

TB MAC Standard Operating Procedures [Final; Document comment only]

TB MAC RF output #xxx

Doc lead(s): Ted Cohen, David Dowdy, Richard White

Aim: Collate and combine all TB MAC terms of reference and formal procedures so that they are consistently formatted with no overlap

Proposed document dissemination: To controlled documents area of Committee agenda, and TB MAC website

Abbreviations

- WHO TF - WHO Global Task Force on TB Impact Measurement
- AP - TB MAC Advisory Panel
- SC - TB MAC Steering Committee

Notes: Unless otherwise stated, documents refer to grant period: 2017-2019

Doc history

- 2018_03_13 - Structure outlined, content transferred for other documents, and first combined draft: RW
- Comment from Steering Committee
- 2018_04_09 Finalised all but organogram and COI statement
- 2018_07_06 Section updated (see sections for details). Pending review
- 2018_08_17 All sections finalised and placed on controlled documents list on Steering Committee agenda

Next steps

- Published on TB MAC website

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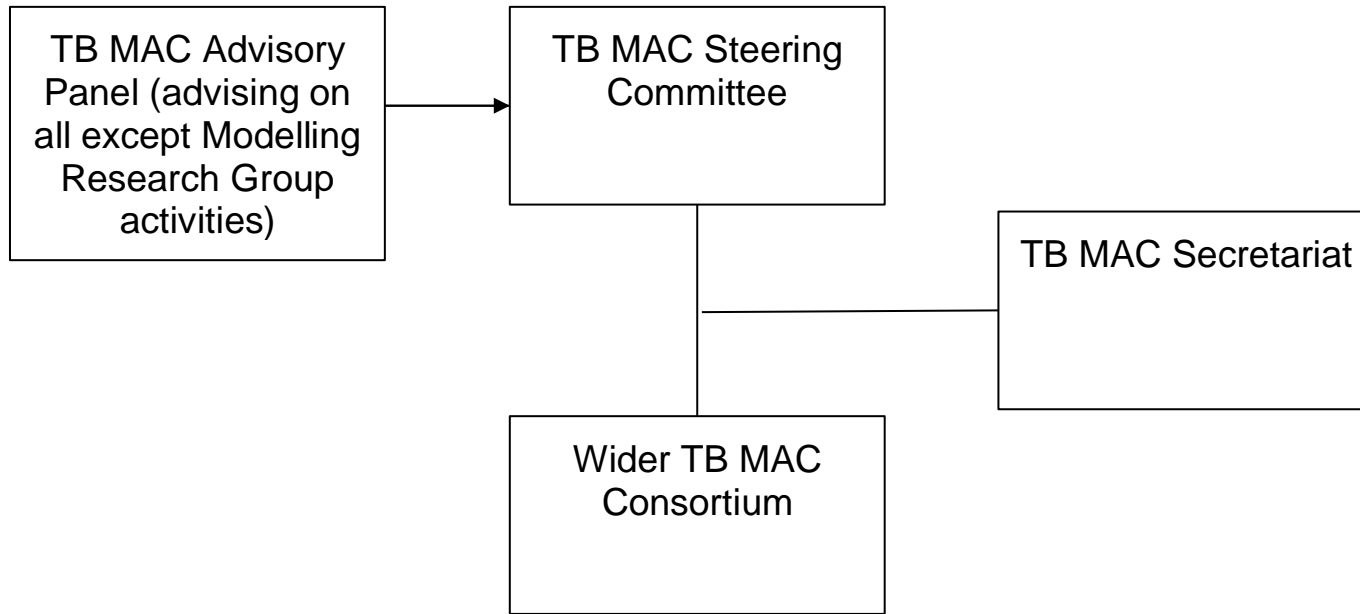
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TB MAC Advisory Panel ToR, and guidance of TB MAC by WHO Global Task Force on Impact Measurement [Final]

TB MAC output: **XXX and 1.1.2**

###

Section lead(s): Ted Cohen and Richard White

Aim: Update, and better specify, TB MAC Advisory Panel Terms of Reference

Section history

- 2018_02_27: 1st draft, Richard
- 2018_04_09 Review by SC
- 2018_04_09 Finalised RW
- 2018_05_08 Reviewed by AP
- 2018_06_04 Revisions by RW
- Approved by SC
- Approved by AP

