

## **16th Scientific Symposium on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day 2023**

**Berlin, March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 (hybrid)**

### **Preliminary Program**

#### **Tuberculosis as neglected infectious disease – How to ensure efficient TB control facing various crises**

##### **Aim and content**

We are currently facing several crises at the same time: the terrible war in Ukraine, civil war in Yemen, economic turbulences and insecurities in energy supply, climate change and loss of bio-diversity. Besides all of these challenges and problems, chronic pandemics like the ones caused by HIV or *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* are still ongoing. Thus, there is still the issue of a comprehensive approach to control tuberculosis (TB), even and especially in war times. Currently, new ways of addressing HIV-TB comorbidity and multidrug-resistant TB are being discussed, even implementing all TB strategies and investments into the overall efforts to improve national health care systems in the framework of WHO's "Universal Health Coverage" (UHC) program, and this should not being neglected in our times.

Together with our international partners, we would like to study and discuss current trends in TB research and control in face of the current epidemiological trends in Europe and worldwide. Of course and as usual, current developments and state-of-the-art presentations in diagnostics, treatment and prevention/vaccine development also form part of the symposium. The symposium is the sixteenth in a row since Koch Mechnikov Forum (KMF) decided to start the symposium series in 2007 on the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert Koch's famous lecture "About tuberculosis". Since then, the annual symposia had various foci and KMF various organizational partners. We are looking forward to welcoming you in person, TB experts, representatives from WHO, health politics, private companies, hospitals and other TB facilities from all over Europe and globally, to discuss the most imminent questions of TB control in the nearer future! TB control must not be neglected, even in times of multiple crises! Thus, the symposium has a scientific and a political approach.

## Organization

The 16<sup>th</sup> Scientific TB Symposium is organized by the Koch Mechnikov Forum (KMF) and the Institute for Research in International Assistance at Akkon University for Human Sciences (IRIA).

## Project coordination

Gaby Feldmann, IRIA, Akkon University, Colditzstraße 34-36, 12099 Berlin, Germany,  
Tel.: +49 30 8092332-0, +49 178 2176889, E-Mail: [gaby.feldmann@iria.akkon-hochschule.de](mailto:gaby.feldmann@iria.akkon-hochschule.de)

## Venue

Seminar Room 4/5, Akkon University, Colditzstraße 34-36, 12099 Berlin, Germany, and online (see links for each day)

## Time

Tuesday, March 21st, 2023: opening, science and politics, first scientific day; reception  
Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023: scientific symposium, second scientific day

## Registration

Participation is free of charge; however, registration at IRIA is mandatory:  
(see above, project coordination [gaby.feldmann@iria.akkon-hochschule.de](mailto:gaby.feldmann@iria.akkon-hochschule.de)). Please also indicate whether you intend to participate in person or online (see below zoom links for each scientific day)!

## Partners

The 16<sup>th</sup> Scientific TB Symposium is organized in cooperation with:  
WHO-Euro, Copenhagen; Stop TB Partnership; Global TB Caucus; Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI); Friends of the GFATM Europe; Institute for Tuberculosis, Tbilisi State Medical University, Georgia; Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Ghana; University of Ghana; Community Health Initiative (CHI), India; University of Muhammadiyah Kalimantan Timur (UMKT), Indonesia; University of Indonesia; Escuela de Estudios Técnicos de Enfermería A.C. Saltillo, Mexico; National TB Reference Laboratory Phthisiopneumology Institute, Chisinau, Moldova; Department of TB research, Ternopil National Medical University, Ukraine

## Supporters

IRIA and KMF acknowledge financial support of the following partners:  
Otsuka, München; Verband der forschenden Arzneiunternehmen (VFA), Berlin;  
Münzauktionshaus Fritz Rudolf Künker, Osnabrück;  
J. Pröpster GmbH, Neumarkt/Oberpfalz; Fackelmann GmbH, Hersbruck,

From 2014, KMF and IRIA organize the tuberculosis symposia on occasion of the World Tuberculosis Day in close cooperation with the World Health Summit. Its results will be reported to and discussed at the next World Health Summit in Berlin in October 2023 ([www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org)).

