

Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center's e-news
Informing the southeast region about TB-related resources and training opportunities

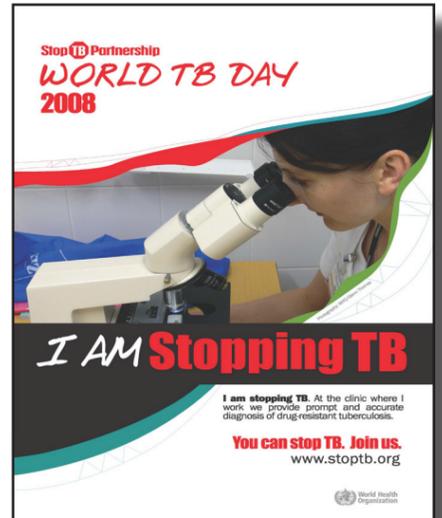
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352-265-7682 • SNTC Office
Se Habla Español

The focus of our March 2008 issue is World TB Day.



In 2008, more than ever, we recognize that the world has gotten very small.

World TB Day is March 24th.



● SNTC's Mike Lauzardo, MD on World TB Day 2008

Tuberculosis has been described as a social disease with a medical aspect and that point is especially true when you consider the following:

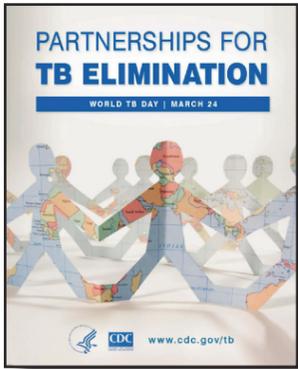
- ◆ TB still claims the lives of almost two million people per year despite the fact that there has been an effective cure available for almost half a century.
- ◆ Tests used to diagnose TB have been around for over 100 years and no new drugs developed exclusively for TB have come to the market in almost 40 years.
- ◆ Two billion people harbor latent infection and the vast majority of these individuals live in impoverished countries with limited access to healthcare.

The scope of the epidemic and the human toll is overwhelming and leads one to ask, are we making any progress? Are we stopping TB? Well, for the first time since the World Health Organization starting keeping records rates of new cases are stabilizing on a global level and rates in the United States are continuing to drop. But despite these unprecedented improvements the rates are not dropping fast enough for the nine million new cases every year and TB is still climbing in areas hard hit by the HIV epidemic.

So what do we need to stop TB? We need to advocate for new diagnostics, new drugs, and eventually a vaccine. We need donors to realize that TB is far from gone from the global stage and that investment in TB is among the best public health investments with a nearly 10 fold economic return on investment. We need to realize the dream of new therapies that can shorten treatment from 6-9 months down to 2-3 months as well as provide hope for a cure for those with the most drug resistant strains. Lastly, we need more research to develop a vaccine to once and for all eliminate this ancient scourge. If we are all persistent in our efforts and keep the banner of advocacy for our patients flying high we will all be able to say that, yes, "I am stopping TB."

● CDC - Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE)

World TB Day - Partnerships for TB Elimination



In the U.S., as part of its World TB Day message, the CDC is emphasizing the critical need for partnerships in the effort to eliminate TB: "This country's progress in controlling TB will not be sustainable without strengthened collaborations with local, state, national, and international partners from all sectors of our society. This kind of partnership action must be taken in order to reach those at highest risk for TB, and to identify and implement innovative strategies to improve testing and treatment among high-risk populations." For more information, visit the CDC website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/tb/WorldTBDay/>

We at the SNTC are extremely fortunate to have forged partnerships with our local, state and regional programs. Together . . . we will stop TB.

● Upcoming Events

April 16
TB-HIV/AIDS Ongoing Challenges in the USA
Carol Dukes Hamilton, MD
Web-based seminar/Grand Rounds Live at AGH

April 16
TB Morbidity and Mortality Review
Web-based seminar/Live at AGH

May 6
TST Train-The-Trainer Course
Charleston, South Carolina

May 7
TST Train-the-Trainer Course
Spartanburg, South Carolina

May 8
TST Train-the-Trainer Course
Raleigh, North Carolina

June 2-5
Comprehensive Clinical TB Course
Lantana, Florida

June 6
TST Train-the-Trainer Course
Lantana, Florida

SNTC in ACTION
COMING TO YOUR STATE SOON

MARCH
Florida
North Carolina

APRIL
Florida

MAY
Florida
North Carolina
South Carolina

JUNE
Florida
Georgia

● Newsy Bytes

TB Lab Training and Education Needs Assessment - Coming Soon!

The four RTMCCs and the CDC are interested in learning about the training needs you have related to laboratory and diagnostic services. A web-based survey is being developed for implementation later this spring. Start thinking now about suggested content of trainings and the types of educational products that you think would be most beneficial to your program.

The SNTC website will soon have a new mechanism for communicating other training and meeting opportunities available to you.

A separate page on our website (under Training and Education) will provide a listing of these non-SNTC sponsored opportunities. Please make sure to let us know if you have a training or meeting you would like publicized and plan to use this page as an information resource to learn about events around the region and across the U.S.

● Contact the Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center (SNTC)

The Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center is one of four Regional Training and Medical Consultation Centers (RTMCCs) funded by the CDC. The SNTC seeks to address the training, education, medical consultation, and technical assistance needs of healthcare providers and TB programs in 11 southeastern states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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We need your input and ideas . . . Please help us serve you better by giving us feedback and suggestions on our e-newsletter. We welcome your comments and ask that you send them to sntc@medicine.ufl.edu