

DTT Project



Annual Report



Year 6

April 2011 - March 2012

Compiled by the TB Program Evaluation & Research Unit, University of Alberta



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UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN



UNIVERSITY
OF **MANITOBA**

Introduction

The CIHR/Health Canada-funded “Determinants of TB Transmission” (DTT) project has recently completed its sixth of seven years. The prospective quantitative and qualitative phases of the project are over and the DNA fingerprint ‘window’ of each potential TB transmitter identified in 2007 and 2008 has now closed. Consolidation of the DNA fingerprint database is ongoing. All prospective data will be complemented by data abstractions of retrospective data from the provincial TB registries in each of the Prairie Provinces. These abstractions have been received and are being cleaned and consolidated as well.

Approvals from each of the appropriate ethics board at all participating universities and Health Canada have been renewed annually and institutional approvals are in place across all participating provinces.

New staff and trainees have been welcomed in the last year. Provincial Network Committees provided feedback and support to the team. Study coordinators have continued to invoke awareness of and support for the project. There has been an increased interest in the DTT project in all of the provinces, and each Provincial Network Committee (PNC) has grown in size to reflect this interest. In addition, planning is underway for the 2nd ever Prairie-wide PNC meeting. For this purpose we were, fortunately, successful in obtaining a CIHR Planning and Dissemination Grant. This meeting will also bring together members from the Prairie-Wide Interprovincial TB working group, which will, it is hoped, assume some of the role of the DTT’s PNCs at the end of the project. Preliminary findings are available for Objective 1 of the project, and data has been received to meet Objective 2:

DTT Project Objectives

Objective 1:

To characterize the occurrence and spread of particularly virulent strains of TB in order to understand the potential role of clinical and environmental determinants of TB transmission through the retrospective analysis of all culture-positive TB cases in Alberta from 1990-2007

Objective 2:

To prospectively identify determinants of TB transmission on the prairies, with emphasis on Aboriginal people, through the use of structured and semi-structured interviews and DNA fingerprinting of TB case isolates to capture all transmission events leading to early disease

Summary to Date

STUDY OVERVIEW

Year 6 of the project has extended the fundamental goals that were planned for years 1-5 and demonstrates the shift from recruitment and data collection to the next phase which seeks to address our primary objectives, through coding, analysis and dissemination. Some manuscripts have been completed and many others are in various stages of completion. They reflect findings from both the quantitative questionnaire, and the qualitative interview; two tools of data collection used in the early stages of the DTT project. Publications are listed at the end of this document.

TB REGISTRY DATA ABSTRACTION AGREEMENTS

Agreements between provincial governments, universities and study investigators have been settled in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. TB Registry data abstractions have been received for all cases and their contacts, and these data are now being consolidated. The abstraction data will complement the quantitative questionnaire findings, fleshing out a more complete picture of transmission in the Prairies.

STUDY TEAM

The study team, consisting of eight investigators, four full time research staff, and numerous collaborators, is more dedicated than ever. Martha Ainslie has recently joined the DTT project. She is an Associate Professor in the Division of Respiriology, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba and the medical lead on TB case management in Manitoba.

With two years behind her, the DTT Project Manager and Alberta Study Co-ordinator, **Courtney Heffernan**, has proven to be an excellent fit with the goals of the Unit and the progress of the DTT project itself. She has played a strong role in expanding the DTT project, maintaining strong relationships with members of the Aboriginal community, and engaging the Provincial Network Committees in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Deanne Langlois-Klassen is working as the office's senior epidemiologist, having just completed her PhD at the University of Alberta at the School of Public Health. Deanne's research focuses on foreign-born tuberculosis in Canada as well as the importation of the *M. tuberculosis* Beijing/W family of strains in Alberta, thereby completing Objective 1 of the DTT project. She was the recipient of a CIHR Post-Doctoral award to continue her work at the TB PE & RU.

Bill Chroniaris joined the TB PE & RU last year and is the current Data Manager of the DTT Project at the University of Alberta. He has been an excellent addition. He is responsible for data management, database development, data abstraction, reporting, and server maintenance. In addition, he has been maintaining the TB PE & RU website.

Norah Landry is Dr. Long's Administrative Assistant and has been busy offering excellent support to the TB PE & RU team. Norah has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta, majoring in marketing with a minor in international business. She has been with the unit for the past three and a half years.

