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FROM OUR DESK

Greetings everyone!

Welcome to Partners Speak!

In this issue we will display numerous activities of Partnership for TB care and control. PTCC has organised programmes like National meeting of TB Advocates, National consultative Meeting, Regional Consultative meeting and various thematic group meetings. The National meet of TB Advocates gave a platform to TB Advocates to share their experiences and find out a collaborative solution towards TB care and control. We are happy that our trained TB Advocates are now initiating various advocacy efforts at district and State level.

In this edition we provide a snapshot of PTCC activities, partner's encouraging success stories and case studies from the field as it is our regular venture.

Partners Speak is a resource for partners to share their inspiration stories. Hence we urge you to contribute your stories to the news letter. Last but not the least get involved and contribute towards elimination of TB.

Let's join hands for TB free India!

We hope you enjoy reading and look forward to your active contribution.

Happy reading.....

Meet Our New Partners

- Share India, Telangana
- Kabir Anubhuti Sewa Samiti, Haryana
- Sharan society for service to urban poverty, New Delhi
- Add Race India Foundation, Uttar Pradesh
- Human Welfare Society, Himachal Pradesh

Know your Partner...

MolBio Diagnostics - A Tulip Group JV with Bigtec Labs

Introducing Molbio

Understanding the importance and need for simple, near patient (NPT) & Point Of Care (POC) molecular diagnostic tools for early and accurate disease diagnostics particularly infectious disease, Molbio Diagnostics set its mind into more than a decade of research to conceptualize, design, develop & commercialize its unique & patented Truelab™ Real Time, Quantitative, micro PCR platform.

Driven by the urgent need to provide world-class medical infrastructure in India and make it more affordable and accessible, Molbio Diagnostics started commercial activities in early 2013 with the vision of transforming healthcare. At Molbio, they use innovative techniques to create and bring together various academic disciplines under a common umbrella to provide a viable approach to tackling current and urgent needs in modern day medicine.

The Idea

The Truelab™ Real Time micro PCR system has been developed with the aim to bring real time PCR testing to near patient (NPT) and point of care (POC) levels to enable early diagnosis and better patient care. The entire platform is designed to meet the “ASSURED” criteria (set by WHO) keeping in mind the needs of both developed and developing countries, for a rapid, simple, portable real time PCR system with single testing capability for STAT results. The Platform leverages synergies by combining Biological Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (BioMEMS) & PCR. A Global First - From India, the system works on smart, disease specific microchips that have pre-loaded reagents and standard curve values for conducting a quantitative real time PCR with many unique features including speed, simplicity, user friendly, portability, reliability, accuracy, robustness, data transfer capability, memory and affordability. With a substantial number of installations in India and running successfully, and installations also in Europe, Africa and Asia, Molbio looks forward to explore an opportunity to share its passion, in changing paradigms within the Molecular Diagnostics (MDx) Landscape.

News & Events

Governing Body Meeting

The 10th Governing Body Meeting of Governing board member was held on 31st July 2015 in New Delhi. The discussion points included preparation of upcoming activities, and various funding opportunities for partnership.

Regional Consultative Meeting of Partners (North Region)



Photo credit - PTCC

Regional Consultative Meeting of Partners, North was organized on 7th-8th August 2015 at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. 30 representatives from the partner Organization of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi participated in the Consultative meet. During this two days consultation participants discussed about various advocacy initiative that had taken by

the organization. The agenda of the meeting includes discussion on CSR opportunities for CSOs, burden of HIV/TB, issues and challenges in TB care and control and discussion on establishing State level patient network forum.

National Meeting of TB Advocates



Photo credit - PTCC

On 10th and 11th September 2015 PTCC organised a 2 day National TB Advocates meeting under a theme "To Find TB, Treat TB and Eliminate TB" at Hotel Golden Tulip, New Delhi. Some master trainers and TB Advocates trained under regional training programme are invited to attend this meet. It provided an opportunity to all trained advocates

to get experience and show case their advocacy efforts during the programme. Various advocacy efforts initiated by TB Advocates such as: nutrition supply for MDR TB patients, establishment of Genexpert machine at district level, political advocacy for banning serological test for Tuberculosis etc.

Conclusions from this meeting included a lot of recommendations and suggestions from TB Advocates and representatives of affected community and patients themselves. They emphasised that there is a strong need of patient network forum who can be the spokes person for TB patients at various forums and can interact with local political leaders, policy makers and media.

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National Consultative Meeting of Partners

National Consultative Meeting of Partners successfully organised from 11 to 12 September 2015 in New Delhi. Total 60 representatives from partner organisation actively participated in this event. Key points discussed during this meeting included role of civil society Organization for TB care and control, challenges of MDR TB and discussion on formation of Regional level Patient Network Forum for Engaging and mobilizing Communities, Implementing and enhancing service delivery through Improving diagnosis and Treatment.



Photo credit - PTCC

Thematic Group Meetings

Advocacy Group

Total 12 representatives from member organizations participated in this meeting and chalked out current status of advocacy initiatives at all levels.



Photo credit - PTCC

Service Delivery Group

Total 6 representatives from member organizations participated in this meeting and prepared a brief report on issues and challenges at service delivery level in TB care and control. The group listed out the role of National level TB forum in service delivery.



