



THE UNION MEMBERSHIP SCIENTIFIC SECTIONS 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The Union's scientific sections and working groups offer members an opportunity to affiliate with others who share the same interests and collaborate on research, publications and projects. One of their principal activities is to propose sessions and contribute to the planning of the Union World Conference on Lung Health. They also participate in the governance of The Union through the General Assembly.

TUBERCULOSIS SECTION

Throughout the past year, the tuberculosis (TB) section has focused on engaging members in two Union projects to solicit ideas and hear their views. One project focused on improved detection of child TB in Uganda, through DETECT Child TB; the other on scaling new diagnostics, drugs and regimen in India, through Challenge TB.

The section has also contributed actively to The Union's input to the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB, in New York, and has held a number of webinars giving members opportunities for learning and engagement in a wide range of other TB projects.

WORKING GROUPS

DRUG-RESISTANT TB

The group continues to focus its activities on the rollout of new drugs and regimens, with special attention to the nine-month regimen recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2016.

TB AND MIGRATION

This working group supports and promotes research and initiatives to develop this important and under researched field. TB among migrants may be increased due to unsafe conditions during transit and the epidemiology in their communities of origin. For this reason, early TB detection and access to healthcare among migrant populations is vital.

GLOBAL INDIGENOUS STOP TB INITIATIVE GROUP

The group focuses on improving the health of indigenous peoples globally with a focus on TB. The group supported a range of sessions at the 49th Union World Conference that work towards equitable TB care of indigenous peoples.

TB AND ETHICS

The group has been active connecting practitioners and ethicists in reflective engagement around critical issues in TB management, and in promoting critical interaction with the WHO's new ethics guidelines.

TB CONTROL IN PRISONS

During the last year, the group has published the compendium of *'Good practices in prevention and care of tuberculosis and drug-resistant tuberculosis in correctional facilities'*, the goal of which is to share knowledge gained in the management of TB in penitentiary systems globally, and to encourage countries to adopt and scale up these practices in their mission to end TB.

TB INFECTION CONTROL

The group dedicated their efforts in the past year to promoting quality in the implementation of TB infection controls. This included hosting a Union webinar that examined process and outcome measures for environmental and administrative approaches to TB infection control. The group also participated in drafting

an implementation manual in support of the forthcoming revised WHO guidelines on TB infection control.

TB AND MENTAL HEALTH

The group has contributed the first ever chapter on *'Mental Health Management of TB'* in the forthcoming 2nd Edition of the companion handbook to the WHO guidelines for the programmatic management of TB.

The group released a video, *Learning from the field: the mental health management of MDR-TB in Peru*, to promote the wide-scale provision of mental health screening and services for patients receiving treatment for TB worldwide.

They also continued an ongoing systematic literature review to examine the association between mental disorders and poor TB outcomes and, alongside WHO, co-authored a comment in The Lancet Psychiatry entitled *'Tuberculosis: An opportunity for mental health service integration in low-resource settings'*.

SUB-SECTIONS

BACTERIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY SUB-SECTION

This year the sub-section organised two webinars on the topics of *'Drug resistance updates: discordance, mutations and clinical outcomes'* and *'Sustainability of BSL-2 & BSL-3 (moderate-risk & high-risk) TB laboratories: The good, the bad, and the ugly'*.

NURSES AND ALLIED PROFESSIONALS SUB-SECTION

NAPS is a diverse group of members who share an interest in improving patient/client care and enhancing their practices in TB and lung health.

TB EDUCATION AND TRAINING WORKING GROUP

The Nurses and Allied Professionals (NAPS) TB Education and Training working group coordinates a resource display/share area, as well

as a discussion forum, on TB education and training initiatives and tools during the Union World Conference on Lung Health each year.

ZOOONOTIC TB SUB-SECTION

This year, members of the Zoonotic TB sub-section promoted a 'One Health' online platform, which involves a diverse range of experts discussing and engaging with each other and the general public on *'The Road Map for Zoonotic TB'*. The road map addresses the impact of *Mycobacterium bovis* infection on the health and well-being of people and animals.

HIV SECTION

The group has expanded to include TB co-morbidity, TB-diabetes mellitus, which is becoming increasingly important for TB care and prevention. The HIV section organises a Late-Breaker Session on TB/HIV during the 49th Union World Conference on Lung Health, in The Hague, which includes abstracts on TB-diabetes.

ADULT AND CHILD LUNG HEALTH SECTION

This year, the Adult and Child Lung Health section established close contacts with The Union's newly appointed Director of Lung Health, Professor Kevin Mortimer. The objective is to build a long-term partnership to achieve improved lung health, with a priority focus on asthma and COPD, child pneumonia, post-TB lung disease and environmental risk factors for lung disease.

WORKING GROUPS

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT IN LOW-AND-MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

The group organised a symposium devoted to asthma management during the 49th Union World Conference on Lung Health, which included a presentation on the Global Asthma Report 2018, lessons from The Union's

experience on asthma management, and the problem of access to medicines for asthma and other respiratory diseases.

MATERNAL AND CHILD TUBERCULOSIS

The group published a Cochrane protocol on the performance of TB symptom screening of pregnant women infected with HIV. They are working to complete this systematic review of the literature.

The group also developed an advocacy video on TB in pregnancy, and have provided input to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revision of the US 'national TB case reporting form', to improve surveillance efforts of TB among pregnant and postpartum women.

In addition, the group launched a resource website for child TB and is looking to expand this to include additional content on maternal TB.

AIR POLLUTION AND LUNG HEALTH

The group delivered air pollution workshops at the Pan African Thoracic Society and South African Thoracic Society 2018 Joint Congress in Durban, South Africa, and at the 49th Union World Conference on Lung Health. The group is also developing an initiative to strengthen the voice of clinicians and other health-oriented professionals in shaping clean air policies worldwide.

TOBACCO CONTROL SECTION

WORKING GROUPS

COUNTERING TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES

The group has contributed to the development of several key Union resources, including a toolkit for governments on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Article 5.3. This year, it has also produced on a position statement addressing the tobacco industry's global promotion of heated tobacco products as 'safer' alternatives, as well as the rights of children not to be targeted by the tobacco industry and to grow up tobacco-free. With the growing threat of tobacco industry interference and delays by countries in adopting Article 5.3 policies, the group has continued to share information on case studies of interference and Article 5.3 measures with The Union's Tobacco Control Department.

TB, HIV AND TOBACCO

The group has worked extensively on publications: *'How to help TB patients to quit smoking, improve their outcomes and reduce the risk of their family developing TB'*, *'TB and Smoking cessation'* and *'Moving Research Forward Towards a Globally Affordable Tobacco Cessation Medication'*.

MPOWER RESEARCH ON TOBACCO CONTROL

This newly formed group has been working on identifying the research gaps in tobacco control and on disseminating its findings. Following consultation with tobacco control experts, the group has now finalised a research tool that is being piloted in four states of India, before being implemented in high-burden countries across the globe.

**Find out more about sections,
sub-sections and working groups,
and get involved.**

Contact membership@theunion.org

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