



HIV/TB meeting at 15th conference on retroviruses and opportunistic infections

Sunday 3 February 2007 between 11:30-13:30, Boston, USA

Organized by the Stop TB and HIV/AIDS Departments of WHO and CREATE on behalf of the TB/HIV Working Group of the Stop TB Partnership

Background: TB is the commonest presenting illness and remains a leading cause of death among people living with HIV (PLHIV), including those receiving antiretroviral treatment. Isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) for TB is safe and efficacious and is recommended for all PLHIV. Similarly, intensified TB case finding among PLHIV is one of the key recommended collaborative HIV/TB activities. However, the implementation of these two interventions have been very slow and of low coverage so far. There are critical operational and research issues around these two important interventions, which might have contributed to their poor coverage. Intensified case-finding is especially important in settings where there is a high level of latent TB infection that might progress to active tuberculosis. Following recent studies, debates are ongoing that attempts to improve TB diagnosis among HIV-positive people may be hampered by an over-simplistic search for one symptom at the expense of a wider range of symptoms. This invariably calls for best strategies for TB screening protocols based on carefully designed research. This will in turn harness the provision of TB prevention and treatment for PLHIV. Scientific dialogue and interchange of ideas, experience sharing of ongoing research efforts and preliminary findings by HIV researchers are essential to improve the TB diagnosis, prevention and treatment to PLHIV.

Objective of the meeting: The main objective of this meeting is promote high level scientific interchange of ideas and research priorities about the prevention of TB and enhanced screening of TB among PLHIV. The meeting will highlight and discuss ongoing research efforts around TB prevention and enhanced TB screening among PLHIV to stimulate debate and discussion on key research priorities and identifying gaps that need urgent attention.

Agenda

A. Welcome and opening

11:30-11:35 Opening note and objectives of the meeting (Diane Havlir, MD)

11:35-11:45 Global implementation of TB case finding and IPT: latest data from WHO (Haileyesus Getahun, MD)

B. Intensified Case Finding: defining the research agenda (Chair: Connie Benson, MD)

11:45-12:05: Intensified TB case finding among PLHIV: published and unpublished data (Kevin Cain, MD and Jay Varma, MD)

12:05-12:15: Commentary and experience from the field (Steve Lawn, MD)

12:15-12:45: Discussion- defining a research agenda

C. Prevention of TB among PLHIV: defining the research agenda

12:45-13:05 TB prevention in PLHIV: what options are available other than Isoniazid (Dick Chaisson, MD)

13:05-13:20: Discussion on TB prevention- defining a research agenda

13:20-13:30: Conclusions and next steps

Light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP before January 25, 2008 at getahuh@who.int