



AERAS



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SOUTH AFRICAN
TUBERCULOSIS VACCINE INITIATIVE

PRESS RELEASE: Launch of Kick TB campaign in Worcester on World TB Day

On World TB Day (24 March 2015), the University of Cape Town-based **South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI)** has partnered with **AERAS**, a Global Not for Profit TB vaccine research group, to raise awareness about TB amongst primary and secondary school children in the Worcester area.

Tuberculosis (TB) devastates individuals, families, societies and economies. Today, one third of the world – more than 2 billion people – are infected with the bacteria that causes TB. A person with active TB can spread the disease to 10 to 15 people within a year, infecting others simply by coughing or sneezing.

Recent studies have shown that a vast majority of people with extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) diagnosed in the world's most extensive outbreak have acquired their infection from another person, not as the result of the failure of treatment for multidrug-resistant strains of tuberculosis (MDR-TB). Since XDR – TB can be more expensive, this can only mean that unless TB is eliminated, the cost for treatment using current interventions can only escalate. As the world looks at lasting solutions to the TB epidemic, more consideration and more resources need to be invested in ensuring the development of more effective TB vaccines and drugs.

Kick TB Program

The Schools Kick TB Program, targeting four schools in Worcester area, which has one of the highest infection rates, will teach children about the signs and symptoms in a fun and interactive way. The Schools TB program has been implemented with phenomenal success nation-wide and has recently been implemented in Brazil.

Program:

The program, which is facilitated by experienced Kick TB facilitators will visit the following schools on Tuesday 24 March 2015:-

8h00 Roodewal Primary School.

9h20 Alfred Stamper Primary School, Zwelethemba.

10h35 Vusisiwe Primary School, Zwelethemba.

12h00 Avian Park Primary School.

Participating schools receive a match quality soccer ball with a strong TB/HIV awareness message. The message on the balls is simple and clear; Coughing? Tired and listless? Night sweats? Chest pain? No appetite? Weight loss? Then go to your nearest clinic and get tested for TB!



The AERAS Africa Managing Director, Mr Sebastian Gelderbloem and SATVI Chief Operations Officer, Dr Zameer Brey, will be launching the schools campaign which will be implemented at Avian Park Primary, Alfred Stamper, Roodewal Primary and Vusisiwe Secondary School and will reach close to 5 000 children.

The Kick TB Schools Program forms part of a broader program in the Worcester area which will include a **Kick TB Soccer Tournament, 3 Km Fun Run, Indigenous Games, Health screening** on Saturday 28 March 2015 and a **TB Awareness drive** at the local shopping mall on Friday 27 March 2015. Help us make a difference in the fight against TB, by joining the activities and promoting wellness!

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