

1st Antimicrobial Stewardship in Tuberculosis Conference

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the most pressing global health challenges of the 21st century. Tuberculosis (TB) is a major contributor to this burden, with an estimated 390,000 people developing multidrug- or rifampicin-resistant TB (MDR/RR-TB) in 2024. Reflecting its global importance, the World Health Organization (WHO) has identified rifampicin-resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis as a priority pathogen requiring urgent action.

While antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) is central to addressing AMR, TB-specific AMS approaches remain poorly defined. To address this gap, an international Delphi panel recently developed consensus-based clinical standards for AMS in TB (DOI: 10.5588/ijtldopen.25.0522). In a next step we are surveying the implementation of the standards in countries of this Region.

At this conference, organized by TBnet in collaboration with WHO Europe, results from the survey on the status of implementation of AMS standards in TB in region will be presented and we will discuss how to move AMS standards in TB into practice where they are missing. This conference brings together experts from across the wide WHO European Region in order to find practical strategies to strengthen AMS in TB.

Speakers and Chairs

- Onno Akkerman; Groningen, The Netherlands
- Stephanie Becker; London, United Kingdom
- Thomas Theo Brehm; Borstel/Hamburg, Germany
- Emil Ceban; Chişinău, Republic of Moldova
- Olga Cerneşchi; Chişinău, Republic of Moldova
- Dumitru Chesov; Chişinău, Republic of Moldova & Borstel, Germany
- Veronica Cristea; Stockholm, Sweden
- Osman Sezer Cirit; Gaziantep, Türkiye
- Elmira Gurbanova; Tartu, Estonia
- Lorenzo Guglielmetti; Negrar di Valpolicella, Italy
- Sophia Hatzianastasiou; Kallithea, Greece
- Ohanna Kirakosyan; Borstel, Germany
- Hans Kluge; Copenhagen, Denmark
- Stefan Kröger; Berlin, Germany
- Liga Kuksa; Riga, Latvia
- Christoph Lange; Borstel, Germany
- Natalie Lorent; Leuven, Belgium
- Ralf Otto-Knapp; Berlin, Germany
- Doina Rusu; Chişinău, Republic of Moldova
- Francesca Saluzzo; Milano, Italy
- Helmut Salzer; Linz, Austria
- Otto Schoch; St. Gallen, Switzerland
- Tamar Togonidze; Tbilisi, Georgia
- Kavindhran Velen; Geneva, Switzerland
- Alexandru Voloc; Chişinău, Republic of Moldova
- Askar Yedilbayev; Copenhagen, Denmark

Organization

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Venue

Nicolae Testemitanu State University
of Medicine and Pharmacy
165, Stefan cel Mare, Chişinău, Moldova

Live online transmission available.
Register here:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/hrVrZe7KRcujo4q60gii0g>



With participation of:

- ESCMID Study Group for Antimicrobial Stewardship (ESGAP)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- German Central Committee against Tuberculosis (DZK)
- German Center for Infection Research (DZIF)
- Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy (USMF), Chişinău, Moldova
- Research Center Borstel, Leibniz Lung Center, Borstel, Germany
- The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)
- The Lancet Regional Health – Europe

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June 8th - 9th, 2026

Nicolae Testemitanu State University
of Medicine and Pharmacy
165, Stefan cel Mare, Chişinău, Moldova

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Monday, June 8th

2:00-3:00 pm	Session I Welcome and introduction Chairs: Christoph Lange, Doina Rusu
2:00-2:10 pm	Introduction Thomas Theo Brehm, Dumitru Chesov, Askar Yedilbayev
2:10-2:20 pm	Greeting address by the Ministry of Health (MOH), Republic of Moldova Emil Ceban
2:20-2:25 pm	Greetings address by WHO European Region Hans Kluge
2:25-2:30 pm	Greeting address by the State University for Medicine and Pharmacy, Republic of Moldova Olga Cernețchi
2:30-2:35 pm	Greeting address by the Tuberculosis Network European Trialsgroup (TBnet) Liga Kuksa
2:35-2:40 pm	Greeting address by the European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) Lorenzo Guglielmetti
2:40-2:45 pm	Greeting address by the WHO Country Office in the Republic of Moldova Alexandru Voloc
2:45-3:00 pm	Introduction of participants
3:00-4:15 pm	Session II Drug-Resistant TB and AMS in the WHO European Region Chairs: Veronica Cristea, Kavindhran Velen
3:00-3:15 pm	Drug-Resistant TB in the WHO European Region Askar Yedilbayev

