CTVD
The Collaboration for TB Vaccine Discovery

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CTVD Announcements

Early Career Scientist Awardee

Congratulations Dr Simone Joosten!

Simone is a Senior Researcher and Assistant Professor at the Leiden University Medical Center. She has published extensively on TB biomarkers, detailed characterization of novel human T-cell subsets and more recently macrophage biology and metabolism.

Visiting Scientist Program

The program is designed for a personnel from a CTVD member institution who has a scholarly and intellectual interest in the state-of-the-art techniques, instruments, and innovations available in another CTVD member institution that can strengthen the capacity of the visiting scientist's institute for TB research. Through this program, scientists from CTVD member institutions from around the world are invited to spend from 1 week to a maximum of 4 weeks and participate in established research studies in a laboratory of a CTVD member institution of their choice.
More information here.

Research Communities

Research communities aim to address specific areas critical for TB vaccine discovery and development. They are led by persons from outside the foundation and will meet to discuss scientific issues at hand and devise priority areas that have to be addressed. We hope that individuals within these communities would initiate funding applications to major funders, including the foundation, to address priorities. Anyone can take part in these communities – if interested, please contact the appropriate leader.

Aerosol vaccination: Aurelio Bonavia | Steffen Stenger
DURTs: Dave Lewinsohn | Branch Moody
NHPs: Mario Roederer | Bob Seder

Whole cell vaccines: Olivier Neyrolles | Tom Scriba

NEW communities:
Conventional T cells: Helen Fletcher | Kevin Urdahl
B-cells and Antibodies: Bryan Charleston | Richard Frothingham | Elma Tchilian

Virtual Forum

April Virtual Forum Reminder
Presenter: Zhou XING, MD, PhD, (McMaster Immunology Research Centre)
Date: Monday, April 18, 2016
Time: 11h00 PDT | 14h00 EDT | 16h00 UTC
Abstract: Mtb has evolved to counter host defense mechanisms. One way to develop the effective TB vaccination strategies is to identify the immune checkpoints where host defense does not do well in early phases of M.tb infection, and develop vaccination strategies to target these checkpoints. Respiratory mucosal vaccination can most effectively target these checkpoints by accelerating innate immune activation and T cell immunity in the lung upon Mtb exposure.

To join this one hour online event on **April 18th:**

1. Go to: WebEx Meeting
2. Enter your first name, last name, and email address
3. Enter the event password: **CTVD123**

If you have any problems joining, please send an email to brian@regenworks.com
(Phone: 425.999.2420)

May Virtual Forum Reminder
Presenter: Stéphane LEUNG-THEUNG-LONG, PhD (Transgene)
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2016
Time: 8h00 PDT | 11h00 EDT | 16h00 UTC
Abstract: Transgene is carrying an active program aiming at developing candidate vaccines against Mycobacterium tuberculosis. While the developed vaccine candidates have the potential to be evaluated in both a prophylactic and a therapeutic settings, priority of the company today is to bring to the clinic a “therapeutic vaccine” or “active-targeted immunotherapeutic” to improve treatment of active TB, in particular linked to DR (drug resistant) strains. The retained platform of Transgene program is the MVA (very high genomic plasticity, safety profile, adapted to multiple administrations as shown in a number of Transgene therapeutic programs). Over the course of the last 5 years Transgene has engineered and tested a collection of different MVA constructs. Today, 6 MVA-TB have been retained, expressing from 6-10 TB antigens covering all 3 phases of the infection (active, latency/dormancy, resuscitation). Those MVA have proven highly immunogenic in mice, capable to induce both CD4 and CD8 T cells, including T cells with lytic activity and producing multiple cytokines as well as specific antibodies (ELISA specific of all selected Mtb antigens have been developed).

To join this one hour online event on **May 18th:**

1. Go to: WebEx Meeting
2. Enter your first name, last name, and email address
3. Enter the event password: **CTVD123**

If you have any problems joining, please send an email to brian@regenworks.com
(Phone: 425.999.2420)

2nd Annual Meeting Travel Awards

The CTVD will offer a limited number of travel awards to early-career scientists, postdocs and research associates who have had an abstract accepted for the 2nd CTVD Annual meeting in Seattle. Abstracts must be original and must not have been published prior to the 2nd Annual CTVD meeting. **Abstracts should explore the following topics of interest**: TB host-pathogen biology, TB immunology, TB vaccinology. Abstracts must be submitted in English. Abstracts over 300 words will not be accepted. **Abstracts should be submitted before 15 May 2016**. Applications will be reviewed by the CTVD management team and winning abstracts will be announced end of May 2016. Winners will be asked to present a poster at the 2nd CTVD Annual meeting in Seattle and will receive a travel award covering transportation and lodging for the duration of the meeting. Please send your abstracts to ctvdmanager@ctvd.co

Eligibility

1. The competition is open to all early-career scientists, PhD students, postdocs and research associates currently enrolled in a degree program or part of a CTVD member institution. Eligible candidates have obtained their PhD in the last 6 years or less.
2. There is no cap to the number of entries submitted from a CTVD member institution.
3. Entries previously presented in a professional society meeting is allowed as long as it has not been published. Please disclose both the venue, and the date of the presentation at the time of their submission.

