

The TB Challenge

"Partnering to Eliminate TB in African Americans"

A Newsletter from the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, Field Services and Evaluation Branch

Summer 2006

Stop TB in the African-American Community Summit Draws More Than 100

Nickolas DeLuca, PhD (CDC), Rachel Royce, PhD (RTI International), and Charles Wallace, PhD (Texas Department of State Health Services)



IN THIS ISSUE:

Stop TB in the African-American Community Summit **1**

New Communication Efforts **2**

Champion of Excellence Group Award Presented **2**

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Dr. Benny Primm, Executive Director, Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation-Urban Resource Institute and other attendees at the 2006 Stop TB in the African-American Community Summit



Dr. Ken Castro and Dr. Kevin Fenton



Breakout session with conference participants

More than 100 individuals from myriad organizations gathered in Atlanta to participate in the "Stop TB in the African-American Community" summit, which took place May 16-17, 2006, at CDC's new Tom Harkin Global Communications Center. The participants met to discuss the nature of this public health problem, exchange strategies, and identify ways to help address tuberculosis (TB) in the African-American community. The summit was sponsored by CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE) and RTI International. The purpose of the summit was to

1. raise awareness about the problem of TB in the African-American community, and
2. create links and build networks that will lead to ongoing activities and strategies to decrease TB in this community.

In 2005, CDC provisionally reported 3,927 TB cases in non-Hispanic blacks, 28% of all persons reported with TB nationally. The proportion of cases in black, non-Hispanic persons is even greater if only U.S.-born persons reported with TB are examined. In 2005, 45% of TB cases reported in U.S.-born persons were among non-Hispanic blacks. Also in 2005, the TB case rate for this population was more than eight times higher than the rate in white, non-Hispanic persons.



Dr. Louis Sullivan



Dr. Garth Graham

The summit included keynote addresses from Dr. Louis Sullivan, President Emeritus, Morehouse School of Medicine and former Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS); and Dr. Garth Graham, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, Office of Minority Health, HHS. CDC leaders also addressed the group, including Yvonne Lewis of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities; Dr. Kevin Fenton, Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (proposed); and Dr. Kenneth Castro, Director of DTBE.

Summit participants learned about state-of-the-art research and interventions addressing TB in the African-American community, and learned directly from a panel of patients about their experience having TB. The majority of the summit was devoted to participants working in small groups to strategize actions that their organizations may be able to implement to help eliminate TB in the African-American community. Participants included community and religious leaders, health care providers, public health leaders, policy and decision makers, state and local health department staff, communications professionals, academicians, and others.

The results of the group work yielded a compilation of specific goals and action items that summit participants committed to trying to achieve in the next year. A summary of all of the identified action items is forthcoming. Summit participants will maintain communication throughout the next year and measure progress towards implementing the action items.

Although modern medicine can prevent and cure TB, only the concerted efforts of the community in partnership with public health and medicine will ensure that TB is eliminated from the African-American community. These partnerships, fostered by the summit, are a key component to mobilizing support for TB elimination as outlined in the 2000 Institute of Medicine's Report, *Ending Neglect: The Elimination of Tuberculosis in the United States*.

About the authors

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Dr. Bambi W. Gaddist
Executive Director, SC HIV/AIDS Council

New Communication Efforts to Stop TB in the African-American Community

Cornelia White, PhD, Behavioral Scientist, DTBE/CEBSB

CDC has introduced two new communication initiatives, the *Stop TB in the African-American Community* listserv and the *Stop TB in the African-American Community* webpage.

During May 16-17, 2006, over 100 individuals from myriad organizations convened at the "Stop TB in the African-American Community" summit in Atlanta, Georgia. Please see related article in this issue. One action item suggested by the participants at the summit was to establish and maintain mechanisms that would facilitate ongoing communication among individuals who are interested in addressing TB in the African-American community.

In response, the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE) of CDC has launched the *Stop TB in the African-American Community* listserv (http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/listserv/tb_aa.asp), as well as the *Stop TB in the African-American Community* webpage (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/TBinAfricanAmericans/>). The listserv and the webpage serve the dual purposes of establishing channels of communication and providing resources for individuals who are interested in this topic.

The listserv provides a forum for exchanging information, sharing activities and experiences, and engaging in ongoing discussions related to the prevention, control, and elimination of TB in the African-American community. As an interactive platform, it allows individuals subscribing to the listserv to share resources by posting and receiving messages, submitting materials,

and providing announcements about upcoming events and activities related to this topic. Listserv members may receive immediate delivery of posted messages or choose a daily digest of all postings over a 24-hour period.

