



**Annual Health Awareness Campaign 2007-2008 – “Your Pharmacist Cares”
World TB Day – 24 March 2008**

CPA asks members “are you on track in the fight against TB?”

On World TB Day 2008, and with a focus on Goal 6 Target 8 of the Millennium Development Goals, CPA President, Mr Ivan Kotzé, asked members to compare progress in their countries against WHO benchmarks in the detection and treatment of tuberculosis (TB). “Raising awareness of tuberculosis and referring symptomatic patients to TB services should be part of every community pharmacist’s work in high burden countries,” Mr Kotzé said.

With 30% of the world’s population, the Commonwealth bears 49% of deaths due to TB and has 8 countries included in WHO’s list of 22 “high burden countries”. CPA encourages members to work collaboratively with National TB Control Boards to ensure ongoing progress towards national and global targets.

Pharmacist’s Role in the Prevention & Management of Tuberculosis



Prevention

Raising awareness of TB
Advice on avoiding transmission
Referral to diagnostic services



Care

Advice on nutrition
Advice on maintaining physical health
Provision/referral to psychosocial services
Reducing stigma & promoting equitable access



Treatment

Medication information
Management of medication side effects
Management of opportunistic infections
Management of HIV/TB co-infection
Recording/reporting drug resistance
Provision of DOTS services

Raising TB awareness in Mumbai’s vulnerable communities

Pharmacy undergraduates from the Student Cell of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association’s Community Pharmacy Division organised two interactive group meetings in Mumbai as part of World TB Day. Benefiting from the lively discussion were women employees at a clothing factory in western Mumbai and school children from eastern Mumbai.

Following presentations by the pharmacy students on the recognition of TB symptoms, prevention of transmission and the importance of adherence to treatment, group participants asked questions and related their experiences of TB, as both patients and carers.



Students meet with 50 employees of the Sanjida Clothing factory in Malad, West Mumbai, India

Students handed out TB pamphlets including contact details for clinics and DOTS (directly observed treatment, short course) providers throughout the surrounding areas. Hoping to catch the peak hour rush, students also converged on Vashi Railway Station to distribute TB awareness leaflets to office workers, students, construction workers, hawkers and other commuters.



Students use posters and pamphlets to spread the message on TB to school children in east Mumbai

TB - no respecter of national boundaries

In its March issue, *Australian Pharmacist*, journal of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, reported on CPA's World TB Day campaign. CPA Councillor for Australia, Prof Andrew McLachlan, said with greater movement of people between countries and regions, TB could become a major issue in Australia and pharmacies could be a key TB resource within the community.

In a World TB Day feature in the 22 March issue of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, Mr Hemant Patel, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and CPA Councillor for Great Britain, stated that over 8,500 cases of TB had been reported in the UK during 2006. The President said early diagnosis and treatment is the key to curing TB, adding that "community pharmacists are well placed to contribute in this area"

Significant contributions to community health

Young Cape Town pharmacist Lyzelle Dalais believes pharmacy staff can provide timely and reliable information on recognition of TB symptoms and institute referral procedures when needed. Lyzelle organised TB training workshops for her pharmacy assistants. She is now confident her pharmacy can provide not only essential patient care but also contribute to South Africa's public health response to TB control.

Ms Manjiri Gharat, Honorary Secretary of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association's Community Pharmacy Division, has made eradication of TB her life-time mission. As national co-ordinator of CPA's TB Fact Card Project in Mumbai, Ms Gharat motivated community pharmacists to take a greater role in the treatment and referral of TB patients. Her work has resulted in the training of selected community pharmacists as DOTS providers within India's Revised National TB Control Program.

Evaluation of World TB Day activities showed strong student commitment to the pharmacist's public health role. It is hoped on-going support from the Indian Pharmaceutical Association and Pharmacy Colleges will see these activities become part of the undergraduate program.

Guyana pharmacists focus on public health role

Over thirty pharmacists from the capital Georgetown and the surrounding area attended a CE presentation organised by the Guyana Pharmacists Association (GPA) to acknowledge World TB Day. Ministry of Health speakers from the National TB Programme covered topics ranging from the epidemiology of TB, diagnosis and risk reduction to the treatment and management of special TB situations, including HIV/TB co-infection. CPA Councillor for Guyana, Mr Cecil Jacques, said the presentations had been well received by members whose daily work involves an ongoing fight against major infectious diseases.



Dr Jeetendra Mohanlall, Manager National TB Programme, speaking to GPA pharmacists



Ms Gharat talking with a community pharmacist treatment provider

"Your pharmacist cares about stopping TB"
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