Kaelyn Boyes is working part-time as a Research Assistant for the TB PE&RU while pursuing an after-degree in Human Ecology at the University of Alberta. She will be returning to school to start her B. Des. in September, 2012.

Mary-Lou Egedahl is working part-time as a Research Assistant and Clinical Consultant for the TB PE&RU. She has over 20 years of nursing experience and was a former Public Health nurse in the Edmonton TB clinic.

Kathleen McMullin was the DTT Project Coordinator in Saskatchewan for four years and is the current coordinator of a First Nations Respiratory Health Project based out of the University of Saskatchewan. Over the past year she was the lead on a related project – the development of a TB specific educational resource guide for high school students.



Staff and Trainees at annual Holiday celebration, December 2011.



Group photo from the 8th annual TB symposium conference in Edmonton, 2012.

Trainees

The project benefits from the accomplishments and contribution of its many outstanding trainees.

Jessica Moffatt is currently a PhD Candidate in the Department of Medicine and the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta. Jessica comes to us from McMaster University where she completed her undergraduate degree in Health Studies. She is undertaking a Community Based Research project that arose out of the DTT project. Community Based Research can be generally defined as research that strives to be community situated, collaborative and action-oriented; as such her work will identify existing community strengths and foster an exchange of ideas to arrive at TB prevention and control strategies and recommendations that are of mutual benefit to the community and the program. This project involves five University of Alberta Faculty members, one Elder, one First Nations & Inuit Health Branch staff member and a coordinator to guide the project. Two community co-investigators have been recruited into the project to work alongside Jessica to ensure the project remains culturally congruent. Operational funding for this project has been secured through AHFMR, the Public Health Agency of Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Alberta Region and the Network Environments for Aboriginal Health Research, CIHR.

Maria Varughese (Betsy) is a third year PhD student (Applied Mathematics/Public Health) at the University of Alberta. Her research includes applying mathematical models in Epidemiology, Aboriginal health, Tuberculosis, food- and waterborne diseases, and qualitative and quantitative methodology. She will be working on constructing mathematical models to understand Tuberculosis transmission in the Prairie Provinces using information gathered from the DTT project. Betsy hopes to gain an in-depth understanding of Applied Mathematics and Public Health. This will allow her to describe the dynamics of TB transmission and to determine the efficacy of current intervention strategies (and/or develop innovative intervention strategies) that can reduce the incidence of TB in Canada. Student support has been provided by the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences IGTC Fellowship, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship – Doctoral Award, and the President’s Doctoral Prize of Distinction.

Angela Lau is a second-year medical student at the University of Calgary, concurrently completing a Master of Science (Experimental Medicine) at the University of Alberta. She has been working at the TB PE & RU since 2008 through three AHFMR/Alberta Innovates-funded summer studentships. Her research is focused on determining the public health consequences of smear-positive pulmonary tuberculosis in patients with typical and atypical chest radiographs. She hopes that her research findings will support the development of a computer-aided detection system to diagnose infectious pulmonary TB. Angela’s research is supported by an Alberta Health Services and Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Graduate Studentship. In 2012 she was awarded the Dr. John Waters Memorial Graduate Scholarship, Advanced Education and Technology Graduate Student Scholarship, First place for Outstanding Presentation at the 3rd Annual Leaders in Medicine Research Symposium, Poster of Distinction at the 3rd Annual Leaders in Medicine Research Symposium, Graduate Student Association Research Assistant, and the Mary Louise Imrie Graduate Student Award.

Fatima Pirani, MSc in Public Health; co-supervised by Drs. Richard Long and Duncan Saunders. Her project explores, within the context of the DTT project, TB transmission into the pediatric age group. It uses two approaches; one taken from reference 1, and one taken from reference 2 below:

1. Gryzbowski S, Barnett GD, Stylbo K. *Contacts of cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis*. Bull Int Union Against TB 1975; 60: 90-106.

2. Gessner B, Weiss N, Nolan C. *Risk factors for pediatric tuberculosis infection and disease after household exposure to adult index cases in Alaska*. J Pediatrics 1998; 132: 509-13.

Lisa Eisenbeis, BSCN works in the TB PE&RU as a clinical trials nurse for the 4R/9H treatment of latent TB infection trial based out of McGill University under the direction of Dr. Dick Menzies. She has recently begun a Master in Sciences program in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta. Her Masters' project will examine variance in contact investigations in First Nations – on and off reserve, as compared to Canadian-born others. This and her management of Dr. Menzies' clinical trial will occur concurrently over the next couple of years.

