The Puerto Rico Department of Health TB Control Program's mission is to prevent the transmission of tuberculosis and eliminate it as a public health problem in Puerto Rico. The Program's goals include:

- Identifying every person with active tuberculosis and assuring its proper treatment, ideally under directly observed therapy, and
- Assuring that people at high risk for developing active disease receive preventive treatment and do not develop TB disease.

The focus of this issue is “Puerto Rico.”

Puerto Rico’s TB Control Program

The Puerto Rico Department of Health TB Control Program is one of four RTMCCs funded by the CDC. As a RTMCC, the SNTC seeks to address the training, education, medical consultation throughout technical assistance needs of healthcare providers and TB programs in 11 southeastern states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Program is divided into six regions (Mayaguez, Bayamon, Ponce, Caguas, Arecibo, and San Juan) with eight clinics located throughout the country. The TB Program employs a variety of staff, clinical and personnel and one health educator. The Program currently has a total of 40 employees and was reopened in early 1970. In Puerto Rico, both nurses and case managers can administer TB medicines to patients.

Recent statistics indicate 113 reported TB cases in Puerto Rico during 2006. This translates to 2.9 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. The Program is currently offering a variety of TB trainings for its clinical staff and is working closely with the bi-lingual staff of the SNTC. SNTC staff provide ongoing technical assistance, suggestions for educational and training curriculum and provision of speakers (in Spanish) for trainings and conferences sponsored by the Puerto Rico TB Program.

Upcoming Events

Training and Education

TB Program Management Course

May 23 - 25, 2007

Comprehensive Clinical TB Course

June 4 - 7, 2007

TST Train-the-Trainer

June 8, 2007

Upcoming Audio and Web Conferences

Tuberculosis, Mummies and Vampires: An Interrupted History of Man, Cow, and the Arts

Wednesday, March 21st, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the TB Program of the Department of Health, in collaboration with the SNTC held the “Celebrating the Day of the World of TB-2007” activity in the Department of Families building located in Hato Rey (San Juan).

The conference speakers were Michael Lauzardo, MD; SNTC; Ana Alvarez, MD, University of Florida – Jacksonville; and personnel from the TB Control Program and TB Laboratory - Sra. Luzella Sánchez; Sra. Enid Méndez; Sra. Maritza Rondón; Sra. Luce Palmira; and Sra. María del Carmen Bermúdez. The themes of each presentation were: TB Advocacy, TB Pediatrics, TB/HIV Co-Infection, and the Control of TB in Puerto Rico. All were conducted in Spanish. The presentations of Drs. Alvarez and Lauzardo are available at the SNTC website (http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu) on the home page in “What’s Happening.”

In English . . .

El castillo de San Cristobal

And in English . . .

June 8, 2007, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EDT

North Carolina

May 13, 2007, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EDT

Florida

July 26, 2007, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. EDT

Tuberculosis, Mummies and Vampires: An Interrupted History of Man, Cow, and the Arts

Man, Cow, and the Arts

April 17, 2007, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. EDT

Georgia

May 9, 2007, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EDT

Florida

August 29, 2007, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. EDT

Florida

Se Habla Español

The program includes speakers from the Puerto Rico TB Program and personnel from the SNTC. The speakers were Dr. Ana Alvarez, Dr. Michael Lauzardo, and SNTC staff.

The program is designed to provide information on the latest developments in tuberculosis control, with a focus on how these developments can be applied to local practice.

The program will conclude with a question-and-answer session, during which attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers from the speakers.

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