Резюме

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Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the major global public health problems. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2016, 10.4 million people fell ill with TB, 6.3 million new cases of TB were reported (up from 6.1 million in 2015). There were 476,774 reported cases of HIV-positive TB and, an estimated 374,000 deaths among HIV-positive people. In 2016, there were 600,000 new cases with resistance to rifampicin (RR-TB), the most effective first-line drug, of which 490,000 had multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB); 129,689 people were started on treatment for drug-resistant TB and treatment success remains low, at 54% globally [1]. Considering the high incidence of TB in Russian Federation and globally, it is necessary to train young professionals in TB management according to the highest modern standards and in collaboration with international experts.

The Tuberculosis Network European Trialsgroup (TBnet) was established in 2006 to develop clinical research in the field of TB and to support TB oriented education [2].

Today TBnet is the largest research organization in the field of TB in Europe with more than 700 members. TBnet has two additional branches: PTBnet to address TB problems in children and NTM-NET — with a focus on diagnostics, treatment and clinical management of TB. TBnet led to 60 peer-reviewed scientific articles including publications in high-impact journals like the New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, the American Journal of Respiratory and Clinical Care Medicine and the European Respiratory Journal. In addition to clinical research TBnet is active in capacity building and supporting junior clinicians and scientist across Europe in their career development. During 13th–16th of May 2018 the 6th TBnet-Academy was held at the Saint-Petersburg Scientific Research Institute of Phthisiopulmonology of the Russian Federation Ministry of Health. 20 young participants (<35 years of age) were selected 65 candidates from 19 countries. Together with local experts from the Phthisiopulmonology Institute an international TBnet faculty provided training to young colleagues in the areas of epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis. In addition to keynote-lectures and state-of-the-art presentations delivered by the young participants the TBnet Academy 2018 included a teaching ward round at the clinic of the Phthisiopulmonology Institute, a visit to the tuberculosis bacteriological laboratory, a live video broadcast of a robotic-assisted thoracoscopic operation of a patient with tuberculosis and a public action against tuberculosis.

Keywords: tuberculosis, TBnet-Academy, education

Summary
The Tuberculosis Network European Trialsgroup (TBnet) is a non-governmental physician and scientists operated research organization. Since the foundation in the year 2006 TBnet has become one of the leading international research organizations in the field of tuberculosis. During the past 10 years the collaborative research projects of
took part in a clinical ward round, visited the TB laboratory and participated in a live video broadcast of a robotic-assisted thoracosurgical operation of a patient with TB.

The TBnet Academy was opened by the Director of the SPb SRIP, Professor P. Yablonskiy. In his lecture, Professor Yablonskiy presented an overview of the studies conducted at the SPb SRIP in recent years: new technologies in diagnosis (Diaskintest), treatment (clinical trials of thioureidoiminomethylpyridinium perchlorate (Tpp), surgery technologies (robotic-assisted surgery) and in rehabilitation of TB patients [5, 6, 7, 8]. He wished the Academy participants success in their studies and in achieving their dreams. In his lecture, Professor A. Kozlov (Russia) covered the issues of TB /HIV co-infection in Russia and in the world. The Chairman of TBnet, Professor F. van Leth (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands) presented an overview of the TBnet research and publications in recent years.

On the first full day of the course, young participants trained by their mentors (Professor C. Lange, Research Center Borstel, Germany; Professor M. Sester, University of the Saarland, Germany, Professor J. Dominguez, Re-search Institute of Medical Science, Germans Trias I Pujol, Spain and Dr. Berit Lange, University of Freiburg, Germany) prepared and presented state-of-the-art lectures on epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB.

The teaching ward round was performed by Dr. A. Starshinova, I. Vasiliev, G. Kudryashov, and A. Kozak. Session began with a report by the Dr. A. Starshinova, who introduced the project participants to the history of Russian TB Service, recent approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of TB, and also presented several unusual TB cases. Dr. G. Kudryashov presented the potential of surgical treatment of pulmonary TB, and I. Chemokhaeva described the workflow of the pulmonary TB department.

A review of the most important scientific publications over the past year by Dr. Morten Ruhwald (Statens Serum Institute, Denmark) and a lecture by Professor L. Guglielmetti (Sorbonne University, France) on the use of modern antituberculosis drugs completed the first day of training at the Academy.

The second day of the Academy provided a rare opportunity to follow an online broadcast of a robotic-assisted surgery in a patient with pulmonary TB. The
surgery was conducted by Professor P. Yablonskiy, assisted by G. Kudryashov. The participants were able to virtually take part in all phases of the surgery. After that, Professor Raquel Duarte (University of Porto, Portugal) presented the approaches to diagnosis and treatment of non-tuberculous mycobacterial diseases.

