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## Queen Sofia of Spain opened TB vaccine symposium

07-05-14

**Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain today officially opened the symposium: 'A new horizon for preventive vaccines against tuberculosis.'** This symposium was organised by TBVI, in cooperation with the University of Zaragoza and Fundación Ramón Areces, in Madrid. During the two-days symposium 23 renowned speakers from 12 countries will share their latest results in TB vaccine research.



Only in 2012, TB killed more than 1.3 million people while 8.6 million people were suffering from TB. Therefore researchers are developing protective vaccines, which will also protect people from getting multidrug-resistant strains of TB (MDR-TB) and extremely drug resistant (XDR-TB) tuberculosis, which are very difficult to diagnose and treat.

**Douglas Young**, acting director of TBVI, recalled today in the presence of HM the Queen that "It is estimated that TB has claimed billions of lives over the past two hundred years. It continues to kill over a million people every year and is a major cause of death in people living with AIDS."

Douglas Young has emphasized the role that Spain is playing in the development of a solution to this epidemic. "In the 1990s, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a new phase of research of vaccines against tuberculosis which culminated with an ambitious set of objectives set out in the



Madrid Conference in 1995. From 2000 to 2013, tuberculosis vaccine research in Europe has been driven forward by three major consortia (TB vaccine cluster, **TBVAC** and **NEWTBVAC**) that are widely recognised as establishing a model for multinational collaboration in pursuit of a common goal. With the widespread emergence of drug-resistant forms of the disease, the need for a tuberculosis vaccine is greater than ever, and we hope that this successful European funding model will be continued as an integral component of the

Horizon 2020 programme.”

Today, more than a dozen preventive vaccine candidates are being studied in several clinical trials. [Stefan Kaufmann](#), chair of the Steering Committee of the NEWTBVAC project and founding director of the Max Planck Institute of Infection Biology, mentioned that ten of these candidates were designed in Europe, of which two third received major direct funding from the EU.

[Carlos Martin](#) of the University of Zaragoza and partner of TBVI, mentioned the role of the Spanish scientists and collaboration among partners. Vaccine candidate MTBVAC was built and developed at the University of Zaragoza in collaboration with the Institut Pasteur in Paris, and the biopharmaceutical company Biofabri. It is currently in a clinical trial in Switzerland at the CHUV in Lausanne with Professor Spertini as principal investigator. “Interim reports show very good results and have created great excitement awaiting the results of immunology at the end of 2014,” he explained.

Collaboration is the key

Stefan Kaufmann recalled in the presence of the Queen how vaccines are among the measures most successful intervention in medicine, saving millions of lives. He thanked the European Union, which has contributed to the financial support of the research and development of vaccines against tuberculosis in the past 16 years. “But Europe is not alone in this battle. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, also represented at this symposium is an important source of funding for the development of vaccines against tuberculosis, directly and through supporting Aeras. To meet the urgent need for a vaccine against tuberculosis, collaboration is the key word,” he stressed. Therefore we are developing a global partnership to achieve the goal of controlling this disease.

It was concluded that the TB vaccine field needs the support of politics, civil society and private foundations. It's good to see that Spain is aware of this responsibility at all levels, notably the Royal Family.

Presentations during the official opening ceremony:

- Link to [talk of Professor Douglas Young](#)
- Link to [talk of Professor Stefan Kaufmann](#)
- Link to [talk of Professor Carlos Martin](#)

Several presentations (audio and powerpoint) will be uploaded on the website of [Fundación Ramón Areces](#).

[Programme and abstracts](#).

The official opening session was well shared in the media:

- Website of the [Spanish Royal Family](#), 7 May 2014
- Respaldo institucional a la vacuna española contra la tuberculosis, [El Mundo](#), 7 May 2014
- La vacuna contra la tuberculosis que se elabora en Galicia avanza con éxito a la segunda fase, [Faro de Vigo](#), 8 May 2014
- Ana Mato señala la vacunación como “una de las mejores herramientas para prevenir la enfermedad y la mejor inversión en salud pública”, [La Cerca](#), 7 May 2014
- Expertos mundiales elogian el papel de España en lucha contra la tuberculosis, [Canarias 7](#), 7 May 2014
- Los resultados de inmunología de la vacuna española contra la tuberculosis estarán disponibles a finales de 2014, [Info Salus](#), 7 May

2014

- Los resultados de inmunología de la vacuna española contra la tuberculosis estarán disponibles a finales de 2014, [Qué](#), 7 May 2014
- Entrevista a uno de los investigadores de la vacuna 'aragonesa' contra la tuberculosis, [Aragon Radio](#), 7 May 2014
- La vacuna de la tuberculosis, más cerca, [La opinion de Coruña](#), 8 May 2014
- Los resultados inmunológicos de la vacuna española de la tuberculosis se conocerán a finales de 2014, [La Informacion](#), 7 May 2014, also in [Diario Siglio XXI](#)
- Los resultados de inmunología de la vacuna española contra la tuberculosis estarán disponibles a finales de 2014, [El Economista](#), 7 May 2014
- Biofabri participa en el Congreso Internacional de vacunas preventivas contra la Tuberculosis como experto en producción industrial de vacunas contra la TB que se está celebrando estos días en la Fundación Areces, [Portales Medicos](#), 8 May 2014
- La comunidad científica pide un esfuerzo global para frenar la “tragedia silenciosa” de la tuberculosis, [Euractiv](#), 8 May 2014
- Competidores se unen para lograr la nueva vacuna antiTB, [Diario Medico](#), 12 May 2014
- Los resultados de la vacuna de tuberculosis, a final de año, [El Periodico de Aragon](#), 8 May 2014
- Los resultados inmunológicos de la vacuna de la tuberculosis se conocerán a finales de 2014, [Famma](#), 9 May 2014

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