Photo credit - PTCC



Photo credit - PTCC

TB HIV Group

Total 13 representatives of member organizations participated in this meeting. The group focused on issues and challenges related to the TB/HIV field. The group members have listed some suggested solutions which can contribute towards improvement of TB control efforts.



Photo credit - PTCC

Women and Childhood TB

Women and Childhood TB group is one of the 6 Thematic Groups within PTCC member base

News & Events

that includes organizations who are involved in this activities in TB care and control. Total 10 representatives from partner organizations contributed in drafting our status of initiatives, current issues/challenges and suggested solutions. These recommendations were then discussed among the larger group to come up with finalized set of recommendations.

Advocacy Corner

TB is an Everyday Fight Let's Speak up

Aequum, in association with the Lilly MDR TB Partnership and Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT), conducted a residential training entitled TB is an Everyday Fight, Let's Speak Up for 14 potential TB advocates from 6-9 July 2015, at United Theological College, Bangalore.



Photo credit - Bharathi Ghanshyam

The participants for the training were drawn from organisations across the country. They were a mix of outreach workers, PLHIVs who have been affected/infected by TB, and other programme people associated with TB programmes.



Photo credit - Bharathi Ghanshyam

The training consisted of sessions that equally gave the participants information about the medical, social and economic aspects of TB.

Special care was taken to make the sessions completely participatory in order to make the learning doubly effective.

Aequum is grateful for the support of Lilly MDR TB Partnership and Karnataka Health Promotion Trust during and after the training. Aequum also acknowledges the support of Partnership for TB Care and Control (PTCC), International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Rainbow Forum, Milana, TB Alert, Alert India and Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) for helping us by nominating participants for the training.

- By Bharathi Ghanshyam

Case Study

Mr. Santosh kasyap is an electrician from Kanshiram urban house, Siddharth Nagar. His wife died of tuberculosis due to improper treatment and nutrition. His four children also acquired and surrender to the disease. Due to ill health his daughter admitted at district Hospital but the Hospital administration denied for treatment and thrown them out from the Hospital.



Photo Credit: Gautam Buddha Jagriti Society

While Santosh suffered from the diseases and poverty, Gautam Buddha Jagriti Society a NGO from Siddharth Nagar working for the welfare of the family and took them to hospital with a help from local media person. His daughter was readmitted with prior order by the District magistrate. The NGO provided them ration, fruits, milk and other nutritious items. They helped the family and reported the matter in some leading newspapers. The same has been shared to district supply officer and he committed to add him in the Antyodaya ration card.

But unfortunately his daughter also died few days back.

To conclude we need to work incessantly and supplement our efforts in TB care and control. Let's join hands to eradicate TB.

Submitted by: Gautam Buddha Jagriti Society

Success Story

Engaging Community Support in TB Care



Photo credit - PTCC

Extended support, such as counselling and home visits, is essential for TB patients to overcome the challenges of treatment. However, Blossom's outreach workers were the first to help Mr. Ranjith (alias) on a community level in 2015. RNTCP referred him to Blossom Trust in May 2015 for community treatment support. Based in Tamil Nadu, Blossom Trust has been implementing Campaign for Education, Prevention and Treatment of TB (CEPT) in Virudhunagar District since 2009 and additionally Kanchipuram District since 2013. Mr. Ranjith was first diagnosed with TB in 1998, but his treatment continued to fail due to deficient knowledge, social stigma, and lack of community support. He was also repeatedly put on Category I and II treatments until Tamil Nadu RNTCP began MDR-TB services in 2009. Subsequently he was diagnosed with MDR-TB in 2009 and XDR-TB in 2011. Throughout his struggle, he nevertheless continued working in order to support his family of five with three daughters. Now separated from his family, he has dedicated himself to a life of service for the poor as a devotee. His designated outreach worker follows up with his treatment adherence and when needed, brings the medication from RNTCP clinic. With the perseverance he demonstrated during the past 17 years combating TB and a renewed strength from community support, he is now endeavouring to open a holistic treatment support centre for TB patients.

Vision & Mission

Vision: India free of TB

Mission:

- Lead advocacy efforts for the rights of every individual affected by TB
- Facilitate universal access to quality services of TB care and control
- Engage all sectors and all sections of population

PTCC Partners - Nationwide

25 States/205 Partners

States	Partners
Andaman & Nicobar	1
Andhra Pradesh	11
Assam	3
Bihar	12
Chhattisgarh	2
Delhi	29
Goa	1
Haryana	5
Himachal Pradesh	1
Jharkhand	8
Karnataka	3
Kerala	1
Madhya Pradesh	19
Maharashtra	12
Meghalaya	1
Odisha	18
Punjab	4
Rajasthan	1
Telangana	2
Tamil Nadu	34
Tripura	2
Uttar Pradesh	22
Uttarakhand	9
West Bengal	3
Manipur	1
TOTAL	205



Disclaimer: The information and views expressed in the newsletter is of the authors only. Partnership for TB Care and Control does not take responsibility for any of the views expressed here.

We would like to thank all our partners for sharing their stories, information and news.

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