The Union
Membership

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

Join online at www.theunion.org
The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) was formed in 1920 by 31 national lung associations who wanted to create a central resource that could help them by planning international conferences, developing courses, and disseminating the latest research and information on efforts to prevent, control and treat tuberculosis.

Nearly a century later, The Union continues to provide these core services. It also assists more than 75 low- and middle-income countries each year through the technical assistance, research and education activities of staff and consultants based at the Paris headquarters and offices in all seven Union regions.

While The Union is most widely known for its work in tuberculosis, today it is making vital contributions to other related public health challenges:

- The HIV epidemic
- The rise of non-communicable diseases, including chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes
- Child lung diseases, including pneumonia, child TB and HIV-related lung disease
- Asthma
- Tobacco control

The Philippine Tuberculosis Society is more than 100 years old, so we joined The Union early on. The benefits have been that our people have gained expertise in conducting their projects; we have access to excellent resources; and, as part of the greater Union, we have been able to contribute more.

Prof Camilo Roa
The Philippine Tuberculosis Society
The Philippines
The original 31 national lung associations who formed The Union became the first “constituent” members, charged with leading – and funding – their new organisation. Today membership is open to both organisations and individuals, and nearly 3,000 have joined our common cause.

Members provide The Union with:

**LEADERSHIP**

The federation of members governs The Union through their elected Board of Directors and annual General Assembly. They approve all plans and budgets and vote on issues ranging from World Conference locations to the launch of new initiatives.

**INDEPENDENCE AND VITALITY**

The Union is the world’s oldest non-governmental organisation dealing with public health. Its scientific rigour, independence and vitality are, in great measure, a reflection of the strength of our members’ commitment to global lung health.

**INFLUENCE**

The collaborative efforts of Union members and staff changed the course of TB treatment in the 20th century through the development of the DOTS strategy. Today they contribute to global efforts to address challenges ranging from multidrug-resistant TB and HIV to tobacco control.

In addition to lung associations, governmental and non-governmental organisations, this powerful network includes people working at every level of the health care system in 150 countries around the world.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

While membership fees are not The Union’s principal funding source, they continue to support core activities, as well as to finance innovative ventures, such as the Asthma Drug Facility.

The Union gives us an opportunity to support lung health work worldwide, and that’s something we want to be able to do.

Scott McDonald
British Columbia Lung Association
Canada

Members take pride in helping to make these services and resources available to support the efforts of all:

- **The Union World Conference** on Lung Health and region conferences
- **Courses**, including technical training on TB, HIV, operational research, child lung health and tobacco control, as well as the International Management Development Programme

...at www.theunion.org
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

FOR ORGANISATIONS

Constituent Membership (CM)
Like the original founding members, constituent members form the leadership of The Union. They have an influential role in decision-making and are charged with representing their nations in shaping both The Union’s agenda and the global agenda for public health.

Each country may be represented by only one constituent member, and applications from interested organisations are reviewed by the Board of Directors. Constituent member fees, which contribute significantly to core activities, are based on the World Health Assembly scale of assessments.

Organisational Membership (OM)
Any organisation that shares The Union’s goals may apply to become an organisational member. Members in this category also play an active role in shaping Union priorities and contribute significant support to its activities.

Associate Organisational Membership (AOM)
The associate organisational member category was created in 2011 to encourage the broader participation of organisations in low-income countries that may be constrained from joining at the CM or OM level due to limited resources. Associate organisational membership is only open to organisations joining for the first time.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

FOR INDIVIDUALS

Any interested individual may join The Union to support its work on behalf of global health and take advantage of the professional opportunities it offers. Discounted fees beginning as low as 20 euros per year are offered for students and those residing in low-income countries.

Five categories of individual membership are offered:

Individual Member: Print and Online (ID)
Members who receive both the print and online versions of the International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IJTLD)

Individual Member: Online (MO)
Members who receive the online IJTLD

Student Member (ST)
First-time members who are in training and under the age of 35; limited to two years

15-year Member (FY)
Members who commit to long-term membership by paying for 15 years in advance

Benefactor Member (BM)
Members who choose to make a contribution beyond the basic membership fee; in some countries, this donation is tax-deductible.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Complete details about fees for all categories of membership are available at www.theunion.org or by writing to membership@theunion.org. Please note: Union memberships are valid for a calendar year from 1 January through 31 December.

