

## PRESS RELEASE

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International Union Against  
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
Health solutions for the poor

**Breakthrough research linking diabetes and tuberculosis (TB) infection to be announced at the 48<sup>th</sup> Union World Conference on Lung Health in Guadalajara, Mexico, 11-14 October, 2017**

**Conference to be opened by the Mexican Secretary of Health, Dr José Narro Robles and feature address by H.E. Dr Tabaré Ramón Vázquez Rosas, President of Uruguay**

**New technological advances in the diagnoses and treatment of TB to be unveiled in Guadalajara.**

**Thursday, 14 September 2017 (Paris, France)** — Breakthrough results of a population-based study that investigates for the first time the relationship between TB infection and diabetes will be presented at the [48<sup>th</sup> Union World Conference on Lung Health](#) to be held 11-14 October at the Expo Guadalajara Convention Centre in Guadalajara, Mexico. The study will reveal new figures on TB infection rates amongst undiagnosed diabetics.

This year's scientific programme will also deliver news on the use of new technologies for the diagnosis and treatment of TB, an area described by the World Health Organization (WHO) as imperative to the End TB Strategy.

Expected to draw some 3,000 participants from more than 120 countries, the 48th Union World Conference on Lung Health is the world's pre-eminent gathering for announcing new scientific findings in the field of lung health. Scientists, public health programme and agency leaders, policymakers, affected communities and activists will convene under the theme of ***Accelerating Towards Elimination***, focusing on how to accelerate progress on multiple fronts including TB and co-infections, improving tobacco control measures and reducing air pollution.

Dr **José Narro Robles**, Mexico's Secretary of Health, will open the conference on behalf of H.E. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico.

TB is now the world's leading cause of death from an infectious disease (1.8 million deaths annually), having surpassed HIV/AIDS in 2015, and is increasingly characterised by drug-resistant forms of the disease.

This year's Union World Conference on Lung Health will take place less than a year before the inaugural United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on TB in

New York. A special session featuring the Health Ministers from Argentina, Cambodia, Mexico, Philippines and Zimbabwe and the opening plenary session will explore the implications of that meeting.

“New technologies in the diagnosis and treatment of TB are going to be key if we are to accelerate progress towards eliminating TB,” said José Luis Castro, Executive Director, The Union. “The world has committed to eliminating TB by 2030, but we have a very small window to move toward that goal. As this year’s conference will demonstrate, science, human rights and evidence-based policy must be at the heart of everything we do.”

The conference will also feature a public space – Encuentro – driven by communities involved in the fight for lung health and a city-wide 10 km bike ride, featuring hundreds of conference participants who will be cycling to raise awareness of the chronic air pollution issues in cities worldwide, the need for sustainable transport, and to assert the right of everyone to breathe clean air.

## **ENDS**

**Conference Programme:** download the online iPlanner [here](#)

### **Media Registration:**

Media are strongly encouraged to [register](#) prior to the conference.

### **Press contacts:**

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### **[About The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease \(The Union\)](#)**

The Union is a global scientific organisation with the mission to improve health among people living in poverty. We do that by conducting scientific research, working with governments and other agencies to translate research into better health for people around the world, and delivering projects directly in the field. The Union is made up of a membership body of people around the world who help to advance our mission, and a scientific institute that implements public health projects within countries. For close to 100 years, we have been leaders in the fight against some of the world’s biggest killers, including tuberculosis, lung diseases and tobacco use.

### **About the World Conference on Lung Health**

The Union World Conference on Lung Health is the world's largest gathering of clinicians and public health workers, health programme managers, policymakers, researchers and advocates working to end the suffering caused by lung disease, with a focus specifically on the challenges faced by the low- and middle-income countries. Of the 10 million people who die each year from lung diseases, some 80 percent live in these resource-limited countries.

This year's conference theme, '*Accelerating Toward Elimination*', will centre discussion around the global lung health agenda and the ambitious goals that have been set for the public health community working in lung health. It will focus on how to accelerate toward elimination on multiple fronts: tuberculosis (TB) and co-infections, improving tobacco control and reducing air pollution.