

NORTHEASTERN SPOTLIGHT

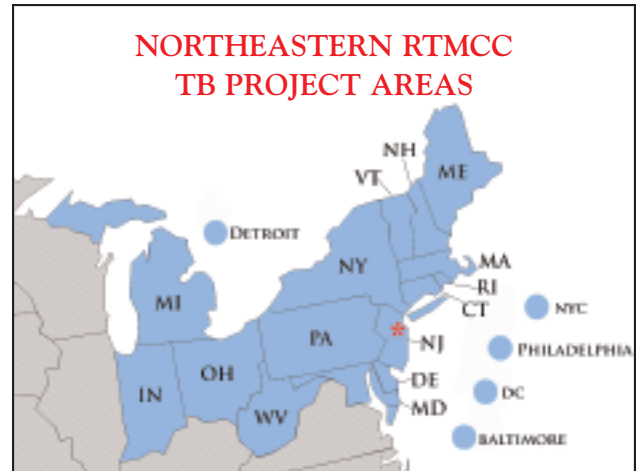
WINTER 2006

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Dear Colleague:

It's hard to believe another year has passed. During 2006, we were proud to have conducted 219 hours of stand-up training to over 1,700 participants, with 70% of training conducted off-site or via the web. As you can see on pages 7, 8, and 9, the NE RTMCC—in conjunction with its partners the Charles P. Felton National Tuberculosis Center and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health—has an ambitious number of courses planned for next year. This issue of the newsletter features one of the courses offered, *TB Infection Control in Healthcare Settings*, conducted in November and also highlights the Northeast TB Controllers Meeting held in October which provided participants with educational and networking opportunities. In addition, this issue includes an overview of our products completed in 2006 and those in development scheduled for completion in 2007. We will continue to provide technical assistance to TB program staff related to training and education issues and plan to conduct 6 mini-fellowships which will be tailored to individual needs.

On December 5, we premiered our web-based grand rounds (clinical case conferences) at which consultants from around the region can present and discuss cases from their own worksites. We received very positive feedback



from participants, and we plan to hold our next web-based grand rounds in January. This, by all accounts, is an excellent conference. We encourage consultants to consider presenting their most challenging cases on which they would like input from their colleagues from other areas and our institute. We continue to respond to requests from providers seeking medical consultation through our **toll-free TB Infoline, 1-800-4TB-DOCS**, as

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The Northeastern Regional Training and Medical Consultation Consortium is a collaborative effort of the Charles P. Felton National Tuberculosis Center at Harlem Hospital, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Tuberculosis Prevention and Control, and the NJ Medical School Global Tuberculosis Institute and provides training, technical assistance, and medical consultation to health care professionals throughout the Northeastern United States.

RTMCC Communications Sub-Committee: Bill Bower, MPH • Chris Hayden • Erin Howe, MPH
 Newsletter design by Judith Rew

We would like your feedback...please let us know what you think of this newsletter, future newsletter ideas, and/or article contributions you wish to make. Send an email to Chris Hayden, Newsletter Editor at haydench@umdnj.edu. Thanks!

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A Day of Networking, Learning, and Sharing: The 2006 Northeast TB Controllers Meeting

On October 24, 2006, the Northeastern Regional Training and Medical Consultation Consortium had the opportunity to co-host the Northeast TB Controllers Meeting. This one-day conference was planned in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and was held in beautiful, historic Princeton, New Jersey with about 140 TB controllers, program managers, nurses, disease investigators, laboratorians, and other interested members of the TB prevention and control family. The very timely theme was "Relapse? The State of TB Control in the Era of Declining Funds."

The conference content was based on a series of calls with interested program staff in the region and last year's conference evaluation results, which the New York State Department of Health shared with us. We also utilized the results of the RTMCC regional needs assessment to supplement planning activities. The compilation of all of this valuable information helped to build the meeting agenda. Topics included updates on new CDC guidelines, universal genotyping, laboratory network, and National TB Controllers Association activities, medical and TB control case presentations, and an overview of the TB epidemiology in the Northeast region. The RTMCC also presented the

results of its regional training and medical consultation needs assessment at the request of several key members of the region.

