Changing Course: Stemming the Deadly Twin Epidemics of HIV and Tuberculosis

May 20, 2010

Speaker Biographies

**Anthony S. Fauci, MD**
Director of NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Since his appointment as NIAID director in 1984, Dr. Fauci has overseen an extensive research portfolio devoted to preventing, diagnosing, and treating infectious and immune-mediated diseases. Dr. Fauci also is chief of the NIAID Laboratory of Immunoregulation, where he has made numerous important discoveries related to HIV/AIDS and is one of the most-cited scientists in the field. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Fauci has received numerous awards for his scientific accomplishments, including the National Medal of Science, the Mary Woodard Lasker Award for Public Service, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He serves as one of the key advisors to the White House and Department of Health and Human Services on global HIV/AIDS issues, and on initiatives to bolster medical and public health preparedness against emerging infectious disease threats such as pandemic influenza.

**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.

Dr. Burman’s primary research interests include the design and implementation of randomized clinical trials to improve the treatment of tuberculosis and HIV infection. He is chair of the Scientific Planning Committee of the Tuberculosis Trials Consortium (TBTC), an international multicenter clinical trials group funded by the CDC. Dr. Burman is also part of a committee developing trial designs for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. Dr. Burman is also a member of the Tuberculosis Working group of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group.
J. Peter Cegielski, MD, MPH
Team Leader for Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis at the CDC, International Research and Programs Branch, Division of Tuberculosis Elimination
Dr. Cegielski joined the Division of TB Elimination (DTBE) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta as a medical epidemiologist in 1998, after serving as the field director of Johns Hopkins HIV/AIDS research program in Chiang Mai, Thailand. In 2001, he was promoted to Team Leader for Drug-Resistant TB in DTBE’s International Research and Programs Branch. A graduate of Harvard University, the University of California at San Diego School of Medicine, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health, Dr. Cegielski trained in internal medicine and in infectious diseases at Duke University Medical Center. His work focuses on the epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of TB, especially drug-resistant TB.

Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH
Director of the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP); Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University
As director of the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP), Dr. El-Sadr leads staff of more than 1,000 people around the world who are providing technical assistance to resource-limited countries for HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs, as well as for related conditions like tuberculosis. Dr. El-Sadr is also affiliated with the Infectious Diseases Division at Harlem Hospital, where she developed an internationally recognized comprehensive HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis program and where she served as chief of infectious diseases for two decades. Dr. El-Sadr’s interests include program development, establishing systems that support high-quality programs, and contributing to the knowledge base about infectious diseases and other health threats that affect vulnerable communities in the United States and internationally. She chairs the Domestic HIV Prevention Working Group of the NIH HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN). She has led efforts to focus on the domestic US HIV epidemic and to design studies for prevention of HIV in the US. She is a member of WHO Strategic Advisory Group for Stop TB Department.

Mark Harrington
Executive Director of the Treatment Action Group
Mark Harrington is a co-founder and executive director of TAG. He helped strategize and lead ACT UP’s campaigns to speed up development, approval, access, and information on new treatments for HIV/AIDS and its opportunistic infections. When ACT UP's Treatment + Data Committee left ACT UP to form TAG in 1992, at the Amsterdam AIDS conference in 1992, he showed the scientists photos from his own HIV-infected lymph node and called for accelerated efforts by scientists to understand the pathogenesis of how HIV causes AIDS. TAG’s critical review of the NIH AIDS program called for sweeping reorganization under a strong Office of AIDS Research, in recommendations which were
incorporated by Congress in the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993, passed by Congress, and signed by President Clinton in 1993. AIDS research funds increased substantially and helped support many discoveries in basic science which are leading the way to drugs, vaccines, and microbicides for tomorrow. Since 2002, TAG has cultivated a global network of activists to fight tuberculosis, the No. 1 killer of people with HIV. He is also a member of the WHO advisory groups for TB and HIV, and of the Stop TB Partnership’s Global TB/HIV Working Group and its Multidrug Resistant (MDR)-TB Working Group. In 1997, Harrington was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship for his AIDS treatment activist work.

Kenneth Mayer, MD
Professor of Medicine & Community Health at Brown University; Director of the Brown University AIDS Program
Dr. Mayer has studied the natural history of HIV and the biological and prevention aspects of HIV acquisition and transmission since the start of epidemic. In addition to his posts at Brown University, Dr. Mayer is an infectious disease clinician at the Miriam Hospital in Providence and he is the Medical Research Director of the Fenway Health Center in Boston, where he has conducted numerous HIV studies over nearly three decades. Dr. Mayer has also been the Principal Investigator of an NIAID-supported study of the heterosexual transmission of HIV in Southeastern New England (starting in 1987) and was Co-Principal Investigator of the Centers for Disease Control-funded HIV Epidemiology Research Study (HERS) of the natural history of HIV in women, and the Principal Investigator of the New England Vaccine Preparedness Cohort Studies of the NIH national HIV vaccine field trial effort, known as HIVNET. He is currently a principal investigator in the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN), the Microbicides Trials Network (MTN), and an investigator in the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN). Dr. Mayer is also the PI of the Brown-Tufts Fogarty International Center AIDS Research and Training Program, which has trained about 100 clinical, laboratory, behavioral and public health researchers from Asia and Africa for almost 2 decades.

Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School; Massachusetts General Hospital
Dr. Walensky is associate director of the Program in Epidemiology and Outcomes Research at the Harvard Center for AIDS Research. Her research interests include the promotion of routine HIV counseling, testing, and referral and mathematical simulation models of HIV disease (i.e., cost-effectiveness and dynamic models). She is currently involved in the development of an HIV testing program in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, and a clinical and cost-effectiveness analysis of the use of sentinel resistance testing in Cote d'Ivoire. Dr. Walensky has also been involved with an effort in Massachusetts to increase the availability of HIV counseling and testing for both primary and chronic HIV infection, with the goal of identifying nearly 300,000 people in the United States still unaware of their HIV infection.