

STOP TB NEWS

January 2009

TOP LINE NEWS

SIMPLY, STOPPING TUBERCULOSIS

How will you be involved in the Stop TB Partners' Forum?

We can stop TB. Simply. We are making strides to stop it now. But we simply must do more, and we can. Between us we have the necessary knowledge and expertise. We simply need to ensure that as individuals each of us plays our part and that we are aligned.

It is with this message in mind that we move towards the third Stop TB [Partners' Forum](#), which will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 23 to 25 March 2009. Hundreds of partners will come together to share successes, identify barriers and inspire each other to move to a new level in the global fight against TB.

Come to the Forum

[Registration](#) is open. A limited number of travel bursaries ([click here for details](#)) are available to participants requesting financial assistance to attend the Forum. A process has been put in place to ensure all interested participants get an equitable chance to receive support; [send an e-mail to the Forum](#) by 15 January 2009 and you will receive a questionnaire to complete; successful applicants will be notified during the week of 26 January 2009.

Reserve your space at the Marketplace

Put up a stand displaying your group's accomplishments, make new acquaintances, organize a performance, share your literature and more... [Click here](#) to apply for space at the Marketplace, but don't delay—the deadline for submissions is 15 February. Marketplace guidelines are available [here](#).

Take the lead with a thematic session

Thematic Tracks are critical to the outcome of the Forum, providing a platform for sharing and learn from Best Practices. The seven tracks for this year's Forum are Financing TB, From Research to Retooling, Increasing Access and Equity, TB and Health Systems Skills Building, Addressing the Needs of Neglected Populations, Empowering Communities, and Engaging all Care Providers. [See the agenda](#) for more information.

If you are interested in organizing and leading a thematic session, [click here](#) for the form. The closing date for submissions is 15 January.

Speak your mind

The Speakers' Corner provides the perfect opportunity for you to share your perspective or idea by giving a five-minute talk. The Speakers' Corner will be dynamic and passionate—expect to be challenged! Complete the form [here](#) by 15 February 2009.

NEWS

Global Fund Board calls for massive scale up of TB control

The Board of the [Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#), as an outcome of its Eighteenth Board Meeting in New Delhi, India in November, agreed on a [decision point \(DP12\)](#) aimed at massive scale-up of the actions needed to fully implement the Stop TB Strategy and the Global Plan to Stop TB. The Board considered this decision point following a call from the Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board that it make a bold statement on scaling up TB control.

The Stop TB Partnership led the session on the decision point, with participation by Dr Marcos Espinal, Executive Secretary of the Stop TB Partnership; Irene Koek, Chair of the Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board; Dr Mario Raviglione, Director of the WHO Stop TB Department; TB advocate Ms Lucy Chesire; and Dr Rajendra Shukla, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health, India. Dr Jorge Sampaio, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Stop TB, made closing remarks at the session.

[Read the decision point \(DP12\)](#)

[Read the Special Envoy's speech](#)

TED launches major awareness raising campaign on XDR-TB

The global community [TED](#) (Technology, Entertainment, Design) launched a campaign in October involving projection of photographs depicting XDR-TB by internationally renowned photographer James Nachtwey in giant screenings in 50 cities around the globe and across the web. TED marked the launch with a special screening at Lincoln Center in New York City and a symposium introduced by Paul Simon and featuring Stop TB's Dr Marcos Espinal, Google's Dr Larry Brilliant, TB/HIV advocate Winstone Zulu, and others.

The photographs were also featured in an eight-page spread about XDR-TB in [TIME magazine](#).

[For more information and to see the photos](#)

Indigenous leaders call for action against tuberculosis

In November public health experts and Indigenous leaders from 60 countries met for the first time to seek a way forward on reducing the incidence of tuberculosis among Indigenous peoples by 2015. The conference was held in Toronto, Canada and co-hosted by the [Assembly of First Nations](#) and the [Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami](#). Across the globe indigenous peoples are at exceptionally high risk of becoming ill with TB and dying from the disease.

The meeting was the follow-up to a session at the [United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) in April 2008, which called for the development of a specific Indigenous-led initiative on TB to collaborate with the Stop TB Partnership.

[Read the press release \(English\)](#)

[Read the press release \(French\)](#)

Stop TB Partnership creates new Advocacy Advisory Committee

The Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board is forming an Advocacy Advisory Committee to give greater impetus to the Partnership's advocacy activities by advising the Board and Secretariat, and by helping them to engage the broad range of partners in TB advocacy. The nomination process closed on 9 January and committee members will be announced shortly.

