

**East Africa TB Consortium
First Annual Meeting
November 19, 2010
Protea Courtyard
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

The first annual meeting of the Fogarty East Africa TB (FEAT) Consortium was held at the Protea Courtyard in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on November 20, 2011. The meeting was sponsored by Fogarty AITRPs from Dartmouth-Boston University (BU) and the University of Georgia/Case Western Reserve. According to Co-Chairs of the Conference, Drs. Ford von Reyn from Dartmouth and Dr. Christopher Whalen from Georgia the purpose of creating the Consortium was to foster research and training collaborations on tuberculosis and HIV-associated tuberculosis among Fogarty programs in the East African community. Participants included 7 Ugandan graduates of Fogarty programs, 7 Tanzanian graduates of Fogarty programs and 4 Fogarty faculty from Dartmouth and Boston University (BU).

The keynote address was given by Dr. Saidi Egwaga, Director of the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Program (NTLP) in Tanzania. Dr. Egwaga highlighted the important contributions made by Fogarty-trained researchers and associated Dartmouth-BU research programs in Tanzania: "Studies by the DarDar Program on HIV/TB have had a direct influence on the development of policies in the national tuberculosis program". Egwaga urged Fogarty graduates to continue their commitment to high quality research and to assist in expanding the scope of programmatic research in both Tanzania and Uganda. Dr. Johnson Lyimo, the first Fogarty graduate of the Dartmouth Fogarty program in 2004, and now director of the MDR TB initiative for the Tanzanian NTLP, summarized the current status of drug resistant TB in Tanzania.

Dr. Robert Horsburgh, Chair of Epidemiology and Boston University School of Public Health gave an update on clinical trials of new regimens for the treatment of tuberculosis as well as a summary of the session he chaired on treatment of MDR-TB during the previous week at the international TB meeting in Berlin. Dr. Ezekiel Mupere from Uganda presented results of a study on body composition changes in patients with tuberculosis in Uganda and underscored the importance of intervention trials to address malnutrition in TB and HIV-TB. Dr. Tim Lahey reviewed the successful results of the DarDar TB vaccine study and the implications of his immunologic studies from the trial for understanding protective immunity against tuberculosis. Dr. Helga Naburi from Tanzania discussed the challenges posed by tuberculosis in children, and Dr. Freddie Bwanga from Uganda discussed advances in the diagnosis of tuberculosis.

Dr. Beatrice Mutayoba from the National Institute for Medical Research in Tanzania then introduced the theme of programmatic research in tuberculosis. A poster viewing session followed and stimulated a lively discussion of how to

conduct programmatic research, implications of presented studies, and ways the FEAT Consortium might work together in the future to answer critical questions on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of TB and HIV-TB. Consortium members arrived at a consensus that one of the most valuable contributions of the group would be to develop a research agenda for TB and HIV/TB and work with their respective Ministries to implement that agenda. The next annual meeting will be held in Kampala in 2011 and the Consortium will be expanded to include Fogarty programs from other East African countries.