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CREATE Awarded US\$ 32 million Supplement from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



On October 14, 2008 officials of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and CREATE announced the award of US\$ 32 million to complete the CREATE studies in South Africa, Zambia and Brazil. The press conference announcing the award occurred in conjunction with the 39th World Conference on Lung Health and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease in Paris, France.

The new funding complements the \$50.1 million given previously by the Gates Foundation to support CREATE, considered the largest TB-HIV research effort in the world. Richard Chaisson, M.D., who leads CREATE, says "the added resources come at 'a pivotal juncture', just as our team's research is making substantial progress in finding public health interventions that can better prevent HIV-infected people from suffering the devastating consequences of TB disease." Preliminary results from the THRio study in Brazil, for example, demonstrate that IPT significantly reduces the risk of TB even in patients receiving antiretroviral drugs.

"This boost in research funding is an important vote of confidence in our team's efforts to deliver innovative public health strategies designed to help people suffering from the deadly twin epidemics of TB and HIV," says Chaisson.

In contrast to the announcement of the Gates funding for CREATE, the press conference highlighted a report released by the Treatment Action Group (TAG) detailing an alarming shortfall in government and private sector funding to support TB research compared to the commitments called

TB & HIV

[FIND TB](#)

[TREAT TB](#)

[PREVENT TB](#)



[**CREATE/ZAMSTAR
Policy and Advocacy
Workshop - Lusaka**](#)



ZAMSTAR/CREATE and the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development held an advocacy workshop- Integrating Research and Advocacy: Strategies for TB/HIV Advocates - on September 22, 2008 in Lusaka, Zambia. Participants included representatives from Zambian NGOs, ZAMSTAR CAB members, and other advocates from Zambia, South Africa and Brazil.

Mark Harrington from the Treatment Action Group (TAG) discussed essential TB/HIV advocacy tools and TAG's role in advocating for increased TB funding. The Zambian advocacy perspective was presented by Carol Nyirenda, who described the development of TB/HIV activism in Zambia and the TB patient charter. Stephanie Siedel from the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development, presented the Remox trial in Southern Africa.

ZAMSTAR's Ginny Bond presented a study of the converging impact of TB, HIV and Food Security in Zambia, and the anti-stigma TB module that is currently being implemented in Zambia was demonstrated. A national press conference held after the meeting described ZAMSTAR's progress to date and was covered by Zambian radio and newspaper.

for in The Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-2015.

The press conference also highlighted Dr. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, the recent co-recipient of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Medicine for discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus. Dr. Barré-Sinoussi discussed the need for expanded and accelerated research to combat tuberculosis as a key component of the world's struggle against both TB and HIV.

Featuring Mariëtha Luttig - Thibela TB



I've been a Project manager for Thibela TB at Aurum Institute For Health Research, since 2006, I have 5 years of experience working in research in the areas of Bio-equivalent phase I, II and III clinical trails, phase II and III HIV/ AIDS and TB related randomized clinical/community trials and qualitative research.

I am a graduate of the Free State University in South Africa and I am currently a master's student in pharmaceutical affairs at the Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg.

The diversity of the challenges is the part of my job I like the most (the establishment of facilities, participants, stakeholder management, communications strategies, etc). You can't follow a prescribed blueprint.

At the same time, one of the biggest challenges of my job is to adhere to timelines. I try to employ some aggressive management of processes and perseverance. However, variables such as mine accidents, stakeholders' issues and unpredictable participant behaviors have to be solved patiently and cautiously.

I hope I can play a significant role in rolling out a community wide TB preventative program as part of a National Health Care strategy and share my experiences and lessons learnt in various aspects of the project.

TAG Advocacy Training in Uganda - September 2008



From September 16-19, the Treatment Action Group (TAG) and the International Community of Women, East Africa (ICW EA) conducted their fourth training for TB/HIV activists in Entebbe, Uganda.

Fifteen activists were chosen from 400 applications to participate in the training, which focused on several areas, including the basic science of TB, WHO's 3 I's campaign (Intensified Case Finding, Isoniazid Preventive Therapy and Infection Control), and research literacy.

The training was highlighted in the latest edition of the WHO TB/HIV working group newsletter, [click here](#) for more details.

Engaging Community in TB Research Symposium



Posters and Presentations - IUATLD, Paris October 2008



See below a list of posters and presentations by the CREATE partners at the IUATLD Conference in Paris. For a full coverage of the conference, please visit: <http://www.kaisernetwork.org/paris2008/>

THIBELA

Feasibility of community-wide isoniazid preventive therapy among South African gold miners

GJ Churchyard, L Coetzee, F Popane, D Muller, M Luttig, S Ntshela, J Lewis, K Fielding, A Grant

Contribution of TB screening as part of community-wide IPT to TB case finding among South African gold miners

GJ Churchyard, L Coetzee, K Fielding, V Chihoto, P Herselman, M Luttig, D Muller, F Popane, AD Grant