Proposed next steps

- None

###

AP roles and responsibilities

- Overall, the AP will provide strategic long-term direction for TB MAC, discuss TB MAC priorities and direction for next period, and monitor deliverable implementation against the TB MAC work plan
- Specifically, AP members will be expected to
 - Participate in an AP calls twice a year
 - Dial into or attend the TB MAC session of meetings of the full WHO Global Task Force on TB Impact Measurement
 - Contribute to arbitration of funding allocation decisions if the TB MAC reviewers' reviews scorings are tied
- The AP scope covers all TB MAC activities, except those of the TB MAC [Modelling Research Group](#) (except as the funding tie-breaking role, as above).
- The AP can make recommendations for changes to TB MAC's work plan. Changes will then be assessed for feasibility by the SC, as documented in following section.

Process for responding to AP requests for changes to TB MAC workplan (TB MAC output: 1.1.2; this section supersedes previous [doc](#))

1. TB MAC's progress and work plans will be reviewed 6 monthly by the AP
2. The AP will either confirm current work plan meets AP current needs (after collating, discussing and seeking consensus among major stakeholders, including BMGF, on needs) or make a request for a change to TB MAC workplan.
3. This will then be discussed by the SC (considering resources, feasibility, opportunity costs, ...) who will respond accepting the request for change or proposing an alternative within 1 calendar month.

4. AP members will be asked to ok the SC proposal, or make a counter proposal (back to #3).
5. Once agreed by Stakeholder (including BMGF) and SC, all changes will be documented in project internal documents and internal planning documents.
6. If changes to BMGF Results Framework are required, an updated RF will be sent to the BMGF.
7. Non-minor changes to the work plan of TB MAC will be communicated via TB MAC website, newsletters and verbally when opportunities arise.

AP structure, membership criteria, and quorum

- The AP is composed of representatives nominated by the major global agencies providing funding for modelling at global and country level, 3-4 long-standing members of the WHO TF, 1-2 WHO staff, and 2-3 other individuals with relevant expertise.
- Membership invitations are decided, by agreement, between the TB MAC SC, WHO TF, and BMGF
- The overlap between AP and SC membership will be minimised to facilitate an independent view on TB MAC from the AP. It is expected that it would just include the TB MAC Committee Chair and WHO representative.
- Invitations are sent from the WHO TF and TB MAC
- Members must be members of the WHO TF
- Members are invited in their individual capacity, not representing their institution, so delegation is not helpful/permitted.
- Members should generally be independent of the main modelling groups who benefit from TB MAC funding
- Members can select TB MAC SC Chair as AP Chair, or select someone from within the AP
- An AP meeting is quorum if $\geq 50\%$ non-SC/Secretariat members are present
- Members will stand down if miss 2 consecutive AP meetings/calls. This applies to the AP member as an individual, not an agency (i.e. it should not be sufficient for someone else from one of the funding agencies to be delegated to join the AP meeting).

Estimated time requirements

- TB MAC Advisory Panel calls: Up to 2 calls/year. 1-2 hours each and an estimated 1-2 hours would be needed to review documents in advance of each call. Total = 2-4 hr/year
- Meetings WHO TF: Held every 12-18 months. The session would be 2-3 hours and there would be 1-2 background documents to read in advance. Tot = 3-5hr/yr
- Funding arbitration: 1 person, 2 hrs. ~30 mins/pp/py
- Total = 5½-9½ hrs/year

TB MAC Steering Committee ToR [Final]

TB MAC output: XXX

###

Section lead(s): Richard White

Aim: Specify TB MAC SC Terms of Reference

Section history

- 2017_02_08: Finalised - Richard
- 2018_03_06: Edited for consistency as combined into Standard Operating Procedures; no material changes - Richard
- 2018_03_14 - Incorporated comments from SC call - Richard
- 2018_04_09 Reviewed by SC
- 2018_04_09 Finalised RW