The Advocacy Advisory Committee will replace the Global Advocacy sub-group of the Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization Working Group (ACSM-WG), which is being disbanded. The ACSM-WG's country-level sub-group will become the ACSM sub-group of the DOTS Expansion Working Group, where it will be linked with other TB control implementation concerns.

The Advisory Committee will also provide guidance on building and strengthening the Advocacy Network of interested partners, which will facilitate linkages between TB advocates, the Stop TB Partnership, its working groups and its partners. The Network will coordinate advocacy campaigns,

guide efforts through a calendar of prioritized events, and help to develop tools for enhancing resource mobilization capacity.

[For more information](#)

NEWS ON AWARDS AND GRANTS

Winner of Images to Stop Tuberculosis Award announced

Photojournalist Jean Chung of the Republic of Korea won the Stop TB Partnership's 2008 Images to Stop Tuberculosis Award, presented at the [Angkor Photography Festival](#) in Cambodia in November by internationally renowned photographer Gary Knight.

The award, which is supported by the [Lilly MDR-TB Partnership](#), is intended to raise awareness of tuberculosis prevention and treatment and community activity by obtaining outstanding photos of these activities. The Angkor Photography Festival and [COLORS magazine](#) also provide support for the award.

Ms Chung, whose winning portfolio chronicling the death of a young Afghan woman affected by tuberculosis, was selected by an international jury from among 54 entries. She will receive a grant of \$5000 to produce a photo essay on tuberculosis in one or more of the 22 countries most heavily affected by the disease. She will also be awarded \$5000 in prize money.

[Read the note to the Media \(English\)](#)

[Read the note to the Media \(French\)](#)

Kochon Prize and Award for Excellence in Reporting on Tuberculosis: Winners announced

The Stop TB Partnership announced recipients of two major awards at ceremonies held on the occasion of the Union World Conference on Lung Health in Paris in October.

Dr Jaime Bayona of [Socios En Salud Sucursal Peru](#) and Prof Denis Mitchison shared this year's **Kochon Prize**, which is awarded annually to persons, institutions or organizations that have made a highly significant contribution to combating TB.

The winners of the 2008 **Award for Excellence in Reporting on Tuberculosis**, which recognizes outstanding reporting and commentary in print and on the web that materially increases the public's knowledge and understanding of TB and MDR-TB, were: first place, Brian Ligomeka of Malawi; second place, Ilze Vainovska of Latvia; third place, Refat Berlanty of Egypt.

The awards were announced at a reception hosted by the Lilly MDR-TB Partnership at which another honour, the [Tuberculosis Survival Project Award 2008](#), was accepted on behalf of Speranta Terrei of Moldova by South African media personality and TB survivor Ms Gerry Elsdon.

[Read the note to the media: Kochon Prize](#)

[Read the note to the media: Award for Excellence in reporting on TB](#)

2008 Challenge Facility for Civil Society: Grant recipients announced

In November, an independent review committee selected 23 civil society organizations as grant recipients of the 2008 Challenge Facility for Civil Society. The facility targets grass-roots civil society organizations that seek to help shape policy at local and national levels by giving a voice to people living with TB and those involved in its prevention, treatment and care.

[For more information](#)

Lilly and International Council of Nurses win partnership award from US business group

[Eli Lilly and Company](#) and the [International Council of Nurses](#) were awarded a Corporate Citizenship Award at the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center](#)'s 9th annual dinner and celebration in November.

The award recognizes their groundbreaking work in combating the rising global threat of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis worldwide. Thousands of online voters cast their ballots during a one-month selection process.

Through its partnership with Lilly, the International Council of Nurses offers training and education programmes that are supplemented by global teaching resources, E-tools, and an annual awards programme that honours nursing excellence in each of the high-burden TB countries.

[Read the press release](#)

Call for submissions for the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria 2009 Awards for Business Excellence

The [Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#) is inviting submissions for the 2009 Awards for Business Excellence, which will honour the contributions of for-profit companies implementing successful programmes to fight disease. Past winners include Viacom, ExxonMobil, Johnson & Johnson, Coca-Cola and HBO.

The deadline for submissions is 23 February 2009, and winners will be notified by 30 April 2009. An awards event will take place on 24 June 2009 at the culmination of a two-day conference in Washington, DC.

Awards will be granted in six categories: Workplace Programme, Community Investment, Core Competence, Women & Girls, Performance Measurement, and Partnership and Collective Action.