The *Stop TB in the African-American Community* listserv is free of charge and open to anyone with an interest in TB in the African-American community. For subscription information, please go to http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/listserv/tb_aa.asp.

In addition, CDC's new *Stop TB in the African-American Community* webpage (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/TBinAfricanAmericans/>) provides quick, any-time access to information and resources related to TB prevention, control, and elimination in the African-American community. This webpage serves as a central repository of information related to the May 2006 summit, as well as additional resources on TB in the African-American community, including links to

- Background information on TB in the African-American community
- The *Stop TB in the African-American Community* listserv
- The *TB Challenge: Partnering to Eliminate TB in African Americans* newsletter
- Relevant Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR) related to TB in African Americans
- African American TB-Related Educational materials

(e.g., TB fact sheets on blacks and minorities; the 2005 World TB Day poster; and, a link to the DTBE TB educational and training resources website)

- TB-related listservs, newsletters, digests and web-based resources (e.g., the TB Educate listserv; the *TB Behavioral and Social Science* listserv and webpage; the *CDC/National Prevention Information Network-HIV, STD and Tuberculosis website*; the *TB-Related News and Journal Items Weekly Update digest*; and, the *TB Notes* newsletter) and,
- Other links related to TB in African Americans and Other Populations (e.g., the 2006 "Stop TB" Initiative article, featured on the *Black Women's Health Imperative* website; the 2005 *TB Behavioral and Social Science Research Forum* proceedings; the 2000 Institute of Medicine report *Ending Neglect: The Elimination of Tuberculosis in the United States*; the *Measuring Health Disparities website*; and, the CDC Office of Minority Health website).

Individuals are encouraged to visit the *Stop TB in the African-American Community* webpage (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/TBinAfricanAmericans/>) and to view and download materials. There are no subscription requirements for visitors to this site. All materials that have been developed by CDC on this webpage are free of charge.

For more information, please contact Dr. Cornelia White at 404-639-8337 or by e-mail at zhz3@cdc.gov

Burns-Grant and Fraser Accept CDC/ATSDR Minority Health Mentor/Champion of Excellence Group Award H. David Crowder, Team Leader, DTBE/FSEB



Dr. Julie Gerberding, Gail Burns-Grant, and Dr. Mitchell Cohen

On July 13, 2006, Gail Burns-Grant and Michael Fraser, DTBE, Field Services and Evaluation Branch, received the Minority Health Mentor/Champion of Excellence Group Award at the CDC/ATSDR Honor Awards Ceremony. This award was given in recognition of their work to reduce TB in African Americans through the coordination of three highly successful demonstration projects in the states of Georgia and South Carolina and the city of Chicago and for the timely dissemination of lessons learned from these projects.

The work of the staff in the three project areas that Burns-Grant and Fraser coordinated has been critical to the success of the demonstration projects. These project area staff worked successfully with community based organizations and local health departments in targeting interventions to specific community areas, including zip code areas and health districts. Early on, the project staff recognized that it would be important to have community involvement and worked to ensure community representation and inclusion in the planning and implementation of these three projects. Efforts were made to develop active partnerships with the target populations to ensure their needs were met and that the interventions developed were culturally competent and acceptable.

Burns-Grant and Fraser identified the important lessons learned by the project areas and have been featuring them periodically in a quarterly CDC/DTBE publication, *The TB Challenge*. This newsletter, approaching its third year, is formatted, edited, designed, and distributed by DTBE staff. Through this newsletter, they share strategies, innovative approaches, interventions, and evaluation results that can be translated and applied nationally. They also speak and exhibit at local and national conferences, meetings, and seminars sponsored by internal and external partners to raise awareness and call for community action to reduce historically high rates of TB in the African-American community.

Working closely with project areas engaged in this work, they have made contributions that have had a positive public health impact on reducing TB rates and will help to strengthen the overall health of African Americans nationwide. Gail commented as follows on the award: "We share this award with all of our partners who are committed and dedicated to addressing the historically high rates of TB in the African-American community, for we work with them and through them to advance this work. I am particularly grateful for the latitude we have had—the flexibility that our project areas have been granted by our division to develop, design, and disseminate acceptable messages that were actually created in the community for the community."

Minority Health Resources:

Visit

<http://www.cdc.gov/omh/> to view announcements, upcoming conferences, meetings, trainings, reports, publications, and other minority health-related

CONTACT US ...

If you have story ideas or articles to share, or would like to provide comments, please e-mail Gail Burns-Grant at gab2@cdc.gov or call (404) 639-8126.

To add/delete someone to/from our mailing list, please contact Vivian Siler, Management & Program Analyst, DTBE/FSEB, by e-mail at vas6@cdc.gov or (404) 639-5319.