

Center for Global Health Policy

Promoting Evidence-based US Action on Global HIV and Tuberculosis

The Need— and the Response

The two most deadly infectious diseases worldwide, HIV and tuberculosis, claim the lives of nearly 10,000 people every day. Despite major advances in the treatment of HIV, the AIDS epidemic remains an unprecedented public health challenge, with an estimated 33 million people currently living with the virus and 2.7 million new HIV infections a year. And although scientists discovered a cure for TB more than five decades ago, there is more tuberculosis in the world today than ever before, and in 2008, TB claimed the lives of 1.8 million people. Today, one-third of the world's population is infected with *M. tuberculosis*, and there were an estimated 9.4 million new TB cases in 2008.

Over the last decade, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of persons around the world receiving life-saving antiretroviral drugs. However, HIV prevention and treatment scale up are now in jeopardy, a result of the worldwide recession, stagnant funding for global AIDS programs, and uncertain political commitment. In addition, the progress made in saving lives from HIV is threatened by an escalating threat from TB, including virulent new drug-resistant strains of the disease. In tandem, HIV infection and TB create a deadly synergy. TB is the number one cause of death among people with HIV; HIV/AIDS has reignited the TB epidemic across the developing world, including multidrug-resistant TB and extensively drug-resistant TB. In response, the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the HIV Medicine Association established the Center for Global Health Policy in October of 2008.

The Mission

The Center for Global Health Policy works to help support and promote U.S. efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and TB around the world. The Center provides scientific and policy information to lawmakers, federal agencies, NGOs, and the news media. The Center's efforts aim to ensure that key decision-makers have access to solid,

evidence-based input and guidance from IDSA/HIVMA physician scientists and other professional colleagues from both developed and developing countries.

Key Activities

The Center disseminates reliable, comprehensive scientific information on HIV/AIDS and TB through a blog, issue briefs, project profiles, and meetings and interviews with U.S. policymakers, members of Congress, and journalists. The Center organizes visits by U.S. policymakers to the research and program sites of IDSA/HIVMA members, both here in the U.S. and in developing countries. The Center also brings scientists from developing nations to the U.S. so they can describe to U.S. officials the reality of maintaining the worldwide progress against HIV and TB.

Leadership and Staffing

The Center's work is overseen by a Scientific Advisory Committee composed of leading physicians and scientists with expertise on global HIV and TB. The Center is led by the Vice President for Global Health, Christine Lubinski. In addition to Ms. Lubinski, the Center's staff includes: Senior Program Policy Officer David Bryden; Senior Communications Officer Deirdre Shesgreen; and Administrative Assistant Rabita Aziz.

How to Get Involved

The success of the Center depends on ongoing input, guidance, and involvement by IDSA/HIVMA physician scientists and their professional colleagues from around the world. On the Center's blog, Science Speaks, you can get the latest HIV/TB news and post your own comments. You can find the blog on the Center's website (www.idsaglobalhealth.org) or visit directly at www.sciencespeaks.wordpress.com. For additional information about how you can become involved with the Center, please send an e-mail to globalhealth@idsociety.org.

The Center's work is overseen by a Scientific Advisory Committee, composed of the following leading physicians and scientists:

Co-Chairs

Carol Dukes Hamilton, MD, FIDSA

Senior Director of Research, Family Health International; Professor of Medicine, Consulting, Duke University

Kenneth H. Mayer, MD, FIDSA

Professor of Medicine and Community Health, Brown University; Director, Brown University AIDS Program ; Attending Physician, Miriam Hospital, Infectious Disease Division; Medical Research Director, Fenway Community Health, Boston, MA; Principal Investigator, Brown/Tufts Fogarty AIDS International Training and Research Program, Miriam Hospital

Members

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William J. Burman, MD

Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases; Medical Director of the Infectious Diseases Clinic of Denver Public Health.

Richard Chaisson, MD, FIDSA

Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology and International Health, Johns Hopkins University; Director, Johns Hopkins Center for Tuberculosis Research ; Principal Investigator, Consortium to Respond Effectively to the AIDS TB Epidemic (CREATE)

Myron Cohen, MD, FIDSA

Associate Vice Chancellor and J. Herbert Bate Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology at the University of North Carolina; Public Health Director, UNC Institute of Global Health and Infectious Disease Chief, Division of Clinical Infectious Diseases

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Professor of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine; Professor of Epidemiology, Boston University School of Public Health; Chair, IDSA National and Global Public Health Committee

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Gerald Friedland, MD, FIDSA

Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health and Director, AIDS Program, Yale University School of Medicine

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