The session «Clinical Pearls» was delivered by Dr. A.V. Chausov who, under the guidance of Professor A. Mushkin, described the complex case of TB spondylitis in a three-year-old child. Dr. F. Brinkmann (University Bochum, Germany) continued the program with a lecture on TB in children.

The second day of the Academy ended with a visit to the laboratory of the Regional TB Dispensary, where the Chief Phthisiatrist of the Leningrad Region (oblast’) Dr. Yu. Korneev explained the main structure of the TB service in the Leningrad region. Later in the day, Dr. Yu. Zhuravlev, the head of the SPb SRIP laboratory department provided a hands-on tutorial of a laboratory workflow from sputum sampling to drug susceptibility testing.

The third day was dedicated to mentoring and career planning suggestions. Professor F. van Leth explained how to plan a research project, Dr. B. Lange and Dr. C. Schacht (LINQ Management, Germany) clarified basic principles and opportunities of grant applications, Professor C. Lange and Professor M. Sester provided clues on how to write a manuscript and Dr. Morten Ruhwald and Professor J. Dominguez explained how to give a winning presentation. Finally, Dr. Olena Rzhepishevska (Umeå University, Sweden) introduced the principles of advocacy and methods of drawing public attention to the problems of TB and Ksenia Shchenina (TBpeople, Russia) presented a book for patients named «You and tuberculosis». Ksenia Shchenina is one of the leaders behind the cooperation of TB patient communities in Russia (http://www.tbpeople.info/). The book «You and tuberculosis» produced by TBpeople describes, from the perspective of the patient, the course of TB treatment, possible adverse events with therapy and other life situations associated with TB.

Participants and organizers of TBnet-Academy are engaged against TB on different levels. The Academy program ended with a public “Action against TB». In the first part of the action, Professor P. Yablonskiy and Professor C. Lange held a press conference with journalists from leading Russian TV channels and scientific journals. During the press conference, drug-resistant TB was highlighted as an emerging problem world-wide that demands joint international efforts to combat. Following the press conference there was a friendly football match between the teams of the TBnet Academy and the surgeons of St. Petersburg State University.

The students of the Pavlov’s medical Lyceum N 623 supported the football teams with posters against TB and together with TBnet-Academy members released balloons with the Academy’s symbols. The current chairman of the TBnet, Professor Frank van Leth and the President of the National Association of Phthisiologists, Professor P. Yablonskiy gave certificates and memorable gifts to the young colleagues.

The Academy ended with the solemn presentation of diplomas and gratitude to the hosts. The TBnet Academy 2018 was a special event for everyone. The participants thanked the staff at the SPb SRIP, Federal State Institute for their hospitality and excellent organization.
For those who would like to learn more about the recent approaches in diagnostic, treatment and epidemiology of tuberculosis there are several courses to attend in 2018.

The European Advanced Course on Clinical Tuberculosis is organized this year jointly with the London Advanced Tuberculosis Course. This is an intensive course targeted to all healthcare professionals who work with tuberculosis (medical doctors, epidemiologists, nurses, clinical researchers etc). The updates on diagnostic, treatment (including pediatric TB and HIV co-infection) and other aspects of TB management will be provided by the leading European experts in the field. Registration: https://www.tbnet.eu/advanced-course

The TBnet Postgraduate Course in Tuberculosis is organized by TBnet and the National Association of Phthisiologists of Russian Federation (NAPH). The course will be held in connection to the NAPH Annual Congress 2018 in St. Petersburg. Translation to Russian language will be provided. Lectures by international and national speakers include updates on TB vaccine candidates, modern approaches in TB epidemiology, management of TB at times of drug-resistance, diagnostic and treatment of NTM and interactive discussions of clinical cases.

Впервые в рамках конгресса Национальной ассоциации фтизиатров (НАФ) будет организован TBnet курс повышения квалификации для специалистов в области туберкулеза, который пройдет в Санкт-Петербурге 15 ноября 2018 г. и будет сопровождаться синхронным переводом на русский язык. Лекции зарубежных и отечественных специалистов включают новости о потенциальных вакцинах, современных подходах в эпидемиологии, особенностях борьбы с туберкулезом в эпоху лекарственной устойчивости, дифференциальной диагностике и лечении нетуберкулезных микобактериальных инфекций, интерактивное обсуждение клинических случаев и другие вопросы. С подробной программой курса можно будет ознакомиться на сайте: https://www.tbnet.eu/blog