[For more information and to download an application form](#)

COUNTRY NEWS

News from India

India's National Partnership for TB Care and Control met for the first time in New Delhi in November to discuss the re-emergence of TB as a public health emergency and to explore how a national civil society partnership can best support the central and state governments in the fight against TB while bringing the voices of communities closer to policymakers.

The Partnership will strengthen participation of all member groups, engage in advocacy with policy makers, and document and share best practices among all stakeholders while acting as an interface between the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme and implementing partners and stakeholders. Its secretariat will be hosted by the [International Union against TB and Lung Disease](#) at its New Delhi office, supported by [USAID](#) through a World Vision grant. For more information on the partnership, please contact [Dr. Nevin Wilson](#), Director, The Union South East Asia or [Dr. Vineet Bhatia](#), Technical Consultant.

The [Indian Development Foundation](#)—a leading national NGO committed to health, education and rural development—took up several mass TB awareness programmes in different parts of India to mark its 25th anniversary. Thousands of students in approximately 250 schools and colleges in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Delhi, Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh learned about TB, enabling them to raise awareness among family members and the wider community.

[View photos](#)

Stop TB Partnership Japan appoints a national Stop TB Ambassador

Beat Takeshi was appointed as a Stop TB Ambassador by the [Stop TB Partnership Japan](#) in November. Takeshi is one of the most famous comedians in Japan and also a distinguished filmmaker, actor, film editor, presenter, screenwriter, author, poet, painter, and one-time video game designer who has received critical acclaim, both in his native country and abroad.

As a filmmaker, working under the name Takeshi Kitano, he has won a number of important prizes including the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival. Since 2005, he has been a professor at the Graduate School of Visual Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts. Kitano owns his own film company, Office Kitano, which launched Tokyo Filmex in 2000. He hosts a weekly television program called Beat Takeshi's TV Tackle, on which entertainers and politicians discuss controversial current events.

Egyptian drama series delivers TB messages

[Egypt's national tuberculosis control programme](#) has harnessed the power of television by producing four television dramas and four short TV spots covering topics including TB-related stigma, common misconceptions (such as the idea that only the poor get TB) and methods of spreading TB infection, including "bad habits" such as spitting and shisha smoking.

The episodes were developed by well-known Egyptian screenwriter Zeinab Aziz with support from a scientific committee and the national programme's ACSM team. They will be shown on selected mass-market channels during a four-week campaign in March 2009, as well as on the official health channel of the Ministry of Health and Population and during health education lectures.

Head of DFID visits TB and HIV organisations in Brighton to talk about the global dual epidemic.

The Brighton-based [International HIV/AIDS Alliance](#) hosted a seminar in Brighton on 23 October 2008, attended by UK Secretary of State for International Development Douglas Alexander and a range of organizations and individuals working in TB and HIV control around the world. Discussions focused on the need to address the TB and HIV epidemics together and on ways to improve health services in some of the world's poorest areas

Other topics included health systems policy of the UK's [Department for International Development](#) (DFID), the effect of the financial crisis on aid to TB and HIV causes, and the decreases in funding to the Global Fund and to the Stop TB Partnership. Mr Alexander voiced his concern over public fear of a rising DFID budget during the financial crisis.

Mr Alexander, accompanied by Labour MP for Brighton David Lepper, also took the opportunity to open the new offices of [Target TB](#), a non-profit international development organization dedicated to fighting TB.

Peru launches National Charter of Rights And Responsibilities of Persons Affected by TB

Peruvian NGO [ISDEN](#) (Health Institute Cristóforis Deneken MSC) has created a "National Charter of Rights and Responsibilities of Persons Affected by Tuberculosis" with the cooperation of stakeholders throughout the country, with financial support from the Stop TB Partnership.

The charter also serves as an invitation to the community to join in the collaborative fight against TB, describing Peru's progress in the fight against TB and the challenges that remain. It has served as an educational and informative tool for facilitating advocacy, communication, and social mobilization to promote human rights and ethics in health care.

This charter has been warmly received by tuberculosis patients, community health agents, Ministry of Health personnel, authorities from the National Health Strategy for the Prevention and Control of TB, social organizations with an interest in health care, and regional health authorities in cities with high TB burdens throughout the country.

Turkmenistan National TB Programme receives microscopes

Turkmenistan's tuberculosis laboratories received a boost in December 2008 when 19 binocular microscopes were donated to the country's Ministry of Health and Medical Industry and its National TB Programme by [Project HOPE Turkmenistan](#), with funding from USAID. The microscopes will be used in peripheral laboratories in the Mary and Lebap Velayats regions, allowing accurate diagnosis of TB and appropriate follow-up.

