



PACIFIC HEALTH SUMMIT  
SEATTLE

## News Archives

### Tuberculosis: March 2009

#### General News

---

##### **As TB Rates Go Down, Drug Resistance Causes Worry**

*Associated Press, March 22, 2009*

Even as tuberculosis rates decline in the United States, drug-resistant strains of the disease are showing up in states with large immigrant populations and are becoming increasingly hard to treat.

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/D/DRUG\\_RESISTANT\\_TB?SITE=FLDAY&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/D/DRUG_RESISTANT_TB?SITE=FLDAY&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

##### **Agency Doubles Number With HIV and TB**

*Washington Post, March 25, 2009*

There were 9.27 million new cases of TB in 2007, with about half occurring in five countries: India, China, Indonesia, Nigeria and South Africa. Only about two-thirds of the cases were diagnosed. About 5.3 million new cases—or 57 percent of the total—were being treated, which generally requires that a person take a combination of drugs for six months.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/24/AR2009032401688.html?hpid=sec-health>

##### **World Health Ministers Gather in Anti-Tuberculosis Conference in China**

*APA, 29 March 2009*

Ministers from countries with high burden of MDR-TB and XDR-TB met in Beijing on April 1-3, 2009 to address the alarming threat of MDR-TB.

<http://en.apa.az/news.php?id=99392>

#### Drug-Resistant TB

---

##### **Response Biomedical Announces Breakthrough Collaboration with FIND for TB Point-of-Care Development**

*Foxbusiness.com, March 26, 2009*

Response Biomedical Corporation announced that it has signed a collaboration/grant with FIND (Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics) to begin work to develop a rapid point-of-care tuberculosis diagnostic assay.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/story/markets/industries/health-care/response-biomedical-announces-breakthrough-collaboration-tb-point-care/>

### **Gates Foundation Launches 3rd Initiative in China**

*Seattle Times, March 31, 2009*

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has launched a \$33 million collaboration with China's Government to stem the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis.

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008958309\\_webgateschina31m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008958309_webgateschina31m.html)

## **TB Treatment**

---

### **UV light Could Curb TB Spread**

*BBC, March 17, 2009*

Installing ultraviolet lights could reduce the spread of TB in hospital wards and waiting rooms by 70%, research suggests.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7946059.stm>

### **Experimental TB Compound Might Make Effective Drug**

*Reuters, March 19, 2009*

Researchers who have been trying to design new drugs to fight tuberculosis said on Thursday they think they have a winner—a new compound that stops the TB bacillus from building cell walls.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSTRE52I7L920090319>

### **Quick, Simple Fluorescent Detector for TB Created**

*Thaindian.com, March 20, 2009*

The new technique can expose the deadly drug-resistant strains of Mycobacterium tuberculosis that can mingle undetected with treatable strains.

[http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/health/quick-simple-fluorescent-detector-for-tb-created\\_100168936.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/health/quick-simple-fluorescent-detector-for-tb-created_100168936.html)

### **Scientists Race To Create Better TB Vaccine**

*National Public Radio, March 27, 2009*

Tuberculosis is growing increasingly resistant to the drugs that are now available to treat it, and the epidemic shows few signs of slowing in countries where HIV contributes to TB's spread. This puts an increased imperative on scientists to find better ways to control the disease, including by vaccine.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=102384091>

### **New Test Could Speed Tuberculosis Results**

*Voice of America, March 24, 2009*

Researchers say they have found a much faster way to identify drug-resistant TB. The scientists used viruses called bacteriophages to speed the process.

<http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/2009-03-24-voa2.cfm>