New Members

To date, 32 institutions have signed the Data and Materials Sharing Agreement (DMSA).
Let's welcome our new members:
The Pirbright Institute
National Institutes of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition
St George's, University of London
Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute

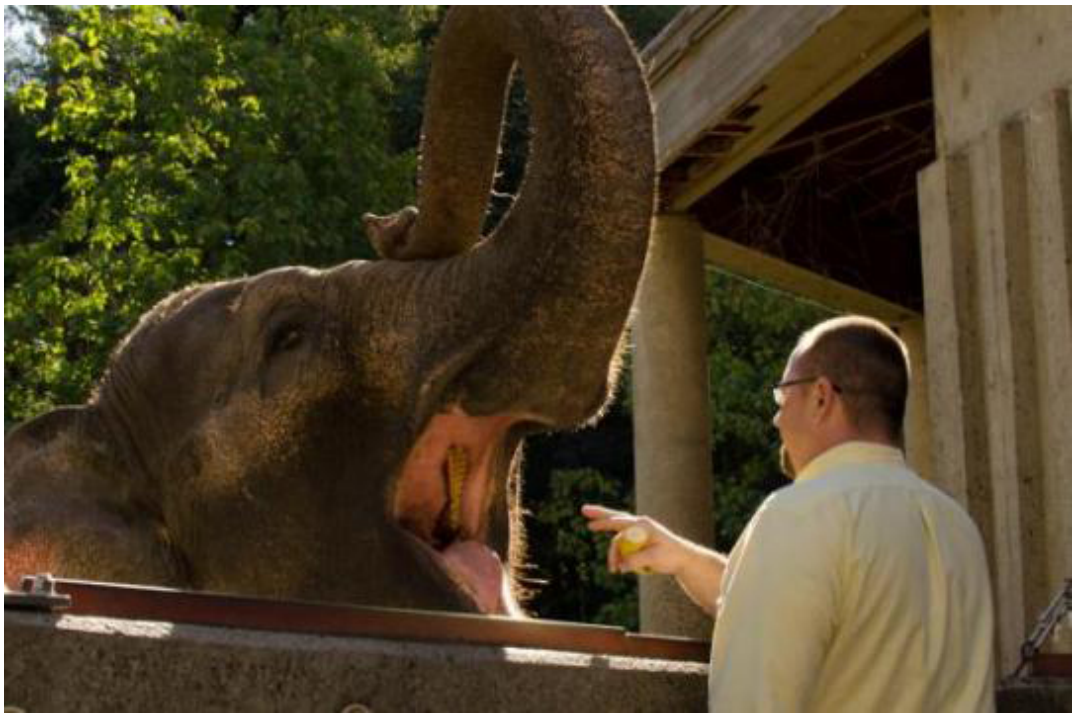
Another acronym, but an important one! GTBVP

The Global Tuberculosis Vaccine Partnership (GTBVP) is a collaboration between the European Commission, the European and Developing Countries Trials Partnership (EDCTP), the European Investment Bank, Aeras, TBVI, the South African Department of Science and Technology and the French Ministry for Research which aims to introduce global portfolio management for clinical trials of new TB vaccines. In short, we cannot afford to test candidates that have not passed gating criteria that suggest success. GTBVP hopes to create an independent global portfolio assessment committee (GPAC), which could be contacted by funders when individual candidates are considered for funding – to give input. All funders that operate in the global TB vaccine space will meet soon to discuss this initiative (as well as outcomes of CTVD research communities).

TB News

Who Knew About TB Risk From Elephants?

While TB cases rose last year in the U.S. for the first time in 23 years, the federal government has stopped regulating an important vector of this potentially deadly disease. Experts have found that at least 18% of elephants in this country carry tuberculosis, and elephants can easily transmit TB to humans because it is airborne. Seven people were recently diagnosed with tuberculosis after exposure to elephants at a zoo. Following this outbreak, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called for better screening of TB in elephants.
Read more here.



