

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TSRU MEETING OF 2017 42nd Tuberculosis, Surveillance and Research Unit meeting

WHAT On behalf of the South African National Department of Health Tuberculosis Think Tank* and KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV), we invite you to attend the TSRU meeting 2017. During the meeting, planned, ongoing or finalized research projects relevant to tuberculosis (TB) control and surveillance from various countries are presented. The meeting is meant for researchers, staff of national TB programs, national data managers and others interested in TB control and surveillance. The language of the meeting is English.

WHERE and This meeting will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa. The exact location of the meeting will be published on the [website](#).

WHEN Wednesday 29 March – Friday 31 March 2017.

REGISTRATION Please register online before 27 February 2017: registration will be open end of October 2016. *The registration fee for non-members will be 200 EUR.*

HOTEL and VISA INFO. Information regarding: hotel accommodation, visa application and a route description to the venue will be available on **the website soon** (www.kncvtbc.org/en/event/tsru-meeting-2017/).

ABSTRACTS Interested in presenting at the conference? Submit an abstract for consideration. You can send your abstract(s) **before 20 January 2017** to TSRU@kncvtbc.org. The outcome of the abstract selection will be announced early February 2017. *Supportive materials to submitted abstracts can be sent as well before 27 February 2017.*

“The first question for us must be: which are the key indicators? The second is: How are these key indicators relevant to a clear view of the epidemiological and sociological problems in Tuberculosis? The third question is: What should we do in the future?” (H. Mahler, O. Galtung Hansen, K. Styblo, 1966)

Aim

The main objective of the Tuberculosis Surveillance and Research Unit is to provide a dynamic forum to collaborate, cross-fertilize and critique TB research and surveillance outputs. A complementary goal of TSRU is to foster young TB researchers to promote a sustainable stream of passionate TB

professionals competent to fight the epidemic of the future. The main activity of the TSRU is an annual 2½ days conference, but the TSRU has also served as the birth place of many enduring collaborations, friendships, and initiatives.

History

The TSRU was founded in 1966 with Dr. Karel Styblo as Research Director. From the outset, the meeting was seen as a rare opportunity for critical appraisal of TB surveillance methods in a collaborative and concentrated manner. The TSRU



became known as a place for debate, where it was possible to get high-level feedback on a particular project and interact informally with some of the world’s TB thought leaders. TSRU designed and initiated research projects which were financed by national and international bodies. Historically, the TSRU was heavily focused on epidemiology of TB infection and disease. In the late seventies, the focus of TSRU began to shift to higher prevalence settings and to embrace a wider array of TB control topics, including: chemotherapeutic questions, emerging laboratory diagnostics, modeling, cost-effectiveness and other critical topics of a more multi-disciplinary nature. As the topics have broadened, so too has the diversity of participants. Originally, members were largely drawn from European and Asian countries approaching elimination, but starting in 1980, TSRU began to consciously court members from the Global South to improve the quality of the work and reduce the scientific colonialism common at the time. By 1991, the attention of TSRU members had expanded to include the role of HIV upon TB epidemiology and drug resistance.

“TSRU has shaken a number of deep-rooted concepts and this has sometimes made both some of its findings, and its Scientific director, unpopular.” (A. Rouillon, 1995)

TSRU Today

Despite these changes in scope and audience, what has remained constant at TSRU is the dedication of the TB professionals to high level debate and mutual, constructive collaboration in the global project of TB control. The TSRU continues to fill a niche in the crowded world of meetings by stressing the role of participatory listening and the value of interlocutors to strengthen TB science. More information on the 40-year history of the TSRU can be found in Rouillon A. *The International Tuberculosis Surveillance and Research Unit (TSRU): the first 30 years*. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis 1998; 2(1): 5-9.