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Updates in THRIO Activities: Training for Physicians and TB/HIV Prevention Seminar



THRIO Physicians Training

On December 2, 2008, in honor of the World AIDS Day, THRIO hosted a training in Rio de Janeiro for more than 50 HIV and TB physicians from Rio's municipality, featuring Dr. Richard Chaisson, CREATE's principal investigator. The training, titled "Controlling TB in the Era of HIV: Confronting a Catastrophic Collision," focused on the latest developments in research to Find, Treat, and Prevent TB.

The THRIO team regularly invites physicians from the TB and HIV programs to be part of this type of training, and this format has been successful in sharing the new research as well as updates on the study.

Seminar on TB/HIV Prevention

During the last week of November, THRIO staff organized and participated in a seminar focusing on the prevention

TB & HIV

FIND TB

TREAT TB

PREVENT TB

CREATE

CROI 2009: CREATE and WHO's Stop TB Department to Host TB/HIV Research Meeting

The Stop TB Department of the World Health Organization (WHO) and CREATE will host the third meeting of the HIV/TB research priorities series at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI). The conference will be held in Montreal, Canada from February 8-11, 2009.

The meeting will gather scientists, researchers and other stakeholders to promote high level scientific interchange of ideas and research priorities to build on our understanding of the magnitude and burden of TB (including drug resistant strains) especially in HIV prevalent settings.

Presentations from the meeting will be available on the TB/HIV Working Group website soon after the meeting and we will report on the outcomes of the meeting in the next edition of the newsletter.

You can read the reports and see the presentations from previous meetings at: <http://www.stoptb.org>

of TB, HIV and Leprosy. Over 200 health care workers and members of civil society attended the seminar, as well as program managers from the Health Secretariat of Rio de Janeiro. The seminar was opened by representatives from local and national health authorities.

A comprehensive agenda covered integration of TB/HIV, health communications strategies, and vertical transmission of the diseases. In addition, as part of the agenda, a satellite session was devoted to an update of the THRio study, and this session was full to capacity.

The final event was the signing of the "Letter from Rio" which calls for local, national, and international cooperation to integrate program efforts and prevent disease. This letter is available for sign-on until the end of February, and your organization can join by emailing prevencao2008@agencyeventos.com.br.

Featuring Katherine Fielding - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



I'm Katherine Fielding, senior lecturer in medical statistics in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. I am a co-PI of the Thibela TB study alongside Alison Grant and Gavin Churchyard (PI).

After completing my PhD in statistics, I started to work on an HIV discordant partner study in Edinburgh, Scotland. I learned a lot about epidemiology working on this study and decided it was a good discipline to work in! I started to work on TB at the CDC in Atlanta, and when I moved to London I continued in that disease area.

I've worked as a statistician at LSHTM since 2000. At LSHTM my main research interests have focused on epidemiological studies of TB and HIV. I have worked with Aurum Institute over this period on a variety of

WHO's 14th TB/HIV Core Group Meets in Ethiopia



The TB/HIV Core Group conducted its 14th meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from November 11-12, 2008 and was hosted by the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office (HAPCO), Ethiopia. The meeting was officially opened by Dr. Kebede Worku, Vice Minister of Health, Ethiopia and was held in the UN Conference Centre. It was also attended by Dr. Betru Tekle, Director General of HAPCO who chaired the opening session.

The meeting reviewed the global progress, challenges, constraints and regional responses in the implementation of collaborative TB/HIV activities, and discussed several issues of strategic importance for the global response.

To read the meeting report and see the presentations, visit <http://www.stoptb.org>

projects. Other collaborations include PHRU, Jo'burg, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement in Senegal and on a large multi-centre TB clinical trial funded by EC and WHO TDR.

LSHTM is great place to work and collaborations through research also been a rewarding experience. Mainly because the work is challenging, I'm always learning from it.

Thibela TB is an incredibly large study. I never worked on such a large study before, so most of the challenges have been around data collection and management of such large volumes of data. Working as a team as been the easiest way to overcome problems. The Thibela data management team and the CREATE biostats core work closely together in the planning and during the study. It's a great group to work - James Lewis, Lizzie Russell, Trisha Crawford and the DM team.