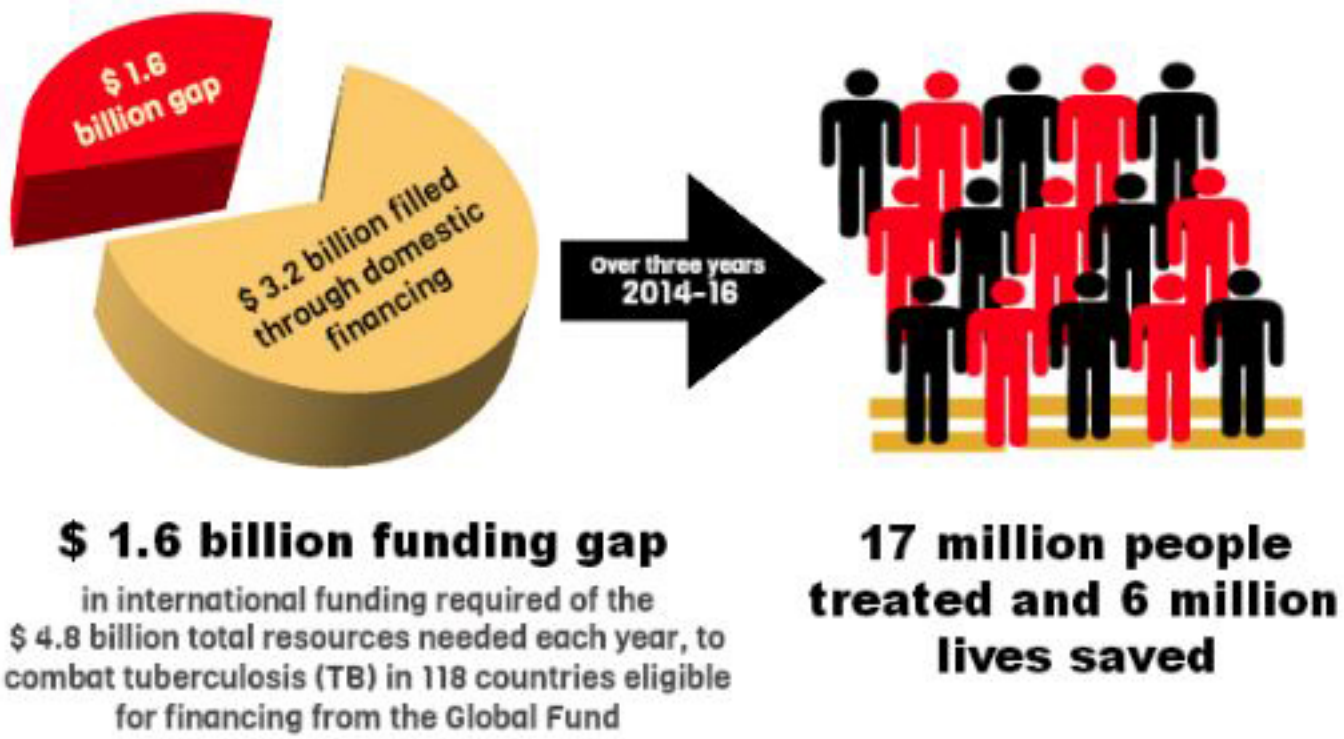
Mice lie! But not these TB detective rats?

Scientists from APOPO, an international firm known for using rats to locate landmines is now training the giant pouched rodents to sniff out tuberculosis among inmates in Tanzania and Mozambique. APOPO says the rats undergo a rigorous training process that begins when they are four weeks old. As soon as the rats open their eyes, they are introduced to various stimuli and learn how to socialize and interact with people.
Read more here.