Jessica Grant was a Master's Student from the University of Saskatchewan, working on a mixed-method study examining tuberculosis transmission on the Canadian Prairies. In the Fall of 2010 she traveled to New Zealand to compare the experience of tuberculosis transmission in the Indigenous Peoples of New Zealand and Canada. She successfully defended her thesis in May of 2011, and is currently working full time for the Health Quality Council in Saskatchewan.

In addition, two summer students have been hired; (1) **Smit Patel** who is funded by a Summer Studentship provided by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta, and (2) **David Long**, who is funded by an Alberta Innovates (Health Solutions) Summer Studentship. Smit is a recent graduate of the University of Alberta, with a Bachelors of Science in Immunology and Infection. He will be pursuing his MSc in Epidemiology at the School of Public Health in the Fall of 2012, with Dr. Richard Long as a supervisor. He is working on consolidating the fingerprinting database for the DTT project and is working with GIS software to map transmission events across the Prairie Provinces.

David is working towards his Bachelor's of Science at University of Toronto; and is also looking to write his MCAT this summer. David's work at the TB PE & RU is focused on investigating the occurrence of Isoniazid (INH) resistant TB cases in Alberta to determine whether INH-resistant mutations make the bacterium more or less virulent or transmissible.



Angela Lau at the Department of Medicine Research Day, 2011

PROVINCIAL NETWORK COMMITTEES

The Provincial Network Committees (PNCs) continue to play a significant role in the DTT project, and in general are important for raising TB awareness in high incidence communities through the participation of community members. The Committees' role, although less in the data-gathering phase of the study, is essential to ensuring that the study continues to honour the principles of consultation with the Aboriginal community at large. As stated in the first annual report, the role of the Network Committees is to ensure ongoing feedback and appropriate conduct throughout the study. As the analysis begins to unfold, and implications for policy recommendations become obvious, the committees will play an ever more significant role.

The development of the PNCs was recently described in the following peer reviewed publication: "*A process for the inclusion of Aboriginal people in health research: Lessons from the Determinants of TB Transmission Project*" *Soc Sci Med* 2011; 72:733-738. Meetings with the PNCs in Alberta and Manitoba were held over the past year. As the recruitment period ended in December of 2008, these meetings provided an opportunity to review preliminary quantitative and final qualitative findings prior to publication. Updated information on the status and the work to date with was shared with all members. These updates allowed the committee members to ask questions or clarify information. Further, it allowed for an open discussion regarding all aspects of the project. Finally, these meetings continue to provide an opportunity for the study coordinators to bring forward any concerns they may have encountered. A Prairie-Wide Provincial Network Committee meeting that brought together all PNC members was held on May 5th and 6th, 2011. This meeting was a huge success with approximately 50 members from across the Prairies traveling to Edmonton for a two day meeting. There was also a special presentation by Dr. Julie Park from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Auckland who gave a presentation entitled, "Maori and Pacific Peoples and Tuberculosis in New Zealand" that highlighted the similarities in TB transmission among the Indigenous peoples of New Zealand and among those in Canada. Given the success of this meeting, another is planned for September 20-21st, 2012 in Edmonton with invitations sent to all participants of the previous meeting. In addition, invitations to join this meeting were sent to all members of the Prairie-Wide Interprovincial TB working group. This group brings together front-line TB workers in the areas of programming and primary care. As the DTT project begins to wind down, identifying ways to sustain the work of the PNCs has become a principal goal – investigating the feasibility of integrating the PNCs and the Interprovincial TB working group is one way the TB PE & RU is exploring.



Staff and trainees at our first Prairie-Wide Provincial Network Committee meeting in 2011.

With the support of the PNCs, the unit, last year, took on the development of a closely related satellite project - to develop a TB-specific resource guide for teachers of high-school aged children. This project was managed by Kathleen McMullin in Saskatchewan, and involved participation from three schools – two in Northern Saskatchewan, and one in Southern Alberta. Two of the schools are band-controlled, while the other falls under the provincial scope. To assist Kathy a Research Assistant, Andrea Still, was hired. In addition the unit hired an illustrator and designer, Jill Stanton, to work on the visual design and layout of the guide. This resource guide for teachers has now been completed and is available for both viewing and download from our website: <http://tbper.med.ualberta.ca/tb-education>. Hard copies will be disseminated to regional FNIHB offices across the prairies to be distributed to their respective high TB-incidence communities. It will also be made available upon request. Work is on-going to ensure the sustainability of this important project.