Proposed next steps

- None

###

SC roles and responsibilities

The SC is the primary decision-making body within TB MAC. It is responsible for the creation, delivery and update of the TB MAC workplan. Specific roles include:

- Provide expert advice on meeting topic selection, meeting agenda and invitation lists
- Provide expert advice and draft requests for funding applications and direct commissions
- Contribute expert advice on calls to TA working with country level modellers & global stakeholders
- Review scientific aspects of commissioned work
- Provide expert advice on research presentations, literature reviews, technical reports, policy briefs, and meeting reports
- Represent TB MAC at external meetings as opportunities and time availability permit
- Attend and input into TB MAC side projects/meetings as interests and time availability permit
- Join monthly TB MAC SC conference calls
- Attend annual TB MAC meetings
- Specific project co-applicant SC members have additional roles, as outlined in the [TBMAC grant proposal](#)

SC structure, and membership criteria

- The TB MAC project PI acts as the SC Chair
- New membership invitations are decided, by consensus or majority vote, by the SC
- In general, communications from tb mac are sent from the TB MAC email address, and not from individual email addresses
- Members are generally drawn from TB Modellers, TB epidemiologists + one WHO and one BMGF representative
- Members join in an individual capacity, not representing their institution

Estimated time requirements

- 10% FTE over year
- Specific project co-applicant SC members, have additional roles and time requ's, as outlined in the [TBMAC grant proposal](#)

TB MAC Modelling Research Group ToR [Final]

TB MAC RF output #1.2.3

###

Section lead(s): David Dowdy

Aim: Outline expected aims and objectives, processes, timelines and deliverables of TB Modelling Research Group

Section history

- 2016_12_09 Structure outlined: RW/DD/CA,
- 2016_12_09 Draft, DD,
- 2017_01_13 Reviewed by Richard:
- 2017_02_06 Signed off by co-PIs;
- 2017_03_01 Review by David Collier
- 2017_03_03 Revised by David Dowdy
- 2017_03_11 Re-reviewed and approved by David Collier
- Sent to BMGF
- 2018_03_06: Edited for consistency as combined into Standard Operating Procedures; some material changes; Richard
- Review by David D
- Review by SC
- 2018_04_09 Finalised RW

Proposed next steps

- None

###

Summary and Description

The TB Modelling Research Group is the name applied to an organization of individuals with interest and/or expertise in improving the content and methods of TB modelling, from a research perspective. There is no formal membership of this group, although it is convened by TB-MAC, with David Dowdy having primary responsibility for its content and organization. From a practical perspective, the infrastructure of the TB Modelling Research Group includes an annual meeting (about 35 participants, including members of the TB-MAC SC - participants for each meeting to be determined based on the content of the meeting), funding for specific Requests for Applications (RFAs) to further the TB modelling research enterprise (to be managed by the TB-MAC secretariat once RFAs are generated), support from the TB-MAC secretariat (e.g., for advertising and dissemination), and ad-hoc communications (e.g., smaller teleconferences or research meetings on an as-needed basis).

Aim and objectives of TB Modelling Research Group

- To improve the quality of TB modelling research - including linkage to data, scientific rigor, and dissemination of research findings
- To convene and foster a vibrant and collaborative community of TB modelling researchers who share an interest in making TB modelling research relevant and of high quality

- To enhance communications between this community of TB modelling researchers and other key stakeholders, including public health officials and policymakers at the local, regional, country, and global levels; donors and other funding agencies; patient advocates and civil society; the scientific community at large (with specific emphasis on researchers in infectious disease dynamics and global health); and any other parties that might have an interest in TB modelling research of high quality and strong grounding in data
- To provide infrastructure and develop resources that can be useful to members of the TB modelling research community in achieving the goals stated above

Governance

- The TB Modelling Research Group remains under the overall governance of the TB-MAC SC. It is not an independent body.
- David Dowdy has been appointed by the TB-MAC SC as the leader of the TB Modelling Research Group, with a current term that extends from January 2017 through the end of the current funding cycle (currently December 2019).
- Dr. Dowdy's role is delivered on behalf of the SC, in his role as a member of that SC.
- The TB-MAC SC retains the right to change these terms of reference, including the right to change Dr. Dowdy's role as leader of the Modelling Research Group or to replace him in this role, as appropriate.
- Where votes of the SC are required (including any changes in governance as above), this will be by majority vote after discussion among the full SC.

