



NEWSLETTER – volume 9 – October 2009

Survey of English Primary Care Trusts

The APPG is working alongside the British Thoracic Society, Royal College of Nursing and TB Alert to repeat the 2007 TB survey of English Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). The survey looks to assess whether progress has been made at the local level in ensuring TB guidance is implemented and the disease given appropriate local priority.

The survey was sent to PCTs in August 2009 and an excellent response rate has been achieved so far. The results of the survey will be included in a report that will be launched during the British Thoracic Society Winter Conference. The report launch, on 3rd December from 12.30-1.30pm is open to anyone with an interest in TB. Registration must occur before the event so please RSVP to debbie@results-uk.org if you would like to attend.

Supporting Parliamentary Engagement Around The World

The APPG, alongside the UK NGO – Results UK – have organised a workshop at this year's conference of the International Union against TB and Lung Disease in Mexico. The workshop is focused on engaging parliamentarians in the fight against TB. Participants will be able to share the work they are currently undertaking or get practical ideas on how to initiate contact with their local parliamentarians.

MPs from four countries will be attending the workshop and other events at the conference and will be providing advice on why, and how, they got involved with TB work. The aim of the workshop is 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.

The APPG is currently organising visits for parliamentarians to their local TB service. For more details please contact Debbie Laycock

Spotlight on ... World AIDS Day

December 1st marks World AIDS Day – a time for focus to be brought to the continued HIV/AIDS epidemic. It is also a time to highlight the serious link between HIV and TB. TB is the biggest killer of people living with HIV and the TB/HIV co-epidemic exacerbates the demand on already overburdened health systems. Much work is being undertaken to integrate TB and HIV services and policy but these efforts need to be increased and the urgency of tackling this co-epidemic reinforced.

The APPG on TB is working with the APPG on AIDS to organise a breakfast briefing for parliamentarians focused on the treatment of TB-HIV co-infection

“Airborne” TB exhibition

The APPG, in association with the World Health Organisation, is hosting an exhibition in Parliament in November. The exhibition will display photos from the WHO exhibition “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 photos will be displayed in the Upper Waiting Hall of the House of Commons from November 9th – 13th.

Parliamentary Questions on TB

A number of questions have been asked on TB since Parliament re-convened in mid-October. Questions have been asked on: TB awareness in the UK, the UK's support for TB in India, the UK TB pre-entry screening programme, the UK TB port of entry screening programme, cases of bovine TB in humans and paediatric TB.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis

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

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