TB Modelling and Analysis Consortium

Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the latest edition of the TB Modelling and Analysis Consortium (TB MAC) newsletter, with information for TB modellers, epidemiologists, and decision makers.

TB MAC links up with the Global Health Cost Consortium
The Global Health Cost Consortium (GHCC) has been launched to set standards, conduct analyses and disseminate cost data related to TB and other diseases. One of the first activities will be to start collating and synthesising current TB cost data with the aim to create a public data repository. TB MAC will also initiate a forum to consult TB modellers on their data needs. Further details on how to join will follow soon but meanwhile, additional information about GHCC can also be obtained from Anna Vassall

Union 2016 conference Post Grad course and Symposium
We are pleased to let you know that our Post Grad course - 'An introduction to tuberculosis modelling' (now running for its fourth consecutive year) is being offered at the 2016 Union conference in Liverpool this year on Wednesday the 26th of October. Please register early as places do get booked up quickly.

Also featuring at the conference, our Symposium this year is on 'Modelling to overcome resistance to TB drugs and the End TB Strategy' and this is on Saturday the 29th of October, from 13:30-15:00. We will have five speakers who will be presenting their findings from their research funded by TB MAC.

Job opportunity - Postdoctoral Fellowship Tuberculosis Research **- McGill University**
McGill are looking for a Postdoc to work on completion and analysis of a large scale randomised trial of LTBI therapy, the Fellowship will also focus on modelling, cost effectiveness, and decision analyses. For more information and to apply, please use the link above.

Highlight on modelling papers from our community
- Chisholm RH and Tanaka MM use a mathematical model to look at how *Mt.b* may have evolved latency properties without incurring an immediate reproductive disadvantage
- White PJ and Abubhakar I describe the contribution that mathematical modelling can make to understanding epidemiology and control of TB in low-burden countries
- Uys et al analysed an extensive data set from Cape Town clinics and reported that the first few months after a TB episode cure is the critical period for controlling reinfection disease in a hyperendemic community
- Zong-Cheng Pan et al explored the costs of 3HR vs 9H for LTBI in Taiwan, and reported cost savings of 3HR compared to 9H, particularly in rural areas
- Holland et al carried out a decision analysis on short-course rifapentine-based treatment

for active tuberculosis, and reported higher 2-month culture conversion rates are neither sufficient nor necessary for making a theoretical 4-month anti-tuberculosis treatment regimen advantageous

- Trauer JM et al reported that broad scale-up of TB control activities and programmatic management of MDR-TB is vital if control is to be achieved in Western Province, Papua New Guinea

- Wallis RS illustrated the potential utility of mathematical models to help understand TB reactivation and relapse

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.

Very best wishes,
Richard, Rein, Christina and the TB MAC Committee
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