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Lilly and Harvard Announce New Research and Training Initiative for Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis In Tomsk, Siberia

Research and training are critical steps in the global fight against MDR-TB

Eli Lilly and Company (NYSE: LLY) joined Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, today in announcing the launch of a new research and training initiative for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in Tomsk, Siberia, one of the world's hotspots for this deadly public health threat. As a part of the initiative, health care workers from Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union with high burdens of MDR-TB will be trained, while research data obtained will be used globally to improve and potentially develop new treatments for the disease. The first training program begins tomorrow, November 12, in Tomsk.

"One of our primary goals for the Lilly MDR-TB global partnership is to effectively and compassionately treat those who fall victim to MDR-TB," said Gail Cassell, Ph.D., vice president of scientific affairs and distinguished research fellow, Eli Lilly and Company. "The Tomsk initiative will have an important global impact in that we will be able to train health care workers in best practices in diagnosing, treating and managing the illness. It will also serve as an important repository for new and potentially vital research about the disease that will be shared with both practicing physicians and researchers to reach the ultimate goal of eradicating MDR-TB."

Y. I. Kalinin, Russia's Deputy Minister of Justice, praised the initiative. "This new research and training initiative for MDR-TB will help broaden both the international exchange of vital research information and experience in treating this deadly disease," said Deputy Minister Kalinin.

The initiative, headed by Dr. Paul Farmer, professor at Harvard Medical School and the Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities at Brigham and Women's Hospital, will conduct operational

and epidemiological research to support MDR-TB control programs worldwide. The initiative includes a training course for up to 30 MDR-TB fellows annually and follow-up support after they return to their local facilities. Staffed by instructors from a collaboration of medical and teaching institutions, including BWH, Partners In Health (PIH), and leading U.S. and Russian partner institutions, fellows will divide their time between the laboratory, classroom, and clinic. The Eli Lilly and Company Foundation will provide the essential operational funding for the initiative.

Reported cases of TB, the precursor to development of MDR-TB, have doubled in Russia since 1990, surpassing former peaks in the 1970s. New TB infections among children in Russia have also doubled between 1986 and 1998. These dramatic increases in TB have created the potential for deadlier, drug-resistant strains of MDR-TB. In the general population of Tomsk Oblast, 13.3 percent of new TB infections are now MDR-TB. In the rest of Russia, rates range from 5 to 45 percent of new cases.

"Presently, there are too few physicians, nurses, laboratory personnel and program managers who are both experts in MDR-TB treatment and capable of training others," said Farmer. "This initiative represents the next step in the global fight against MDR-TB, which must treat those already afflicted and prevent the emergence of further resistance. Through improved training of key health care workers and the gathering of new data, we can develop best practices based on what we've learned from our experiences at Tomsk and use them to address the epidemic in other hotspots elsewhere in Russia and the world."

The Tomsk research and training initiative is a part of a larger global effort unveiled in June 2003 by Lilly, WHO, Harvard/BWH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Purdue University, and the International Council of Nurses to address the expanding crisis of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.

Other components of this pioneering effort include:

- transferring technology to manufacture two antibiotics necessary for treatment of MDR-TB to nations where the disease is most prevalent
- developing a training program and providing certification of sound business management and good manufacturing practices for each facility receiving manufacturing technology

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- doubling Lilly's production of one of the essential drugs used to treat MDR-TB
 - providing both Lilly antibiotics used to treat the illness at a fraction of their cost to WHO-approved "DOTS-Plus" treatment programs
 - supporting WHO's global monitoring of MDR-TB and technical assistance of MDR-TB treatment programs
 - supporting the CDC's monitoring of MDR-TB
 - expanding the Partners in Health MDR-TB training and research program in Boston, Massachusetts
 - developing guidelines and best practices for treating TB and MDR-TB for nurses around the world.

Brigham and Women's Hospital is a 725-bed nonprofit teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School and a founding member of Partners HealthCare System, an integrated health care delivery network. Internationally recognized as a leading academic health care institution, BWH is committed to excellence in patient care, medical research and the training and education of health care professionals. The hospital's preeminence in all aspects of clinical care is coupled with its strength in medical research. A leading recipient of research grants from the National Institutes of Health, BWH conducts internationally acclaimed clinical, basic and epidemiological studies.

Partners In Health is a non-profit organization based in Boston, Massachusetts that works hand in hand with its partners in Haiti, Peru, Russia and Boston. Since 1987, PIH has developed and implemented a unique model of health care: bringing an ethic of social justice to the practice of medicine. PIH tackles problems viewed by many to be unsolvable, and treats diseases, like AIDS and MDR-TB, often deemed untreatable.

Lilly, a leading innovation-driven corporation, is developing a growing portfolio of best-in-class pharmaceutical products by applying the latest research from its own worldwide laboratories and from collaborations with eminent scientific organizations. Headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind., Lilly provides answers – through medicines and information – for some of the world's most urgent medical needs.

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