We were fortunate to have Fred Jacobs, MD, JD, the NJ State Commissioner of Health, provide the keynote speech, "The Evolution of TB Treatment: A Personal Perspective." This was a great way to start off the morning – a bit of wit coupled with reflection. We were also lucky to have on hand the very busy and highly requested Dr. Ken Castro, the director of CDC's Division of TB Elimination to talk about *Epidemiology of TB in the Northeast Region*, including an update on XDR-TB. Two presentations on the laboratory aspects of TB were followed by a moving talk entitled *Remembering Why We Are Here: A Patient's Perspective*.

To assess the conference, participants completed a written evaluation. Over 90% of participants rated the conference content and speakers very highly. The TB control and medical case presentations in the afternoon were the most well-received agenda items. Tracy Agerton (NY City) and Mark Wolman (NJ) presented an intriguing cross-jurisdictional investigation with a strain W TB case, and Shameer Poonja (CDC) presented an outbreak in a rural Indiana county. To round out the

program, we were stimulated to think about various medical challenges with Drs. John Bernardo (MDR-TB), George McSherry (pediatric TB), and David Schlossberg (TB and HIV co-infection). Some of the more experienced attendees reported that the content seemed a bit basic or repetitive, especially for staff who have attended other TB meetings such as the NTCA Workshop. However, this was not the case for new staff and others who get little opportunity for continuing TB-related education. While we made this a one-day meeting to address travel and staff coverage issues, many participants expressed a desire for a slightly longer meeting which would allow for more discussion and networking opportunities. These comments are helpful, yet are challenging to address in a conference that serves such a diverse region. The results will be passed on to the host of next year's meeting for planning purposes.

Overall, the 2006 Northeast TB Controllers Meeting was a success, and the NE RTMCC has archived the conference presentations on our website at <http://www.umdnj.edu/globaltb/audioarchives/2006ntca.htm>.

Submitted by Rajita Bhavaraju, MPH
Training and Consultation Specialist
Northeastern RTMCC

Dear Colleague

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well as through email. Based on input from TB programs and from an end-user satisfaction survey, we are developing a written protocol to standardize medical consultation procedures. Following some in-house experience, this protocol will be shared with TB programs.

Early in 2007, we will form an RTMCC Advisory Council with representatives from TB programs as well as other providers serving patients with or at high risk of TB. The Council will meet by conference call, 3-4 times a year and we are looking forward its

input and guidance as we plan future RTMCC activities, including training, product development, and medical consultation.

As many of you may have heard, effective January 11, I will be taking a 6-month sabbatical working at the Stop TB Partnership in Geneva. Although housed in WHO, the Partnership is an independent organization supported by donor funds. Although not completely defined, my role will be global advocacy, i.e., to promote the Global Plan to STOP TB. I will be working closely with Dr. Marcos Espinal, Executive Secretary of the Partnership. In line with the maxim that "to control TB

anywhere, we must control TB everywhere," I trust that these efforts will help TB control efforts in our country and region as well. Of course, I will be available by phone and email during my activities in Geneva, and plan to return to our Institute and the Northeastern RTMCC several times during my sabbatical period.

I wish you all the best for a safe and enjoyable holiday and a productive and fulfilling new year.

Lee B. Reichman, MD, MPH
Executive Director
Northeastern RTMCC and the Global
Tuberculosis Institute

TB Infection Control in Healthcare Settings Course

In the face of declining TB rates, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have called for continued vigilance and expertise needed to work toward the elimination of TB. The transmission of TB in healthcare settings continues to decrease because of implementation of infection control measures and reductions in community rates of TB. An effective TB infection-control program requires early identification, isolation, and effective treatment of persons who have active TB. The primary emphasis of a TB infection-control plan should be on achieving these three goals.

This one and a half day course conducted November 14-15 in Newark provided an overview of recent CDC guidelines and included basic information on TB epidemiology, transmission and pathogenesis, contact investigations, and diagnosis and treatment of LTBI and TB disease. The RTMCC developed this course in response to requests for an update on infection control measures. The marketing strategy was tailored to ensure a wider reach for the target audience and included posting on the TB-Educate list serv, contacting chapters of the Association for Practitioners of Infection Control, contacting the New Jersey

State Hospital Association, and personal communication with infection control departments.

