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**Internationale Nachrichten****1. Philippines: High TB cases due to delayed patient diagnosis, says PIDS-DOH study**

MANILA, April 26 -- A recent study of state think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and the Department of Health (DOH) reveals that the leading cause of high tuberculosis (TB) cases in urban poor communities is the patient's delaying to visit the doctor.

Titled "Barriers of Early TB Diagnosis among the Poor in Highly Urbanized Areas in the Philippines", the study noted that although there is a significant drop of TB prevalence over the last decade, TB remains the fourth leading cause of mortality among Filipinos. The 2007 Philippine National Tuberculosis Prevalence Survey revealed that there are approximately three TB cases in every 1,000 Filipinos. Moreover, the DOH confirmed that there is a prevalence of the multidrug resistance TB in the country, a fatal form.

For more information, you may download the full study at

<http://dirp4.pids.gov.ph/webportal/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps1418.pdf>. (PIDS)

**Source:** Philippine Information Agency, <http://ow.ly/wN4vo> (26. April 2014)

**2. Johnson & Johnson announces new collaboration with Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility to enhance access to anti-TB compound**

New Brunswick, NJ – April 29, 2014 – Johnson & Johnson today announced that its affiliate Janssen Pharmaceutica NV (Janssen) has entered into a novel collaboration with the Stichting International Dispensary Association (IDA), a procurement agent for the Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility (GDF), to facilitate access to the Company's anti-tuberculosis medicine. This public-private partnership was established by the newly formed Janssen Global Public Health and is the latest in the Company's overall efforts to improve public health.

**Source:** Johnson & Johnson, <http://ow.ly/wN7qd> (29. April 2014)

**3. Otsuka Wins European Marketing Authorization for Delyba™ (delamanid)**

On April 30<sup>th</sup> Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Otsuka) announced that the European Commission has granted a marketing authorization for Delyba™ (delamanid) for use as part of an appropriate combination regimen for pulmonary multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in adult patients when an effective treatment regimen cannot otherwise be composed for reasons of resistance or tolerability.

**Source:** Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd, <http://ow.ly/wN8XZ> (30. April 2014)

**4. UNITAID approves grants of \$160 million**

The UNITAID Executive Board committed \$160 million in new grants, including investments to ensure low- and middle-income populations have access to new high performing treatments for hepatitis C and drug-resistant tuberculosis, and the largest-yet global programme for seasonal malaria chemoprevention. These innovative investments will reduce prices, overcome market barriers to



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access for patients, and generate crucial data on new products to speed up their introduction for those most in need.

More information: UNITAID, <http://ow.ly/wNdi1> (6.Mai 2014)

### **5. TB drug approvals, distribution deal inches options forward, but MDR-TB treatment access still uncertain where needed most**

Last week's developments in TB treatment included the announcement that bedaquiline, the currently most promising medicine for multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis, will become available to patients in 130 low- and middle-income countries through the Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility. That good news for multidrug-resistant TB patients, many of whom have run out of other options, was thanks to an agreement signed by drug maker Janssen and GDF procurement agent Strichting International Dispensary Association. It will make the drug, which is marketed as Sirturo, available to national TB programs and to private providers with treatment programs approved by national programs. Bedaquiline, the first new anti-tuberculosis medicine to win U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval in four decades also received approval from the European Medicines Agency the month before.

**Source:** Science speaks, <http://ow.ly/wNi1w> (12.Mai 2014)

### **6. Europe extends clinical trial project with African researchers**

The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) - an African-European partnership on research into some of the most serious diseases affecting the developing world - has been renewed with a budget of €683m from the EU.

EDCTP will continue to support the clinical development of new or improved diagnostics, drugs, vaccines and microbicides for the three main infectious disease targets, with an emphasis on conducting trials in sub-Saharan Africa - but will also broaden its remit to include other neglected infectious diseases.

This first workplan will cover the initial two years of the second EDCTP programme (2014-2015), and try to align it with the work programmes for the EU's Horizon 2020 R&D initiative.

**Source:** PMLive, <http://ow.ly/wNiQL> (12.Mai 2014)

## **Forschung & Entwicklung**

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### **1. Blood from children with tuberculosis provides key to diagnosis**

The identification of a distinct genetic 'signature' in the blood of infected children could turn around notoriously poor TB diagnosis rates, say an international body of scientists.

Utilising a unique genetic 'signature' found in the blood of children with TB could help aid in faster diagnosis of the life-threatening disease, researchers from Imperial College London et al have reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The researchers believe that the disease could soon be diagnosed by focussing on 51 specific genes associated with infected children. The tool could, they believe, be a cheap, quick and reliable diagnostic test for children in areas where TB is still prevalent, including South Africa, Malawi and Kenya.

