

INTERNATIONAL
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
CENTER
Krasnoproletarskaya ul. 32-34,
P.O. Box 20, 127473 Moscow,
Russian Federation
Tel: +7 (495) 982-3200
Fax: +7 (499) 978-0110
E-mail: istcinfo@istc.ru; <http://www.istc.ru>



МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ
НАУЧНО-ТЕХНИЧЕСКИЙ
ЦЕНТР
Краснопролетарская ул. 32-34,
а/я 20, 127473 Москва,
Российская Федерация
Тел: +7 (495) 982-3200
Факс: +7 (499) 978-0110
E-mail: istcinfo@istc.ru; <http://www.istc.ru>

24 May 2010

Welcome Words

Adriaan van der Meer

Executive Director

International Science and Technology Centre, Moscow

**At the occasion of the
International workshop on**

Research Opportunities in TB Drug Discovery and Diagnostics

Moscow, 24-25 May 2010

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the **Research Opportunities in TB Drug Discovery and Diagnostics Workshop** on behalf of the International Science and Technology Center in Moscow (ISTC). I especially welcome those participants who have travelled a long way to reach Moscow.

I especially would like to thank our hosts and co-organizers Steven Smith, and his team from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health (NIH/NIAID), for their scientific, organizational and financial support.

I also would like to thank the many others that were instrumental in organizing this event. Last but not least, I would like to thank all the participants –mainly scientists- for contributing to this event. Many thanks indeed. I am proud that so many experts from all over the world will make their presentations at this Workshop.

I am grateful that today's workshop could be organized on a multilateral basis promoting international scientific cooperation on a matter of great concern. This

workshop is indeed an excellent example of such cooperation. It brings together many scientists from different countries- worldwide.

Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) and Extremely Drug Resistant (XDR) Tuberculosis are among the most significant health threats facing countries throughout the world today. Your presentations during this Workshop will provide us an opportunity to discuss the many different research results in TB drug discovery and diagnostics to help to solve this problem. In this workshop we will share the latest state-of-the-art scientific information on research to detect and combat Multidrug and Extremely drug-resistant TB (M(X) DR-TB) in the U.S., the Russian Federation, and other parts of the world.

Other priorities of the workshop are to identify partnership opportunities to advance and accelerate new diagnostic and drug discovery efforts to simplify and improve therapeutic options for resistant tuberculosis; and to explore potential connections for bioinformatics related to systems biology and genomics of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection.

Let me now say some words about ISTC.

ISTC has funded and is funding projects in a wide range of scientific areas. To date, ISTC has supported more than 2,700 projects which have involved more than 90,000 scientists and engineers and over 900 CIS research institutes with over 70,000 specialists involved in ISTC projects. The funding parties have contributed more than 839 million USD in support of this effort. In the field of medicine, the total number of funded projects is 229 with an overall funding of 8.5 million USD.

ISTC has been funding TB research projects in the former Soviet Union since January 2000 with several of them involving drug-resistant TB. These projects have improved infrastructure to detect and treat TB and provided epidemiologic data that is helping to prevent the spread of drug resistant strains in Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine. Many forms of international cooperation were also developed through these projects and new partnerships were forged bringing together leading experts from all over the world.

I expect that on the basis of this work and on the basis of the exchange of views during this workshop, further therapeutic options for resistant tuberculosis can be found. I trust that this Workshop will act as a catalyst to promote these efforts.

I wish you every success in your workshop.

I thank you for your attention.