STUDY AWARENESS

Study awareness continues to be an important aspect of the project to ensure that community stakeholders and associated health staff are conscious of and supportive of the project. Study awareness activities and relationship building continued throughout the year. Study Coordinators work diligently to stay in touch with service providers, Aboriginal organizations and leadership, funding agencies and federal and provincial prevention and control programs. In addition, our prairie-wide PNC meeting provided an opportunity to pursue our project objectives in a unified fashion, and with collective goals in mind.

Staff members have all been moved to the central site of the project now that all of the data has been collected. As such, the DTT project is left with one manager for all the sites across the three Prairie Provinces, based out of the TB PE & RU in Edmonton (Courtney Heffernan). She also acts as a liaison to Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. Site specific updates include:

Manitoba:

In connection with recent meetings/conferences in Manitoba (PNC meeting, February 3rd, 2012 and presentations 1, 2, 3, 14 and 17 below) we are continuing our exploration of the possibility of undertaking a satellite project – one aimed at explaining the relationship between TB in

Winnipeg and TB in reserve communities. Our hope is that this might involve a local graduate student under the supervision of Dr. Pam Orr and/or Dr. Martha Ainslie.

Saskatchewan:

Recruitment and data collection from Saskatchewan has been completed, and we are looking forward to connecting with Saskatchewan PNC members and TB control personnel at our 2nd Prairie-Wide PNC meeting in September, 2012.

Alberta:

The ongoing connection with stakeholders remains strong with the Principal Investigator's involvement at the Edmonton TB Clinic, his clinical commitments with Alberta Health/First Nations and Inuit Health and his presence in the pulmonary division, Department of Medicine. An Alberta-specific PNC meeting was held in December, 2011 update on the project was presented to the Community Health Nurses in Alberta on June 16, 2011; *DTT and Satellite Projects at the TB PE & RU*.

PUBLICATIONS (2011-2012)

1. * Elamy H, Far B, Mandel M, Basu A, Cheng I, Long R. An intelligent CAD system for automated detection of pulmonary tuberculosis on chest radiograph and CT thorax: a road map. **IEEE CCECE Conference** Paper No.1569277319
2. * Elamy H, Far B, Long R. An intelligent multi-agent system for automated detection and diagnosis of active tuberculosis on chest radiographs **SEKE** Paper No. 285: 485 - 498
3. * Langlois-Klassen D, Wooldrage K, Manfreda J, Sutherland K, Ellis E, Phypers M, Gushulak B, Long R. Piecing the puzzle together: foreign-born tuberculosis in an immigrant-receiving country. **Eur Resp J** 2011 Oct;38(4):895-902
4. * Jacobs S, Warman A, Richardson R, Yacoub W, Lau A, Whittaker D, Cockburn S, Verma G, Boffa J, Tyrrell G, Kunitomo D, Manfreda J, Langlois-Klassen D, Long R. The tuberculin skin test is unreliable in school children BCG-vaccinated in infancy and at low risk of tuberculosis infection. **Pediatr Infect Dis J** 2011 Sep;30(9):754-8
5. * Jensen M, Lau A, Langlois-Klassen D, Boffa J, Manfreda J, Long R. Eliminating Tuberculosis: A population-based study of TB epidemiology and innovative service delivery in Canada. **Int J Tuberc Lung Dis** 2012;16:43-49
6. Pepperell C, Granka J, Alexander D, Behr M, Chui L, Gordon J, Guthrie M, Jamieson F, Langlois-Klassen D, Long R, Nguyen D, Wobeser W, Feldman M. Dispersal of *tuberculosis* via the Canadian fur trade. **Proc Natl Acad Sci (USA)** 2011 April doi: 10.1073/pnas.1016708108
7. Dunsford, D. Park, J, Littleton, J. et al., *Better Lives: The Struggle for Health of Transnational Pacific Peoples in New Zealand, 1950-2000*. Research in Anthropology and Linguistic 9. Auckland, Department of Anthropology, The University of Auckland, 2011, 95pp. <https://researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/handle/2292/11030>

