Sanofi in partnership with Unitaid and the Global Fund announce a two thirds reduction in key preventative tuberculosis (TB) drug Rifampentine (Priftin®)

National Institutes of Health (NIH) launches large Phase III MDR- TB prevention trial for people exposed to multidrug-resistant TB in 12 high burden countries including India

Final results from The Union’s TITI study shows that some 1,700 children under five years of age saved from potentially developing TB in four countries in Francophone Africa

Thursday, 31 October, 2019 (Paris, France; Hyderabad, India) – A new agreement announced today by Unitaid, the Global Fund and Sanofi will drastically lower the price of rifapentine, a critically important drug used to prevent tuberculosis (TB), it was announced today at the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health taking place this week in Hyderabad, India. The conference is convened by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)

The agreement with Sanofi brings rifapentine (Priftin®) 150mg tablets down from €13.60/pack of 24 tablets to a price of €4.62/pack of 24 tablets, a 66 percent discount. The discounted price will be available to the public sectors of low-income countries, lower-middle income countries, and upper-middle-income countries with a high burden of TB and TB-HIV.

The announcement comes on the back of promising Phase IIb results of the M72 TB vaccine candidate reported by pharmaceutical company GSK and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) earlier this week at the TBScience pre-conference event.

Today’s official press conference on prevention also revealed that the NIH will launch a Phase III multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) prevention trial (Phoenix) in 12 high burden countries including India (Chennai and Pune) and that the final results of The Union’s TITI study point to a new model of pediatric TB prevention efforts.

“If we are to end the TB emergency, we need a prevention revolution,” said José Luis Castro, Executive Director of The Union. “It is indeed timely that we are seeing such promising movement on all facets of prevention – vaccines, drug prices and new drugs – now we need to ensure that going forward, preventing wherever we treat becomes the new normal.”

The Union World Conference is the world’s largest gathering of clinicians, policy makers, public health managers, researchers and advocates working to end the suffering caused by lung disease, with a focus specifically on the challenges faced by low- and middle-income countries. Some 3,500 delegates from over 80 countries are attending the event which was yesterday inaugurated by the Honourable Vice-President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, at the Opening Ceremony. Film and television actress
Claire Forlani ambassador for The Union, Dr Ren Minghui, Assistant Director-General at the World Health Organization, senior representatives of the State of Telangana, and Nandita Venkatesan, a TB survivor also addressed delegates at the ceremony.

Today’s press conference highlighted three abstracts being presented at the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health. (Note: Press summaries are based on abstracts - final data presented at the conference may change).

**Socioeconomic support to improve tuberculosis screening and preventive therapy completion in tuberculosis affected households in Peru**

The Community Randomised Evaluation of a Socioeconomic Intervention to Prevent Tuberculosis (CRESIPT) study, a cluster randomised trial, assessed socioeconomic support for tuberculosis-affected households (patients with tuberculosis and their household members) in 32 desert shantytown and urban communities in Peru.

Presenter Matthew Saunders, from Imperial College in London reported that this cluster randomised trial provided rigorous evidence demonstrating the potential of socioeconomic interventions to improve access to tuberculosis care and prevention, increasing the optimal completion of tuberculosis screening and preventive therapy among household members in tuberculosis-affected households.

**Abstract:** Socioeconomic support to improve tuberculosis screening and preventive therapy completion in tuberculosis affected households in Peru: a cluster randomised trial

**Session:** Oral Abstract, Saturday 2 November, 10:30-12:00

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**Prophylaxis in Diabetic Patients to Prevent Tuberculosis Progression**

This study aimed to explore two questions: (i) what is the contribution of tuberculosis infection and disease activation to the increased risk among diabetics? and (ii) does preventive therapy protect infected diabetics against tuberculosis disease progression? 285,388 participants were included in the study, of which 18,342 (6.4 percent) were diabetic.

Lead investigator Leo Martinez of Stanford University in the U.S. reported that the increased risk of tuberculosis among diabetics is driven predominantly due to progression from infection to disease. Preventive therapy was highly effective in preventing disease progression in infected diabetics.
END THE EMERGENCY
SCIENCE, LEADERSHIP, ACTION

THE 50TH UNION WORLD CONFERENCE ON LUNG HEALTH
30 OCTOBER – 2 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD, INDIA

Abstract: Prophylaxis in Diabetic Patients to Prevent Tuberculosis Progression: A Multi-Cohort Study
Session: Oral Abstract, Thursday 31 October, 10:30-12:00

Preventing tuberculosis in contact children with 3-month rifampicin-isoniazid and 6-month isoniazid preventive therapy in four African countries

The TITI study aimed to demonstrate the feasibility and document the effectiveness of contact investigation and preventative therapy with both standard and shorter regimen for children in routine programmatic conditions in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Central African Republic.

Valerie Schwoebel, Pediatric TB consultant for The Union, reported that a total of 1965 children were enrolled, of whom 56 (2.8%) had active TB at inclusion. Among the 1 761 children (89.6%) who started preventative therapy, 1 643 (93.3%) completed treatment. She concluded that home visits were key in enabling registration and first clinical evaluation of children in contact with contagious PTB.

Abstract: Preventing tuberculosis in contact children with 3-month rifampicin-isoniazid and 6-month isoniazid preventive therapy in four African countries
Session: Oral Abstract, Friday 1 November, 10:30-12:00

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About the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health

The Union World Conference on Lung Health, convened by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (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 International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (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 Unions members, staff and consultants operate in more than 140 countries and embody our core values of accountability, independence, quality and solidarity.

Twitter: @TheUnion_TBLH

About the Union South-East Asia (USEA)

USEA provides public health expertise to the region’s governments, civil society, corporations and international agencies on tuberculosis (TB) control and tobacco control; it also conducts operational research, capacity-building programmes and grant-monitoring services.