated World TB Day this week with a series of issue briefings on Capitol Hill. ATS member Richard Chaisson, MD, led a morning session for Senate staff that provided an overview of the global TB crisis, including the prevalence of drug resistant TB, which also highlighted the U.S. role in providing leadership to implement the Global TB Plan to Stop TB through the 2008 enactment of the Lantos-Hyde Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Act. The Lantos-Hyde Act commits the U.S. to the global plan and authorizes \$4 billion in funding over five years for USAID and CDC global TB programs. Speakers included representatives from the ATS's event partners: Diana Weil, from WHO's Stop TB Department; Gail Cassell, Ph.D., from Eli Lilly; and Smita Baruah, from the Global Health Council.

An afternoon session, held for House of Representatives staff, featured a presentation by ATS member Payam Nahid, MD, on TB challenges in the U.S., the TB drug regimen, and the promise of new TB drugs in development by the CDC's TB Clinical Trials Consortium. The panel was moderated by Philip LoBue, MD, Associate Director for Science at the CDC's Division of TB Elimination, and included Ms. Weil, speaking on global prevalence, and the Stop TB strategy, and Aeras President Jerald Sadoff, MD,

discussing research needs, including the pipeline for a new vaccine. Both briefings closed with a multi-media presentation of Paul Simon's, "The Sounds of Silence," which has been set to journalist James Natchwey's photographs of TB patients in honor of World TB DAY.

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**ATS TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

ATS Vice President Dean Schraufnagel, MD, testified this week before the House Labor-Health and Human Services Appropriations subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Obey (D-WI). Dr. Schraufnagel presented ATS and TB coalition partner recommendations for strengthening domestic TB control, specifically, by providing a funding level of \$210 million for CDC's TB program. This funding level is authorized through the Comprehensive TB Elimination Act, for which the ATS led advocacy on efforts to secure enactment in 2008. In his testimony, Dr. Schraufnagel also called for expanded TB research through the NIH to develop faster TB diagnostic tests, better drugs and an effective vaccine.

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**FROM THE STOP TB PARTNERSHIP: STOP TB PARTNERS FORUM WEBCAST**

The 3rd Stop TB Partners' Forum opened in Rio de Janeiro on Monday, March 23, and will continue on Tuesday and Wednesday. You are invited to view the live webcast at: <http://webcast4.isat.com.br/stoptb/> (This message was sent to us on behalf of Dr. Marcos Espina, Executive Secretary, Stop TB Partnership.)

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**FROM THE UNION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS AND LUNG DISEASE**

World TB Day, which is observed on 24 March each year, marks a major turning point in public health history. On that day in 1882, Dr Robert Koch of Germany identified the bacillus that causes tuberculosis, an infectious disease so devastating that it was then known in Europe as the "white plague". More than 100 years later, tuberculosis is still a public health threat. Despite the availability of effective treatment, the World Health Organization reported 9.2 million new TB cases and 1.7 million deaths in 2006. For organizations such as the 89-year-old International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD), World TB Day serves as important purpose. "It's a reminder to everyone that the fight against tuberculosis is ongoing. It hasn't been won yet," says Dr Nils E Billo, Executive Director. To learn more about the significant successes and daunting challenges ahead for global TB control, please read the attached press release. You may also go directly to the IUATLD website at [www.theunion.org](http://www.theunion.org) to read the release.

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**UPDATE: 40<sup>th</sup> UNION WORLD CONFERENCE ON LUNG HEALTH**

**The deadline for online abstract submission for free communication sessions (poster display, poster discussion and thematic slide presentations) has been extended to 25 March 2009. You must submit and abstracts before this deadline.**

The link for accessing the online abstract submission system is: <http://www.worldlunghealth.org/Conf2009/abstracts/> Submission and technical guidelines are available for consultation on the site.

This is the first opportunity in years for TB partners in the Western hemisphere to attend a nearby Union World Conference on Lung Health which is normally held in Europe. The conference will be held December 3-7, 2009, in Cancún, Mexico. Cancún is easily accessible from the U.S. and there are

expected reasonable air fares from the U.S. mainland. Updated information on the conference (registration, etc.) will be posted on the above website as it becomes available.

In accordance with the theme of the conference “**Poverty and Lung Health,**” they are particularly interested in attracting abstracts on the following broad topics: **tuberculosis**, asthma, pneumonia, HIV/AIDS, tobacco related and all other lung diseases as well as the health consequences of air pollution.

All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Programme Committee. Those abstracts that are selected will then be allocated to one of the following session formats: thematic slide presentation, poster discussion session and poster display session. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their abstracts before the **end of June 2009**. Selected abstracts will be published in the Abstract Book of the conference as a supplement to the International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IJTLD). Should you have any queries or difficulties in submitting your abstracts please do not hesitate to contact: [scientific2009@theunion.org](mailto:scientific2009@theunion.org) .

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If you wish to receive the **STOP TB USA** messages at a different e-mail address, or if you no longer wish to receive these messages, please reply to [jsegerson@tbcoalition.com](mailto:jsegerson@tbcoalition.com)

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