This donation is part of a comprehensive strategy being implemented by Project HOPE Turkmenistan, with USAID funding to strengthen the capacity of tuberculosis laboratories in Turkmenistan. Project HOPE Turkmenistan will continue to follow-up with refresher trainings and monitoring visits.

Stop TB Ghana involves traditional leaders in TB advocacy

The [Stop TB Ghana Partnership](#), through the [Afro Global Alliance](#) (Ghana), participated in the Kakube festival held annually on the last Saturday of November in the Nandom traditional area in Ghana's Upper West Region. The region, which has low levels of case detection and a high treatment default rate, is the focus of the "Involvement of Traditional Authorities in the fight against TB/HIV" project.

The umbrella of the overall Chief of Nandom, Naa Chrii Puore, was decorated with TB messages and trained community volunteers were also introduced. The Stop TB Ghana Partnership, represented by Imoro Abudu, Programme Manager of the Afro Global Alliance (Ghana), spoke for 20 minutes, delivering TB campaign messages.

The festival's special guest of honour was the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, Alhaji Aliu Mahama.

RESEARCH NEWS

Groundbreaking research findings for vaccine development licensed to Aeris

In October, researchers at [Aberystwyth University](#) in the UK licensed groundbreaking research to the [Aeris Global TB Vaccine Foundation](#) to develop new, more effective TB vaccines. The research concerns discovery of a protein that is able to "wake up" dormant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. This protein holds the potential to form the basis for a vaccine that either stops infecting TB bacteria from taking hold or deliberately "waking up" dormant bacteria in a controlled way so they can be destroyed with antibiotics.

[Read the press release](#)

Phase III trial for shorter TB drug treatment

Many patients in developing countries fail to adhere to the entire six-month TB treatment regimen, contributing to the worldwide spread of resistant forms of TB.

A pivotal Phase III trial of a shorter, four-month course for TB treatment including the oral fluoroquinolone antibiotic gatifloxacin has taken a significant step forward after the enrolment quota of 1836 volunteer patients was reached in African study sites in October. These patients will complete treatment in the second quarter of 2009.

The initial analysis of safety and efficacy should be conducted in mid-2010, followed by a final two-year analysis. Should the initial one-year analysis be positive, a formal file for registration of a gatifloxacin-containing TB drug combination will be submitted to the United States Food and Drug Administration and other regulatory authorities in late 2010 or early 2011.

Partners in the study include the TB centres of the national control programmes in Senegal and Benin and clinical and research institutions in Guinea, Kenya and South Africa, in collaboration with institutions in Belgium, France and the UK federated in the European Commission-funded Oflotub Consortium. The study is cosponsored through technical oversight by the [Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases](#) (TDR) and France's [Institut de Recherche pour le Développement](#) with funding provided by TDR.

[Read the press release](#)

Nanodrug delivery systems for TB drugs

To address patient non-compliance in TB control programmes, the [Council for Scientific and Industrial Research](#) in South Africa is seeking to reformulate first-line TB drugs into nanoparticulate oral dosage

form for controlled release over an extended period in order to reduce total doses and treatment period and improve patient compliance.

The project, led by [Dr Hulda Swai](#), has successfully encapsulated four of the first-line TB drugs—isoniazid, rifampicin, pyrazinamide and ethambutol—using a novel multiple emulsion spray-drying technique, which is currently in the process of being patented.

[For more information](#)

RECENT EVENTS

President of Zanzibar opens Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board Meeting

His Excellency Dr Amani Abeid Karume, President of Zanzibar, congratulated all Stop TB Partners for their efforts and voiced the commitment of the United Republic of Tanzania to addressing the burden of TB at the opening ceremony of the 15th Stop TB Coordinating Board meeting in Bagamoyo, Tanzania on 28 October 2008.

"Our Governments are committed to continuously support the Stop TB initiative in the country by allocating more resources to TB control. At the same time we try to widen cooperation with the civil society and the private sector to increase their participation in this struggle against TB," he said.

The Board, who were welcomed to Bagamoyo with a performance of traditional Tanzanian dance, heard about the TB situation in Tanzania from a panel chaired by the Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Tanzania, the Honourable Prof David Mwakyusa (a Stop TB Coordinating Board member).