The course was attended by 16

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participants (infection control coordinators, nurse practitioners, and public health nurses) who came from New Jersey, New York City, and New York State. Given the complexity of the guidelines, the expertise of the faculty was essential to the success of the course. Lauren Lambert, Epidemiologist at CDC—Division of TB Elimination (DTBE), served as the keynote speaker. Ms. Lambert's experience working in the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Outbreak Investigations Branch at DTBE and her role as a preparer of the guidelines were well appreciated by the participants.

The course was lively and interesting, due to the participants' desire to learn

and willingness to ask questions. On average, post-test scores increased by 15% compared to pre-test scores. The course was mostly attended by individuals who are responsible for implementing and enforcing infection control measures within their setting. As a result, many participants indicated that they would share the information learned with their staff and would strongly recommend the course to other colleagues. The overwhelmingly positive response to this course suggests the need for additional offerings. In the future, the course length will be increased to two full days and interactive, skill-building exercises will be incorporated to enhance the participants' learning experience. In addition, an upcoming web-based seminar scheduled for January 17, 2007 will provide an abbreviated update of the guidelines, including a case discussion. Individuals who wish to participate may register at the following website:

<http://www.umdnj.edu/globaltb/courses/tbupdate2.htm>

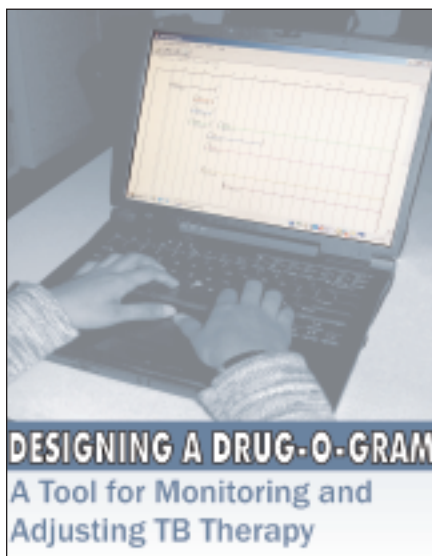
*Submitted by Anita Khilall
Health Educator
Northeastern RTMCC*

Product Development at the RTMCC

Many of you know that the Northeastern RTMCC develops and implements training courses, but the team of health educators here at the RTMCC is also involved in developing a variety of educational materials or "products." This year we completed three products and have several more in development slated for completion in 2007. RTMCC products are developed in response to specific needs identified through a combination of sources including TB programs, CDC, and a literature review. As you will see below, our products are consistent with needs identified through the comprehensive needs assessment process conducted with input from all 20 project areas in 2005. All of our products here at the RTMCC are developed using a systematic approach to health education, including a needs assessment, material development, field testing, revisions, and implementation. We often look for experts in the field, to review and comment on our draft materials, as well as to participate in the field testing process. So if any of the products in development listed below sound interesting to you, and you would like to participate in reviewing or field testing, let us know, and we will be happy to include you in this process.

Two of the products released this year were web-based. An electronic tool for clinicians, the *Drug-o-Gram: A Tool for Monitoring and Adjusting TB Therapy* creates a visual representation, or drug-o-gram, of the patient's course of treatment over time including treatment regimen, smear, culture, and drug susceptibility results. The drug-o-gram can be used for monitoring treatment and clinical progress, cohort analysis, and teaching or presenting to other clinicians. The drug-o-gram can be particularly useful in managing drug-resistant cases. The tool is available at <http://www.umdj.edu/globaltb/products/drugogram.htm>

We also updated the online audio and audio-embedded PowerPoint presentations *Treating the HIV and TB/Co-infected Patient in Correctional*



Settings. This product includes presentations on the most recent guidelines on the treatment of LTBI in co-infected patients and also includes adherence strategies and case discussion. This resource will be available from our website by the end of the year. The RTMCC also completed two issues of the newsletter *TB and Cultural Competency – Notes from the Field*. Each issue of this newsletter focuses on a case presentation with articles and resources to support the teaching points of the case. All issues of *Notes from the Field* are available at:

<http://www.umdj.edu/globaltb/products/newsletter.htm>.

