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Otsuka and The Union Announce Global TB Research & Innovation Award

- ***Program fosters young leaders in TB research and furthers Otsuka's commitment to eliminate TB in hard-hit communities***
- ***Honorees will receive grant to attend international training in TB control strategies and showcase their research at the 45th Union World Conference on Lung Health***

Paris, France (March 19, 2014) – In recognition of World TB Day 2014, Otsuka SA (Otsuka), in a global partnership with the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), today issued a call for nominations for its Young Innovator in TB Research Award, aimed at recognizing young scientists who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing innovative thinking in tuberculosis (TB) research.

“The mission of The Union has always been to bring together innovation, expertise, and solutions to address the global TB crisis. Partnering with Otsuka on this award allows us to continue fostering the next generation of great thinkers in TB,” said José Luis Castro, Interim Executive Director of The Union. “Today, more than ever, we need new ideas and fresh approaches if we are going to succeed in turning the tide against this disease.”

The Global Award

The global award is open to clinicians and researchers worldwide who have successfully completed an innovative demonstration project in TB management or prevention. It will be administered by The Union with a grant provided by Otsuka. Honorees will attend an international training program on TB control strategies and will have an opportunity to present their research at the 45th Union World Conference on Lung Health in Barcelona, Spain on 28 October–1 November 2014.

“Progress against TB begins with the healthcare professionals on the front lines in the fight against this pervasive disease,” said Patrizia Carlevaro, managing director of Otsuka SA. “Through this program we seek to elevate and share the insights of these promising young researchers, while supporting their continued education in TB management and control strategies that will benefit the patients and communities they care for.”

The global honoree will be selected by a panel of leading respiratory physicians organized independently by The Union. Nominees will be assessed on:

- The innovative component of their research as well as its scientific rigor and quality;
- The extent of the originality and potential impact of their work on TB control and TB-affected communities; and
- The extent to which the award might contribute to furthering the nominee's work in the fight against TB.

To learn more about the global award, go to www.tbinnovators.org

About TB/MDR-TB

According to the WHO, tuberculosis is one of the three most common infectious diseases. In 2012, an estimated 8.6 million people became sick with TB, and 1.3 million people died from TB or TB-related causes. Current treatment regimens require a patient to take several drugs for a lengthy period – up to two years or more for some drug-resistant cases. Treatment resistance results from a variety of challenges, including lack of access to health care, slow and/or inadequate diagnostic services and misuse of TB therapies ranging from an inadequate drug supply, poor drug quality or patients' inability to complete their treatment regimens. Twenty-seven countries around the world account for 86% of the MDR-TB burden.¹

About The Union

The mission of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) is to bring innovation, expertise, solutions and support to address health challenges in low- and middle-income populations. With nearly 15,000 members and subscribers from 150 countries, The Union has its headquarters in Paris and offices in the Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America and South-East Asia regions. Its scientific departments focus on tuberculosis and HIV, lung health and non-communicable diseases, tobacco control and research. For more information, please visit www.theunion.org

About Otsuka SA

Otsuka SA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd established in Geneva, Switzerland in May 2011. It serves as the central operations for developing and implementing case management, public health and communications initiatives in connection with Otsuka's global tuberculosis (TB) program. Otsuka SA's main goals include, among others, developing new models of care, patient support, infection control and prevention as well as bringing together TB stakeholders and donors to increase TB awareness and education. For more information, please visit www.otsuka.ch

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¹ WHO – Global Tuberculosis Report 2013. http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/91355/1/9789241564656_eng.pdf (Accessed October 2013)