Budget

- A total of \$100,000 per year (\$300,000 in total) is available for funding research under specific RFAs
- An additional \$130,000 per year (\$390,000 in total) is available for annual meetings, shared between the MRG, and WHO TF guided, streams.

Procedure for setting meeting topics

Each annual meeting will be centered upon a key topic of timely interest to the TB modelling research community. This topic will serve as an organizing theme, around which the list of potential participants will be developed, RFAs may be structured, and even details such as the location or structure of the meeting itself may be organized. The procedure for setting the topic for each meeting will be as follows:

- David Dowdy will share a document with formatted example to describe the level of detail and format needed. This document will be sent to the full TB-MAC SC, and also by way of solicitation of other topics from other members of the community. This document will be developed at least three months in advance of the anticipated meeting date (which will generally be linked with the WHO Task Force meeting, likely in the early-mid summer). In general, the aim will be to generate this document 5-6 months in advance.
- Within 2 weeks, all SC members or other members of the community who wish to suggest topics will do so.
- David Dowdy will then collate all comments and suggestions (for example, combining similar suggestions into a single thread) and send out for one additional round of comment (so that other topics have the same opportunity for comment as the original ones).
- The list of topics and comments will then again be collated by Dr. Dowdy, who will distribute this collated list to the SC for an anonymous vote.
- The results of this vote will be made available to the SC as a whole, who will then discuss the topics during a monthly call and agree by consensus on a topic.
- Dr. Dowdy will finalize the language of this topic and send to the SC for approval. This will take place no later than 2 months in advance of the proposed meeting date. In 2017, this process will be linked to the Stakeholder meeting in February.

Selection of Participants for the Annual Meeting

- Immediately upon agreeing on a topic for the Annual Meeting of the TB Modelling Research Group, TB-MAC SC members will suggest potential participants for the meeting.

- Dr. Dowdy will organize this list, with assistance from the TB-MAC secretariat.
- The participant list will be agreed upon by the TB-MAC SC as a whole; the secretariat and Dr. Dowdy will invite participants via personal email immediately once this list is finalized.
- Guiding principles in developing this list of participants will include the following:
 - All members of the TB-MAC SC will be invited.
 - A broad range of expertise in the meeting topic will be ensured.
 - A broad range of geographical and institutional representation will be ensured, with specific attention given to inviting participants hailing from high-burden countries.
 - A broad range of constituencies will be represented, including (but not limited to) academic TB modellers, academic experts in other disciplines, country-level decision-makers (e.g., National TB Programme managers), donors/funders (e.g., Global Fund, USAID, BMGF), multilateral policy making organizations (e.g., WHO), technical assistance agencies (e.g., KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation), patient advocates/civil society (e.g., Treatment Action Group), and individuals/organizations responsible for maintaining external accountability (e.g., David Collier).
 - We will also specifically aim to include junior-level participants, for purposes of capacity building and inclusion of new voices in the dialogue.
 - We will aim to invite approximately 35 individuals to each meeting, with the final numbers decided based on the topic at hand (i.e., breadth of expertise and representation required) as well as any budgetary constraints.

