

The Tuberculosis Trials Consortium: Linking Innovative Research with TB Care & Treatment!

At the Forefront

The Tuberculosis Trials Consortium (TBTC) is the leading tuberculosis clinical research collaborative in the world. Established in 1995 and funded through the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **TBTC** includes site in the U.S., Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. The **TBTC's** main focus has been on finding shorter, better-tolerated, programmatically relevant strategies for curing and preventing the spread of tuberculosis (TB). TB sickens more than 8 million people and kills over 1 million people annually – particularly people with HIV/AIDS in Africa and women of reproductive age globally.

Groundbreaking Research

Over the past 18 years the **TBTC** has conducted a series of influential trials that have had a direct impact on TB treatment in the U.S. and around the world. Important **TBTC** studies include the Consortium's very first major clinical trial, Study 22, which was pivotal in demonstrating to doctors and public health authorities that individuals with certain features of tuberculosis were less likely to be cured with the prevailing treatment strategy. This led to specific recommendations to prolong therapy in patients with active TB at high risk for relapse. This landmark study also demonstrated that people with HIV/AIDS plus TB are likely to develop resistance to one of the key TB treatment drugs, rifampin, and thus must be treated more intensively.

Subsequent **TBTC** studies have taken the field significantly far in understanding the role that drugs in the rifamycin and fluoroquinolones classes might play for TB treatment shortening. In addition, a major study published in the New England Journal of Medicine in December, 2012 showed that 12 doses of a 2-drug combination given once weekly was as powerful as 9 months of daily therapy with one drug in preventing TB from developing among those at high risk for disease.

Save the **TBTC**!

The **TBTC** is facing significant funding cuts, which will essentially put it out of business and slow or stop vitally important clinical trials that are designed to have almost immediate impact on TB control programs in the United States. **We can't let that happen** - the opportunity and the need to conduct TB clinical trials have never been greater as there are promising new TB drugs in the pipeline. Funding reductions will devastate the entire consortium and result in the closure of clinical trials sites and the halting of vital research into new TB treatment regimens that are urgently needed to halt the global TB pandemic.

DID YOU KNOW?

Critical Partnerships

The **TBTC** is a unique partnership between the U.S. Public Health Service and leading academic centers, and it has trained an entire generation of clinical researchers in TB. **TBTC** investigators, both from academia and from CDC, are recognized internationally as some of the leading experts in the world in TB clinical trial design and execution. The **TBTC** is actively engaged with companies and with the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development in developing clinical trials to test promising new drugs for TB, including bedaquiline, PA-824 and rifapentine.

Improving TB Care & Treatment

New drugs have the potential to transform TB treatment entirely and to develop effective treatment for drug-resistant tuberculosis, a devastating disease around the world and one which is threatening TB care in the U.S. as well, as small but noticeable increases in drug-resistant TB cases have been seen in the past few years in New York City and elsewhere. In the U.S., with current drugs, treating a single case of drug-resistant TB can take two years and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

We urge congress to restore \$4 million in funding to CDC's DTBE in the FY2014 Labor-Health and Human Services Appropriations bill to prevent the halting of this vital global health research!