

Stop TB Partnership

Advocacy, Communications and Social Mobilization (ACSM)

February 2008 e-Update

NEWS

ACSM Working Group elections for Chair and Vice Chair

The ACSM Working Group is currently running elections for its Chair and Vice Chair. These elections are coordinated by an election committee with the support of the Working Group secretariat. All members of the ACSM Working Group are eligible to nominate themselves or someone else for Chair and/or Vice Chair.

The nomination period will run between **19 February to 7 March**. Voting will be done online (only Working Group members will have access to this online system) and will run from **17 March to 28 March**. For more information on the election, please visit the web site: http://www.stoptb.org/wg/advocacy_communication/election.asp.

World TB Day 2008: How are you stopping TB?

With the theme "*I am Stopping TB*", this year's World TB Day is dedicated to highlighting the positive contributions that individuals, communities and/or countries have made towards the global fight against TB. World TB Day is a once-a-year event offering people an unparalleled opportunity to raise awareness about the burden of TB and to showcase the work that your community/organization/country has done.

All ACSM Working Group members are encouraged to share your stories with the world. If you have a best country example that you would like featured on the web, or if you are planning World TB Day events, please email them to stoptbacsm@who.int or upload them to the World TB Day web site: http://www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/2008/.

PAST EVENTS

Stop TB Partnership's Executive Secretary visits TB vaccine trial site in South Africa



On 4 February, 2008 Dr. Marcos Espinal, Executive Secretary of the Stop TB Partnership, toured the primary trials site and laboratory facilities of the South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI) of the University of Cape Town (UCT). The visit was hosted by SATVI Director Professor Gregory Hussey and they were accompanied by Dr. Jerald C. Sadoff, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation, a non-profit developer of TB vaccines based in the United States. SATVI is working in partnership with Aeras to conduct clinical trials of new vaccines for tuberculosis at the SATVI TB vaccine research site in Worcester, South Africa, the most advanced tuberculosis vaccine study site in the world.

On his second day, Dr Espinal had the opportunity of touring the Desmond Tutu TB Center (DTTC) of the University of Stellenbosch. He was hosted by Prof. Nulda Beyers and other members of the Paediatric group of the university. He also met with staff ranging from community volunteers to operational researchers carrying out studies and supporting operations in the shantytown of Khayelitsha, on the outskirts of Cape Town.

Soccer player Luis Figo is new Stop TB Ambassador



The Stop TB Partnership has appointed Portuguese soccer icon Luis Figo as a Stop TB Ambassador. Figo's new role was formally announced in a press event in Milan on 24 January, 2008.

As Stop TB Ambassador, Figo will capitalize on his fame and popularity to raise awareness about TB and the need to fight the disease. Some of the activities that Figo will be involved in include being the main character in an educational comic book educating young people about TB as well as a poster campaign, to be launched in March. For more information, visit the Figo website: <http://www.stoptb.org/figo/>

SPOTLIGHT: Challenge Facility for Civil Society grantee of the month

Background information: The [Challenge Facility for Civil Society](#), established by the Stop TB Partnership, provides financial support to small groups of civil society organizations seeking to make the collective voice of the TB community heard. It is targeted at civil society groups operating at the grass roots level and seeking to shape policy-making at local and national levels by giving a voice to people living with TB and those involved in their care. This monthly section highlights the activities of organizations that have received grants from this Facility.

Hope for Future Generation - training advocates for TB/HIV in Ghana

With the grant received through the Challenge Facility, Hope for Future Generation has implemented several projects in the central region of Ghana aimed at raising community awareness and reducing stigma around TB/HIV. The NGO has formed advocacy clubs in five targeted communities, providing training to members of the community (traditional leaders, women, youth, people living with HIV and TB clients) on advocacy and communication around TB/HIV-related issues. Club members are now actively involved with advocacy activities within their communities and are also involved with local media, answering calls specific to TB/HIV on radio programmes.

Another project involves getting schoolchildren to participate in theatre performances that educate people on TB/HIV and help reduce stigma and discrimination related to the disease. These performances are an entertaining and effective way of reaching out to people with key TB/HIV messages and knowledge of what symptoms to look out for and what to do with suspect cases. For more information on Hope for Future Generations: <http://www.hffg.org/>

NEW ACSM PUBLICATIONS

TB Tips in Spanish now available online

TB Tips is a short booklet full of practical advice, suggestions, guidance and information in an easy to read format for TB patients. It is now available in Spanish and can be found online at: http://www.stoptb.org/resource_center/documents.asp

French and Hindi translations will also be available soon. For hard copy requests, please email chuy@who.int.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Submit your personal story](#)

The Tuberculosis Survival Project is asking people to write about their own personal experience and stories of having had TB/MDR-TB for publication on its website. Many people visiting the website find reading the stories very helpful and it helps people to feel less isolated and alone. The power of identification can't be underestimated.

If you have had TB/MDR-TB, or you work with people affected by the illness then we want to hear from you. Stories should be no more than 1000 words long. People shouldn't worry if their English isn't good or is not their first language because every story will be edited. When submitting a story then please clearly state that you are happy for the story to be published online. For more information, please visit: <http://www.tbsurvivalproject.org/general/leave-stories.html>

[Looking for ACSM Experts](#)

If you have considerable experience in advocacy, communication and social mobilization (ACSM) activities, please submit your CV to the ACSM Consultant Database. We are looking for experts to match with incoming technical assistance requests.

[ACSM Country-Level technical assistance now available](#)

The Stop TB Partnership, with support from PEPFAR through USAID, is coordinating technical assistance to Global Fund grants in order to accelerate absorptive capacity and to improve performance of ACSM activities.

[Submit best country examples](#)

The Stop TB Partnership is looking for best practice examples to showcase in web sites, presentations, and events. Share with us your stories of success in implementing advocacy, communication and social mobilization activities in your neighborhood, town, city or country. For more information, visit: http://www.stoptb.org/wg/advocacy_communication/acsmcl/bestpractice.asp

[Submit your news](#)

If you, or partners that you know, have news or resources you would like to announce or share through this e-update, please forward to chuy@who.int for inclusion in the next e-update.

RESOURCES:

[Sub Group on Global Advocacy for Resource Mobilization](#)

[Sub Group on ACSM at Country Level](#)

Visit our web site (<http://www.stoptb.org/bi/tenways.asp>) to see the 10 ways YOU can stop TB.

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