RFA awarding procedure

- As above, a total of \$100,000 per year will be available to fund external research via Requests for Applications (RFAs) each year. The purpose of these RFAs is to contribute to knowledge that will improve TB modelling as a whole in the future, not to improve any specific model *per se*.
- These RFAs will be open to all members of the TB modelling research community (writ large), with the exception that members of the TB MAC Secretariat or TB MAC AP cannot apply. Other members of the TB-MAC full SC are eligible.
- The Secretariat will provide the financial and project management for, and organise the contracts for, the RFAs.
- RFAs will be distributed widely by the TB MAC secretariat, including an announcement on the TB MAC website and broad dissemination by email to all individuals who have previously expressed interest and/or affiliation with TB MAC.
- Given limited funding, no more than one RFA will be issued in any given year. This RFA may include multiple parts, space for multiple awardees (e.g., two projects funded rather than one), or may not necessarily use all of the dedicated funding for a given year (e.g., if funds are desired to be saved for another year or needed to continue/complete work on projects previously funded by an earlier RFA)
- The RFA for any given year should be linked to the topic of the TB Modelling Research Group annual meeting.
- The language of the RFA will be drafted by Dr. Dowdy, with assistance from the TB-MAC secretariat, and submitted to the TB-MAC SC for approval prior to the TB Modelling Research Group annual meeting.
- In general, the aim will be to have the RFA disseminated in conjunction with the annual meeting, such that participants in the annual meeting will be aware of the scope and terms of the RFA at the time of the meeting (so that collaborations can be formed, etc., within the context of the annual meeting). However, the due date for submission of responses to the RFA should be no earlier than one month after the annual meeting in a given year.
- Responses to the RFA should be submitted directly to the appropriate section on the TB MAC website
- All responses will be reviewed by no fewer than two external reviewers (i.e., individuals who are not submitting a response to the RFA, and who are not at the same institution as the PI submitting the response). These reviewers will be selected and invited by the TB-MAC secretariat, based on existing knowledge of

scientific and other expertise, and input from members of the full TB MAC SC and other experts. Direct communication with the reviewers will be limited to the TB MAC secretariat.

- Reviewers will be asked to score each proposal on a numerical scale, and may also provide detailed comments for improvement of the proposal. Scoring guidance across specific domains to be scored will be provided to reviewers, to ensure consistency across reviews.
- The highest-scoring proposal(s) will be awarded, contingent on response to the reviewer comments, submission of an acceptable budget tied to acceptable deliverables, and acknowledgment of TB MAC as a funding source. Ties will be adjudicated by the TB MAC [AP](#).
- Unsuccessful applicants, will be provided their overall score assigned to their proposal, and reviewer written comments.
- The scope and value of all awarded proposals will be posted on the TB MAC website within a month of making the award.
- If agreed upon by the full TB MAC SC, flexibility in funding RFAs will be allowed, such that funds for future years may be used to facilitate extension or completion of projects awarded in previous years (e.g., if extenuating circumstances require additional funds to bring a project to completion, or if a previous project can be extended in a novel and useful way). Any request for such additional funds must originate, in writing, from someone outside the full TB MAC SC and must be approved by the TB-MAC SC as a whole.
- An RFA in Year 3 of this project period (i.e., 2019) will be contingent on a no-cost extension of the parent grant (to allow deliverables to be provided in 2020).

Interrelation between the WHO TF/AP guided workstream and the Modelling Research Group workstream [Final]

TB MAC output: XXX

###

Section lead(s): Richard White

Aim: Specify Interrelation between the WHO TF guided workstream and the Modelling Research Group workstream

Section history

- 2018_03_13: Drafted - Richard
- Review by SC
- 2018_04_09 Finalised - RW

Proposed next steps

- None

###

Summary

- The WHO TF/AP guided workstream scope covers all TB MAC activities, except those of the TB MAC [Modelling Research Group](#) (except as the funding tie-breaking role, as above).
- TB MAC will aim for constructive synergy between the WHO TF guided work streams, and the Modelling Research Group workstream.

Annual meetings

- The topic of the TB Modelling Research Group meeting will be decided independently from the WHO TF work stream. However, if there is overlap between the content of the two meetings, Dr. Dowdy and Dr. White will discuss directly with the organizers of the WHO TF work stream to evaluate whether any changes can be made to either meeting for purposes of achieving synergy.
- As an example of potential synergy, meetings of the WHO TF work stream and TB Modelling Research Group could be held on the same week, so as to reduce transit time for participants attending both meetings. Participants of one meeting may also be invited to specific sessions of the other, with those sessions held mid-week, for example.
- The final structure of any overlap or interrelation will be agreed between the MRG and the WHO TF work stream organizers.

