OBJECTIVES

2017 National TB Conference: Culture of Collaboration

April 19–21, 2017

At the end of the following conference sessions, participants will be able meet the objectives listed below.

General Session I: Opening Session

1. Give a high-level summary of the domestic and global epidemiology of tuberculosis (TB) to inform strategic planning to control and eliminate TB in communities in the United States.
2. Identify where funding gaps exist for TB programs and research and development on TB to inform strategic planning to control and eliminate TB in communities in the United States.
3. Recognize the psycho-social impacts of TB on patients from the account of a TB survivor to improve patient care and outcomes.
4. Identify the systemic issues involved in TB elimination to inform strategic planning to improve patient care and protect public health.
5. Describe a methodology and approach to increasing collaboration with other community-based providers to improve patient care and better protect the public’s health.

General Session II: TB in Motion: Prevention and Cure

1. Describe the current trends in TB mortality and morbidity globally, including challenges of drug-resistant TB diagnosis and treatment, and the impact of comorbidities such as diabetes and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection to strategize to overcome these challenges to improve patient care.
2. Describe the World Health Organization (WHO)/Stop TB global TB elimination goals, recent TB research findings, and program initiatives to help accelerate global response to TB.
3. Describe the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Global Migration and Quarantine TB activities including overseas TB screening policies and coordination with domestic TB programs around cases travelling to and from their jurisdictions and how these initiatives may lead to improved patient outcomes.
4. Describe the current population-based screening effort in Ebeye and other Pacific Islands and how this complements TB control activities among high-risk populations in the United States to prevent TB.

5. Describe the outcomes of TB screening and latent TB treatment of refugees in ten TB Epidemiologic Studies Consortium (TBESC) program sites throughout the United States to improve TB prevention among these populations.


1. Describe the objectives, PICOTS questions, and methods for updating the guidelines to inform TB screening practices for healthy workplaces and communities.

2. Discuss proposed changes to the recommendations for TB screening of US healthcare workers to improve TB screening practices for healthy workplaces and communities.

General Session III: TB Infection

1. Describe and compare the performance characteristics of tuberculin skin tests (TSTs) and interferon gamma release assays (IGRAs) in a selected US study population at high risk of TB infection to inform program strategies and clinical diagnostic decision-making.

2. Describe how latent class analysis can be used to estimate true TB infection prevalence and performance characteristics of each of the tests to inform program strategies and clinical diagnostic decision-making.

3. Describe how mathematical modeling and the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention Epidemiologic and Economic Modeling Agreement (NEEMA) project may inform TB program strategies to eliminate TB in the future.

4. Describe three state-level approaches to implementing TB infection surveillance to identify TB infection in the community and enhance TB prevention.

5. Explain challenges and potential solutions to implementation of TB infection surveillance to identify TB infection in the community and improve TB prevention.

6. Detail programmatic uses of TB infection surveillance data that may improve TB elimination efforts by identifying opportunities to prevent progression to disease and its subsequent transmission.

General Session IV: Sub-culturing: Working with Lab Partners

1. Describe the sequence of events that led to a multi-state investigation of TB laboratory false-positive results, noting opportunities to improve diagnosis and patient outcomes.

2. Identify elements of an effective protocol to identify potential false-positive TB laboratory results to improve diagnosis and patient outcomes.

3. Describe the laboratory protocol utilized by New York City Department of Health and how this protocol may improve practices in their local jurisdictions.

4. Identify the differences and similarities of state public health laboratories and clinical commercial laboratories, noting opportunities to improve diagnosis and patient outcomes.

5. List steps that health departments can take to increase collaboration with clinical commercial laboratories to improve patient care.
General Session V: Understanding Transmission to Strengthen TB Elimination Efforts

1. Discuss factors that drive transmission of TB and discuss approaches for addressing these elements at the local level to decrease transmission in the community.
2. Describe national approaches for genotyping TB to decrease transmission in the community.
3. Describe national approaches for assessing recent transmission of TB to decrease transmission in the community.
4. Identify lessons learned from programmatic investigations of transmission at the local level and examine how those lessons might be applied to improve TB elimination efforts.

