



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

Wirelessly Observed Therapy could revolutionise tuberculosis treatment, researchers to tell the 48th Union World Conference on Lung Health in Guadalajara, Mexico, 11-14 October, 2017

A range of new technological advances in the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis to be unveiled for the first time in Guadalajara.

Wednesday, 4 October 2017 (Guadalajara, Mexico) — A digital revolution in tuberculosis (TB) technology could transform treatment for a generation of people living with the disease researchers will announce at the 48th Union World Conference on Lung Health to be held 11-14 October at the Expo Guadalajara Convention Centre in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) is universally recommended to ensure *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* Complex (MTB) treatment adherence. However, DOT is resource intensive, intrusive and expensive with limited implementation in resource limited settings contributing to increased rates of resistant MTB. Wirelessly Observed Therapy (WOT) has the potential to move the treatment goal posts for the millions of people living with the disease, researchers will announce in Guadalajara.

Scientific progress on the path to eliminating TB by 2030 is making strong strides and some key developments in new technologies that have capacities to better diagnose and treat TB will be showcased for the very first time at the Union conference. In addition, breakthrough results from a population-based study that investigates for the first time the relationship between TB infection and diabetes will be presented in Guadalajara. The study will reveal highly anticipated new figures on TB infection rates amongst undiagnosed diabetics.

“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, and 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.”

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. Over 10 million people per year contract the disease and TB is now in the top ten list of global killers.

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.

The Union Conference will also shine a light on the political momentum gathering ahead of next year's inaugural United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis. on Thursday 12 October first Plenary Session will look at the implications of the High Level Meeting. The expert panel includes Dr Eric Goosby, UN Special Envoy on Tuberculosis, Dr Lucica Ditiu, Executive Director of the Stop TB Partnership, and Professor Michel Kazatchkine, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The conference will also feature a public community 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

Press Programme available: [here](#)

Please note: All press conferences will be broadcast live on the [Conference Twitter Feed](#).

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

Media Registration:

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

Press contacts:

Jo Waters
Global Communications - The Union
Mobile: +44 (0) 7949 770 409
e-mail: jwaters@theunion.org

Michael Kessler
Michael Kessler Media
Mobile: +34 655 792 699
e-mail: michael.kessler@inton-media.com

[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.