POSTER PRESENTATIONS (2011-2012)

1. Abonyi S, Mayan, M, McMullin K, Long R. Sick Enough to Seek Medical Attention: Tipping Points in the Tuberculosis Experience of Aboriginal Peoples of the Canadian Prairies. **Society for Applied Anthropology – 71st Annual Meeting**, March 29 – April 2, 2011, Seattle, Washington.
2. Varughese M, Li M, Langlois-Klassen D, Long R. Modeling the Dynamics of Latent TB in Canada and Evaluation Intervention Strategies for TB Control. **8th PIMS Young Researchers Conference**, May 2-5, 2011 Vancouver, Canada.
3. Lau A, Barrie J, Winter C, Kunimoto D, Elamy H, Tyrrell G, Long R. The public health consequences of smear-positive pulmonary tuberculosis in patients with typical and atypical chest radiographs. **Department of Medicine Research Day**, May 19th, 2011, University of Alberta, Edmonton.
4. Dhawan V, Lau A, Bhargava R, Kunimoto D, Long R. Use of population-based conventional and molecular data in pediatric TB to understand TB transmission. **Department of Medicine Research Day**, May 19th, 2011, University of Alberta, Edmonton.
5. Varughese M, Li M, Langlois-Klassen D, Long R. Latent Tuberculosis in Canada 1986-2002 and Beyond. **The 5th Geoffrey J. Butler Memorial Conference on Differential Equations and Population Biology**, July 25-30, 2011 Edmonton, Canada.
6. World L, Heffernan C, Long R. Wellness, social determinants of health and tuberculosis in First Nations communities on the Canadian Prairies. **Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry 44th Annual Summer Student Research Day**, October 15, 2011, Edmonton, AB.
7. Lau A, Barrie J, Winter C, Kunimoto D, Elamy H, Tyrrell G, Long R. The public health consequences of smear-positive pulmonary tuberculosis in patients with typical and atypical chest radiographs. **Third Annual Leader in Medicine Research Symposium University of Calgary**, November 4, 2011, Calgary AB
8. Langlois-Klassen D, Wooldrage K, Manfreda J, Ellis E, Phypers M, Gushulak B, Long R. Novel perspectives on foreign-born tuberculosis: trends, targets and transmission. **School of Public Health Insights Conference**. Lister Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton. November 16, 2011
9. Moffatt J, Mayan M, Long R. “Taking Care of Our Own”: The multifaceted relationship between on-reserve having and tuberculosis (TB) occurrence. **Pulmonary Research Day 2011**, Department of Medicine, University of Alberta, November 16, 2011.

10. Jacobs S, Warman A, Richardson R, Yacoub W, Lau A, Langlois-Klassen D, Long R. Tuberculosis contact tracing and surveillance after discontinuation of BCG in on-reserve First Nations preschool children in Alberta, Canada. **16th Annual Conference of The Union-North America Region 8th**, Crown Plaza Hotel Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX, USA February 23-25, 2012
11. Jacobs S, Warman A, Richardson R, Yacoub W, Lau A, Langlois-Klassen D, Long R. Tuberculosis contact tracing and surveillance after discontinuation of BCG in on-reserve First Nations preschool children in Alberta, Canada. **8th Tuberculosis Symposium 2012**, Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, Edmonton Alberta, March 22-23, 2012
12. Varughese M, Langlois-Klassen D, Long R, Li M. Using Mathematical Modeling to Evaluate an Intervention Aimed at Preventing Tuberculosis in the Foreign-Born Population in Canada. **8th Tuberculosis Symposium 2012**, Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, Edmonton Alberta, March 22-23, 2012

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS (2011-2012)

