



News Archives

Tuberculosis: May 2009

General News

Obama Seeks Global Health Boost

BBC News, May 5, 2009

The Obama administration announced a \$63 billion health plan to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other illnesses overseas. If approved by Congress the plan would be an "extraordinary step to save the lives of men, women and children," said Deputy Secretary of State Jack Lew.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8034937.stm>

Health Pioneer May Get Obama Post

Boston Globe, May 15, 2009

Paul Farmer told faculty members at Harvard Medical School that he is in discussions with the State Department, which proposed a surge in funding over the next six years for global programs to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and tropical disease and to improve children's health.

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/05/15/health_pioneer_may_get_obama_post

INTERVIEW: UN Hopes to Tap New Sources of Money for Aid

Reuter, May 19, 2009

The United Nations is trying to harness donations from individuals for its aid programs that stand to attract less government money because of the economic downturn, a senior U.N. official said on Tuesday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/europeCrisis/idUSLJ592864>

UN-backed Fund Lauds Australia's Offer to Convert Debt into Health Initiatives

UN News Centre, May 28, 2009

Australia, the second country to join the Global Fund's Debt2Health initiative, said today that it was offering to write off AUS\$75 million in commercial debt to Indonesia in return for Jakarta investing half that amount in domestic tuberculosis programs that are supported by Fund.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30940&Cr=&Cr1>

Drug-Resistant TB

New Diagnostic TB Test Expected to Provide More Efficient Results

Newswise (press release), May 7, 2009

A scientist at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey has developed a new diagnostic test for TB that will provide results quickly and efficiently. The test can simultaneously identify *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB) and resistance to the common first-line drug for treating TB and a reliable surrogate marker of strains that are multidrug-resistant (MDR-TB).
<http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/552178/>

Infection Control 'Urgently Needed' To Curb Spread of XDR-TB Among Health Care Workers

Science Daily (press release), May 19, 2009

Healthcare workers in South Africa are at a significantly increased risk of developing drug-resistant tuberculosis, or XDR-TB, in a trend which threatens to further exacerbate the already beleaguered healthcare systems in sub-Saharan countries, according to results of a new study.
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/05/090517164913.htm>

Roche Launches New PCR Assay for Tuberculosis Testing in South Africa

Business Wire (press release), May 26, 2009

Roche Diagnostics announced the launch of a new tuberculosis test for South Africa. Worldwide, South Africa is one of the countries with the highest prevalence of tuberculosis. The new kit detects different species of *Mycobacterium* from human sputum samples.
<http://www.businesswire.com/news/google/20090526005416/en>

African Deaths Linked to HIV and TB Prompt Stepped Up Response

Voice of America, May 27, 2009

Zulu cites poverty and HIV as the main factors that account for two-thirds of HIV-positive Zambians also suffering from tuberculosis, which readily spreads among people who infect others within a community. Some of the main stumbling blocks in treating TB patients and stopping transmission are inadequate diagnosis and improper medication.
<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-05-27-voa4.cfm>

TB Treatment

Sequella Starts New Drug Trials

Washington Business Journal, May 5, 2009

After finding that its tuberculosis drug was safe in a single dose two years ago, the Rockville biotech has now begun dosing the first of three groups of volunteers in a first-phase trial to test the drug's safety when taken on a daily basis.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/stories/2009/05/04/daily32.html>

Facility to Speed Delivery of New TB Vaccines Opens Near Washington

Voice of America, May 6, 2009

A non-profit US research group launched a state-of-the-art tuberculosis vaccine manufacturing facility. The Aeras Foundation lab, located in Rockville, Maryland outside of Washington, DC, will be able to produce 200 million doses of new formula, enough to meet current worldwide needs to fight a global TB epidemic.
<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-05-06-voa3.cfm>

KYRGYZSTAN: Losing the Battle Against Multi-drug Resistant TB?

IRINnews.org, May 17, 2009

There are currently 1,400 cases of MDR-TB in Kyrgyzstan, NCP doctors say. However, only 600 are receiving treatment, which costs about US\$7,000 per patient - a large sum in a country where the average annual salary in the civil service is around \$1,600. According to the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Kyrgyzstan has the sixth highest rate of MDR-TB in the world.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84419>

TB Vaccine May Become Effective Again

United Press International, May 21, 2009

U.S. scientists say the tuberculosis vaccine has not weakened but changed and could be made effective again. Their findings, published in PLoS ONE, could help make the TB vaccine effective again in preventing the bacterial lung infection.

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/05/21/TB-vaccine-may-become-effective-again/UPI-52111242959046/

WHO Report Indicates Small Strides Toward Global Health Goals

HealthNews, May 23, 2009

The Millennium Development Goal target for reducing the incidence of tuberculosis was met globally in 2004. Due in part to early detection of new cases and effective treatment using the WHO-recommended DOTS treatment strategy, treatment success rates have been consistently improving, with rates rising from 79 percent in 1990 to 85 percent in 2006. However, multi-drug resistant tuberculosis is a challenge in certain countries, such as those of the former Soviet Union, while the combination of HIV and tuberculosis is an issue particularly for sub-Saharan African countries.

<http://www.healthnews.com/medical-updates/who-report-indicates-small-strides-toward-global-health-goals-3171.html>