The Board endorsed plans for the March 2009 [Partners' Forum](#), the aims of the meeting on MDR-TB that will take place in April 2009 in Beijing, and a strategy to move towards more consistent quality assurance of second-line drugs. The Board also congratulated [UNITAID](#) for its achievements in innovative funding for TB control and endorsed the strategy of the [Global Laboratory Initiative](#). As a follow-up to a round table discussion on TB/HIV, the Board also called for urgent research on insulin potentiation therapy to develop clear guidance on its implementation.

The day before the opening of the Coordinating Board meeting was marked by the launch of the Luis Figo comic book in a Swahili-language version, followed by a Tanzania stakeholders' meeting—"How are you Stopping TB"—which generated a lively discussion by a variety of partners on how to harmonize their activities to scale up TB control.

[Read the speech by the President of Zanzibar](#)

World AIDS Day, 1 December 2008: "Don't ignore TB"

Stop TB Partnership Executive Secretary speaks out on TB/HIV

On the occasion of World AIDS Day, Stop TB Partnership Executive Secretary Dr Marcos Espinal stressed the inextricable link between TB and HIV, and the need to fight both together. He quoted a group of activists who marched into a session of the International AIDS Society meeting in Mexico City in August 2008, saying, "Don't ignore TB. We are living with HIV, but dying of TB."

[Read Dr Espinal's statement](#)

AstraZeneca signs pledge

[AstraZeneca](#) marked World AIDS Day by having its CEO join nearly 100 CEOs in signing a public pledge not to discriminate on the basis of HIV status and to end the stigma against people suffering from HIV/AIDS. The pledge was put forward by the [Global Business Coalition](#), an organization of more than 220 companies united to keep the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria a global priority.

[See the CEO Pledge](#)

[Learn more about AstraZeneca's partnerships](#)

Blossom Trust raises HIV/TB awareness in India

Indian grass-roots NGO [Blossom Trust](#) took to the streets in Tamil Nadu, South India on World AIDS Day, raising TB/HIV awareness with a Red Ribbon Rally featuring floats, sound systems and "Edu-Clowns" performing educational messages.

Blossom Trust integrates TB and HIV control projects and has long-term experience in prevention, care and support for those affected by both diseases.

Brazilian TB/HIV advocate drums up UK support for confronting dual pandemic

In late October 2008, [RESULTS UK](#) hosted the UK visit of Brazilian TB/HIV advocate Ezio T. Santos-Filho to draw attention to the lethal combination of TB and HIV and to drum up support for joint measures to confront this deadly co-epidemic.

Mr Santos-Filho's advocacy tour included a high-profile roundtable meeting in the House of Commons, a roundtable meeting with UK Secretary of State for International Development Mr Douglas Alexander, meetings with peers from the House of Lords, and an interview with the BBC World Service.

Mr Santos-Filho, who was diagnosed with HIV in 1985 and has twice suffered from TB, is a lawyer by profession and consultant on TB/HIV mobilisation, as well as a member of the Stop TB Partnership Co-ordinating Board and the Brazilian National TB Programme Technical Advisory Committee.

Coordinating Board of Eastern Mediterranean Partnership to Stop TB meets in Cairo

The Coordinating Board of the Eastern Mediterranean Partnership to Stop TB met in Cairo on 1 December, issuing a call to action to governments, donors, civil society and media to step up TB control efforts in the region and take measures to avoid MDR-TB. The Board also agreed to reach out to national authorities to promote the establishment of national Stop TB Partnerships and committed the secretariat to organizing harmonized World TB Day activities for 22 countries in the region.

Film star Laila Eloui participated in a press conference at the meeting's conclusion, urging journalists to cover tuberculosis and screen and television writers to make it a theme of their productions. Ms Eloui also pledged to visit other countries in the region to engage with fellow artists and other stakeholders.

Highlights from the Union World Conference in Paris

Advocates' corner: For the second consecutive year, the Advocates' Corner provided TB advocates attending the annual IUATLD conference in Paris in October with a space to share best practices and common challenges. Advocates from around the world displayed their banners, posters, reports and relevant literature.

Sponsored by the Stop TB Partnership, the Advocates' Corner provided a lively and unique platform to bring together an impressive number of advocates and researchers around common concerns, including the need for investments in research on new vaccines and drugs, the involvement of TB patients and affected communities in national TB responses, and the integration of TB and HIV/AIDS services.