1. **“A Breathe of Fresh Air”. Canadian Respiratory Conference.** “Update on Tuberculosis (TB) Diagnostics. Niagara Falls, Ontario, April 29, 2011.
2. **Provincial Health Office, Alberta Health and Wellness.** “TB Program Update – A Year Later” Edmonton, Alberta. June 2, 2011
3. **First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Alberta Region, Health Canada.** “DTT and Satellite projects” Edmonton, Alberta. June 16, 2011
4. **Provincial Primary Care Tuberculosis Education Day.** “Tuberculosis and Primary Care in Canada” Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, October 28th, 2011
5. **Rocky Mountain/American College of Physicians Internal Medicine Conference.** (i) “New tests for the diagnosis of latent and active TB”, (ii) (AM Edwards Lecture) “The early diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis” Banff, Alberta. November 24-27, 2011
6. **Medical Grand Rounds, University of Alberta.** “Tuberculosis in the Aboriginal Peoples of Alberta and the other Prairie Provinces: Lessons from the DTT project”, Edmonton, AB. December 9, 2011
7. **U of A "Public Health & Preventive Medicine" (PHPM) Academic Half-Day (AHD).** “Tuberculosis and Public Health”, Edmonton, AB. February 10, 2012
8. **FNIHB Face-to-Face Meeting.** “Tuberculosis Prevention and Control in First Nations Communities on the Prairies; Insights from the “Determinants of TB Transmission” and related projects/New Technologies” Ottawa, ON. February 29, 2012
9. **FNIHB Face-to-Face Meeting.** “The Determinants of Tuberculosis Transmission in the Canadian-Born Population of the Prairie Provinces: Overview and Status Update” Ottawa, ON. March 1, 2012
10. **CIHR Best of Brains Exchange 2012.** The “Determinants of Tuberculosis Transmission” (DTT) Project: Implications for Aboriginal Health and Policy” Ottawa, ON. March 2, 2012
11. **Keewatin Tribal Council, Tuberculosis Conference.** “The Determinants of

Tuberculosis Transmission (DTT) Project and Related Projects in the Prairie Provinces”, Thompson, MB. March 5-6, 2012

12. **8TH Tuberculosis Symposium 2012.** “The Determinants of TB Transmission (DTT) and Related Projects in the Prairie Provinces” Edmonton, AB. March 22-23, 2012
13. **8th Tuberculosis Symposium 2012.** “The early diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis” Edmonton, AB. March 22-23, 2012

LABORATORY DATA

With the recruitment of Smit Patel as a graduate student, and a former Medical Microbiology and Immunology 498 student, the laboratory data has been undergoing consolidation and troubleshooting. Staff from the TB PE & RU visited with staff from the National Microbiology Lab (NML) in Winnipeg, and also with staff from Manitoba Health and Health Living (MHHL) to coordinate the sharing of the outstanding fingerprinting data for the DTT Project. The TB PE & RU is in receipt of nearly all isolates in 24 loci MIRU for the “potential transmitters” on the Prairies, and Smit is working to obtain or troubleshoot all outstanding fingerprints (“potential transmitters” as well as background cases, i.e., all culture positive cases that resulted from transmission from the “potential transmitters”).

Fingerprinting data from Provlab in Alberta was used in Drs. Caitlin Pepperell and Deanne Langlois-Klassen’s historical analysis of TB transmission across the Prairies in the publication: Dispersal of *tuberculosis* via the Canadian fur trade. **Proc Natl Acad Sci (USA)** 2011 April doi: 10.1073/pnas.1016708108

Deanne was also involved in completing **Objective 1** of the DTT project using laboratory data. She is now continuing this work in her post-doc with the TB PE & RU following the successful defence of her dissertation earlier this year. She has received funding from the University Hospital Foundation at the University of Alberta and from CIHR (over two years) to fund this position.

UPCOMING PLANS

This past year of the DTT project met expectations thanks to the hard work of the research team and the guidance of the Provincial Network Committees and collaborators. Year five has similarly met our expectations of continuing our data analysis phase, and maintaining our cross-provincial relationships. With the data abstractions now received from each of the Prairie Provinces, work will imminently begin on the analysis and dissemination phase of the project for which we are all very excited.

Our prairie-wide PNC meeting in May 2011 was a huge success. This meeting provided a valuable opportunity for interaction across the participating provinces’ stakeholders and research staff. Building on the momentum from this first-ever prairie-wide meeting, we’re working through plans for a potential Project Conference in 2012 that would bring together a larger group of service providers, funding agencies, PNC members and national/provincial prevention and control programs. This would coincide with the final stages of dissemination and study completion. This meeting is scheduled for September 20th and 21st, 2012.

Longer term goals include working on the development of a Prairie-wide lay organization for the control of TB among the Aboriginal population and in developing a set of knowledge sharing workshops with Indigenous peoples in New Zealand along with collaborators at the University of Auckland. We anticipate the involvement of additional trainees down the road.



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