



NEWSLETTER – volume 10 – January 2010

“Airborne” TB exhibition

In November 2009, the APPG in association with the World Health Organisation hosted an exhibition in Westminster Palace. The exhibition displayed photos from the WHO display “Airborne: A journey into the challenges and solutions to stopping drug resistant tuberculosis”.



Award-winning journalist John Donnelly and award-winning photographer Dominic Chavez produced Airborne from a journey to three continents – Europe, Africa, and Asia – in which they explored what was happening in the fight against MDR-TB. The exhibition was launched by APPG-TB co-chair Andrew George MP.

TB in parliament

A number of Parliamentary Questions have been recently asked in both the House of Lords and Commons.

Topics included TB in India, port of entry screening for TB, the TB Find and Treat Project and BCG policy.

Details of all questions can be found on the APPG website: <http://www.appg-tb.org.uk/parliament.php>

Focus on..... World TB Day

March 24th is World TB Day – an opportunity for attention to be focused on a preventable and curable disease that kills 1.8 million people yearly and affects the most marginalised populations in society.

TB organisations will be holding meetings and events to highlight World TB Day and the APPG hopes to raise awareness within Parliament.

Workshop held at international TB conference

One of the objectives of the APPG on Global TB is to work with, and support, similar groups around the world. Much work is being done to engage parliamentarians on TB but little communication between organisations occurs. To help get stakeholders together, the secretariat of the APPG held a workshop at the IUATLD conference in Mexico focused on engaging parliamentarians. The meeting was attended by advocates and health professionals from around the world. Presentations were given by parliamentary groups from the US, EU, UK and Nigeria.



The aim of the workshop was to establish an informal global network of parliamentarians (and parliamentary organisations) focused on TB. This will allow sharing of the much good practice occurring around the world and allow parliamentarians to stand, and speak, together on issues of TB and TB-HIV co-infection.

A meeting in The Advocates Corner was also held to push forward ideas of how to set up the global network of parliamentarians engaged in TB.

The future of TB and HIV treatment

To coincide with World AIDS Day, the APPG's on Global TB and AIDS held a breakfast briefing session for parliamentarians focused on ensuring treatment for HIV/AIDS and TB is made available to all for years to come.

The key note speech was given by Dr Jorge Bermudez - Executive Secretary of UNITAID. UNITAID is a Geneva based organisation that is pioneering the use of patent pools to ensure essential drugs are available to countries at an affordable price.

The APPG AIDS recently released an excellent report entitled "The Treatment Timebomb" which explores future treatment for HIV - especially after the Millennium Development Goals pass in 2015.

More information on UNITAID can be found at: <http://www.unitaid.eu/>

The APPG AIDS Treatment Timebomb report can be found at: <http://www.appg-aids.org.uk/Publications/>

DFID Minister discusses TB

DFID Minister Mike Foster MP and WHO Stop TB Director Mario Raviglione recently spoke at a Parliamentary APPG on Global TB meeting.

The meeting "*Combating tuberculosis: from social determinants to policy bottlenecks*" looked at the role of supporting health system strengthening, HIV control, maternal and child health, institutional reform and laboratory strengthening in the context of improving TB outcomes and ultimately preventing future cases.

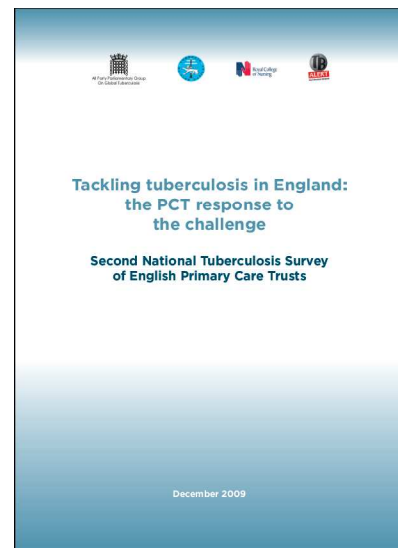
Mr Foster re-instated DFID's commitment to tackling TB through direct support to national TB programmes, research and development and the focus on TB-HIV co-infection through health system strengthening.

The meeting was attended by Parliamentarians and international development experts.

TB in the UK

The APPG on Global TB, British Thoracic Society (BTS), Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and TB Alert recently launched the results of the second national audit of English PCTs. The survey sought to assess local priority of TB and looked at the level of progress since the first survey in 2007.

Results show that progress has been made but that there is still much to do in ensuring the response to TB in England is adequate. Recommendations of the report include the need to include TB patients and patient advocates in service planning and delivery and closer working relationships between PCTs and Local Authorities. The report was launched at the BTS Winter Conference in December 2009.



The full report "*Tackling tuberculosis in England: the PCT response to the challenge*" can be found at: <http://www.appg-tb.org.uk/publications.php>

Change in APPG secretariat

The current coordinator of the APPG - Debbie Laycock is moving on to pastures new after nearly 2 years with the group. The process of recruiting a replacement has been started and details of the new coordinator will be released shortly. Debbie's last working day is the February 12th.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis

For more information visit: www.appg-tb.org.uk

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