



Johns Hopkins Center for Tuberculosis Research  
<http://www.tbhiv-create.org>

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## **Consortium Receives \$4.4 Million from the Gates Foundation to Expand Policy and Advocacy Activities for HIV-related TB**

*-Transforming global policy for HIV-related TB through evidence-based advocacy-*

**Baltimore** – The Johns Hopkins-based Consortium to Respond Effectively to the AIDS-TB Epidemic (CREATE) has been awarded \$4.4 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to substantially expand its tuberculosis (TB)-HIV policy and advocacy activities. Over a period of four years, CREATE will work to transform national-level and global policies and practices for controlling HIV-related TB, including expanding use of TB preventive therapy, increasing TB case-finding capacity and promoting the integration of joint TB and HIV clinical and public health services. “TB is the most common illness and leading cause of death in people with HIV, and efforts to prevent and control these dual infections are urgently needed,” said Dr. Lois Eldred, CREATE’s Director of Policy and Advocacy.

The funding will enable CREATE’s large community-based trials based in Brazil, South Africa and Zambia and their partners to use available and emerging data to pursue evidence-based advocacy for much needed policy and practice changes regarding HIV-related TB, both locally and internationally. CREATE will expand its work with the World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure the translation of CREATE study results into policy and practice. The WHO plays a critical role in advancing global TB-HIV policies and will continue its long-term participation in CREATE.

CREATE will also collaborate with the Treatment Action Group (TAG) to utilize novel methods to develop TB/HIV advocates in high-burden countries. The CREATE policy and advocacy team will include a southern Africa regional coordinator, and policy/advocacy coordinators in each of the CREATE research studies.

“Experience over the past decade has shown that changing the course of the TB/HIV epidemic requires an extensive commitment to advocacy, as advances in scientific knowledge are not always readily translated into policy and practice,” said Dr. Richard E. Chaisson, CREATE’s Principal Investigator. “This initiative will permit us apply evidence-based strategies to promote sound public health TB/HIV policy. A Policy and Advocacy emphasis has been incorporated in the structure of CREATE since its inception in 2004. The supplement funding will greatly enhance the potential of the study results to

impact the field of TB and HIV, and will allow for increased visibility of the studies on a local and national level.”

**About the Consortium to Respond Effectively to the AIDS/TB Epidemic (CREATE):**

The consortium was launched in July of 2004 in Bangkok with a speech by Nelson Mandela that highlighted the urgency of strengthening global policies for HIV-related TB through evidence-based advocacy. TB is the leading infectious killer of people with HIV worldwide; HIV-positive individuals are 50 times more likely to develop TB in a given year. Working in close collaboration with local and national health authorities, clinicians, and representatives of the affected communities, CREATE is conducting three large community intervention trials that aim to dramatically reduce and prevent the incidence of HIV-associated TB. CREATE is headquartered at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. For more information about CREATE and its programs, visit [www.tbhiv-create.org](http://www.tbhiv-create.org).