TB Modelling and Analysis Consortium

Dear <<First Name>>,

Seasons Greetings and welcome to the last edition for 2016 of the TB Modelling and Analysis Consortium (TB MAC) newsletter, with information for TB modellers, epidemiologists, and decision makers.

TB MAC job opportunity **- join the TB MAC team (close 8th January)**
A fully funded epidemiologist and mathematical modelling job opportunity in TB MAC has now opened, at Assistant / Associate Professor level (depending on experience). For more information and to apply please click the link above.

UK/EU Funded TB vaccine modelling PhD opportunity at LSHTM (close 15th January)
Tuberculosis Vaccine Modelling MRC LID Studentships for 2017 start. More information and to apply here; eligibility here.

TB MAC re-funded
Thank you for all your input and support over the past 3 years; we are delighted to let you know that TB MAC has been re-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
Over a year of intensive discussions with global and country level stakeholders has resulted in strong, multi-stakeholder support for TB MACs new aims, objectives and ambitious work plan.
We look forward to working on this with you over the next three years.

Union Conference - Liverpool - October 2016
TB MAC had a successful Post Grad course (35+ attendees), and Symposium at the Union conference this year and we hope to be invited to the conference next year in Mexico to run them again. Please click here for the Symposium presentations.

GHCC survey

The Global Health Cost Consortium (GHCC) is an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to provide decision-makers with improved resources to estimate the costs of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) program and was launched in January 2016 with the goal of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of HIV and TB prevention and treatment.
As part their work, they have created a survey about your experience as a user and/or producer of cost data. The purpose of this survey is to understand current methodological issues faced by people who use and people who produce cost data. The survey should take no more than 20 minutes of your time, and all data is anonymous and confidential.

Highlight on modelling papers from our community

Houben R et al assessed whether the post-2015 End TB Strategy targets are feasible in South Africa, China, and India, in TB's first major multi-modelling analysis
In a linked study, Menzies N et al assessed the resource requirements and cost-effectiveness of these strategies in China, India and South Africa
Kunkel et al concluded that resisteance concerns were likely insufficient to rule out use of continuous IPT when coupled with effective TB treatment, case finding, and HIV control, in a declincing TB epidemic like Botswana
Gomez et al use a model based analysis to assess the cost-effectiveness of shortening tuberculosis treatment and concluded that reducing the duration of first-line TB treatment has the potential for substantial economic gains from a patient perspective
Rhodes S et al reported the H56 + IC31 TB vaccine dose-response curve was peaked not saturating, challenging this common assumption
Kunkel et al compared different strategies for introducing new TB drug bedaquiline based on patients' resistance patterns and concluded that if mortality benefits can be empirically verified, their results supported expanding bedaquiline access to all patients with MDR TB
Muliaditan M et al reported developing modelling tools to inform drug development and dose rationale decision making
Jabbari A et al reported the analysis of a two-strain TB math model with multiple latent stages and discuss its implications for disease control
Byun JH et al used a Markov model to compare effectiveness of delamanid and bedaquiline for MDR TB, and reported that delamanid was slight favoured over bedaquiline for a simulated patient cohort
Barbier M and Wirth T investigated the evolutionary history of the spread of mycobacterium tuberculosis complex
Silva CJ et al explored the use of time-delays in TB models

If you have any recently published TB modelling papers that you would like us to highlight in our future newsletters, email us with details.

For more information on TB MAC, or to get involved, please visit www.tb-mac.org or email us directly at tb-mac@lshtm.ac.uk.

Best wishes for the season,
Richard, Rein, Christina and the TB MAC Committee
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