

# 40. Tuberculosis infection control and occupational TB among health care workers: a time for action

Saturday, 01 November 2014, 09:15 - 11:15

Room 113



**Type** Symposium

**Track** Tuberculosis

**Topic** Infection control

**Description** Since the resurgence of interest in TB infection control (IC), much has been accomplished. Partners developed a framework to measure TB among health care workers (HCWs); however HCWs continue to die from occupationally acquired TB. HCWs are at increased risk for hospital-associated acquisition of TB due to poor IC practices and the amounts of time spent with known or undiagnosed TB patients in health care facilities. This session will address the occupational risk of TB, protecting and caring for HCWs, and to present new IC tools and ways to measure implementation processes.

**Target audience** TB researchers, national TB programme managers, policy-makers, hospital and health facility managers, health care workers, physicians, nurses, occupational health, infection control practitioners and health educators.

**Objectives**

1. To highlight importance of partnerships in improving occupational health and IC in health care settings
2. To promote the need for safe work environments and occupational health in resource-limited settings
3. To promote the need for surveillance data on TB among HCWs
4. To review barriers to implementation and ways to overcome the barriers
5. To look at new and emerging tools to measure effectiveness of TB infection control

**Keywords** Tuberculosis; infection control; efficacy; health care workers; occupational health, control measures; mechanical ventilation; air exchanges per hour (ACH); TB/HIV; triage; cough hygiene

**Coordinator(s)** Carrie Tudor (USA), Rose Pray (USA)

**Chair(s)** Paul Jensen (USA), Virginia Williams (Switzerland)

**Presentations**

**09:15 - 09:30** TB among nursing and medical students; a measure of nosocomial transmission  
Richard Menzies (Canada)

**09:35 - 09:50** Surveillance of TB among HCWs in low-resourced settings  
Suzanne Verver (Netherlands)

**09:55 - 10:10** Caring for the carers: Occupational health in resource-limited settings  
Muzi Dlamini (Swaziland)

**10:15 - 10:30** Role of unions in the protection of health care workers  
Kedibone Mdolo (South Africa)

**10:35 - 10:50** A pragmatic tool to measure barriers to TB infection control implementation  
Masoud Dara (Denmark)

**10:55 - 11:10** Measuring effectiveness of TB infection control in HIV settings  
Virginia Lipke (USA)