UN Special Envoy on Tuberculosis: Giving Voice to the Voiceless

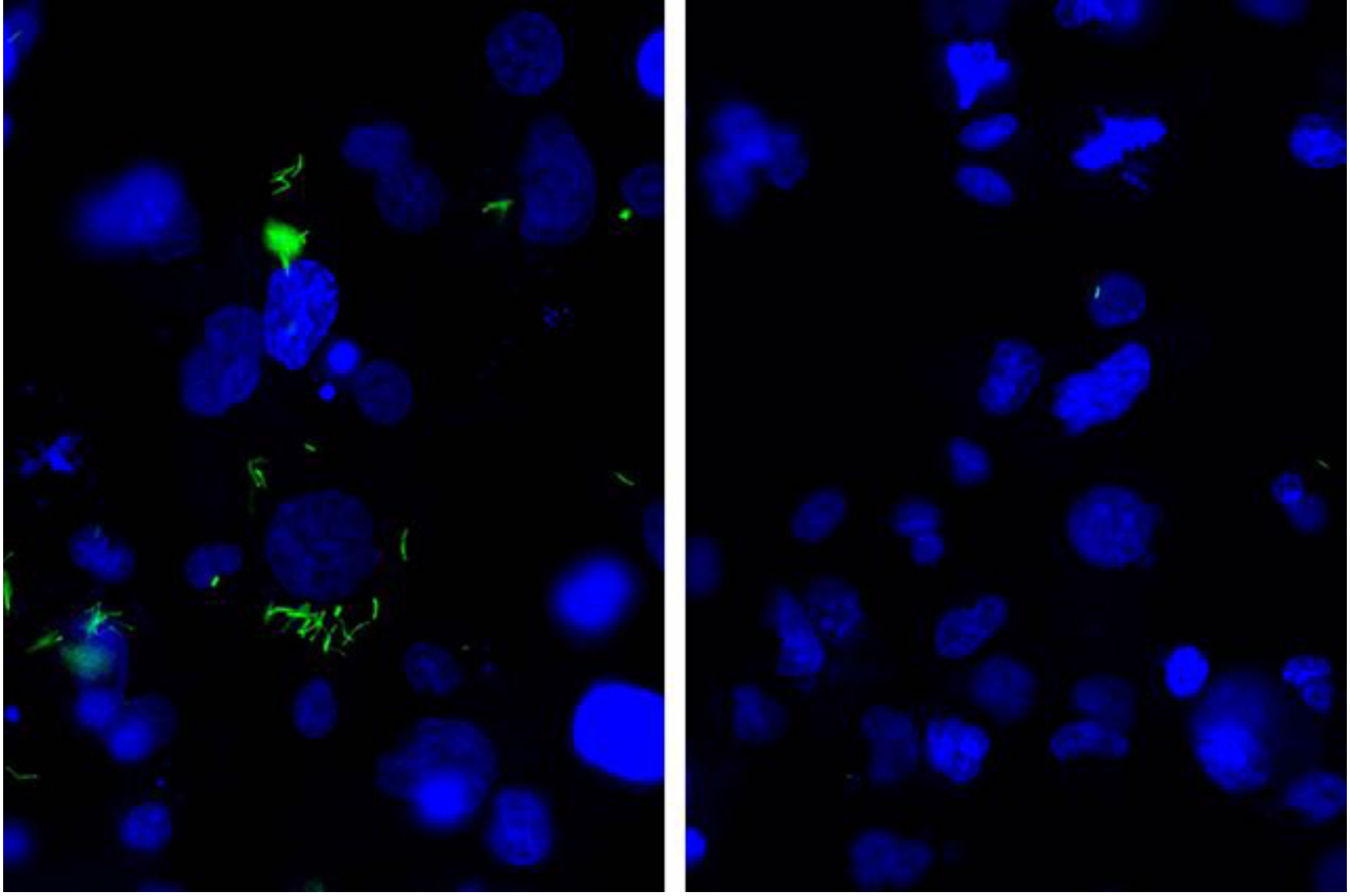
March 24th - World TB Day - is just like most any other day. Little attention will be paid to the fact that tuberculosis is now the number one infectious disease killer in the world. TB has long been the stepchild of the three major global health diseases - AIDS, TB and malaria. A major reason why TB primarily impacts people living in poverty, those who are voiceless or whose voices are simply ignored. It is ironic that a curable disease remains a disease fighting to gain attention.
Read more here.

Tuberculosis Financing and Funding Gaps



The World Health Organization estimates that to get ahead of TB, the world needs much more research. Public health workers need faster and cheaper ways to diagnose the infection, treat it, and ultimately, prevent it through a vaccine. The global investment is about $675 million today. The World Health Organization says about another $1.3 billion annually is needed.

Therapies selected using feedback system control may shorten TB treatment



Researchers from UCLA and Shanghai Jiao Tong University have made an important step toward a substantially faster and more effective treatment for TB. In the study, researchers used a technique called feedback system control, which was developed at UCLA. They quickly narrowed combinations of 14 different tuberculosis drugs with five different doses — resulting in 6 billion possibilities — into several promising combination treatments that kill the bacteria that cause tuberculosis much faster than the standard regimen used to treat tuberculosis.

Other News

International Research Scholars Program

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, have established an international program to select up to 50 outstanding early career scientists. The International Research Scholars Program will support early-mid-career scientists—from non-G7 countries - whose work shows the potential to lead to global-health breakthroughs. Applicants must hold a full-time position as an independent scientist at a research-oriented university, medical school or nonprofit institution. The program will address the funding needs of selected non-G7 scientists who have generally have less access to financial support. Read more about the program here. **Applications are due June 30, 2016.**