



International Union Against
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
Health solutions for the poor

47th Union World Conference on Lung Health Announces “Community Common” Programme Highlights

Highlights include Mini-Football Tournament and Live Open Fire Display of New Clean Cook-stove Technology That Can Reduce Deadly Childhood Pneumonia

Liverpool School of Tropical of Medicine driving groundbreaking global research on childhood pneumonia in Africa to be released Wednesday 26 October

Monday, 24 October 2016 (Liverpool, United Kingdom)--Today, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) announced some key highlights to be featured as part of a “[Community Common](#)” space at the [47th World Conference on Lung Health](#), convening at The Arena and Convention Centre (ACC) in Liverpool, United Kingdom, 26-29 October 2016.

“People are shocked when they learn that tuberculosis (TB) kills more people than any other infectious disease,” said José Luis Castro, Executive Director of The Union. “Through the Community Common, The Union is opening important parts of the World Conference to the public so that we can raise awareness about TB and other lung health illnesses and spread the message that we can work together to stop it.”

Event 1

What: LIVE DISPLAY: ACE-1 Cookstove Versus Open Fire

When: Wednesday 26 October 2016. Live displays at 8am, 12 noon and 4pm.

Where: ACC Arena Piazza

Overview: With the support of Operation Florian, the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and students from Liverpool Life Sciences UTC, a series of three open fires will be lit (8am, 12pm and 4pm) inside miniaturised replica housing on the piazza of the ACC Arena to visibly demonstrate air pollution and fire risks. Simultaneously, an open fire will be lit and placed in a shed-size replica housing, and this will be contrasted with another structure of the same size which will host an ACE-1 Cookstove, an advanced cookstove which reduces smoke emissions to negligible levels and is among the cleanest and most high-tech stoves currently available.

The session is coordinated by Dr Kevin Mortimer of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Operation Florian, a UK-based international humanitarian charity that provides fire engines, equipment and training to the world's poorest regions. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services will be on site as the local fire service. The students from Liverpool Life Sciences UTC who are

building the miniaturised replica housing will also be present.

Background: Pneumonia is the world's leading cause of death and sickness for children under five. Around 300 per 1000 children under the age of five are diagnosed with pneumonia every year. Exposure to smoke produced when biomass fuels (animal or plant material) are burned in open fires is a major avoidable risk factor for pneumonia. Globally, around half the world's population depends on biomass fuels for their day-to-day energy requirements.

Around four million people die every year from the effects of biomass smoke. In Africa, around 700 million people burn fuels made from biomass to provide energy for cooking, heating and lighting. For example, the country of Malawi has one of the highest rates of death among infants and children under five. In Malawi, where at least nine per cent of households depend on biomass as their main source of fuel, biomass smoke exposure is likely to be responsible for a substantial burden of pneumonia. Smoke from burning biomass in open fires also causes other health problems including chronic lung disease, lung cancer, heart disease, stillbirth and low birth weight; it is also thought to be an important driver of global climate change. A research trial in rural Malawi saw households in 150 randomly assigned villages replace their open-fire cooking with efficient biomass fan-assisted cookstoves. The study will measure incidence of pneumonia in children under five years of age, plus record measures of air pollution and economic and social impacts of the stoves.

The event will take place against the following study currently taking place in Malawi and initial results to be released next Wednesday 26 October: Cooking and Pneumonia Study (CAPS)

10 000 children under the age of five – largest trial of its kind in the world – looking at the effects of advanced cookstove intervention on health outcomes

The two-year study is tracking children who live in randomised villages in Chikhwawa and Chilumba in Malawi. The homes of the children involved in the study have been supplied with two clean cookstoves to see if the new stoves, which can reduce emissions by up to 90 per cent, will stop the children getting pneumonia, a major cause of death in this age group.

The adverse health effects of domestic smoke inhalation are a particular problem in low and middle-income countries around the world, where open fires, used for cooking, heating and lighting, are commonly used inside the main living quarters of homes.

The study is funded by a £2.7 million grant from the Joint Global Health Trials Scheme, a partnership of the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Wellcome Trust. It is being implemented in Malawi through collaborative partnerships between the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, The Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme, The Malawi College of Medicine and the Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit.

Event 2:

What: Outdoor Soccer: Kick TB and Improve Lung Health

When: Wednesday 26 October 2016, 9am – 5pm (BST)

Venue: ACC Arena Piazza

Overview: Liverpool Homeless Football Club will host a programme of mini football tournaments on its Mobile 4G football pitch on the ACC Piazza. The session encourages the participation of those communities affected by HIV/AIDS, TB and other lung diseases, as well

as World Conference delegates and all members of the public. The session is coordinated by John Finnigan, CEO of the Liverpool Homeless Football Club.

Media Registration:

Media are strongly encouraged to [register](#) prior to the conference.

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[About the Community Common](#)

The Community Common is a space for community involvement and grassroots activism within the conference. Open to the public free of charge, the Common is where members of the community, students and advocates can promote their work, discuss challenges and innovative solutions, raise awareness and share ideas with conference delegates from around the world. Participation is open to local and international groups of all sizes who are committed to improving lung health for everyone. The Community Common will host activities ranging from daily plenary broadcasts to cultural activities.

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

The Union World Conference on Lung Health 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 the low- and middle-income countries. Of the 10 million people who die each year from lung diseases, some 80 percent live in these resource-limited countries.

Our theme this year, **Confronting Resistance: Fundamentals to Innovations**, addresses a number of critical areas for discussion, including the growing problem of resistance to existing TB drugs, which is one of the most important challenges facing us today, while also reflecting our global tobacco control work, which requires coordinated efforts to confront resistance from the powerful tobacco industry and to introduce the innovative policies needed to de-normalise and reduce tobacco use.

[About The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease \(The Union\)](#)

Since its founding as a global scientific organisation in 1920, The Union has drawn from the best evidence and expertise to advance solutions to public health challenges affecting people living in poverty. The Union is currently progressing solutions for tuberculosis, HIV, tobacco-related diseases and other lung and non-communicable diseases. With close to 17,000 members active in more than 140 countries, The Union has its headquarters in Paris and 11 offices in Africa, the Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America and South-East Asia.