



PRESS RELEASE

Inaugural award of The Sir John Crofton Prize for TB Nursing

18 March – TB Specialist Nurses in Hackney and Cardiff are to be honoured for their outstanding achievements in tuberculosis (TB) care and control, at the inaugural prize giving of The Sir John Crofton Prize for TB Nursing, today at the Royal Society of Medicine’s annual TB conference.

The prize has been established by TB Alert and the TB Action Group, and is sponsored by Oxford Immunotec, to identify and acknowledge innovation and excellence in TB nursing. It is the only award of its kind to specifically recognise the work of TB Specialist Nurses.

Winning entry: Housing homeless TB patients with no recourse to public funds

Homerton Hospital’s TB Nurses, in the London Borough of Hackney, often encounter TB among homeless migrants who have no recourse to public funds. Complex care needs make treatment more difficult within this population. The Homerton Team evaluated the cost benefits of hospital based treatment against those of providing local authority housing. As a result, the Borough’s Homeless Persons’ Unit houses homeless migrants with no recourse to public funds, during their treatment. This has increased treatment completion rates by 1.6% to 91.4%, in just one year.

Runner up: Improving new entrant TB screening of university students

The Cardiff TB Control Unit increased uptake of new entrant latent TB screening for university students from 25% to 92% over two years. The unit worked with the University of Cardiff to provide on campus testing facilities and to send email and text appointments and reminders to newly registered students from high incidence countries. The programme was embedded into the university’s welcome package, which included features in the International Student’s Guide and on the university’s web page and social media accounts.

Mike Mandelbaum, Chief Executive of TB Alert said ‘TB Specialist Nurses play a crucial role in meeting the TB care and control objectives set out in England’s Collaborative TB Strategy 2015-2020¹. This award will raise their profile on the national stage and inform and inspire colleagues across the sector.’

Peter Wrighton-Smith, Chief Executive of Oxford Immunotec said, ‘Since the launch of England’s TB strategy in January this year, it has become apparent that a stronger approach to TB control is needed. The Sir John Crofton Prize highlights, rewards and encourages those nurses who tackle TB with compassion using innovative ideas. Oxford Immunotec is proud to stand alongside TB nurses in our goal of eliminating TB as a public health concern worldwide².’

Notes to editors

TB Alert (www.tbalert.org) is the UK’s national tuberculosis charity: the only charity that focuses on TB both in the UK and overseas; and works nationally and locally to raise awareness about TB in the UK through *The Truth About TB* programme (www.thetruthabouttb.org). **Contact:** Helen Clegg, Communications Manager, helen.clegg@tbalert.org, 01273 234030, 07949 675033. **Case studies and photos on request.**

The TB Action Group (TBAG) is a network for people affected by TB in the UK. TBAG members provide support to TB patients and use their stories and insights to advocate for better TB services.

Oxford Immunotec Ltd, is committed to improving patient care by providing advanced, innovative tests in the field of immunology. The T-SPOT®.TB test is an IGRA with sensitivity and specificity greater than 95%³ for the identification of TB infection and is suitable for all patient groups. The T-SPOT.TB test offers accurate and reliable results in the diagnosis of TB infection in patients with both active and latent disease. **Contact:** Kirsty Whigham, Marketing Assistant, kwhigham@oxfordimmunotec.com, 01235 442780.

¹ Collaborative Tuberculosis Strategy for England 2015 to 2020

² The WHO Stop TB Strategy

³ T-SPOT.TB Package Insert (PI-TB-IVD-UK-V2)