TB MAC Conflicts of Interest Policy [Final]

TB MAC RF output xxx

###

Section lead(s): Ted Cohen and Richard White

Aim: Summarise TB MAC COI policy

Section history

- 2018_02_27: 1st draft based on BMGF, Richard
- 2018_04_05 - 2nd draft based on WHO, Richard
- 2018_04_23 Review by SC
- 2018_05_08 Reviewed, edited and endorsed by AP
- 2018_05 Accepted by SC
- 2018_07_06 Added text on actions options if potential COI identified, from KF

Proposed next steps

- Document used. Further actions options if potential COI identified, will be added if needed

###

Background

Following best practice recommendations, TB MAC was recommended to adopt a COI in the 2017 Independent External Review (David Collier). It is therefore proposed that TB MAC adopt the COI below, which would apply to TB MAC Advisory Panel, Secretariat and SC members.

Summary

To avoid and disclose ethical, legal, financial, or other conflicts of interest involving TB MAC, and remove themselves from a position of decision-making authority with respect to any conflict situation involving TB MAC. AP, SC and Secretariat member disclosures will be placed on the TB MAC website.

COI START

TB MAC Conflicts of Interest Statement

TB MAC advisory panel, steering committee, secretariat and staff members, are requested to complete this form in respect of themselves, their spouses and any dependent children.

What type of interest needs to be declared?

TB MAC members should report any interest in (including association with) any entity with which they may be required, directly or indirectly, to have official dealings on behalf of TB MAC or which has a commercial interest in the work of TB MAC, or a common area of activity with TB MAC.

Different types of interests can be envisaged. The following non-exhaustive list is provided for guidance:

1. a proprietary interest in a substance, technology or process (e.g., ownership of a patent), relevant to TB MAC's work;

2. a financial interest, e.g., shares or bonds, in a commercial entity with which a TB MAC member may be required, directly or indirectly, to have official dealings on behalf of TB MAC, or which has a commercial interest in the work of TB MAC, or a common area of activity with TB MAC (except shareholdings through general mutual funds or similar arrangements where the TB MAC member has no control over the selection of shares);
3. an employment, consultancy, directorship, or other position or association, whether or not paid, in any entity with which a TB MAC member may be required, directly or indirectly, to have official dealings on behalf of TB MAC, or which has a commercial interest in the work of TB MAC, or a common area of activity with TB MAC, or an ongoing negotiation concerning prospective employment or other association with such entity;
4. performance of any paid work or research commissioned by an entity with which a TB MAC member may be required, directly or indirectly, to have official dealings on behalf of TB MAC, or which has a commercial interest in the work of TB MAC, or a common area of activity with TB MAC, eg grant funding sources; and
5. a family interest in which, for example, a spouse or dependent child is employed by an entity from which goods and/or services are purchased on behalf of TB MAC.

How to complete this Declaration: Please answer both questions below, and submit to David Collier, TB MAC External Evaluator (david@whiteox.co.uk), CC TB MAC (tb-mac@lsthm.ac.uk) . A summary of the COI form, including employment and grant funding, will be placed on the TB MAC website.

Assessment and outcome: TB MAC's external evaluator will review the compatibility of any interest declared by a TB MAC member, and provide a summary of potential COIs to the Secretariat for discussion by the Advisory Panel and Committee. The Secretariat will provide options for possible actions to the Advisory Panel and Committee. Currently these options include a) candidate ruled out of role or b) candidate allowed to observe process/meeting, but further options may be added as COI identified. Any actions must be agreed by TB MAC Committee and Advisory Panel (excluding the TB MAC member with the interest, and members from that same organisation). This information may be made available to persons outside of TB MAC only when the objectivity of the work of TB MAC has been questioned such that the TB MAC's external evaluator considers disclosure to be in the best interests of the TB MAC, and then only after the TB MAC member concerned has had an opportunity to comment.

Please respond to the following requests for information:

Declaration:

1) Have you, your spouse or dependent child(ren) any interest in (including association with) any entity with which you may be required, directly or indirectly, to have official dealings on behalf of the TB MAC, or which has a commercial interest in the work of TB MAC, or common area of activity with TB MAC, including any interest in a pharmaceutical company/product/diagnostics?

Yes: **No:** **If yes, please give details in the box below.**

(If additional space is needed, please continue on a separate page.)