**Preliminary program:**

**21<sup>st</sup> of March, 2023 (Tuesday):**

**Scientific Day 1: General overview, TB and politics**

Zoom link for online participation: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81234661705>

14:00 h **Introductory presentation**

Timo Ulrichs, IRIA & KMF, Berlin: Tuberculosis control in times of war, economic crises, climate change and post-pandemic

14:20 h **Welcome remarks and political framework**

Chair: Timo Ulrichs, Berlin

Stefan Albani, MdB (MP), Berlin

Helmut Hahn, Koch Mechnikov Forum (KMF), Berlin

Andreas M. Bock, Akkon University for Human Sciences, Berlin

Ralf Otto-Knapp, German Central Committee against Tuberculosis, DZK

14:40 h **Session 1: How to support TB control politically in times of crises**

Keynote lectures:

Askar Yedilbayev, Regional Advisor, TB and DR-TB, WHO Europe:  
New TB action plan for the WHO European Region 2023-2030

Sayohat Hasanova, Joint Infectious Diseases Unit (JID), WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen: WHO regional Platform for collaboration and partnership on TB, HIV and Viral Hepatitis prevention, care and support in the European region

16:00 h Coffee break

16.30 h **Session 2: How to eliminate TB – perspectives from epidemiology, diagnostics, clinics, public health**

Chairs:

Ralf Otto-Knapp, DZK, Berlin: title to follow

Gerald Voss, Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI), the Netherlands: Progress in TB vaccine development

Naqibullah Hamdard, UNOPS STOP TB Partnership: 5 country case scenarios of Eastern Europe and Central Asia focused on how Covid 19 affected TB response

Amelyn Laro, University of Southeastern Philippines, Mintal Campus: Advocacy on Women's Education and Empowerment

Cornelia Partusch, Johanniter GmbH, Johanniter-Krankenhaus Treuenbrietzen:  
Best Practice in TB Care

**18.00 h Reception**

Venue: seminar room 2, Akkon University, Berlin, Germany

**22<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2023 (Wednesday):**

**Scientific Day 2: In-depth scientific program: public health, diagnostics, drugs, vaccines**

Zoom link for online participation: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86865111324>

**9:00 h Session 3: Updates in diagnostics, treatment and vaccine development**

Chairs:

Elvira Richter, Labor Limbach: title to follow [diagnostics]

Simbarashe Takuva, Otsuka Novel Products GmbH: Global health and R&D activities:  
title to follow [therapy]

Gerald Voss, TBVI: title to follow [vaccines, prevention]

Hester Kuipers, IAVI: title to follow

**10:20 h Coffee break and networking**

**10:50 h Session 4: Public health and prevention: country experiences and best practice examples**

Chairs:

N.N. National TB Control Program, Ghana: title to follow

Chris D. Nyan, Shufflex Biomed, Liberia: title to follow

Eka Kokhleidze, NTP of Georgia and European University, Tbilisi: Latent TB infections,  
an evaluation

Valeriu Crudu, Alexandru Corlateanu, National TB Reference Laboratory  
Phthisiopneumology Institute and Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine  
and Pharmacy (USMF), Chisinau, Moldova: title to follow

Rosa María Torres Munguía, Escuela de Estudios Técnicos de Enfermería A.C. Saltillo,  
Mexico: TB Disease in Prisons

12:30 h Lunch break with poster viewing

13:30 h **Session 4, continued**

L. Hryshchuk, Department of Tuberculosis, TNMU, Ternopil, Ukraine:  
Incidence of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in the Ternopil region of Ukraine over the  
past five years

N.N. Hospital Lutsk, Ukraine: title to follow

E. Burhan, University of Indonesia:  
Recent update in Diagnosis and Treatment of TB: Indonesia Experience

Emha Ghozali, Sri Sunarti, Purwo Setiyo Nugroho and Nida Amalia, UKMT, Indonesia:  
Urban and rural differences in preventing tuberculosis and the barriers in Indonesia

R.A. Kikon, India: title to follow

15:10 h Wrap-up and end of the symposium