We are also working on a number of products that will be released in 2007. The CDC has recognized the important role of patient education and communication in promoting adherence to medications and ensuring successful completion of treatment. A need for well-developed, easy-to-understand patient education material was also mentioned consistently during the 2005 needs assessment process. In response to these needs, the Northeastern RTMCC is developing 3 patient education materials. The first is a brochure, *Treatment for Tuberculosis (TB) Infection in Children: What Parents Need to Know*. This material originally grew out of a specific need expressed by pediatric

providers at the Waymon C. Lattimore Clinic here at the RTMCC. A subsequent literature review showed that there was a lack of patient education materials on this topic developed using a systematic approach to health education. A draft of the brochure has been created and is currently undergoing field testing at various sites. Once field testing is complete, revisions will be made and the material will be printed and distributed by the end of 2007.

We are also developing a *TB Education Flip Book* for patients and providers which is intended to be a portable teaching tool for TB program staff and can be used for one-on-one or small group patient education. The panels seen by the patients will include simple text and clear images to reinforce key points while the panels for providers will include an easy-to-deliver script, teaching points, and additional information. The flip book will include information on TB transmission and diagnosis and treatment for TB infection and TB disease. Finally the Northeastern RTMCC is adapting six CDC patient education materials, (developed previously at the RTMCC), into bi-lingual Vietnamese-English materials. CDC surveillance data for 2004 indicates that Vietnam is within the top three countries of origin for



foreign born cases of TB in the U.S. The education materials (five brochures and a fact sheet covering a number of different TB topics) are not directly translated from English but rather created specifically for this population in order to incorporate the nuances and cultural beliefs that are essential to communicating health information. The development process includes significant community involvement in development and field testing. Currently a first draft is being circulated for comment. This will be followed by field testing with patients and community members, additional expert review and revisions.

The RTMCC is also in the process of developing several products for the public health workforce including *TB Field Investigation Workshop: Facilitator-Led Training Guide*, based on the stand-up-training course provided here at the Northeastern RTMCC. This guide will outline the process of planning and conducting this course. The resource contains checklists, sample test questions, templates for forms and letters, and field investigation scenarios for exercises. This guide is based on previously developed facilitator-led training guides from CDC and other programs, and will include a print copy of materials, along with a CD-ROM that will allow users to adapt materials to local needs. A first draft is currently undergoing internal review and we are seeking content experts who can serve as reviewers and assist in the pilot

testing. In 2007 the guide will be field tested, revised, and finalized.

Cultural competency training was also identified as a key need from the region during the RTMCC needs assessment. As mentioned earlier, the RTMCC already produces a newsletter, *TB and Cultural Competency—Notes from the Field*, and two new issues will be released in 2007. Further, we are collaborating with the Southeastern National TB Center, the Heartland National TB Center, and the University of Alabama to produce a *Cultural*

This print resource for the public health workforce and other healthcare providers will cover the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for cultural competency in TB control activities.

Competency Resource for TB Care Providers. This print resource for the public health workforce and other healthcare providers will cover the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for cultural competency in TB control activities. The resource will include a self-assessment and teaching cases. Currently the draft text is under internal review and will be field tested in 2007 with a geographically diverse group of intended audience members. The findings will be compiled and

analyzed and will guide the final development of the product.

And finally, we are working on a set of modules, *TB Curriculum for Schools of Public Health*. This product is based on requests that we received here, as well as a need identified by the CDC. The purpose of this project is to provide faculty in schools of public health with materials to increase students' understanding of global and national efforts to control and eliminate TB. We will be developing brief modules (using TB examples) that can be inserted into curricula for a variety of different public health courses including epidemiology, global health, and health policy. We will be working closely with schools of public health to field test and finalize these modules by the end of 2007. The final product will include modular print materials with a CD-ROM of training materials for adapting to schools' needs. A PDF version will be also be available on our website accompanied by downloadable training materials.

