

*Partnering for Progress and Innovation*

**5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on TB Vaccines  
20-23 February 2018  
New Delhi, India**



Nearly 350 experts in tuberculosis (TB) and TB vaccine development from more than 30 countries around the world gathered in New Delhi from 20 - 23 February 2018 for the [5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on TB Vaccines](#) to discuss the latest efforts and advances in TB vaccine development. The Global Forum on TB Vaccines is convened every two to three years by the Stop TB Partnership Working Group on New TB Vaccines. Organizing partners for the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on TB Vaccines included Aeras, the Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI), the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI).

Several government officials and dignitaries participated in the Opening Session and Inaugural Ceremony, representing the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, the Ministry of Science & Technology, the World Health Organization, civil society and affected communities. They spoke about the country's TB burden, its commitment to improving diagnosis and treatment as well as research and development, and the essential role of new, more effective vaccines in reaching global targets to end TB. The speakers also recognized that funding shortfalls were hampering global efforts to develop new TB vaccines, and called for increased investment in TB vaccine research and development.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on TB Vaccines provided updates on the latest efforts in TB vaccine development presented by experts from around the world. Progress on clinical candidates was shared - including results from the first randomized, controlled, prospective prevention of infection trial ever conducted – and research underway related to novel approaches to TB vaccine R&D, preclinical research, epidemiology, biomarkers and correlates, and basic research was presented. Participants also discussed strategies to diversify the global pipeline of TB vaccines under development, as well as the importance of international collaboration in research and advocacy, and engaging affected communities in the research process.

Barry Bloom of the Harvard School of Public Health delivered the [opening keynote address](#) on why we need a vaccine to control TB and what we need to learn to develop an effective vaccine; and Lucica Ditiu, Executive Director of the Stop TB Partnership, delivered the [closing address](#) of the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum. Noting that this is a unique and momentous time for TB, with the upcoming UN High Level Meeting on TB in September, she challenged participants to become advocates, to hold global leaders accountable to their commitments, and to speak with a united voice.

Throughout the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum, it was reiterated that new vaccines will be necessary to address and end the global TB epidemic and that vaccines will play an important role in stemming the alarmingly increasing rates of drug-resistant TB. There was excitement, momentum and optimism that, with sufficient resources, we can develop new TB vaccines.

The [program and presentations](#) from the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on TB Vaccines are available on the Global Forum website.

Photo: Inaugural Ceremony, 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on TB Vaccines (left to right: Mona Balani, Touched by TB; Soumya Swaminathan, Deputy Director-General of Programmes, WHO; Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia; Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare & Secretary, Department of Health Researcher & Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research; Anupriya Patel, Honourable Minister of State, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology; Lucica Ditiu, Stop TB Partnership; Nick Drager, TuBerculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI)