The TB Portals Program closes out one of its biggest years

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) TB Portals Program is closing out this year with several milestones and successful events. Two abstracts on the multi-national TB data sharing initiative and its analytics tools were presented at the Union World Conference on Lung Health in Guadalajara during October. The Program also held its 3rd Annual Steering Committee meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, with participation from 27 attendees from 10 countries. At this meeting, the Program celebrated recent successes and milestones, including:

- four published academic manuscripts and three in progress,
- the development of two new analytical tools,
- presentations at three international conferences,
- being featured by *Science Speaks* and Qlik blogs, and
- four additional country site collaborations.

The Program's future initiatives were also discussed at the meeting in Baku, including

- advancing a pilot study to detect how treatment changes the microbiome of MDR-TB patients in Moldova,
- research into computer generated image annotations,
- application of prediction algorithms for drug resistance based on *Mtb* genomic information, and
- bioinformatics analyses of *Mtb* genomic information and patient case drug sensitivity data for new and 2nd line TB drugs.

These studies complement the Program's ongoing multi-country collection of de-identified TB patient-centric case data, encompassing clinical, socioeconomic, chest X-ray, CT, and case-linked *Mtb* genomic information, as well as the sequencing, processing, and analysis of associated samples.

Initiated in 2012, the TB Portals Program connects the global TB research and clinical community to patient-centric drug resistant clinical, imaging, and genomic data and samples from TB burdened countries through a web-based, open-access database platform (https://data.tbportals.niaid.nih.gov). It has also built advanced tools to explore its data through domain-specific and meta-domain analyses. This year's achievements have led to further recognition within the TB community, enabling expanded use of its data and analytical tools by those benefiting most from it.

In its continued expansion, the TB Portals Program is open to developing new research collaborations and data sharing activities that advance TB knowledge and can lead to better diagnostics and treatment. Interested collaborators are invited to contact the Program to discuss data sharing and collaboration opportunities by emailing TBPortalsInfo@niaid.nih.gov.

For more information, please visit https://tbportals.niaid.nih.gov.