[For more information](#)

TBTEAM: The Secretariat presented the results of an assessment of the group's activities, which was conducted by Solve PSC, an external consultant. The evaluation concluded that TBTEAM is providing a valuable service by helping countries find appropriate technical experts and through its efforts to fill funding gaps. The main recommendations were that TBTEAM and the Stop TB Partnership focus more on country ownership and partnership; facilitating global technical capacity through large-scale training and mentoring; and ensuring, through quality assessment, that its technical assistance adheres to internationally accepted standards.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS/MULTIMEDIA/WEB

WHO publishes Guiding Principles on national TB programme contributions to health system strengthening

The WHO's Stop TB Department has published "Stop TB Policy Paper: Contributing to health system strengthening—Guiding principles for national tuberculosis programmes". The document was launched at the Stop TB Symposium at the 39th Union World Conference on Lung Health in Paris in October.

[Download the document](#)
[Webcast of the symposium](#)

WHO Revised TB Handbook now online

"Implementing the WHO Stop TB Strategy: A handbook for national tuberculosis programmes" is now available online in English.

[Download the document](#)

New Laboratory Tools for Diagnostic Strengthening

[Download the document](#)

U.S. Border States' TB Partnership releases report on U.S. Legal Forum

"Legal Forum: Cross-Jurisdictional Issues in Tuberculosis Control" is now available in English and Spanish on the United States-México Border Health Commission website. The document is the report of a multi-state legal forum on binational TB control held in Phoenix, Arizona in October 2007 to foster an understanding of laws and policies in TB control along the United States-México Border and to discuss cross-jurisdictional legal issues in TB control between the states.

[Read the English report](#)
[Read the Spanish report](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS/HIGHLIGHTS

Million-youth march planned across Eastern Mediterranean region for World TB Day

An "***I am stopping TB-Million Youth March***" is planned for World TB Day 2009 in countries across the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The concept behind the event is that committed young people should lead marches through the streets or rallies in schools, colleges and universities to raise their voices in support of TB patients and their families and pledge to fight TB. For more information, please contact [Wasiq Khan](#).

Training opportunities from the US Southeastern National TB Center: Clinical case conference, clinical course, mini-fellowships

The US-based Southeastern National TB Center (SNTC) will present a two-hour "TB Clinical Case Conference: Challenging Cases from the Southeast" on 21 January 2009 from 10:00-12:00, Eastern Standard Time (GMT-5). Attendance is possible either in person at the A.G. Holley Hospital in Lantana, Florida or live online via webinar. The conference will be followed by a "TB Morbidity and Mortality Review" from 12:30 to 13:30.

The SNTC will also hold its quarterly Comprehensive Clinical Course on Tuberculosis on 2-5 March 2009 at the A.G. Holley Hospital. The four-day course includes a tour of the last TB sanatorium in the

United States and lectures on TB/HIV from experts in pulmonology, infectious diseases, infection control, nursing, radiology, legal, dietary, social services, pharmacy, laboratory, and behavioural medicine. One- and two-day mini laboratory fellowships also are available. [Click here](#) for more information on the SNTC, its training programmes, registration for the training (in person or “live via webinar”), and links to other TB centres and their training opportunities.

2nd Global Symposium on Interferon-gamma Release Assays

Registration is now open for the 2nd Global Symposium on Interferon-gamma Release Assays (IGRAs), which will take place from 30 May to 1 June in Dubrovnik, Croatia, immediately following the [5th Congress of the European Region of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease](#).

The symposium—sponsored by [Cellestis](#) and [FIND Diagnostics](#)—will present practical experience that has been gained in this rapidly developing area, including using IGRAs for detecting TB infection, the latest clinical information on IGRAs, new concepts in TB latency and the risk of disease progression.

[More information](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

January 2009

14-16 January	12th International Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine	Bangkok	Info
28 January-1 February	World Economic Forum Annual Meeting	Davos	Info

February 2009

8-10 February	Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections	Montreal	Info
26-28 February	International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease North America Region Conference	Vancouver	Info

March 2009

4-6 March	International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease Africa Region Conference	Ouagadougou	
23-25 March	Stop TB Partners' Forum	Rio de Janeiro	Info

April 2009

1-3 April	Global Tuberculosis Control and Patient Care: A ministerial meeting of MDR/XDR-TB high-burden countries	Beijing	
4-9 April	Europe-Africa Frontier Research Conference "Infectious Diseases: From Basic to Translational Research"	Cape Town	Info

May-June 2009

27-29 May	International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease Europe Region Conference	Dubrovnik	Info
30 May-1 June	Global Symposium on IGRAs	Dubrovnik	Info