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Internationale Nachrichten

1. New Anti-TB Strategy Target: Elimination of the Disease

A major shift in the global anti-tuberculosis (TB) strategy was announced at the Stop TB Symposium just prior to the 44th Union World Conference on Lung Health this month in Paris. Instead of setting modest targets for incremental improvements in TB control, which has been the norm for the past few decades, the TB community -- clearly driven by TB/HIV activism -- is now calling for a global effort to eliminate the ancient disease.

The very ambitious though still preliminary Global TB Strategy 2015-2035, prepared after consultations with key stakeholders including civil society and non-government organizations, will be reviewed by the World Health Organization (WHO) executive board in January 2014 and then proposed for ad

Source: HIVandHepatitis.com <http://ow.ly/rpd02> (November 21, 2013)

2. Theme for World TB Day 2014 announced

Following discussions and consultation with partners, The Stop TB Partnership has announced the theme for World TB Day 2014. The theme will be: **Reach the three million - A TB test, treatment and cure for all**

As highlighted in the WHO 2013 Global TB Report, three million people are missed every year by health systems. This has been the case for six years now. The Partnership believes that no one should be left behind in the fight against TB if we want to move towards a ZERO TB deaths world.

For World TB Day 2014, partners will call for a global effort to find, treat and cure all people with TB and accelerate progress towards the bold goals we expect to see in TB strategies post-2015 and a world with Zero TB deaths, stigma and infections.

Source: Stop TB Partnership, <http://ow.ly/rpayJ> (November 25, 2013)

3. European Medicines Agency recommends two new treatment options for tuberculosis

Both medicines target multidrug-resistant forms of the disease

The European Medicines Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has recommended the authorisation of Deltyba (delamanid) and Para-aminosalicylic acid Lucane (para-aminosalicylic acid), two treatment options for use in combination with other medicines against multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

Source: EMA, <http://ow.ly/rpbbc> (November 22, 2013)



4. European Commission announces call for proposals for research into TB vaccine

The European Commission has today made a call for proposals that are working towards the development of vaccine for tuberculosis. The call is for preclinical and early clinical research into a TB vaccine and is worth up to €25 million.

See the Draft Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015 in the area of health, demographic change and wellbeing: <http://ow.ly/rpgQz>

Source: TB Europe Coalition, <http://ow.ly/rpjTG> (November 21, 2013)

5. Report suggests ARV and TB drug supply woes a 'national crisis' in South Africa

At least in one in every five public health facilities has run out of HIV and/or tuberculosis (TB) drugs in the last two months, with medicine shortages in the country being "far beyond previous estimations", according to pressure group Stop Stock Outs Project's latest report, which was released on Thursday.

Describing the situation as a "national crisis", Stop Stock Outs warned that the situation is a threat to the lives of patients as well as to the government's extensive antiretroviral (ARV) programme through which an estimated 2.4-million people receive treatment. South Africa's treatment programme is the largest in the world. [...] But ministry of health spokesperson Joe Maila, has slammed the report as "an extreme exaggeration". "We know for a fact that this report is inaccurate because the department already has a monitoring system in place which shows otherwise."

Source: Mail and Guardian, <http://ow.ly/rp5Or> (November 28, 2013)

TB in Deutschland

1. Neues Netzwerk untersucht Zusammenhang zwischen HIV und Tuberkulose

Saarländische Wissenschaftler wollen jetzt die HIV/Tuberkulose-Wechselwirkungen interdisziplinär erforschen, um die multiresistenten Tuberkulose-Bakterien einzudämmen. Sie haben sich in der Initiative „AIDS-AIDS/TB Saar“ zusammengeschlossen, um so auch auf das Thema verstärkt aufmerksam zu machen.

„Ziel des Projektes ist es, Fachwissen in nationalen und internationalen Forschungsverbänden zu vernetzen“, so Martina Sester, Professorin an der Universität des Saarlandes und eine der Initiatoren. „Dank dieses Wissenstransfers können wir neue Erkenntnisse gewinnen und mögliche Therapiekonzepte entwickeln – ein entscheidender Schritt im Kampf gegen die tödliche Koinfektion von AIDS und Tuberkulose.“

Source: medizin-aspekte, <http://ow.ly/rovxl> (November 2013)

2. Tuberkulose in Brandenburg - 250 Menschen werden untersucht

Frankfurt (Oder)/Eisenhüttenstadt/Potsdam - Nach neun Tuberkulose-Erkrankungen in Brandenburg wollen die Gesundheitsbehörden eine weitere Ausbreitung verhindern. Im Landkreis Oder-Spree und in Frankfurt (Oder) sollen rund 250 Kontaktpersonen der Erkrankten untersucht werden. Eine Lehrerin, die an einer Frankfurter Sportschule unterrichtet, und acht Asylbewerber in der Zentralen Erstaufnahmestelle des Landes in Eisenhüttenstadt sind mit Tuberkulose infiziert. Die Krankheit ist in Deutschland meldepflichtig.

Source: Die Welt, <http://ow.ly/rovuS> (November 21, 2013)



Forschung & Entwicklung

1. First results tuberculosis vaccine candidate MTBVAC very promising

A phase I safety study of TB vaccine candidate MTBVAC, the first live-attenuated Mycobacterium tuberculosis-based vaccine to enter clinical trials, shows very good results in the first intermediate analysis. Although the study is not finished yet, the 36 volunteers did not show any signs of disease or side effects so far. "In my experience, it is one of the safest vaccines I have ever tested," says Professor François Spertini of the University Hospital of Lausanne (CHUV) in Switzerland, the Principal Investigator of the trial. "But a further nine months of investigation is necessary to further validate safety and ascertain whether the vaccine is also effective."

Source: TB Vaccine Initiative, <http://ow.ly/rpos9> (November 15, 2013)

2. Diabetes and TB interlinked, say doctors

In more bad news for people diagnosed with diabetes, the lifestyle disease has now been linked to an increased incidence of tuberculosis (TB) in patients.

According to the government-run Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), people with diabetes have a two-three times higher risk of TB compared to people without diabetes and about 10 percent of TB cases globally are linked to diabetes.

Source: Business Standard <http://ow.ly/rpqAy> (November 13, 2013)

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