TB incidence in HIV infected patients who are started on antiretroviral therapy in a South African mining population (part of oral session)

S Charalambous, C Morris, C Innes, M Shishana, GL Churchyard, A Grant, L Ramets, R Dowdeswell, L la Grange, K Fielding

Factors associated with prevalent TB at screening prior to isoniazid preventive therapy

K Fielding, V Chihota, J Lewis, M Luttig, T Crawford, F Popane, L Coetzee, D Muller, A Grant, GL Churchyard

Factors associated with incident TB in the South African gold mines: a cohort study embedded within Thibela TB

J Lewis, V Chihota, G Churchyard, A Grant, L Coetzee, T Crawford, M Luttig, D Muller, F Popane, K Fielding

Performance of TB screening prior to community-wide isoniazid preventive therapy among gold miners in South Africa.

A Grant, K Fielding, V Chihota, J Lewis, D Muller, M Luttig, F Popane, L Coetzee, GL Churchyard

CREATE sponsored a symposium in Paris, France, on October 16, 2008 to discuss community engagement in TB Research in conjunction with the **International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease**.

Participants discussed responsibility to communities, ethical considerations in community trials, and anticipated needs for community involvement in future trials.

If you are interested in the materials from the symposium, click [here](#).

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THRIO

Ruling out tuberculosis to start preventive therapy with isoniazid in HIV-infected subjects as an opportunity to find TB

Saraceni V, King BS, Calvalcante SC, Golub JE, Arduini D, Chaisson RE, Durovni B

TB prevention among HIV-infected people in public health clinics: strengths and weaknesses

V R Vellozo, G R Israel, V Saraceni, R C Ferreira, B Durovni

ZAMSTAR

A comparison of mycobacterial isolation and extent of radiological PTB in two high-burden African countries

M M Claassens, K Lawrence, D Enarson, C Sismanidis, P Van Helden, P de Haas, H Ayles, P Godfrey-Faussett

Comparison of QuantiFERON TB-Gold In-Tube test with tuberculin skin test: preliminary results of a large cohort in a high TB and HIV prevalence setting

K Shanaube, A Schaap, C Sismanidis, P Godfrey-Faussett, H Ayles

Relationship between socio-economic status and prevalence tuberculosis in Zambia

D Boccia, J Hargreaves, H Ayles, K Fielding, M Simwinga, P Godfrey-Faussett

Turn-around time: a tool for monitoring sputum smear microscopy

K Lawrence, R Dunbar, E Botha, M Claassens, A Schaap, D A Enarson, P Godfrey-Faussett, H Ayles, N Beyers

Requirements for multi-based data management systems for research

B L O Isaacs, K Lawrence, D Cogill, R Dunbar, R P Gie, D Enarson, N Beyers

Articles Published Recently

Pacheco AG, Durovni B, Cavalcante SC, Lauria LM, Moore RD, Moulton LH, Chaisson RE, Golub JE. [AIDS-related tuberculosis in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.](#)

Dowdy DW, Chaisson RE, Maartens G, Corbett EL, Dorman SE. [Impact of enhanced tuberculosis diagnosis in South Africa: a mathematical model of expanded culture and drug susceptibility testing.](#)

Munseri, PJ, Talbot, EA, Mtei, L, Fordham von Reyn, C. [Completion of isoniazid preventive therapy among HIV-infected patients in Tanzania.](#)

Dooley K, Flexner C, Hackman J, Peloquin CA, Nuermberger E, Chaisson RE, Dorman SE. [Repeated Administration of High-Dose Intermittent Rifapentine Reduces Rifapentine and](#)

See below a list of **ZAMSTAR** papers published or in press:

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

Costs and cost-effectiveness of tuberculosis cultures using solid and liquid media in a developing country.

Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2008 Oct;12(10):1196-202.

PMID: 18812051 [PubMed - in process]

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

Restricted randomization of ZAMSTAR: a 2 x 2 factorial cluster randomized trial.

Clin Trials. 2008;5(4):316-27.

PMID: 18697846 [PubMed - in process]

Aspler A, Menzies D, Oxlade O, Banda J, Mwenge L, Godfrey-Faussett P, Ayles H.

Cost of tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment from the patient perspective in Lusaka, Zambia.

Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2008 Aug;12(8):928-35.

PMID: 18647453 [PubMed - in process]

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

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

PLoS ONE. 2008 Jun 18;3(6):e2489.

PMID: 18560573 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

In press:

Muyoyeta et al. IJTL 2008 - **Comparison of Four Culture Systems for Mycobacterium tuberculosis in the Zambian National Reference Laboratory**

Monde Muyoyeta, Ab Schaap, Petra De Haas, Winnie Mwanza, Mweemba Muvwimi, Peter Godfrey-Faussett, Helen Ayles - **Contemporary Clinical Trials 2008 ZAMSTAR, The Zambia South Africa TB and HIV Reduction study: Design Of A 2x2 Factorial Community Randomized Trial**

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