

# BULLETIN

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## WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY

The number of people who get sick or die from tuberculosis (TB) in the world continues to be substantial in spite of efforts to combat its spread. According to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, in the year 2012, 8.6 million people got sick, and 1.3 million people died from TB. For people infected with HIV, contracting TB is the principal cause of death. At the same time, multi-drug-resistant TB (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR) are now being recognized as a growing problems that threaten efforts to combat TB. Of the 9 million people that get sick with TB each year, 3 million are undiagnosed, not treated, or not adequately cured. Many of these people live in some of the most poor, vulnerable, and marginalized communities in the world.

Biomedical research is essential to accelerate progress in the worldwide response to TB and to tackle the growing problem of drug resistance. With innovative strategies, researchers are developing an understanding of the dynamic nature of TB and how to characterize the distinct stages of the disease - from latent infection to active illness and the persistence of bacteria during antibiotic therapy. There are still many questions that remain unanswered. For example, we do not know why the majority of people infected with TB ultimately do not develop it. In addition, we do not know why TB cannot be cured in a few short weeks like the majority of infectious diseases. The search for answers to these and

other questions in research will give rise to new ideas for medication, vaccines, and diagnostic methods.

The benefits of biomedical research in the fight against TB are evident. A clear example of this is the diagnostic test GeneXpert, which is capable of detecting TB and resistance to medications in sputum samples within two hours; they are now working to expand the utility of this test so that it can also identify XDR-TB and use non-sputum samples to facilitate diagnosis in children and people co-infected with HIV. The Asociación Civil Impacta uses this technology to serve its patients.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has made a significant impact in the development of new treatments for TB, researching more than two-thirds of the almost twenty medications being studied for the treatment of TB and half of the thirteen vaccines being evaluated for their ability to treat TB to this day.

World Tuberculosis Day reminds us that, even if we have made progress, there are still difficult challenges ahead. We should reinvigorate our efforts to significantly reduce TB and to end the suffering that this disease has caused for millions of people.

**Patricia Segura**

Head Engagement Research Unit  
Asociación Civil Impacta

# OUTSIDE HOUSE



CBO Tod@s

We visited the CBO, "Tod@s," to speak about CELLUX-017 and explain rectal microbicides, projecting the video, "The Rectal Revolution." Did you know that the risk of acquiring HIV from unprotected anal sex is 10 to 20 times higher than that from unprotected vaginal sex?

Thank you Tod@s!



CERITS Piedra Liza

We visited the CERITS, "Piedra Liza," to give an informative workshop to health promoters about the signs and symptoms of acute HIV infection. The study, "Do you know?" has a test that can detect HIV in a very early stage. Go to Via Libre, Epicentro, or Impacta Barranco and San Miguel and ask about this test.

Thank you CERITS Piedra Liza!

# PARTICIPATE



World Tuberculosis Day March

In the name of the World Tuberculosis Day, The Asociación Civil Impacta participated in two walks- one on Friday, the 21st organized by Callao DIRESA, which started at the organization's main location and continued to the Casanove Plaza in Callao. The second walk was a march organized by the Lima Network on Saturday, the 22nd, which began in Santa Rosa Park, and continued to the Reserve Park. The purpose of these walks was to educate and create awareness in the community about the signs and symptoms of tuberculosis and increase the likelihood of prompt diagnosis.



Fight against Discrimination

With the intent of reducing the discrimination and violence that Peruvian citizens suffer every day as a consequence of their sexual orientation, on the 19th of March we participated in a workshop entitled, "Promoting Actions in Favor of No Discrimination against the LGBT Population," organized by the British Embassy. This workshop sought to reaffirm the commitment to support the efforts of the LGBT community to combat discrimination and hate. In addition, this event promoted dialogue between diverse activists from different parts of the country, dedicated to the development of strategies and plans of action to overcome the persisting barriers of discrimination.



On Friday, March 28, we held our Impacta Heroes Tour, where our sexy heroes EXA-MAN and GELLUX put forth all of their energy and vitality to disseminate prevention messages in the sites we visited. On this Friday night, EXA-MAN and GELLUX shared their power with people and informed them about the health programs that Impacta offers. The tour included the primary social spots for evening fun in Lima, including "Valetodo Downtown Dance Bar," "Legendaries Dance Bar," "PK2 Dance Bar," "La Jarrita Disco Bar," "Kaprichos Disco Club," and "Sagittarius Dance Bar." We would like to thank all of these sites for opening their doors to us and allowing us to share our desire to improve health by educating more people. From this point forward, we will complete this tour once a month and hope to reach many more places.

 **Open House**



*Plus Thursday*  
"The power of the mind 2"



*Movie Thursday*  
"Free Fall"



*Impact Thursday*  
"The Inclusive Generation"



*Party Thursday*  
"Karaoke and birthday celebrations"

Look for us on: Facebook/ImpactaSalud