3:15-3:30 pm	Mechanisms of <i>M. tuberculosis</i> drug resistance Francesca Saluzzo
3:30-3:45 pm	Emergence of drug-resistant <i>M. tuberculosis</i> in the WHO European Region Dumitru Chesov
3:45-4:00 pm	The WHO Europe Region Consilium on DR-TB Elmira Gurbanova
4:00-4:15 pm	International Clinical Standards for AMS in TB in the WHO European Region Onno Akkerman
4:15-4:30 pm	Implementation of International Clinical Standards for AMS in TB in the WHO European Region – Survey Results Thomas Theo Brehm
4:30-4:45 pm	Group photo
4:35-5:00 pm	Coffee break
5:00-6:00 pm	Breakout Session III Identifying Interventions to Improve Implementation of AMS in TB in the WHO European Region Chairs: Osman Sezer Cirit, Sophia Hatzianastasiou
Group A	Policy, Governance and Systems (Standards 1, 2, 4, 5) Chair: Askar Yedilbayev
Group B	Capacity Building, Access and Diagnostics (Standards 3, 6, 7) Chair: Francesca Saluzzo
Group C	Clinical Management, Monitoring and Stewardship Practices (Standards 8, 9, 10) Chair: Ralf Otto-Knapp
6:00-7:00 pm	Break and hotel check-in
7:00 pm	Dinner

Tuesday, June 9th

9:00-9:45 am	Session IV Reports from the breakout sessions Chairs: Natalie Lorent, Helmut Salzer
9:00-9:10 am	Group A: Policy, Governance and Systems (Standards 1, 2, 4, 5) Rapporteur: Askar Yedilbayev
9:10-9:20 am	Group B: Capacity Building, Access and Diagnostics (Standards 3, 6, 7) Rapporteur: Francesca Saluzzo
9:20-9:30 am	Group C: Clinical Management, Monitoring and Stewardship Practices (Standards 8, 9, 10) Rapporteur: Ralf Otto-Knapp
9:30-9:45 am	Discussion
9:45-10:30 am	Session V Prioritizing actions Chairs: Stefan Kröger, Tamar Togonidze
9:45-10:30 am	Cost-effectiveness grading of interventions to implement AMS standards Christoph Lange
10:30-11:00 am	Coffee break
11:00-12:15 am	Session VI Working Groups and Roadmap Chairs: Ohanna Kirakosyan, Otto Schoch
11:00-11:30 am	Formation of working groups and defining benchmarks Dumitru Chesov
11:30-11:45 am	Action Plan and Roadmap/Timeline Thomas Theo Brehm
11:45-12:00 am	Dissemination of Results. Introducing the Lancet Regional Health Europe Stephanie Becker
12:00-12:15 pm	Closing remarks Thomas Theo Brehm, Dumitru Chesov, Askar Yedilbayev
12:15 pm	Farewell

AMS Standards in Tuberculosis

STANDARD 1

TB management should be integrated into existing AMR national action plans, with coordination at all local and international levels.

STANDARD 2

Surveillance systems should be implemented to monitor TB incidence, *M. tuberculosis* drug-resistance patterns, treatment adherence, and outcomes.

STANDARD 3

Health care providers, people with TB, and the public should be educated about TB and the principles of AMS.

STANDARD 4

TB should be integrated into AMS activities in both hospital and community settings.

STANDARD 5

Regional or national consultation services should be established to guide and support clinicians in the diagnosis and management of TB.

STANDARD 6

Persons at high risk of TBI should be tested and/or offered preventive treatment, with the decision to test directly guided by the epidemiological background.

STANDARD 7

People with TB should have access to comprehensive and timely drug-resistance testing against all relevant drugs.

STANDARD 8

TB treatment regimens should prioritise efficacy, safety, and prevention of drug resistance.

STANDARD 9

Treatment response should be systematically monitored clinically and microbiologically to detect treatment failure.

STANDARD 10

In case of suboptimal TB treatment response or failure, adherence, drug exposure, and drug resistance should be assessed.