With all of these products scheduled for completion in 2007, we will need to start identifying a new slate of products for development in 2008. Therefore, during the next year we will be gathering input and ideas on potential new products from TB program staff in the Northeastern Region. So please feel free to contact us with suggestions!

*Submitted by Nisha Ahamed, MPH
Program Director,
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What's New

Mantoux Tuberculin Skin Test – Podcast Podcasting is a way to get audio and video files over the Internet through special web pages designed to maintain a list of available items and promote new content. You can download CDC podcasts to your desktop and portable music/video player for health information at your convenience. This 30-minute podcast, developed by CDC's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, includes a narrated video on how to administer and read the Mantoux tuberculin skin test. <http://www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=3739>

Errata to Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of *Mycobacterium*

tuberculosis in Health-Care Settings, 2005 These errata were published by the CDC on September 25, 2006 and can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/pubs/mmwrhtml/Errata09-25-06.pdf>

The initial published Guidelines (MMWR 2005; 54 (No. RR-17, 1-141) can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5417.pdf>

Hepatotoxicity of Antituberculosis Therapy: An Official ATS Statement – Am J Respir Crit Care Med; 2006; 174: 935-972

Drug-induced liver injury (DILI) is a problem of increasing significance, but has been a long-standing concern in the treatment of tuberculosis (TB). The liver

has a central role in drug metabolism and detoxification, and is consequently vulnerable to injury. The pathogenesis and types of DILI are presented, ranging from hepatic adaptation to hepatocellular injury. Available data regarding the incidence and severity of TB DILI overall, in selected demographic groups, and in those coinfecting with HIV or hepatitis B or C virus are presented. Systematic steps for prevention and management of TB DILI are recommended. Priorities for future studies to develop safer treatments for LTBI and for TB disease are presented. <http://www.thoracic.org/sections/publications/statements/index.html>

TB Trivia - Who is it?

What award winning American actor and director played Red Stovall, a broke, depression-era country singer suffering from tuberculosis in the 1982 comedy *Honkytonk Man*? His impressive career spans over 50 years and though he didn't win any awards for this movie, he was later nominated for a total of five Academy Awards. So far he's won the Best Director Oscar twice, and he is going strong!

For the answer, click on <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0084088/>



NE RTMCC Training Courses Planned for 2007

Note: The NE RTMCC will be updating its course calendar with additional off-site courses over the next few months, so please check our website (<http://www.umdnj.edu/globaltb/courses.htm>) for the most up-to-date course information.

NAME OF COURSE	TARGET AUDIENCE	DATES	LOCATION
TB Update (#1): Management of TB in Correctional Facilities: A Web-Based Seminar	Health care workers in corrections and TB programs	Jan 9	Web-based seminar
TB Update (#2): Infection Control in Health Care Settings	Health care workers who have primary responsibility for infection control in their setting	Jan 17	Web-based seminar
TB Intensive Workshop	Physicians & Nurses	Feb 28, Mar 1-2	Newark, NJ
Cohort Review Process	Lead TB Program Staff	March 8-9	New York, NY
Best Practices in TB Control Series (#1): Working with Substance Abusers and homeless populations	Health care workers (including TB program staff) serving substance abusers and/or homeless populations	March 15	Web-based seminar
Effective TB Interviewing & Contact Investigation	Disease investigators and public health nurses	Mar 28-30	Newark, NJ
Best Practices in TB Control Series (#2): What works best in low-incidence areas and rural settings	TB health care workers in low incidence and rural settings	May 16	Web-based seminar
TB Clinician's Update	Physicians and Nurses	Spring	Massachusetts
Tuberculin Skin Testing Train-the-Trainer Course	Nurses who train HCWs who perform skin testing	June	Newark, NJ
The TB Laboratory's New Tools for Diagnosing TB and LTBI: A Primer for TB Control Staff (2)	Health care workers in TB programs	June	Web-based seminar
TB Update (#3): Medical Management of MDR-TB	Physicians and Nurses	Summer	Web-based seminar
Best Practices in TB Control Series (#3): Topic TBD	TBD based on "Best Practice" topic selected	September	Web-based seminar
Effective TB Interviewing & Contact Investigation Workshops (2 Workshops)	Disease investigators and public health nurses	Fall	NY State
TB Field Investigation	Nurses and other health care workers who conduct community or other field-related activities	Fall	Newark, NJ

