



---

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

March 10, 2006

Dear Invitee:

The Division of Tuberculosis Elimination of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cordially invites you to attend a meeting, "Stop TB in the African-American Community." The meeting will take place May 16-17, 2006, in CDC's new Global Communications Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

A heightened response is necessary to address the disparate burden of TB among African Americans. The goals of this meeting are to

- 1) raise awareness about the problem of tuberculosis (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 the African-American community.

African Americans continue to have higher rates of TB compared to other U.S.-born population groups. Addressing the disparity between TB case rates of African Americans and other U.S.-born racial/ethnic groups is an important priority. In 2004, 45% of TB cases reported in U.S.-born persons were among U.S.-born, non-Hispanic blacks. Also in 2004, the TB case rate for this population was more than eight times higher than the rate in white, non-Hispanic persons. In order to address this TB disparity, we need your help!

In 2003, CDC and the Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (ACET) co-sponsored a meeting with organizations and agencies having linkages and relationships with the African-American community. The meeting was intended to raise awareness about the disparity, as well as to solicit support for decreasing TB in African Americans. Building on the momentum from the 2003 CDC/ACET meeting, CDC funded several community demonstration projects to specifically address the burden of TB among African Americans. As a follow-up to the success of the 2003 consultation, we will use this 2006 meeting to highlight the accomplishments since the previous meeting and work on collaborative efforts to further address the impact of the TB disparity in the African-American community.

The 2006 meeting will be sponsored by CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination. The organizers of the meeting include CDC, the Research Triangle Institute (RTI), and a diverse

group of individuals from governmental and nongovernmental organizations. The chairpersons of the meeting are Dr. Charles Wallace from the Texas Department of Public Health and Dr. Rachel Royce from RTI.

Leaders like you are known for creating positive change and for inspiring and empowering members of the African-American community. You and your organization have the potential to serve as powerful agents of change in the social, civic, and public health arenas. Because of your leadership and influence, you are uniquely positioned to help bring to an end the disproportionate burden of TB among African Americans. During this meeting, we invite and encourage you to exchange strategies and identify ways in which your leadership, vision, and action can help address TB in the African-American community. The participants for this meeting will include community and religious leaders, health care providers, public health leaders, policy and decision makers, state and local health department staff, media and entertainment representatives, academicians, and others who represent a broad spectrum of views.

We ask that you respond to this invitation by Friday, March 31, 2006, so that we may finalize planning for the meeting. Please use the enclosed response form, and fax the form to Ms. Juani Muñoz-Sanchez (919-541-6883). You may also contact Ms. Muñoz-Sanchez via e-mail (jmunoz@rti.org), or call her directly (919-541-6800). In addition, enclosed please find a hotel information form that includes information on accommodations, as well as reservation instructions. This meeting will begin Tuesday, May 16, 2006, at 9:00 am and will conclude on Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at 1:00 pm. A detailed agenda will be forthcoming.

This is a meeting that you will not want to miss. Please join us in working to make a significant difference in the African-American community. We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Castro, M.D.  
Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS  
Director  
Division of Tuberculosis Elimination  
National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Enclosure(s)