**Source:** The Information Daily.com, <http://ow.ly/wN8cV> (29.April 2014)

### **2. Quantifying the tuberculosis disease burden in children**

Awareness is growing that tuberculosis is a major cause of disease and death in children from areas endemic with tuberculosis, but its contribution is poorly quantified because of diagnostic difficulties in resource-limited settings



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A study by Helen Jenkins and colleagues in *The Lancet* estimate that 999 792 (95% CI 937 877—1 055 414) children developed tuberculosis in 2010, of whom 31 948 (25 594—38 663) had multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. This value is nearly double the 530 000 (range 510 000—550 000) paediatric cases estimated by WHO to have occurred in 2012

**Source:** TB online, <http://ow.ly/wNcB7> (Mai 2014)

### **3. PaMZ drug combination: New Tuberculosis Drug Regimen Will Move to Landmark Phase 3 Clinical Trial**

Based on positive results from earlier clinical studies, TB Alliance is advancing the first-ever drug regimen designed to treat both drug-sensitive and some forms of multi-drug resistant

An interview with Dr. Mel Spigelman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (TB Alliance) can be read here in the:

The Hindu, <http://ow.ly/wNbgQ>, (1. Mai 2014)

### **4. Breath test for tuberculosis under development at CSU with Gates Foundation funding**

FORT COLLINS - Tuberculosis researchers at Colorado State University have landed a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a diagnostic breath test with potential to revolutionize TB testing and to better control the globally devastating infectious disease.

The breath-test project, supported by a \$244,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Health Program, also involves Randall Basaraba and Alan Schenkel in CSU's renowned Mycobacteria Research Laboratories.

The scientists will work in CSU's sealed Biosafety Level-3 facilities, where they will identify unique chemical markers to assist in early detection of TB. Their approach could also help differentiate between drug-susceptible, drug-resistant, and multidrug-resistant strains of TB, which are each treated with different combinations of drugs.

**Source:** Colorado State University, <http://ow.ly/wNe0e> (05.Mai 2014)

### **5. South Africa: TB may be the new threat to mothers**

Deaths among pregnant women and new mothers may finally be falling in South Africa, but the proportion of these deaths due to an age-old disease may be rising, say experts.

Recently, an international team of researchers released maternal mortality estimates for 188 countries, including South Africa, in the international medical journal, *The Lancet*. Led by the US University of Washington, the research estimated that about 2,000 mothers in South Africa die annually due to pregnancy or childbirth-related complications.[...]

This figure is about 30 percent higher than the most recent mortality rates cited by the Health Systems Trust's annual District Health Barometer, which charts health outcomes among districts nationwide.

Released about every three years since 1998, the Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths in South Africa reports track deaths among pregnant women and new mothers that occur in health facilities. Although some deaths still go unreported, the latest interim 2011 report figures finally show a reduction in these kinds of deaths after HIV led to dramatic increases in maternal mortality in the 1990s.

According to Burton, the latest figures show 13 percent reduction in maternal deaths and an 18 percent reduction these types of deaths among HIV-positive expecting and new mothers. The latest interim report also shows a 28 percent drop in deaths due to infections like HIV.

**Source:** TB online, <http://ow.ly/wNeQ2> (Mai 2014)

### **6. Scientists focus on role of ventilation in preventing tuberculosis transmission**

Scientists studying the role of room ventilation in tuberculosis transmission found that students in Cape Town, South Africa, spend almost 60 percent of their day in poorly ventilated rooms, at risk of



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transmission, according to results published May 7, 2014, in the open access journal *PLOS ONE* by Eugene Richardson from Stanford University School of Medicine and colleagues. The researchers propose an increase in low-cost, WHO-compliant natural ventilation to facilitate healthy indoor environments and reduce risks.

The study results can be seen here:

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0096334>

Source: TB online <http://ow.ly/wNgEp> (Mai 2014)

### **7. As TB re-emerges, a link is found to low vitamin D in children**

There could be a link between children having low vitamin D and contracting tuberculosis.

That's according to new research that will be presented at the annual meeting of the European Society of Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID) in Dublin, Ireland

**Findings:** The researchers showed that almost half (47 per cent) of the children studied had either insufficient or deficient vitamin D status, which increased to 58 per cent in the latent tuberculosis and to 75 per cent in the active tuberculosis groups.

Children with latent tuberculosis were 61 per cent more likely to have vitamin D deficiency compared to controls.

Children with active tuberculosis were 4.6 times more likely to have vitamin D deficiency compared with controls

Source: The Journal.ie <http://ow.ly/wNhva> (07.Mai 2014)

### **Impressum:**

Stop-TB Forum

Maja Volland

c/o Ärzte ohne Grenzen

Am Köllnischen Park 1

10179 Berlin - Deutschland

Tel.: +49-30-700 130 192

Mobil: +49-176-988 13 131 Mobil: +49-(0)176-98813131

Email: [info@stop-tb.de](mailto:info@stop-tb.de)