NE RTMCC Training Courses Planned for 2007

NAME OF COURSE	TARGET AUDIENCE	DATES	LOCATION
TB Update (#4): TB in the Elderly: A Web-Based Seminar	Physicians and nurses	Fall	Web-based seminar
TB Intensive Workshop	Physicians and nurses	Fall	Newark, NJ
TB Case Management & Contact Investigation for Nurses	Nurse Case Managers	Fall	New Jersey
Program Manager's Workshop for Regional and Local Staff	TB staff that have responsibility for planning, managing, or evaluating TB program activities	Fall	Newark, NJ
Cultural Competency and TB: General Principles and Case Studies with Ecuadorian Migrants	Nurses, disease investigators, and translators serving Ecuadorian migrants	October	New York State
TB in Correctional Settings Updates (2)	Health care workers in corrections and TB programs	TBD	Massachusetts
Effective TB Interviewing & Contact Investigation Workshop	Disease investigators and public health nurses	TBD	Maryland
TB Update	TBD, based on topic selected		Connecticut
Medical Consultant Quarterly Case Conference (Grand Rounds) Webinars	TB program medical consultants	Spring Summer Fall Winter	Web-based seminar

TB Program Training Courses Planned for 2006/2007

TB PROGRAM SPONSOR	NAME OF COURSE	TARGET AUDIENCE	TARGET AREA	DATES	LOCATION	CONTACT PERSON
NY City	Tuberculin Skin Test Administration	Non-NYC HD staff	NYC & Vicinity	Jan 23-26 May 22-25 Sep 11-14	253 Broadway NYC	Elvy Barroso 212-676-2914 ebarroso@health.nyc.gov
MI	Tuberculin Skin Test -Train the Trainer	TST Trainers	MI & Vicinity	Jan 11 March 5 June 8	Lansing Lansing Lansing	American Lung Association of Michigan (800) 678-LUNG
MD	TB Skin Testing	Licensed Clinicians	MD	Mar 13 Mar 28 Apr 10 May 24	Baltimore Easton Salisbury Columbia	Arlene Hudak 410-767-6698
Charles P. Felton National TB Center	Safety in the Field Cultural Competency Use of the Resource Directory, Part II Managers Round Table	NY State-Funded DOT Program Staff	New York City	March 8	90 Church Street, Manhattan	Paul Colson 212-939-8241 pwc2@columbia.edu

Other TB Resources

Division of Tuberculosis Elimination

The mission of the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE) is to promote health and quality of life by preventing, controlling, and eventually eliminating tuberculosis from the United States, and by collaborating with other countries and international partners in controlling tuberculosis worldwide.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/default.htm>

TB Education and Training Resources Website

This website is a service of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Tuberculosis Elimination. It is intended for use by TB and other healthcare professionals, patients, and the general public and can be used to locate or share TB education and training materials and to find out about other TB resources.

<http://www.findtbresources.org/scripts/index.cfm>

TB Education & Training Network (TB ETN)

The TB Education and Training Network (TB ETN) was formed to bring TB professionals together to network, share resources, and build education and training skills.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/TBETN/default.htm>

TB-Related News and Journal Items Weekly Update

Provided by the CDC as a public service, subscribers receive:

- A weekly update of TB-related news items
- Citations and abstracts to new scientific TB journal articles
- TB conference announcements
- TB job announcements

To subscribe to this service, visit:

http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/listserv/tb_update.asp

- **TB Behavioral and Social Science Listserv**

Sponsored by the DTBE of the CDC and the CDC National Prevention Information Network (NPIN), this Listserv provides subscribers the opportunity to exchange information and engage in ongoing discussions about behavioral and social science issues as they relate to tuberculosis prevention and control.

http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/listserv/tb_behavioral_science.asp

Other RTMCCs

The Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center serves: Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Federated State of Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Republic of Palau. <http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu>

The Heartland National Tuberculosis Center serves: Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. <http://www.heartlandntbc.org>

The Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center serves: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

<http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/cont.html>