



For immediate release

TUBERCULOSIS SURVIVAL PROJECT ANNOUNCES WINNER OF 2008 TB SURVIVAL PRIZE

Moldovan NGO receives international award for TB advocacy and community outreach

16 October 2008 - Paris – The Tuberculosis Survival Project today announced the winner of the first *Tuberculosis Survival Prize 2008*. The *Tuberculosis Survival Prize 2008* was awarded to Speranta Terrei, a Moldovan NGO. This new annual award is supported by a grant from Eli Lilly and Company and is to recognize innovation in tuberculosis (TB) advocacy and social mobilization. The award will be presented at a reception in Paris on the eve of the 39th Union World Conference on Lung Health.

Speranta Terrei, meaning 'hope of the land', is a grassroots organization. Every year it reaches about 16,000 Moldovans with messages on recognizing TB symptoms and preventing transmission. It has supported continuation phase Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for 354 patients, and supervised prophylactic treatment for 66 school children who were contacts of TB patients. In cooperation with TB dispensaries, Speranta Terrei sends treatment supporters called moderators (often former TB patients themselves) to patient's homes along with the day's medication. These moderators are community members who function as intermediaries and peer counsellors, bringing the correct dosage and words of encouragement to those on the TB treatment journey.

Tuberculosis, a preventable disease continues to be a global health emergency with an estimated 1.7 million deaths in 2006 and 9 million sick. In addition, there are nearly 500,000 new cases of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) a year. Around 4,500 people die every day because of TB/MDR-TB. They are more than just statistics. Those that suffer and die are mothers, fathers, sons and daughters, grandparents, friends and partners. Each of them lost their life today sadly and needlessly to the deadly TB pandemic. In recent years, the importance and urgency to involve communities directly affected by TB/MDR-TB has been recognized, but many work within their own communities in the fight against this curable disease without recognition or financial support.

The purpose of The Tuberculosis Survival Prize is to enable those who may ordinarily have difficulty accessing funding to replicate or upscale their advocacy efforts in the fight against TB. Nominations for the prize were invited from those who have been working in the field of HIV/TB or TB/MDR-TB to develop and implement projects and programmes that stimulate social mobilization around TB/MDR-TB, and/or grassroots activities that inform, empower and enable individuals with TB/MDR-TB to advocate for themselves, and/or have created patient led models that ensure greater support of people undergoing TB/MDR-TB treatment to improve adherence.

The winner of the Tuberculosis Survival Prize was judged by a panel of seven people representative of the wider TB community from all over the world. The process of deciding the winner was chaired by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Betty Williams. The prize will be accepted on behalf of Speranta Terrai of Moldova by Gerry R. Elsdon, South African media celebrity and TB survivor. Mrs Elsdon said: "It has been such an honour and so encouraging to read through the applications for the Tuberculosis Survival Prize, often one feels so isolated in your work toward combating TB and knowing that there are individuals and organizations around the world alongside you, to improve the lives of their communities, and to change the world perception of TB and sufferers has given me so much hope. I feel stronger and enthused to have brothers and sisters working toward one common goal, to Stop TB."

The Tuberculosis Survival Project (TBSP) was launched 2006 to raise awareness and provide information about TB/MDR-TB. It offers a peer support service and a web-based facility for people to share their own experience of having TB/MDR-TB. TBSP also produces self-help publications for those on the TB treatment journey. www.tbsurvivalproject.org

The Lilly MDR-TB Partnership was created to confront multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, a disease so daunting that no single organization can fight it alone. Since 2003, the public-private initiative, mobilizing 18 partners on five continents, has worked together to share expertise in the quest to contain and conquer one of the world's oldest diseases. www.lillymdr-tb.com

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