TB-Speed NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL: IT'S TIME FOR TB-SPEED

In commemoration of World TB Day, the TB-Speed project started up the TB-Speed Pneumonia study on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

Every year, March 24 marks World TB Day to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB), and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic. The theme for 2019 is "It's Time", highlighting the emergency in taking actions. On this occasion, TB-Speed is contributing to diagnosing and curing this treatable disease: it started enrolment in its first study which focuses on children with severe pneumonia.

It's time to start screening TB in children with severe pneumonia.
Although TB usually presents as a chronic disease, recent studies have revealed it can also present as pneumonia, a rapidly progressing disease with more acute symptoms. Pneumonia is among the leading cause of death in young children worldwide and TB-associated pneumonia is usually poorly recognized or diagnosed too late, thus contributing to an increased mortality rate in children, especially in high-prevalence settings. The TB-Speed Pneumonia study will evaluate the impact on mortality of an early detection strategy in children below the age of 5 with severe pneumonia.

It's time to play our part.
On March 20, the Clinical Trial Units from our six participating countries were given the green light from our sponsor (Inserm) to start the study locally. Henceforth, it's time for our effective contribution to the global fight against TB. This is the beginning of an exciting period that will hopefully deliver fruitful outcomes in 20 months from now. Beyond TB-Speed Pneumonia, the project is also preparing for the start of 3 other studies. We will keep you posted!

It's time to ensure all children with TB get a proper diagnosis and access to treatment, wherever they live. It's time for the world to end TB!

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HEADLIGHT NEWS: THE TB-SPEED PNEUMONIA STUDY STARTS

OBJECTIVES
Cluster randomised trial evaluating the impact on mortality of an early tuberculosis detection strategy in children with severe pneumonia

STUDY INTERVENTION
Systematic TB detection with new molecular "Xpert Ultra" test performed on respiratory (nasopharyngeal aspirates) and stools samples

DURATION
18 months of enrollment
12 weeks of patient follow-up
21 months of total trial duration
From March 2019 to December 2020

STUDY POPULATION
3,800 under-5 years old children presenting at hospitals with severe pneumonia

STUDY SITES
15 hospitals in 6 countries: Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia

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SUPPORT

This project is also supported by the ANRS.

SPONSOR

This project is sponsored by INSERM.

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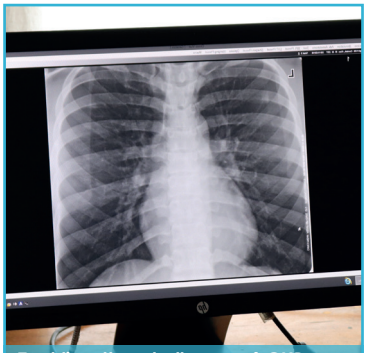
PARTNERSHIPS

FOCUS

International training in Kampala, Uganda, December 3-8, 2018.

With more than 80 participants, the TB-Speed International symposium contributed to building capacity within country research coordination teams and amongst technical partners on monitoring, evaluation, data management and clinical/laboratory procedures. Training sessions included modules on nasopharyngeal aspirate collection, chest X-ray (CXR) reading and GeneXpert use.



Tackling the challenge of CXR reading for diagnosis TB in children with TeAM/SPI (France)

Sharing experience from PAANTHER study on nasopharyngeal aspirate collection with Dr Dim Bunnet from the Institut Pasteur, Cambodia

Making laboratory coordinators practise the use of the new GeneXpert® Edge platform and Xpert MTB/Rif Ultra with Cepheid (France)

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

TB-Speed country research coordination teams have conducted in-country training on the implementation of TB-Speed Pneumonia study.

Various practical training sessions have contributed to improve competencies of staff from implementing sites, including medical doctors, nurses, laboratory scientists and other site investigators on the implementation of TB-Speed pneumonia research activities. Sites received a comprehensive overview of the study, were trained on Good Clinical Practices and were able to exchange with country research coordination teams on programmatic aspects.

Productive exchanges between trainees and trainers at the University Teaching Hospital of Lusaka (Zambia)

Proudly showing training certificates at Institut Pasteur in Yaoundé (Cameroun)

Introducing the country workforce at Programme PAC-CI, Côte d'Ivoire

The audience focusing on the opening session chaired by Dr Mao Tang Eang (Director of CENAT) and Didier Fontenille (Director of IPC) at the Institut Pasteur in Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

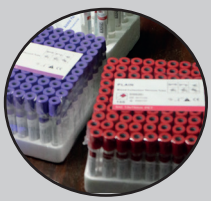
Entering data on tablets with Epicentre and MUJHU at Mbarara Research Centre (Uganda)

Presenting and discussing the clinical procedures at Maputo Central Hospital (Mozambique)

NEWS ON THE PROJECT

ASSESSMENT OF CHILDHOOD TB DIAGNOSTIC CAPACITY AT DISTRICT LEVEL

The evaluation of innovative diagnostic approaches to be decentralised at the level of district hospitals or primary health care centres (PHCs) is a key component in TB-Speed (Output 1). The assessment of existing paediatric diagnostic capacity was undertaken by country research coordination teams in different districts of the 6 participating countries during the 1st quarter of 2018. This contributed to selection of the study sites which included two districts hospitals and 8 PHCs in each country.



OPTIMISATION OF SAMPLE PROCESSING METHODS

One of the main limitations in the use of Xpert cartridges with stool samples(a very convenient sample for young children) is the need to process the sample before testing in order to remove Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) inhibiting factors. TB-Speed is assessing a set of optimised sample processing methods that could be used at lower levels of the health sytem in low- and medium-income countries (Output 4). The first part of this work, an *in vitro* laboratory evaluation, was completed by the Research Institute for Development (IRD) in France in December 2018.

IN-COUNTRY PROCUREMENT OF MATERIAL & EQUIPEMENT

Clinical, radiological and laboratory material for the TB-Speed Pneumonia, TB-Speed SAM and TB-Speed HIV studies have reached countries in March 2019. They have been distributed and installed at sites by country research coordination teams. All procurement aspects have been efficiently managed by the University of Bordeaux (France) and MSF Logistique (France).