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CTVD Membership Update

For those of you who have been with us since the inception of CTVD, we are so thankful for your continued involvement; and fortunate to have you as part of the team. For those of you who are new to CTVD, welcome! We currently have 51 member institutions, with over 200 individual members, and are still growing.

Third Annual CTVD Meeting

The 3rd CTVD Annual Meeting was held at the Gates Foundation in Seattle, WA June 21-23, 2017. Research Community members met on June 21 and the general meeting convened June 22-23. Remarkable novel TB vaccine-related data were presented at this collaborative and productive meeting, with 145 participants from academia, independent research institutes, industry, funding organizations and the Gates Foundation. During the first day, experts discussed topics such as advances in the TB vaccine discovery and testing space, lessons learned from basic immunology efforts relevant for TB vaccines, and controlled human infection models. Gates Foundation CEO, Sue Desmond Hellmann, discussed precision medicine and whether it can be applied to TB vaccines. We heard exciting presentations from some of our leading junior investigators as well as CMV and RNA vaccine updates. For the second day, the six different CTVD research communities shared their outputs as well as their future areas of exploration and collaboration. Many significant advances were presented at this year's CTVD meeting, we have highlighted a few here and have also included each of the research community's main priorities: [CTVD highlights](#)

To view the presentations from the 2016 and 2017 annual meetings, as well as our junior investigator abstracts, please visit <https://portal.ctvd.co/ctvdmeetings>.

TB Research Action Network

Scientists interested in opportunities to get involved in advocacy to support TB research can join [Treatment Action Group's TB Research Action Network](#). To join, complete [this short form](#). Those that join will receive occasional action alerts about steps scientists can take to support advocacy for TB research organized by TAG and its partners. This is not a discussion or fundraising listserv, and TAG will never share your information with outside parties. You can also view TAG's annual [Pipeline Report](#), which reviews progress in the clinical pipelines for new drugs, diagnostics, and preventive technologies for TB, HIV and hepatitis C.

CTVD Portal

Have you missed previously recorded CTVD Virtual Forums or Meetings? Want to view documents from your Research Community? Access to the secure portal is available to CTVD members whose institution has signed the DMSA (data and materials sharing agreement). There is an expectation that data arising from CTVD services and GH-VAP services be shared in a manner consistent with the Data Sharing Principles. Visit the CTVD Portal, located in the upper right hand corner of the CTVD home page, <https://www.ctvd.co>, to access all this information and more. Forgot your logon? Contact Ksenia Koon, CTVD Manager, for help.

CTVD Annual Survey

Have you taken this year's survey yet? It's not too late! Whether you are new to the CTVD, or have taken previous surveys before, we want your input.

The 2017 CTVD Annual Perception Survey is open until July 31st. This short, confidential opinion survey takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete. It helps to measure the CTVD's effectiveness towards achieving its goals and provides an overall sense of what participants experience, think and need.

To take the survey, use the personal link provided in your invitation email (sent on June 23rd), or use this web link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTVD2017> Feel free to contact the evaluators directly with any questions via email at april@cespartnership.com or michael@cespartnership.com.

Thanks for your participation!

Upcoming Virtual Forums

The CTVD holds monthly webinars aimed at keeping our members informed of exciting advances in the field. If you have ideas for topics/speakers for upcoming virtual forums, please send them our way! To view the most recent webinar, visit CTVD portal, located in the upper right hand corner of the CTVD home page, at <https://www.ctvd.co>.

Research Community Update

CTVD currently has six research communities. These research communities are involved in identifying and mapping critical research priorities for TB vaccine discovery and development. Each community is mandated with discussing the issues at hand and devising priority areas to address. We, at the Gates Foundation, champion these research communities and investigate avenues to fund these priorities. If you have questions about any of the research communities, please ask one of the co-chairs.

Aerosol and Mucosal Vaccination: Aurelio Bonavia | Steffen Stenger

B-cells and Antibodies: Bryan Charleston | Steve Porcelli

Conventional T cells: Helen Fletcher | Kevin Urdahl

Donor-Unrestricted T Cells: Dave Lewinsohn | Branch Moody

Non-Human Primates: Trisha Darrah | Dominick Laddy

Whole Cell TB Vaccines: Olivier Neyrolles

Early Career Scientist Award

Today's early career scientists are essential to ensure that the field remains innovative, scientifically robust, and to infuse new ways of approaches to tackle the scientific challenges in order to develop a TB vaccine. The CTVD has implemented a process, the CTVD Early Career Scientist Award, to recognize the efforts of early career scientists who have made significant contributions to research in TB host-pathogen biology, immunology, and vaccinology. The Early Career Scientist award carries with it a travel grant to attend a TB-related conference. This award will cover expenses related to registration and travel (air flight, lodging, and meals).

