



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

For Immediate Release:

GSK/IAVI M72 Tuberculosis Vaccine Candidate Phase IIb Trial Results

Tuesday 29 October 2019 (Paris, France; Hyderabad, India) – “We are one more cautious, but exciting, step closer to a vaccine for tuberculosis (TB),” said Dr Paula I Fujiwara, Scientific Director of [the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease \(The Union\)](#). The Union is convenor of the [50th Union World Conference on Lung Health](#) being held in Hyderabad, India, this week.

“A vaccine is the ultimate prevention tool and the announcement today is welcome news, but as researchers discuss how to move the trial into its final phase, we simultaneously need to be doing all we can to prevent tuberculosis with medications that we already have at our disposal.”

“TB is a disease that is preventable, treatable and curable, yet last year it killed 1.5 million people, more than HIV/AIDS. We cannot end the TB emergency unless we dramatically scale up prevention in those parts of the world where we are treating it. The cost of inaction is more unnecessary suffering and death,” concluded Dr Fujiwara.

India has the highest TB burden in the world with just over one in four of all estimated global cases reported in that country. The Indian government has made the fight against TB a central priority and boldly pledged to end TB by 2025, five years before the globally agreed target.

“We cannot eliminate TB globally unless we end it in India,” said Jamhoih Tonsing, Director of The Union’s South East Asia Office in New Delhi, “so, it is both long overdue and timely that we will see some significant announcements on prevention trials and drugs at the conference this week in Hyderabad.”

“According to the World Health Organization (WHO)’s recent Global TB Report, the number of people with TB in India is falling and that is good news. But let’s be honest – TB is still not falling nearly fast enough in India, progress is still too slow to meet the targets – we need to step up the pace of treatment and prevention,” concluded Tonsing.

Further Information:

Michael Kessler
Union World Conference Media Relations
Mob: +91 987 02 23484
Email: michael.kessler@inton-media.com

Uzzal Mohan (in Hyderabad)
Union Media Relations consultant
Mob: +91 703 29 05332
Email: uzzalmohan@gmail.com

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.

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