Type of interest, e.g. patent, shares (including number and current market value); employment, grant, association, payment (including details on any compound, work, etc.);	Name of entity	Indicate whether held by you, or your spouse, or your dependent children)?
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2) Is there anything else that could affect your objectivity or independence in the performance of your duties for TB MAC, or the perception by others of your objectivity and independence?

Yes: No: If yes, please give details below.

(If additional space is needed, please continue on a separate page.)

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I hereby declare that the disclosed information is correct and complete. I recognize that the completion of this Declaration is without prejudice to my obligations under the TB MAC member TOR (see TB MAC [SOP](#)). I undertake to update this Declaration in the event of any material change in these circumstances and, in any event, at least annually.

Signature

Date

Name (please print)

Title (please print)

COI END

TB MAC working group guideline [Final]

TB MAC output: XXX

###

Section lead(s): Richard White

Aim: Specify conditions in which TB MAC would create or support an externally proposed working group on area of work

Section history

- 2018_07_05: Drafted - Richard
- 2018_08_05 Revised based on SC input - Richard
- 2018_08_17 Finalised and agreed by Committee

Proposed next steps

- None

###

Summary

- TB MAC has historically created time-limited working groups on particular topics to carry out specific work, such as the TB MAC Targets epi and econ working groups, and the BRR working groups. The impetus for the creation has, to date, been internal
- Someone outside TB MAC secretariat and committee has now requested that TB MAC set up a working group. The proposer has submitted a [draft proposal](#) for consideration by TB MAC.
- The SC asked the Secretariat to draft a proposal on if, and when, TB MAC might support such an external proposal
- The SC decided to split the task into two stages. A) Under what conditions it would support an externally proposed working group & B) whether it would support the specific proposal.

Criteria to evaluate if TB MAC would support creation of TB MAC working group

- TB MAC would consider supporting the creation of a working group if
 - Has clear aims, objectives, deliverables and duration
 - Has clear alignment with TB MAC aims and objectives (see TB MAC [ToC](#)),
 - Focussed on 'Public good' activities, ie not primarily benefiting individuals or individual (modelling or other) groups
 - Has written agreement on nature of support from TB MAC (financial, logistical, ...)
 - Have clear statement on how 'TB MAC brand' will be used by all parties
 - No reasonable risk of reputational damage to TB MAC
 - TB MAC has capacity to support
- The TB MAC committee would consider each application against these criteria. A decision to accept/reject would be by majority vote of the committee.
- Working group progress and TB MAC support for the Working Group would be reviewed at least annually.
- Working group may be asked to provide updates (eg monthly) for TB MAC SC meetings

TB MAC Model/Model Application Comment Policy [Final]

TB MAC RF output xxx

###

Section lead(s): Ted Cohen and Richard White

Aim: Make TB MAC model(ing) concerns/endorsement policy explicit

Section history

- 2018_06_04: 1st draft based on request by AP and SC & discussions, Richard
- Review by SC
- 2018_07_05 - revised in line with SC comments (RW)
- 2018_07_11 Approved by SC
- 2018_08_17 Approved by AP

Proposed next steps

- None

###

Background

- Experience generated principle: the TB MAC SC won't endorse individual models, as validity needs setting and policy question
- Once TB MAC SC collectively raised concerns on use of a specific modelling application, with a clear setting and policy question
- Principle implicit, not explicit
- TB MAC AP and SC now request TB MAC make this principle explicit, and add to TB MAC SOP (this document)

Proposed policy

- The SC, collectively, won't endorse individual models, as validity needs setting and policy question
- In general the SC, collectively, does not comment on specific modelling applications even with a clear setting and policy question, the SC does not see this as the best way to encourage high quality TB modelling. Peer review by modelling community is the preferred method.
- TB MAC does reserve the option to comment on specific modelling applications with a clear setting and policy question, and highly influential or important results, if all the following condition are met:
 - Requested to do so by AP or SC member (evidence of need, and high influence/importance)
 - Request approved by majority vote of the SC (evidence that request is deemed answerable, constructive, and feasible)
- This policy does not affect individual SC members ability to comment on review etc, in their individual capacity.
 - If there is any chance of doubt, SC members should always make clear they their reviews/views are in an individual capacity, not representing the SC.