The Union Centennial Campaign for Research and Education
The Union Centennial Campaign is raising unrestricted funds to support The Union’s independent and innovative research and education programmes. These programmes have been the hallmark of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) since it was founded in 1920 and serve 150 countries today.

Gifts to this campaign will complement the grants received for Union programmes and activities that are restricted by donors. Between 2001 and 2012, The Union received grants totaling 300 million euros (approximately US$ 400 million), which reflects the confidence that our donors, partners and colleagues have in the quality and importance of our work. While this funding is critical to fulfill our mission, the unrestricted funds raised by the Centennial Campaign will permit The Union to pursue new and innovative directions in research and education based on the independence of thought and spirit that have made it a leader in public health for a century.

The campaign will continue through The Union’s 100th anniversary in 2020.

Dr E Jane Carter
President, The Union

Support health solutions for the poor by making a gift today at www.theunion.org

The mission of 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.
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The Union Centennial Campaign for research and education

Thirty-one countries joined forces to establish the International Union Against Tuberculosis in Paris in 1920. The goal was to fight their “common enemy” – tuberculosis – by creating a global organisation that would ensure that the latest research and experience reached those caring for TB patients in every corner of the world. Today The Union serves 150 countries each year.

Funds raised by The Union Centennial Campaign support:

- Operational research
- Clinical trials
- Field studies
- Technical courses
- Public Health management courses
- World and regional conferences
- Two peer-reviewed scientific journals
- Technical guides and other resources

The Union: a common resource to fight a common enemy

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TUBERCULOSIS – AN ONGOING CHALLENGE

Initially, The Union focused on tuberculosis, known in the early part of the 20th century as “the White Plague”. With the discovery of streptomycin in 1943, TB became a curable disease — but how to fund and manage treatment, avoid drug resistance, train the health care workforce, track the epidemic, provide quality medicines and care to the millions who need them and assess progress — these are all questions with which The Union has been — and continues to be — intensely involved.

CREATING A TB MODEL THAT WORKS

Today’s international strategy for treating tuberculosis was developed through field research and testing conducted by The Union and its partners in nine low-income countries from 1978–91. This model recognised that medicine alone could not cure TB and that TB control required an approach that addressed the political, economic, social and behavioral, as well as the clinical, challenges of the disease.

In 1995, The Union TB model was branded by the World Health Organization (WHO) as DOTS (directly observed treatment, short course). Since then, 46 million people have been successfully treated, and close to 7 million lives have been saved, through DOTS and its successor, the Stop TB strategy.

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APPLYING THE UNION MODEL TO NEW CHALLENGES

As new challenges have emerged — from the HIV/AIDS epidemic to the rise of non-communicable diseases — The Union has successfully tested and applied the principles of the standard case management model developed for TB to improve policy, practice and patient care for other diseases:

TB-HIV

Through The Union’s Integrated HIV Care for TB Patients Living with HIV/AIDS (IHC) programme, the uptake of HIV testing among TB patients in Benin reached 98% in 2010.

Child pneumonia

The case fatality rate for children under 5 years of age with severe pneumonia in Malawi has dropped by 66% using the standard case management approach developed by The Union.

Asthma

51% of asthma patients improved in 2011, the first year of El Salvador’s asthma project using The Union’s standard case management approach and quality-assured medicines provided through its Asthma Drug Facility.

TB-diabetes

A bilateral TB-diabetes screening project in China found that 3% of the 9,000 TB patients tested for diabetes did not know they had the disease and were started on treatment.

Smoking cessation

In a Bangladesh project, 80% of TB patients who smoked quit the habit by the end of their TB treatment, thanks to The Union’s ABC smoking cessation advice.

The Union model

The five elements of DOTS or The Union model are:

- Political commitment
- Use of standardised drug regimens and directly observed treatment
- A controlled consistent supply of drugs
- Use of sputum microscopy for diagnosis
- Accurate recording and reporting

This model, developed for TB, is now being applied to child pneumonia, asthma, TB-HIV and other health issues.
Innovation, expertise, solutions and support

The Centre for Operational Research (COR) was created in 2009 to foster and enhance the use of operational research (OR) through training and an OR fellows programme; track the role of OR in changing policy and practice; adapt the use of the DOTS framework to track different diseases; and collaborate with the WHO and other partners.

**OR fellows** are now affiliated with the programme in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the South Pacific; and COR training programmes are offered in Europe, Africa, Asia and the South Pacific.

**Highlights 2009–11**
- 137 publications
- 68 research papers
- 60 opinion/review papers
- 9 contributions to chapters and international documents.

**Union Research: From Operational Research (OR) to Data Modeling**

The Union’s technical staff and consultants conduct research in dozens of countries each year, including operational research, clinical trials and field studies. In 2011, this work resulted in 108 publications in peer-reviewed journals. Highlights include:

- Hand-written village registers in Malawi were analysed to determine the impact of antiretroviral medicines on reducing population death rates.
- A virtual implementation project is using health systems and transmission modeling to predict the effectiveness of new diagnostic tools and other changes in practice and thereby inform decision-making.
- The STREAM clinical trial is testing the effectiveness of a shortened nine-month treatment regimen for multidrug-resistant TB in four countries.
- The 2011 guide to TB-HIV collaborative programming was based on 7 years of Union fieldwork and operational research.

**Building Capacity**

Building local capacity to identify problems and find local solutions through research is key to The Union’s approach to sustainable progress. In addition to formal training, Union experts mentor managers and staff to develop these skills as part of technical assistance missions. An important goal of any clinical trial is to help low- and middle-income countries establish centres with the capacity to participate in both Union and non-Union research.

