

Addressing the TB crisis in South Africa

By *moderator*

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On 10 August, the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the HIV Clinicians Society of Southern Africa and SECTION27 (formerly the AIDS Law Project) will bring together scientists, clinicians, nurses, activists, policy makers and government to discuss the crisis of tuberculosis (TB) faced in South Africa.

South Africa has a massive TB epidemic. With only 0.7% of the world population, we have 28% of the world population with dual HIV and TB infection.^[1] Between 1997 and 2005, there was a three-fold increase in recorded TB deaths.

The purpose of the meeting is to identify the key interventions South Africa needs to begin to turn around the epidemic. We want to galvanise politicians, health workers and activists to take action to stop TB.

The meeting will also identify priorities, to be submitted to the South African National AIDS Council, for the new National Strategic Plan (2012 -2016). The new national policy will adopt a single set of targets for both HIV and TB.

During the consultation we will also address the crisis of TB in the mines as well as the threatened supply of medicine for the treatment of drug resistant TB. The full agenda is available below.

AGENDA

9:00 Welcome and introductions (Chair: Nonkosi Khumalo, TAC Chairperson)

The coming shortage of second-line TB drugs (Chair: Nathan Geffen, TAC Treasurer)

- The new MDR TB national policy and the state of implementation **Speaker:** Dr Norbert Ndjeka, Director Drug Resistant TB, TB & HIV, DOH
- Foreseeable problems with future 2nd line drug supply **Speaker:** Eric Goemaere, HIV/TB Senior Regional Advisor for *Médecins Sans Frontières*
- Dealing with MDR TB in the field **Speaker:** Doug Wilson, Clinician at Edendale Hospital, KwaZulu-Natal

Discussion

11:30 Barriers to TB/HIV integration (Chair: Francois Venter, HIV Clinicians Society President)

- The TB/HIV integration new national policy: Progress and challenges **Speaker:** Kerrigan McCarthy, TB Technical Advisor at the Reproductive Health & HIV Research Unit
- Implementing TB/HIV integration: A practical experience **Speaker:** Nesri Padayatchi, Site manager for the START project of CAPRISA
- NiMART, a key to integration: slow progress despite large training initiatives **Speaker:** Stacey Stender, Africa Regional Technical Advisor in TB/HIV/Infectious Diseases for Jhpiego

Discussion

14:30 TB in the mines (Chair: Mark Heywood, SANAC Deputy Chairperson)

- The crisis of TB in the mines *Speaker:* Peter Bailey, National Health and Safety Chairperson for the National Union of Mineworkers
- The crisis of TB in the mines *Speaker:* Rodney Ehrlich, School of Public Health and Family Medicine, UCT
- Prevention: IPT or ART as a priority *Speaker:* Gary Maartens, Principal Investigator: Division of Clinical Pharmacology at UCT

Discussion

16:30 Summary and proposals (Chair: Vuyiseka Dubula, TAC General Secretary)

The meeting will be held at:

Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute
University of the Witwatersrand
Hillbrow Health Precinct
Hugh Solomon Building
Corner Esselen Street, and Klein Street
Hillbrow, 2001

For more information about attending, contact:

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Minister of Health A Motsoaledi, HIV and AIDS: Business as usual? 10 November 2009

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