



BRINGING CIVIL SOCIETY TOGETHER  
TO END THE TUBERCULOSIS EPIDEMIC  
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## The Impact of COVID-19 on Research and Development on TB Vaccines TBEC Webinar series

*Monday, 28th September 2020, 15:00-16:30 CET*

### Background

The most effective measure of disease prevention for tuberculosis (TB) is the bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine which was developed in 1921. It has commonly been used as a routine vaccine in children for almost a century, however it is poorly protective against pulmonary disease in adolescents and adults, and therefore ineffective at reducing adult transmission. Consequently, there is high unmet need in TB prevention among adults, and the development of a new TB vaccine has been identified as a priority in order to achieve the WHO End TB Strategy targets. In order to end TB as a major public health threat by 2035, new tools, such as a new vaccine needs to be made available by the mid-2020s.

In 2018 and 2019 we saw the most promising steps forward in the century-long effort to develop a new TB vaccine. The results of a phase IIB trial on vaccine candidate M72 showed an efficacy of 54% in a two-year follow-up period, and did not appear to have any adverse side effects. Assessments of the results from this trial represent a major scientific breakthrough and continued effort should be made to ensure the next phase of trials is able to progress.

At current rates of progress, the Sustainable Development Goal to end the TB epidemic by 2030 will not be achieved because the impact of COVID-19 has stalled or slowed down progress made in TB programmes. According to an estimate by Imperial College London, it could reverse progress made against TB back to 2013 levels. In addition, TB Research and Development has been impacted with delays in clinical trials due to lockdowns or shifted focus on COVID-19. It should be noted that COVID-19 has utilised assets invested in TB and HIV research and development. Prior to COVID-19, it was predicted that without new tools to tackle TB, the SDG target would not be achieved for another 100 years at least and progress against the disease was already threatened by drug-resistance.

As the world comes together to tackle the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, it is important to ensure that TB prevention and care approaches are adapting appropriately to offer uninterrupted, safe and high-quality TB services. Considering the similarity of TB and COVID-19 illnesses in disease presentation and transmission, as well as synergies in the response (e.g. prevention, infection control, adherence support, etc), the pandemic presents many questions for the TB field and opportunities for learning through research and innovation, and the adoption of best practices.

Join TB Europe Coalition for the 1st in our series of webinars on the impact of COVID-19 on TB R&D. In this session we will be joined by the Treatment Action Group and IAVI, to focus on the impact of COVID-19 on TB vaccine research and development.



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The line-up for speakers and registration is below. Please register to receive zoom link.

Registration: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_AF73X14cS4aZUOHx3cP0FQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AF73X14cS4aZUOHx3cP0FQ)

If you are having any problems, please contact [coordinator@tbcoalition.eu](mailto:coordinator@tbcoalition.eu).

### Agenda

- ❖ Introduction (Yuliia Kalancha, Executive Director, TBEC)
- ❖ Overview of the pipeline (Ben Coates, IAVI)
- ❖ Impact of COVID-19 on TB Vaccine (Mike Frick, Treatment Action Group)
- ❖ Questions and Answers