Breakout Session B1: TB in Motion: Prevention and Cure

1. Describe local TB program experiences in evaluating refugees and immigrants with class B TB and how these experiences may inform their practice.
2. Describe local TB control program initiatives with civil surgeons to effectively diagnose and treat TB infection in a timely manner.
3. Discuss experiences collaborating with other countries in completing TB treatment for persons who move during treatment, including interjurisdictional notifications and the role of specific programs such as CureTB and how this enhances continuity of care for patients.

Breakout Session B2: TB Infection

1. Provide input on modeling questions and parameters, with a TB program perspective to improve population-level TB outcomes (e.g., increased TB prevention and/or decreased TB transmission within vulnerable populations).
2. Describe how local health departments can partner with community clinics to improve TB prevention to reach out to providers of care serving high-risk populations so that TB prevention efforts may be increased, benefiting the patient population by decreasing the burden of TB.

Breakout Session B3: Sub-culturing: Working with Lab Partners

1. Describe problems that may be encountered when working with reference laboratories (e.g., confusing, delayed, or incorrect reports; difficulties obtaining specimens or isolates) and strategize how to overcome these challenges to improve patient care.
2. Identify strategies to recognize possible laboratory reporting errors to inform clinical decision-making and improve patient care.
3. Discuss examples of successful communication systems between state, commercial, and federal laboratories including the implementation of an electronic reporting system designed to improve the clear, accurate communication of laboratory results to improve patient care.

Breakout Session B4: Understanding Transmission to Strengthen TB Elimination Efforts

1. Describe plans for sharing of genomic data and algorithms for recent transmission to receive feedback and potentially identify areas for modification to decrease transmission in the community.
2. Explain approaches for programmatic intervention during complicated contact investigations to prevent transmission of multidrug-resistant TB.
3. Describe the use of whole genome sequencing in combination with clinical and epidemiological data for prioritization of outbreak investigations to decrease TB transmission in the community.

4. Describe how untreated latent TB infection can impact a large contact investigation, noting the missed opportunities to decrease transmission in the community.

**Breakout Session B5: On the Horizon: New and Improved Diagnostics for TB and Molecular Drug Susceptibility Testing—Not Yet Online**

1. Describe the operation, interpretation of results, and potential patient benefits of the Hain Line Probe assays for TB.
2. Describe potential benefits of the new GeneXpert cartridge for TB diagnosis and determination of multiple drug susceptibilities.

**Breakout Session C1: TB in Motion: Prevention and Cure**

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2. Describe local TB control program initiatives with civil surgeons to effectively diagnose and treat TB infection in a timely manner.
3. Discuss experiences collaborating with other countries in completing TB treatment for persons who move during treatment, including interjurisdictional notifications and the role of specific programs such as CureTB and how this enhances continuity of care for patients.

**Breakout Session C2: TB Infection**

1. Recognize the advantages and disadvantages of potential mechanisms for collecting and reporting surveillance data for TB infection to improve TB prevention.
2. Understand basic medical issues to be addressed with an individual patient starting 3HP and use this information to improve patient outcomes.

**Breakout Session C3: Sub-culturing: Working with Lab Partners**

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2. Identify strategies to recognize possible laboratory reporting errors to inform clinical decision-making and improve patient care.
3. Discuss examples of successful communication systems between state, commercial, and federal laboratories including the implementation of an electronic reporting system designed to improve the clear, accurate communication of laboratory results to improve patient care.

**Breakout Session C4: Understanding Transmission to Strengthen TB Elimination Efforts**

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4. Describe how untreated latent TB infection can impact a large contact investigation, noting the missed opportunities to decrease transmission in the community.

**Breakout Session C5: Video DOT for Treatment of TB**

1. Describe various platforms available for remote-video-observed therapy for TB disease and, if appropriate, use this technology to enhance patient adherence.
2. Identify functional limitations and privacy issues of remote video-observed therapy and determine if this technology is appropriate in their setting to improve TB control efforts.
3. Derive an economic evaluation for planning remote video-observed therapy programs to determine their viability for local programs.

**General Session VI: Science and Technology in the Treatment of TB**

1. Describe the spectrum of technologies available and their limitations for remote video-observed therapy to improve patient adherence to TB treatment.
2. Describe the potential uses of new methods and data resources for molecular determination of drug resistance in designing effective treatment regimens for TB patients.
3. Identify alterations in immune and inflammatory pathways in Diabetes mellitus and their implications for more effectively treating TB disease.