Join The Union online…
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER BENEFITS</th>
<th>CM</th>
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According to a recent member survey, the top two reasons for joining The Union are belief in its vision of “health solutions for the poor” and the IJLTD.

...at www.theunion.org
PARTICIPATE IN THE UNION

Union membership offers opportunities to advance your knowledge, build international contacts and gain experience in research and other skills.

WORK WITH OTHERS WHO SHARE YOUR INTERESTS

The Union’s four scientific sections and numerous working groups offer members an opportunity to affiliate with others who share the same interests. Sections develop projects, such as research, publications and training, and contribute to the planning of The Union World Conference on Lung Health.

The Union Scientific Sections

• Tuberculosis Section
  - Nurses & Allied Professionals (NAPs) Sub-Section*
  - Bacteriology & Immunology Sub-Section
  - Zoonotic TB Sub-Section
• Tobacco Control Section
• Lung Health Section
• HIV Section

* The other sections also have small NAPs sub-sections.

The Union Working Groups

As a section member, you may join up to three working groups. For a list of working groups and details about sections and sub-sections, please visit www.theunion.org.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

The TB & Migration Working Group’s statement on TB Care for the Undocumented was adopted as an official Union statement and has been presented at the European Parliament.

The HIV Section has encouraged the inclusion of more abstract-driven sessions at The Union World Conference, emphasising new research.

The Oxygen Systems Working Group compiled a list of resources on effective hypoxia management that is available on The Union website and elsewhere.

The Best Practice for Patient Care Working Group developed a guide for TB nurses and allied professionals in low-income countries available in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

The Countering Tobacco Industry Interference in Public Health Policies Working Group collated resources on Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and on countering TI interference in public health.

The TB Laboratory Accreditation Working Group helped develop the GLI Stepwise Process Tool, which translates the ISO15189 standard into user-friendly terms.

TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE UNION!

As a member, you can be active in The Union in a variety of ways that suit your interests and available time:

• Serve as a scientific section officer
• Plan and coordinate scientific section activities
• Share your news with other members via The Union websites
• Organise and lead a working group
• Serve as a region officer
• Serve on the Board of Directors
• Propose a conference seminar, workshop or post-graduate course
• Participate in the annual General Assembly

If you work in policy, if you’re a practitioner, if you’re an advocate, there are forums for you in The Union.

[Rajita Bhavaraju
New Jersey Medical School Global Tuberculosis Institute
USA]
STRENGTHEN LUNG HEALTH ACROSS YOUR REGION

To provide a platform for addressing lung health and related issues from a regional perspective, The Union is divided into seven regions: Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America and South-East Asia. Through their regions, members can network with colleagues who face the same regional challenges and contribute to The Union’s deep understanding of local issues. Regional activities include:

- Union region conferences
- workshops
- advocacy events
- newsletters
- annual meetings
- World Conference booths

The African continent is lagging behind in meeting the Millennium Development Goals, so we planned our Africa Region Conference in 2011 to create an opportunity for stakeholders and donors to interact with African people and discuss how we can do better and get additional support for TB and HIV/AIDS.

Dr Mansur Kabir
Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria

The Union for me is a school, a school you attend after finishing medical school. Sir John Crofton was a great teacher, and he expected us to do great things in our countries and in our regions, so I always felt responsible to Sir John for the work I had to do in my country.

Prof Elif Dağlı
Turkish National Coalition on Tobacco and Health, Turkey
Being a member of The Union helps me in my work on TB and pregnancy. I am able to access information, get mentored and publish my work.

Dr Rose Kosgei
University of Nairobi
Kenya

Dr E Jane Carter
Brown University
USA

Joining The Union is about joining a movement. It’s a place where you can get inspiration and motivation to carry on with making a difference for people who are largely neglected.

Prof S Bertel Squire
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK

As a Union member I am part of developing critical public health interventions that I know, in a few years, I am going to be able to use in the field.

Prof S Bertel Squire
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK