



# TB TidBits

Volume 1, Issue 1 Summer 2011

## Meet the TB Control Staff at MDCH

[www.michigan.gov/tb](http://www.michigan.gov/tb)

Welcome to TB TidBits! The new quarterly newsletter designed to discuss all aspects of TB Control.

Recent changes have occurred in the MDCH TB program in the past few months. There are many new faces to meet, all of whom are looking forward to working with you in the future.

**Peter Davidson, PhD** is the TB Unit Manager. He has been with the program since 2006.

**Vernard Green, MSPH** is the CDC TB Public Health Advisor assigned to our program. Vern comes to us from the TB Control program in Detroit. He has worked in TB control for 10

years in many capacities from field worker to operations manager.

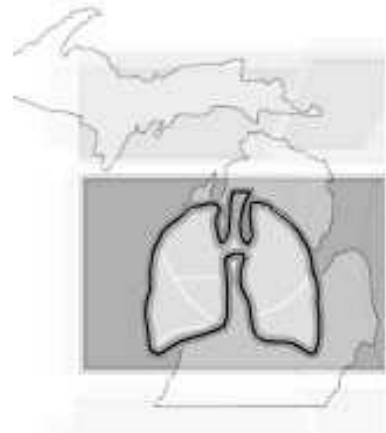
**Noreen Mollon, MS** is the TB Epidemiologist. Noreen is responsible for TB data quality and assurance in the MDSS and for data reporting to CDC. She also maintains genotyping data and participates in the program evaluation process.

**Patty Raines, RN, BSN, MSN** is the newest member of our team and is the TB Nurse Consultant. Patty brings great experience from her work with a local public health department. She will be focusing on Program Evaluation and meeting the tuberculosis training needs for the State

of Michigan.

**Katie Dotson, RN, BSN** is the TB Nursing Specialist. She manages the TB immigrant data and also has all of the information on upcoming TST training classes.

**James Sunstrum, MD** is the TB Medical Consultant for the state TB program. He also serves as the Wayne County TB physician and is an infectious disease physician at Oakwood Hospital.



## Upcoming events

- September 26-30: TST/TTT classes in Upper Peninsula
- October 12-13: Northeast TB Controller meeting in Cleveland, Ohio

## Resources

There are many resources for education and information about tuberculosis. The CDC has designated 4 TB Institutes as training centers across the country.

These 4 training centers offer a variety of education and training materials. Resources from all four centers as well as other sources can be found at: <http://www.umdni.edu/ntbc/rtmccproducts.htm>

The **University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) Global TB Institute** is the regional TB Center assigned to Michigan. For more information visit: <http://www.umdni.edu/ntbc/rtmcc.htm>

An example of a webinar available about TB infection control can be found at: <http://www.currytbcenter.ucsf.edu/courses/index.cfm>

## Michigan Stats

In 2010:

- 184 total cases (case rate: 1.9/100,000)
- 58% were Foreign-born
- 8.2% were homeless in the last 12 months
- 18.5% had abused alcohol, injection or non-injection drugs in the last 12 months

## What's in this issue

- New staff members join the TB control program at MDCH
- Resources
- Upcoming Events
- TB news

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## World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation against the use of so-called "TB blood tests"

In a press release from July 20, 2011, WHO made a statement against the use of non-FDA approved serologic tests marketed for the purpose of diagnosing tuberculosis disease.

Partial information from WHO's report was publicized in the press, however these initial press reports did not properly distinguish between the serologic tests of interest in WHO's study, versus the FDA-approved interferon gamma release assays (IGRA) available in the U.S. (i.e. QuantiFERON-TB Gold In-Tube (QFT-GIT, Cellestis Ltd.) and T-SPOT.TB (T-Spot, Oxford Immunotec Ltd.).

IGRAs are not serologic tests, but rather

rely on a whole blood sample from which the activity of the white cells can be measured in terms of the amount of IFN-g that is released or in terms of the number of cells that release IFN-g. IGRAs can aid in diagnosing *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection, including both latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) and active TB disease.

The bottom line is that the WHO press release is not related to the FDA-approved IGRAs that are commercially available in the United States.

For more information please visit:

[http://www.who.int/tb/laboratory/policy\\_statements/en](http://www.who.int/tb/laboratory/policy_statements/en)

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) releases document pertaining to refugee/immigrant health

In the spring of 2011 the CDC released a document providing an overview of the overseas medical screening process for refugees and immigrants that are coming to the United States, and outlines guidelines for clinicians evaluating refugees for TB during the medical examination for new arrivals. This document highlights the specific needs of this special population. It also contains information on diagnostic classifications, screenings and treatments. To access this document visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/guidelines/domestic/tuberculosis-guidelines.html>

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## TB TidBits

TB TidBits is a new quarterly newsletter that will cover many aspects of TB control.

We want to hear from you!

- What would you like to know more about?
- Do you have strategies that you would like to share?
- Do you have announcements or job postings?

If you have something you would like to share that highlights your program, or a success story let us know.

Please send all stories, ideas and announcements to Noreen Mollon.