

*Comments from Renee Ridzon from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation:*

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation supports TB related activities directed towards developing improved technology for the control of TB and finding improved ways to use existing tools. To achieve these goals, major grants have been awarded to the Areas Global TB Vaccine Foundation, headed by Dr. Jerry Sadoff for the development of improved TB vaccines, to the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development, under the direction of Dr. Maria Freire and with Dr. Mel Spiegelman as Scientific Director which is dedicated to the discovery of new drug regimens that will shorten the duration of treatment, and to The Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) for development of improved tools for the diagnosis of TB disease. The optimal control of TB in the face of HIV co infection is a programmatic challenge that is being faced in areas of the world where rates of both HIV and TB are high and is being examined within the Consortium for a Response to The Epidemics of AIDS and Tuberculosis (CREATE). This effort is being headed by Dr. Richard Chaisson of Johns Hopkins University. In addition to these activities, there is support of advocacy efforts through work that is being done through awards to ACTION, an alliance of 5 partner organizations and the Treatment Action Group, directed by Mark Harrington.