



## India TB Research Consortium

### Letter of Interest (LOI) for Active Case Finding for pulmonary tuberculosis in Congregate settings

**Background:** India presents largest burden of tuberculosis (TB) in the world. Despite the availability of improved diagnostic services in the recent past, many people still remain undiagnosed or are diagnosed late. This leads to continuing transmission of disease and higher mortality as well as economic loss and more suffering to patients. Provider initiated Active Case Finding (ACF) could be an important tool to identify TB patients among high risk populations. However, we lack appropriate algorithms to be used in high risk groups in India. WHO Global End TB Strategy aim for the 90% reduction in TB incidence, 95% reduction in TB deaths and elimination of catastrophic cost due to TB in comparison to 2015 by the year 2035. In India, the strategy is to achieve these goals much earlier i.e. by 2025 as mandated by Government of India.

Congregate setting is defined as an environment where a number of people meet or gather and share the same space for a period of time. Congregate settings are known to be a high risk environment for TB due to overcrowding, poor levels of nutrition, lack of infection control facilities and limited accessibility of healthcare services. In comparison to passive case finding, ACF accelerates TB case diagnosis to initiate anti-TB treatment (ATT) at the initial stage of disease thereby reducing the transmission of the disease. ACF is an important component of India's Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, (RNTCP).

The Indian Council of Medical Research on behalf of the India TB Research Consortium invites Letters of Interests from institutions and organizations to explore and develop the most suitable strategy to diagnose TB cases actively in congregate settings like industries with workers exposed to silica, workers at mines, cotton mills, jute mills; old age homes, prisons, night shelters and children at nutritional rehabilitation centers.

#### **The lead Investigator and coordinator for this project will be**

Dr Vineet Chadha  
Head, Epidemiology and Research Division  
National Tuberculosis Institute (NTI)  
8 Bellary Road  
Bangalore

#### **We solicit Letters of Interest from:**

1. Medical Colleges/ Research Organizations/Institutions/Universities/Academic Institutions
2. Corporate hospitals and / Non-Government Organisations

**Duration of the Study:** 1.5 years

**Target Population:** The current study aims to screen 75,000 individuals in a multicentric set up belonging to the following categories of congregate settings, (25000 per Category)

**Category 1:** Individuals including staff at:

- Old age homes
- Homes for destitutes
- Prisons
- Night shelters
- Rehabilitation centers

**Category 2:** Industries with workers at/ exposed to

- Silica/ mines
- Cotton mills, jute mills, etc.

**Category 3:** Children at Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs)

**Study Design:** Multicentric cross sectional.

**Site of the study:** There will be nodal implementing institutes, which may be a medical college or any other institution with sufficient research experience, preferably having access to congregate settings for all categories of the target population.

**Ethical Approval:** The Participating Institute would have to take ethical approval of the project by Institutional Ethics Committee. In addition the institute must ensure the linkage of patients to treatment.

**Selection Criteria** Applicants will be assessed based on the institutional capacity of the investigators and experience in the relevant field as per the details in the attached questionnaire. The investigators would need to apply as multidisciplinary teams (3-4) which would include clinicians, social scientists, epidemiologist, statistician etc). It is important to include representatives from the RNTCP as investigators and this needs to be specified. It is important that the investigators have experience in TB control activities.

**How to apply:** Interested individuals or groups should submit the LOI along with the attached completed signed Questionnaire. The applications should be addressed to DG, ICMR and sent via e-mail at [teamtbcconsortium@gmail.com](mailto:teamtbcconsortium@gmail.com) by **23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017 by 6:30 P.M.** Shortlisted application sites may be visited by the experts so as to assess and complete the site selection. Trainings as required shall also be provided to the finally shortlisted sites for the study.

INSTITUTIONAL DETAILS	
<b>Name of the Institution/ Organization:</b>	
<b>Name of the Applicant(s):</b> <i>(Potential Investigator and Co-investigator)</i>	
<b>Complete Address with contact details of the Applicant(s):</b> <i>(Mention email ids, fax, landline, mobile numbers)</i>	
<b>Type of Institution:</b> <i>(ICMR/Medical College/NGO etc.)</i>	
<b>Epidemiological /Implementation research study undertaken by you in the area of tuberculosis,</b> <i>(Provide brief on type, nature and duration of study)</i>  <b>Has the Institute contributed to any policy changes as a result of Implementation research/epidemiological studies?</b> <i>(If yes, please provide details in brief)</i>	

S. No.	Item/area/activity	Yes	No	NA	Remarks/Comments/Details
<b>1.</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL</b>				
<b>1.1</b>	Do you have adequate time to devote for the studies, besides current work load? Please mention number of hours possible to devote everyday				
<b>1.2</b>	How many studies are currently ongoing in at your Department/ Institute/ Organizations in tuberculosis? <i>Please provide status of the studies.</i>				
<b>1.3</b>	Do you have any research staff presently at your site? <i>(Can they manage an additional study?)</i>				

1.4	Does your site (department) have professionally trained counsellors to educate patients on TB treatment compliance?				
1.5	Does your site have/ have access to all categories of target populations?  Category 1: Category 2: Category 3:  (Please specify the subcategory against each category)				
1.6	Do you have a multidisciplinary team (Please Describe)				
1.7	Does your institution have  X-Ray facility: Mobile X ray Unit: (If yes, please specify number; if no, is your Institute having access to any organization having mobile X-ray Units)				
1.8	Does your Institution have TB/ MDR-TB diagnostic facilities ( <i>Name the tests available for TB diagnosis</i> )				
<b>2. ETHICS COMMITTEE</b>					
2.1	Does your site have an Institutional Review Board (IRB) constituted as per Schedule Y requirements?				
2.2	Is the IRB registered with CDSCO?  <i>(If yes, please provide the registration letter; if no, is your organization applying for registration to CDSCO, please specify time frame)</i>				
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Item/area/activity</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>Remarks/Comments/Details</b>
<b>3. INFRASTRUCTURE</b>					
3.1	Is there adequate isolated space to be seated with a subject to administer the Informed consent?				
3.2	Do you have adequate space for seating of a 4-6 membered team for the study and sufficient space to store related documents/ records?				
3.3	Do you have laptops/ desktops at your department which could be dedicated to the study, ( <i>if yes, please specify how many</i> )				

3.4	Do you have access to statistical softwares which are used for IR/ OR studies?				
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Item/area/activity</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>Remarks/Comments/Details</b>
<b>4. BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE COLLECTION, PROCESSING &amp; STORAGE</b>					
4.1	Does the site have access to a specialized Microbiology laboratory for diagnosing TB case inducing following assessments?				
	Microscopy (Bright Field, LED, Fluorescence)				
	Culture (MGIT, LJ, Both)				
	Gene-Xpert				
	Refrigerator				

Please tick the boxes () against target populations for which you would be interested to participate in the study (*Preference will be given to sites which can implement the study for all categories*):

Category	Interest in Participation	Approximate numbers of individuals which can be covered by the Implementing Institute
<b>Category 1</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Old age homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Night Shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Homes for destitutes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rehabilitation centers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Prisons	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Category 2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Silica Workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Miners	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Workers at cotton mills, jute mills	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Any other category of industrial workers, (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Category 3: Children at Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

