GUADALAJARA HOSTS THE 2017 UNION WORLD CONFERENCE

The 48th Union World Conference on Lung Health was held in Guadalajara, Mexico from 11-14 October 2017. This year’s conference brings together researchers, health programme directors, politicians, activists and other prominent figures working on all aspects of lung health, under the theme ‘Accelerating Toward Elimination’.

The conference explored ways to accelerate toward elimination on multiple fronts. The scientific programme showed the progress we are making towards the end of tuberculosis and its comorbidities; how we will realise a world free from deaths caused by tobacco use and how we can make every breath, everywhere, less polluted. The conference also took a close look at lung health in Latin America, touching on COPD, zoonotic TB and other regional issues.

In anticipation of the conference, Dr Antonio Cruces Mada, Secretary of Health of the State of Jalisco said, “The Union conference represents a unique opportunity for our local researchers and health professionals to engage with their international colleagues and, at the same time, a chance for Jalisco to showcase some of the outstanding work being undertaken by our own medical and research communities.”

“New technologies in the diagnosis and treatment of TB are going to be key if we are to accelerate progress towards eliminating TB. The world has committed to eliminating TB by 2030, but we have a very small window to move toward that goal. As this year’s conference will demonstrate, science, human rights and evidence-based policy must be at the heart of everything we do.”

JOSÉ LUIS CASTRO
Executive Director, The Union
KNOW

• Five articles were published in peer-reviewed journals by Union experts and operational research specialists. These covered several approaches to tackling multidrug-resistant tuberculosis from countries across the region and were published in *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, *Revista Portuguesa de Pneumologia*, and the *European Respiratory Journal*, among others.

SHARE

• The Union provided technical training for government officials from Mexico and Central America on Article 5.3 of the World Health Organization’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control – detailed guidelines on how to protect public health policy from the vested interests of the tobacco industry.

• Representatives from Brazil, Panama, Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Haiti, Peru, Paraguay and Dominican Republic attended The Union courses on TB, MDR-TB and TB-HIV, held in Peru and Paraguay.

• Supported by Uruguay’s Public Health Minister, The Union’s Executive Director, José Luis Castro, launched the world’s first Global Charter for Lung Health at the World Health Assembly. During the event, an expert panel emphasised the global burden of lung disease and prevention strategies.

ACT

• With the support of a grant from the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use, The Union is working with Uruguay, Brazil and Chile to develop policies on plain tobacco packaging, providing technical, legal and financial assistance.

• In Mexico we are working with the National Commission Against Addictions (CONADIC) and state governments to pass, enact, and implement 100% smoke-free legislation.

• The Union provided legal and technical assistance to Brazil’s National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) for graphic health warnings on tobacco packaging and a public consultation on point-of-sale display of tobacco products. ANVISA were also supported to counter lawsuits from the tobacco industry on written health warnings on tobacco packaging and a landmark ban on additives.