HIV/AIDS and TB: A Lethal Convergence
HHMI/CSIS Symposium
May 12, 2005 9:00 AM to Noon
CSIS Headquarters
Room B1 A/B
1800 K St., NW
Washington, DC 20006

You are cordially invited to attend a symposium on an alarming global public health threat: the interaction of HIV/AIDS and TB. The symposium, co-hosted by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), will consider related research, public health and policy challenges.

HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis have formed a lethal infectious alliance that is threatening to devastate public health in many parts of the world. One in three people worldwide are infected with the TB bacterium and 5,000 people die of TB daily. The poor, the malnourished and those with weakened immune systems are especially vulnerable. People infected with both HIV and TB have a much greater risk of developing AIDS and active TB. TB is the most common opportunistic infection and the leading killer for people with HIV/AIDS and in turn HIV/AIDS is driving the TB epidemic upwards.

The May 12 symposium speakers have a front line view of these epidemics. They are committed both to developing novel ways to thwart HIV and TB and to moving the fruits of research out of the laboratory and to those in need.

Confirmed speakers include:

Bruce D. Walker, M.D. – HHMI Investigator; Director of the Division of AIDS at the Harvard Medical School
Dr. Walker seeks to understand the immune control of chronic viral infections and use this information to develop interventions to induce immunologic control in persons with otherwise progressive infections. His work focuses entirely on human diseases, studying cohorts in the United States and in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa, where he has personally been involved in building research laboratories and deploying state-of-the-art technology at the epicenter of the HIV epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa.

Richard E. Chaisson, M.D. – Professor of Medicine and Director of The Johns Hopkins Center for Tuberculosis Research
Dr. Chaisson's group has conducted a series of drug trials aimed at developing novel regimens for the prevention of TB in high risk individuals. Their first trial was in HIV-positive patients in Haiti. Since then, Dr. Chaisson's group has launched three trials for the prevention of TB in high risk patients in the U.S., Brazil and South Africa.

William R. Jacobs, Ph.D. – HHMI Investigator at Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Dr. Jacobs has developed novel genetic approaches to make mutations and transfer genes in *M. tuberculosis*. With these tools, he has identified drug targets and novel virulence factors of *M. tuberculosis.* Understanding how *M. tuberculosis* infects susceptible hosts,

establishes and maintains persistent infections, and resists both innate and adaptive immune responses should aid in vaccine design and interventions.

Philip C. Onyebujoh, M.D., PhD. -- TB/HIV Research Coordinator for the UN Special Programme for Tropical Diseases research and Training (WHO/TDR) Responsible for developing implementation/operational and clinical research programmes aimed at developing evidence for policy and guidelines in developing countries, extensively in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2003, Dr Onyebujoh served, as a member of the task team appointed by the South African Minister of Health, that developed an operational plan for the comprehensive treatment and care for HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

William Rodriguez, M.D. - Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Division of Infectious Disease
Dr. Rodriguez is applying microchip technologies to the development of HIV diagnostic tests for use in resource-poor settings. He has been an expert consultant on HIV care for the William Jefferson Clinton Foundation, and has extensive experience in needs assessment, design and implementation of HIV treatment programs in the Caribbean. He is also the Associate Clinical Director for the Vietnam-Harvard-CDC AIDS Partnership, which has developed HIV training materials and curricula, and conducted week-long training courses for physicians and health care personnel in Vietnam.

Ann M. Ginsberg, MD, PhD - Head of Clinical Development, Global Alliance for TB Drug Development
At the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (TB Alliance), Dr. Ginsberg leads the clinical development of new drugs to improve treatment of tuberculosis. The TB Alliance is a public-private partnership whose mission is to halt the rise and reverse the spread of the world's oldest infectious disease by developing new, faster-acting and affordable TB medicines. Since its founding in 2000, the TB Alliance has built a portfolio of drug discovery and development projects which it continues to enhance and progress through the drug development process. The novel compounds and regimens to be registered will not only shorten TB treatment and be safer and more efficacious in treating multidrug-resistant TB, but will also improve therapy specifically for AIDS patients by enabling simultaneous treatment of AIDS and TB in co-infected patients.

Issues to be addressed include:

- What strategies limit the spread of the HIV and TB co-epidemics in the developing world? Are we too late?
- What is basic research teaching us about HIV and TB? Are research breakthroughs coming fast enough? Are they being translated into novel treatments quickly enough?
- What is science learning about why these epidemics are occurring? Can the answers be applied to other global public health crises?
- How can the public and private sectors advance initiatives to contain the spread of these infectious pathogens?

- What is the worldwide community of scientists and clinicians doing to improve the public health and scientific capacity of developing nations?

If you would like to attend the symposium, please RSVP by email to biotech@csis.org with your full contact information. Questions can be directed to Adrianne George at (202) 775-3181.

The event will be held in the CSIS conference center at 1800 K Street, NW in Washington, DC. Upon entering the building, please take the elevator down to the B1 level. The closest metro stops are Farragut West on the Orange Line and Farragut North on the Red Line