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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 175 individual members, and are still growing.

## Third Annual CTVD Meeting

The 3rd CTVD Annual Meeting will be held at the Gates Foundation in Seattle, WA June 21-23, 2017! Research Community members will meet on June 21 and the general meeting will convene June 22-23. We look forward to this opportunity to discuss recent advances in the field of TB Vaccine discovery and consider strategies for moving the CTVD program forward. To view presentations from the 2016 annual meeting, please visit <https://portal.ctvd.co/ctvdmeetings>.

## 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.

## 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!

- Date:** Friday, April 21, 2017  
**Time:** 8h00 PDT/ 11h00 EDT/ 16h00 GMT/ 18h00 GMT+3  
**Presenters:** Please join us for an update on the activities and priorities of the six CTVD research communities; Aerosol and Mucosal Vaccines, B-cells and Antibodies, Conventional T Cells, Donor Unrestricted T Cells, Non-Human Primates, and Whole Cell Vaccines. This session will be moderated by Willem Hanekom.

To join this one hour online event on **April 21st:**

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](mailto:brian@regenworks.com)  
(Phone: 425.999.2420)*

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 and one sub-community. 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.

### Research Communities

**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

#### **Sub-ommunity**

**Combined DURT/NHP:** Chetan Sheshadri

## **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.

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 two 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.qhvap.org>

## **An Update from two of our Collaborators: TBVI and Aeras**

### **TuBerculosis Vaccine Initiative TBVI Les Diablerets Meeting**

163 TB vaccine researchers, developers and key stakeholders from Europe, US, Africa, Asia, and Australia met from January 30th to February 2nd for the TBVI /TBVAC2020 annual meeting in the Swiss mountain village of Les Diablerets. This gathering of TB vaccine R&D scientists from 70 research institutes, universities, industry, funding agencies, technical agencies and other partners focused on the presentation of early results from work in the context of [TBVAC2020](#), funded principally by the European Commission with additional co-funding from Switzerland, South Korea and Australia, and leveraged funding from Norway and the UK.

TBVAC2020, a 4 year R&D project is managed by TBVI, a non-profit foundation facilitating the discovery and development of new TB vaccines accessible and affordable for all. TBVI provides essential services including technical support for product and clinical development, knowledge development platforms and project development and management to its R&D partners. By 2019 TBVAC2020 is expected to deliver:

- New vaccine candidates identified to diversify the TB vaccine global pipeline
- New promising vaccine candidates selected for preclinical and early clinical evaluation
- Novel promising correlates of protection identified and validated
- Involvement of SMEs and private industry in these vaccine and biomarker developments
- New IP registrations submitted and approved
- Peer reviewed and open access publications

The Diablerets meeting also included a Symposium covering the topics: TB biomarkers - from discovery to clinical development; TB vaccine R&D - a strategic update; Preventive and therapeutic TB vaccination to prevent AMR, treat AMR and possibly shorten TB treatment.

Talks are currently underway between CTVD and TBVI to explore how both the venues of the CTVD annual meeting and Les Diablerets can best be used to further bring together key players and advance the TB vaccine R&D global agenda.

### **Aeras Update**

Aeras is a not-for-profit organization with a global mission to develop new TB vaccines that are safe, affordable and accessible to all who need them. We have offices in Rockville, USA, Cape Town, South Africa and Beijing China and work in partnership with many TB vaccine researchers and stakeholders to conduct translational research and product development, from preclinical studies through to late stage clinical efficacy trials. Aeras, together with our partners, is currently conducting two Phase 2 trials in Africa - a prevention of (established) infection trial of H4:IC31, or BCG revaccination, in collaboration with Sanofi Pasteur, at two sites in South Africa, SATVI and Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, and a prevention-of-disease study for the M72/AS01E vaccine in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline and a consortium of 11 clinical trial sites in South Africa, Kenya and Zambia. We expect to conduct the primary analysis of the M72 trial in 2-3Q 2017 and report final results of the H4 trial in the first half of 2018.

We also work to strengthen the global pre-clinical pipeline and are currently developing promising viral vector and whole cell vaccine candidates against Mtb in collaboration with our development partners, including, OHSU, NIH, Create Vaccine, NIBIOHN, CNBG, Transgene and GlaxoSmithKline. The progress made in these programs would not be possible without the collaboration and support of CTVD investigators and laboratories, which have been critical in our efforts to evaluate candidate vaccines through animal models, new microbiological tools, and immunological assays. As examples, Aeras and our development partners are working with members of the CTVD NHP community to evaluate viral vectored and aerosolized live vaccine approaches; we are also working with the CTVD donor-unrestricted T cell research community to develop novel immunological assays to measure this class of immune responses in clinical trials. As an active member of the CTVD research community, Aeras serves as a translational partner to enable advancement of innovative vaccine concepts and candidates into product development, with the aim of building a highly diversified, promising TB vaccine portfolio in the foreseeable future.

### **Publications of Interest**

- **Sue Desmond Hellman's, BMGF CEO**, response to the proposed NIH budget cuts.  
We are deeply troubled that the budget proposal disproportionately affects the poorest people, abroad and at home. In just 25 years, American investments overseas have helped prevent the deaths of 122 million children, cut extreme poverty in half, and put the world on the verge of eradicating polio. Foreign aid, and investments in research and development, have played a vital role in achieving this progress. Empowering people to lead healthy, productive lives creates more stable societies, which are critical to our national security. In the United States, we must continue to focus on expanding access to education and economic opportunity. The proposed cuts will ultimately make America, and the world, less prosperous and less safe.
- **Open Access Research:**  
["The Shackles of Scientific Journals" in The Economist](#)  
["The Findings of Medical Research are Disseminated Too Slowly" in The Economist](#)
- **Comprehensive analysis of CD8(+)-T-cell responses against hepatitis C virus reveals multiple unpredicted specificities.**  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Comprehensive+definition+of+human+immunodominant>
- **Trends in Microbiology**  
["Integrating Lung Physiology, Immunology, and Tuberculosis" by Jordi B. Torrelles and Larry S. Schlesinger](#)

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](mailto:Ksenia.Koon@gatesfoundation.org)