

IANPHI WORLD

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“Now, we can boldly say that MDR-TB is being treated in Nigeria. We say a big thank you to IANPHI, which gave us the grant to develop the capacity to carry out this research.”

DR. ONI IDIGBE
NIMR Director of Research

Nigeria Building Ability to Quickly Identify and Treat MDR-TB



Until recently, Africa's most populous country with a high prevalence of HIV, TB, and HIV-TB co-infection had no national capacity to identify or treat drug-resistant TB strains. However, a \$160,000 IANPHI grant, leveraged by other donors, has put Nigeria on the fast track to identifying MDR-TB cases—and reducing deaths—in the country.

During the first year of IANPHI funding, the Nigerian Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) facilitated drug susceptibility testing capacity for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in

Nigeria by equipping and training staff to perform the new WHO-approved Hain Assay for rapid detection of INH and rifampin resistance.

The second year of funding allowed NIMR to upgrade the capacity of the laboratory to handle more samples, increase the accuracy of test results, decrease the time to process samples by half, and initiate Nigeria's first national survey of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. In addition, WHO-approved second-line drugs for the treatment of 80 patients arrived in the country in February 2010.

Initial results from the ongoing national survey revealed that 6.1% of patients had organisms that were resistant to both INH and rifampin (MDR-TB). In a separate study, NIMR evaluated more than 160 patients followed in its DOTS (directly observed therapy) clinic in 2009 and found that 4.8% had MDR-TB. During year three, NIMR intends to use IANPHI funds and the contributions of other partners (including an instrument to perform liquid cultures, a power generator, and a vehicle to transfer samples) to consolidate, enhance, and sustain its existing capacity by expanding the lab and further training its staff. Other partners include the U.S. CDC and South Africa's National Institute of Communicable Diseases, as well as Hain Lifescience and the Harvard School of Public Health.

As one of the first institutes to conduct national surveys using the Hain Line probe assay, Nigeria's approach holds promise for other developing countries and has attracted the attention of the [Stop TB](#) group in Geneva, which aims to eliminate TB around the world. In recent proficiency testing in coordination with the U.S. CDC, NIMR scored 100%. [Read more.](#)

El Salvador Considering Creation of NPHI

El Salvador is the latest country hoping to establish a national public health institute to coordinate and increase public health capacity in the country. With technical assistance from Brazil's Fiocruz financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, El Salvador is developing an outline for a proposed institute and will be working with local stakeholders over the next year to

develop a more detailed plan. A concept paper for the new Institute was unveiled by Minister of Public Health, Dr. María Isabel Rodríguez, during a February 4 meeting of key ministry officials and partner organizations in San Salvador. Also participating in the meeting were Dr. Felix Rosenberg, Fiocruz's director of planning, whose team is assisting Salvadorian colleagues, and Courtenay Dusenbury, IANPHI-Emory director.



Dr. Margaret Chan

View WHO Lecture on Public Health in an Interdependent World

WHO Director-General Margaret Chan discussed “Public Health in an Interdependent World: Cash, Commodities, Capacities and Conspiracies” during the Eighth Annual Jeffrey P. Koplan Global Leadership in Public Health Lecture in March. The lecture, hosted by the U.S CDC, can be viewed at www.cdc.gov.

News from Member Institute

Dr. Solomon Mpoke, chief research officer and head of HIV/AIDS research, is the new acting director of the [Kenya Medical Research Institute \(KEMRI\)](#).



Dr. Sue Binder

Farewell to an IANPHI Colleague

IANPHI would like to acknowledge the many contributions of Dr. Sue Binder, who is departing the Secretariat April 1 to pursue other professional projects. Dr. Binder was a key leader in the development of the IANPHI Framework and an integral part of project development activities. We are grateful for her work. Members who wish to contact Dr. Binder directly may do so at scbinder@bellsouth.net.

Conference Round Up

5th National Conference on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria

Hosted by IANPHI member, Nigerian Institute of Medical Research
May 2–5, 2010, Abuja, Nigeria

International Public Health Workshop on HPV

July 3–8, 2010, in Montreal, Canada

International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases

July 11–14, 2010, in Atlanta, USA

4th Africa Nutritional Epidemiology Conference

October 4–8, 2010, Nairobi, Kenya

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)

59th Annual Meeting

November 3–7, 2010, in Atlanta, USA

Online travel award application due by April 1, 2010

SAVE THE DATE

IANPHI's Fifth Annual Meeting

Oct. 31–Nov. 3, 2010

Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Host: U.S. CDC

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