**Disseminating Results**

The Union is committed to disseminating the latest research as broadly as possible. The Union World Conference on Lung Health offers an opportunity for researchers and delegates from 120 countries to present and discuss their work and experience. In addition, The Union members share and collaborate on research related to TB, HIV, lung health and tobacco control through Union Working Groups.

The Union’s scientific journals have been the expert reference for TB and lung health since 1923. The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, a monthly peer-reviewed journal, is distributed in over 165 countries; and six months after publication, its articles are available for free online. **Public Health Action** is an open-access online journal on health systems and services for vulnerable groups. The Union has also published or co-published more than 40 technical guides and books, most of which are available online at no charge.

**The Ethics Advisory Group**

The Union Ethics Advisory Group oversees all research and other activities to ensure that the highest ethical standards are maintained.

**People living with HIV/AIDS who have advanced immune deficiency are at high risk of developing active TB — which is often difficult to diagnose in these cases. The Union conducted operational research to explore the idea of providing these patients with empirical TB treatment and, in the resulting published paper, proposed that clinical trials assess this strategy in real-life situations. The Union is now working with the Agence Nationale de Recherche sur le Sida et les hépatites virales (ANRS) to develop a clinical trial to explore this issue along with the use of GeneXpert.**

The Centre for Operational Research
The Union Institute’s technical staff and consultants offered education and training programmes and participated in research in 89 countries in 2011. In addition, Union members were working in 150 countries to fulfill our common vision: health solutions for the poor.

- 14 Union headquarters and offices
- 100 Union constituent and organisational members
- Technical and management courses in 57 countries
- Research in 22 countries
- Union World and Region Conferences in 4 countries

Statistics from the 2011 Activity Report.
TECHNICAL SKILLS
FOR QUALITY HEALTH CARE
The Union has been training leaders to prevent, diagnose, treat and control tuberculosis for more than 30 years. These annual courses are offered for international groups, participants from a single country or region and in other customised formats. In 2011, 62 technical courses and workshops were offered in 35 countries. To meet the challenges faced by health care professionals in limited-resource countries, Union courses are now also offered in:

- Clinical management of drug-resistant tuberculosis
- Mycobacteriology
- TB-HIV collaborative programming
- Child lung health, including TB, pneumonia and HIV-related lung disease
- Tobacco control
- Operational research
- Using EpiData
- Chest X-ray reading and reporting

MANAGEMENT SKILLS
FOR EFFECTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMMES
Technical knowledge alone is not enough for a successful public health programme; programme managers, who are usually clinicians, also need management skills. The Union’s International Management Development Programme (IMDP) strengthens the performance of health systems at every level by helping health programme managers to develop the technical, managerial and functional skills that are critical to success, such as:

- Developing budgets
- Organising and training health staff
- Coordinating medicines and supplies
- Motivating overworked staff
- Creating communications plans
- Adhering to international strategies and policies

To reinforce the training provided in the IMDP courses, all participants develop action plans to be implemented in their workplaces, and The Union provides mentors to monitor their progress. An online platform also allows participants to share their experiences with others from the programme.

IMDP is accredited by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), the European Board for Accreditation in Pneumology (EBAP) and selected courses may be used for continuing medical education credits (CME). In 2011, IMDP offered 29 courses in 10 countries, attended by 587 participants.

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TREATING MDR-TB
SUCCESSFULLY IS 50% CLINICAL MANAGEMENT AND 50% OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT
Dr José A Caminero
MDR-TB Unit, TB and HIV Department

THE UNION WORLD CONFERENCE ON LUNG HEALTH
The Union World Conference on Lung Health is the largest annual meeting focused on lung health issues as they affect low- and middle-income countries. The 5-day scientific programme offers more than 150 post-graduate courses, workshops, symposia, plenary lectures, abstract-driven and poster-related sessions and other events. Each year 3,000 delegates from some 120 countries come to the conference to renew their skills, find out about the latest research, share their experiences and network with colleagues from around the world. To ensure the widest possible access to the World Conference, plenary lectures are streamed over the Internet, and most sessions are available as web casts, creating a free and permanent archive of the information presented. Union members also organise region conferences on an annual or biannual basis to address regional issues.

PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
More than 40 titles have been published since the publication of the first edition of “the Orange Guide” to the management of TB in 1986. The Union’s technical guides are widely used around the world and are available today as PDFs at no charge.
Four francophone African countries that participated in a 2008 MDR-TB workshop organised by The Union decided to treat their MDR-TB patients with a shortened regimen that they learned had been successful in Bangladesh. They returned to share their results with other countries at the 2011 workshop. Benin, Cameroon, Niger and Togo reported 90% cured among the 120 patients (20% HIV positive) on the short-course (12-month) regimen versus a 59% success rate among the 339 patients who received the long-course regimen. No failures and no relapses were reported among those on the short course – and medications cost 180 €, as opposed to more than 2,000 € for the standard regimen.
All gifts designated for The Union Centennial Campaign will be directed to support research and education programmes. The specific activities supported will be determined by The Union.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
You may make a gift to The Union Centennial Campaign through our online giving website at www.theunion.org at any time from any country.

SPECIAL EVENTS
You may also support the campaign by participating in special events, such as The President’s Centennial Dinner, hosted by The Union President and Board of Directors, each year at the Union World Conference on Lung Health.

LEGACIES
The Union is entitled to receive legacies in France, the USA and the UK. Please write to donation@theunion.org

RECEIPTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Whether you make a gift online, by mail or in person, you will receive a written receipt for your records. All donors who make gifts of 100 euros or more will be acknowledged in the Activity Report and at the President’s Cocktail, held each year at the World Conference.

TAX DEDUCTIONS
Gifts to The Union are tax-deductible in the United States of America (USA), the United Kingdom (UK), France and India to the extent permitted by local tax laws. For details, please visit www.theunion.org