



NEWSLETTER – volume 7 – April 2009

WORLD TB DAY ACTIVITIES

APPG launches Call for Evidence

On World TB Day (24th March), the APPG launched a Call for Evidence into the UK's response to the global TB epidemic. In March 2007, the APPG launched a report – *“Scaling up the UK's response to the global TB epidemic: an agenda for action”*. This report aimed to analyse the UK's involvement in global TB control and suggest recommendations that could be taken in order to strengthen and extend the UK Government's activities in this area. Two years on, the APPG is planning to launch a follow-up report, highlighting what further action the UK has taken to address the global TB epidemic. The evidence provided to the APPG through the Call will be utilised within the follow up report.

TB discussed in Parliamentary Magazine

The APPG co-chairs released an article in the Westminster in-house magazine, "House Mag", which provided an update on the TB situation and highlighted the upcoming Ministerial Forum on TB Drug resistance in Beijing.

Gordon Brown urged to do more to stop TB

Andrew George MP (co-chair of the APPG) and Annette Brooke MP (Treasurer of the APPG) were among members of the UK Coalition to Stop TB who delivered an invitation to help Stop TB to Gordon Brown. The letter, delivered to 10 Downing Street, asks for Gordon Brown to step up his response to the Global TB-HIV epidemic and follow on from his action in 2006 of launching the Global Plan to Stop TB.



Parliamentarians informed of global TB surveillance efforts

A recent briefing meeting held in the House of Commons by the APPG looked at the work of the Global Task Force on TB Impact Measurement. Parliamentarians and Health professionals heard from Dr Katherine Floyd from World Health Organisation and Dr Japp Broekmans, Chair of the Taskforce, about the current work being undertaken to strengthen TB surveillance systems globally. Also speaking was Dr Ibrahim Abubakar from the UK's Health Protection Agency who discussed ways in which the UK can use its expert knowledge and structures to assist developing countries in maximising surveillance activities.

APPG discussed at RCN Annual TB Conference

The Coordinator of the APPG on Global TB was recently invited to speak at the Royal College of Nursing's Annual Conference on TB held in central London. During last year's conference, Julie Morgan MP, co-chair of the APPG, spoke about the APPG's dedication to further increase awareness of the disease within Parliament. This year, conference delegates were provided with an update of the work of the APPG. In particular the current joint RCN-APPG survey was discussed. The survey looks to gain opinions from TB nursing staff on the current state of TB services in the UK and national TB policy.

APPG co-chairs visit Malawi

APPG co-chairs Andrew George MP and Julie Morgan MP, recently visited Malawi to learn more about how TB affects the lives of the countries poorest sections of society. The delegation (organised by RESULTS) visited TB clinics in the capital Lilongwe and in rural Mzimba District. The MPs met with health staff and patients undergoing treatment for TB and HIV. They also visited the project run by UK NGO - TB Alert - which seeks to train community volunteers to support patients with TB and assist active case detection.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis

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

Upcoming APPG on TB events

- Wednesday 29th April, 10-12am CR13, House of Commons. Integrating TB & HIV Care in Sub-Saharan Africa: How it works in practice
- Wednesday 20th May, 1-3pm CR7, House of Commons. TB vaccines