

LUNG HEALTH FOR ALL SOLUTIONS FOR A NEW ERA

THE 52ND UNION WORLD
CONFERENCE ON LUNG HEALTH
19-22 OCTOBER 2021
VIRTUAL EVENT

For Immediate Release

Media Advisory

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and South Africa Minister for Health Mathume Joseph Phaahla to address the virtual 52nd Union World Conference on Lung Health

Breakthrough results on tuberculosis transmission, testing and treatment to be announced in two official live press conferences

Media Registration now open

Wednesday, 13th October 2021 (Paris, France) –WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and South African South African Minister for Health Mathume Joseph Phaahla will address the virtual [52nd Union World Conference on Lung Health \(WCOLH\)](#) taking place next week October 19-22. The event takes place against the backdrop of ongoing COVID-19 vaccine inequity and with the pandemic continuing to the impact on the delivery of TB services in many low- and middle-income countries.

COVID-19 and tuberculosis are today the world's two leading infectious disease killers. The novel coronavirus pandemic has refocused attention on how infectious diseases transmit from person to person and has catalysed innovations in sampling and diagnostics. There has also been a renewed focus on zoonotic disease infection. The disruption to TB services during the pandemic has only highlighted just how important it will be going forward that testing for and treating TB are made simpler and easier to access.

Breakthrough data on tuberculosis transmission, zoonotic transmission, testing and treatment will be announced in **two official live press conferences taking place Tuesday October 19, 09:30 CEST and Wednesday October 20, 10:30 CEST.**

What: Official Opening Press Conference, 52nd Union World Conference on Lung Health

When: Tuesday, 19th October 2021, 09:30-10:15 EST

Who:

- Guy Marks, President, The Union (Chair)
- Tereza, Kaeseva, Director, WHO TB Programme
- Uvistra Naidoo, Pediatric doctor, TB & COVID-19 survivor
- Claire Forlani, Actress, Ambassador, The Union
- Ryan Dinkele, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, **Cough-independent aerosolisation of Mycobacterium suggests a significant role for tidal breathing in tuberculosis transmission.**
- Kirsty Officer, School of Veterinary and Life Sciences, Murdoch University, Perth, Australia **Tuberculosis at a human bear interface in Cambodia.**

- Anura David, University of the Witwatersrand, Molecular Medicine and Haematology, Johannesburg, South Africa, **Clinical evaluation of the non-sputum based Xpert TB host response RUO assay in a POC setting**

What: Official Scientific Press Conference, 52nd Union World Conference on Lung Health

When: Wednesday 20th October 2021, 10:30-11:15 CEST

Who:

- Ingrid Shoeman Chair, The Union's Community Advisory Panel (UCAP) Johannesburg, South Africa (Chair)
- Fleming Lure, Dr. Investigator at MS Technologies Corp, Shenzhen Zhying Medical Imaging, Guangdong, China, **Development of Artificial Intelligence for Screening Active Tuberculosis on CT Images**
- Aurélia Vessière, researcher in infectious diseases epidemiology, University of Bordeaux, France, **Feasibility and yield of systematic tuberculosis molecular testing in children with severe pneumonia in countries with high tuberculosis incidence**
- Arturo Torres Ortiz, PHD Student, Imperial College London, UK, **Genomic signatures of pre-resistance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis**
- Kimberly Hedges, Health Scientist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of TB Elimination, Clinical Research Branch's (CRB) Tuberculosis' Trials Consortium (TBTC), Atlanta, Georgia, U.S. **Efficacy and safety of 4-month rifapentine-moxifloxacin regimen for tuberculosis in adolescent participants**
- Bern-Thomas Nyang'wa, Chief Investigator of the TB-PRACTECAL Trial, Medical Director of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF-OCA), UK, **Short all-oral treatment for Rifampicin Resistant Tuberculosis. Results from TB-PRACTECAL, a Phase II-III multicentre randomised controlled trial of a 24-week BPaLM regimen**

ENDS

Please Note: Attendance at the Official Press Conferences is strictly limited to accredited media only.

[Media registration](#) is open and free to all accredited media representatives.

Other conference highlights

The theme of the 52nd Union World Conference on Lung Health is *Lung Health for All: Solutions for a New Era*. With the world still in the grip of a lung health pandemic, it is also confronting questions about systemic race relations and how the same vulnerable communities that bear the brunt of TB and HIV have now been hit the hardest by COVID-19.

The conference will explore solutions to these challenges with the latest [science and research](#) around TB treatment, vaccines and zoonotic disease outbreaks. It will also feature basic and translational TB research ([TBScience](#)) and the most pressing issues facing affected communities ([Community Connect](#)).

Further Information:

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About the [52nd Union World Conference on Lung Health](#)

The Union World Conference on Lung Health, convened by [The Union](#), 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 low-and lower-middle income populations. Of the 10 million people who die each year from lung diseases, some 80 percent live in these resource-limited settings.

Organising international conferences on TB and related subjects has been a core activity of The Union since its founding in 1920.

Twitter: @UnionConference

About [The Union](#)

The Union was founded in 1920 and is the world's first global health organisation. We are a global leader in ending TB, we fight the tobacco industry, and we solve key problems in treating major diseases. We use science to design the best treatments and policies for the most pressing public health challenges affecting people living in poverty around the world. The Union's members, staff and consultants operate in more than 140 countries and embody our core values of accountability, independence, quality and solidarity.

See how The Union is supporting the [COVID-19 response](#).

Twitter: @TheUnion_TBLH