I hope that the CREATE studies will have some important impact on TB. But lots of other approaches are necessary. New TB diagnostics and their success at being applied operationally are important areas which will contribute to reducing the burden of TB.

CREATE Workshop on Community Involvement in Research: Report Available on CREATE Website

"Engaging Community in Tuberculosis Research"



Report on CREATE's Advocacy Workshop
October 16th 2008
L'Hotel Napoleon, Paris



A symposium highlighting the issue of community engagement in TB and TB/HIV research was sponsored by CREATE at the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease (IUATLD) World Lung Health Conference in Paris last October. With more than 40 participants from research and civil society, the program was opened by

Gates Foundation Visits CREATE Sites in Zambia and South Africa



Dr. Charles Nolan, of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, visited several sites of the CREATE Consortium in Zambia and South Africa in January 2008.

He visited a Lusaka-based site where two interventions are being implemented. The first intervention links communities to health services by improving case finding for TB in communities, schools and at clinics. The second intervention provides TB/HIV collaborative activities at the household level.

Dr. Nolan and members of CREATE's Administrative Core also has productive visits with the Thibela and ZAMSTAR Western Cape teams, where they visited community and household intervention sites.

CREATE Meets the Obama Transition Team

On December 18th, 2008 representatives from CREATE, the Global Health Council and other TB advocacy groups testified

Dr. Peter Godfrey-Faussett of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and featured keynote addresses from Mark Harrington of the Treatment Action Group (TAG) and Dr. Nancy Kass of the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics.

Theo Smart, a science and health writer, completed a report, available here and on the CREATE website at www.tbhiv-create.org/community. Below is an excerpt of the report:

'Research organizations conducting community-based research need to document their best practices working with the community, and to share lessons learned to develop an experience base for more productive community research partnerships in the future.

This could take the form of a series of case studies such as those presented at this meeting. In his concluding comments, Harrington called for the formulation of a more ambitious advocacy agenda at the donor level and at the consortium level to develop an organized and sustainable community engagement architecture such as a CAB-wide process that links the CABS of the different studies.

"We need to start thinking about how do we want community involvement to look in the next generation of TB and TB and HIV trials. That's a bigger sort of set of pieces of work that I think that we came here together to do but I think that we can maybe all agree that we want to start working on that together," he said.'

Articles Published Recently

[Intensified Case Finding for Tuberculosis in Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission Programs: A Simple and Potentially Vital Addition for Maternal and Child Health](#)
DeLuca A., Chaisson, R. E., and Martinson, N. A.

[Prevalence of latent tuberculosis infection amongst gold miners in South Africa.](#)

Hanifa Y, Grant AD, Lewis J, Corbett EL, Fielding K, Churchyard G.

[Managing drug-resistant tuberculosis.](#)

Grant AD, Gothard P, Thwaites G.

before the Obama Transition Team for USAID, PEPFAR and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The group proposed increased integration of TB and HIV services, promoted increased research for new diagnostics and drugs, and recommended inclusion of funding for TB in the economic stimulus package.

The transition team requested a proposal for TB research funding in the stimulus package; after consulting with national partners, the group submitted specific recommendations to address international TB challenges.

[ZAMSTAR, The Zambia South Africa TB and HIV Reduction study: Design of a 2 x 2 factorial community randomized trial.](#)

Ayles HM, Sismanidis C, Beyers N, Hayes RJ, Godfrey-Faussett P.

[Restricted randomization of ZAMSTAR: a 2 x 2 factorial cluster randomized trial.](#)

Sismanidis C, Moulton LH, Ayles H, Fielding K, Schaap A, Beyers N, Bond G, Godfrey-Faussett P, Hayes R.

[Costs and cost-effectiveness of tuberculosis cultures using solid and liquid media in a developing country.](#)

Mueller DH, Mwenge L, Muyoyeta M, Muvwimi MW, Tembwe R, McNerney R, Godfrey-Faussett P, Ayles HM.

[The effects of HIV on the sensitivity of a whole blood IFN-gamma release assay in Zambian adults with active tuberculosis.](#)

Raby E, Moyo M, Devendra A, Banda J, De Haas P, Ayles H, Godfrey-Faussett P.

Quick Link to the

[CREATE website](#)

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