All nominations must be submitted electronically via the link below. Nominations will not be accepted by email or by post. Please submit your nominations today!

<https://www.ctvd.co/Pages/EarlyCareerScientistAward.aspx>

Visiting Scientist Program

The Visiting Scientist Program (VSP) enables scientists from different CTVD member institutions to embrace new scientific concepts and gain experience in novel technologies with an overarching goal of promoting the exchange of ideas, expertise, and experiences. Through the VSP, scientists from CTVD member institutions from around the world are invited, as visiting scientists, to spend from 1 week to a maximum of 3 weeks and participate in established research studies in a laboratory of a CTVD member institution of their choice. Visiting scientists and the host scientists will jointly develop a coordinated agenda and training schedule, which is tailored to address their area of expertise and/or the specific techniques, instruments or innovations they want to learn.

Congratulations to our two upcoming Visiting Scientists awardees!



In September 2017, Gil Reynolds Diogo (from Dr. Rajko Reljic's laboratory at the Institute for Infection and Immunity at St. George's Medical School at the University of London) will be visiting the laboratories of Dr. Galit Alter at Ragon Institute of MGH and Dr. Sarah Fortune at Harvard. Dr. Diogo will receive training in immunological antibody characterization assays, as well as undertake research in understanding the protective role of antibodies in TB.



Also in September 2017, Hlumani Ndlovu (from Dr. Mohlopheni Marakalala's laboratory at the Department of Integrative Biomedical Sciences at the University of Cape Town) will be visiting the laboratory of Dr. JoAnne Flynn and Dr. Josh Mattila at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Ndlovu will receive training in advanced immunohistochemistry and confocal microscopy on tissues harvested from non-human primates infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*).

Please visit <https://www.ctvd.co/Pages/VisitingScientistProgram.aspx> for more information and to apply!

CTVD Advisory Council

The CTVD Advisory Council is comprised of the co-chairs from each of the six research communities, plus a representative from Aeras and TBVI. The Advisory Council meets semi-annually and guides the direction of CTVD.

GH-VAP

The Global Health Vaccine Accelerator Platform (GH-VAP) program provides investigators with access to several specialized research platforms to accelerate vaccine discovery and translation across infectious disease areas. To learn more, visit GH-VAP at <https://www.ghvap.org>

The Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute (GMRI)

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation intends to establish a non-profit medical research institute that will combat diseases that disproportionately impact the poor in low- and middle-income countries by accelerating progress in translational science – the process that translates promising scientific discoveries into potential medical products.

The foundation anticipates that the initial focus of the institute will be to enhance the product pipeline for malaria, tuberculosis, and enteric and diarrheal diseases. Since 1990, the global health product development pipeline has produced dozens of high-impact interventions that have helped save more than 100 million lives. The institute intends to build on this progress by capitalizing on new strategies that could increase the identification, selection, and optimization of novel candidates for drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and medical devices.

The foundation intends to transition potentially viable interventions to product development partners, developing country manufacturers, and others to take forward into late-stage development.

It is anticipated that the institute will be co-located in the Seattle and Boston metropolitan regions and that [Penny Heaton](#), who currently leads the foundation's Vaccine Development and Surveillance Program, will take a senior leadership role with the institute.

The foundation is in the early stages of planning and design for the institute, and further details will be provided toward the end of 2017.

Publications of Interest

- "[In a world ruled by rumour, it is vital that scientists speak with humility and clarity](#)" by [Sue Desmond-Hellmann](#), The Guardian.
- "[Comprehensive definition of human immunodominant CD8 antigens in tuberculosis](#)" by Lewinsohn et al, Nature Partner Journals.
- "[Inflammatory signaling in human tuberculosis granulomas is spatially organized](#)" by Marakalala et al, Nature Medicine.

Do you have an article that you think the CTVD community would enjoy reading? If so, please let us know. We welcome your contributions of publications of interest for upcoming newsletters and our website.

Feedback

If you have questions or comments, please contact the CTVD program manager at Ksenia.Koon@gatesfoundation.org