

Position of Chair

Deadline for receipt of expressions of interest: Sunday, 13th October 2013

TB Alert, Britain's national tuberculosis (TB) charity, is seeking a Chair to help our vibrant young organisation grow in the UK and internationally.

Created in 1998 and formally launched in 1999, TB Alert focuses on a disease that threatens the lives of around twelve million individuals, including nine million new cases, every year. We work to overcome tuberculosis in Britain, India, and sub-Saharan Africa and are involved in advocacy activity at global, European and national levels.

We want someone who can fill a key leadership role in a dynamic charity that is active in combating a global health issue of crucial importance and that reached 3.4 million people in 2011-12. This person might come from almost any background. They will not necessarily have prior experience in the world of TB or even health, but should be at ease in the not-for-profit and development worlds.

Background

TB Alert was founded in 1998 in response to the global challenge of tuberculosis, and the lack of a British-based TB charity and advocacy agency. We are now recognised as Britain's national TB charity active both in the UK and internationally.

Our mission is to increase access to effective treatment for all. Our current [Strategic Plan](#) guides our activity for the period from April 2012 to March 2017.

Our programmes tackle barriers people face in accessing treatment, and combine social action with medical care. We aim to ensure patients are diagnosed more quickly and then supported during treatment. We act as advocates to ensure policies and TB services meet the needs of patients and communities effectively. We also encourage governments, donors and drug companies to increase their commitment to research and develop new tools to control the disease. Without these developments the World Health Organisation's aim of reducing TB to a rare disease by 2050 will not be achieved.

Programmes

In the UK, [The Truth About TB](#) programme, supported by the Department of Health, works to raise awareness among the communities most vulnerable to TB; the programme reached more than 134,000 people in 2011-12 alone. The programme also trains and advises hundreds of community-based organisations – working in fields such as HIV, sexual health, homelessness and substance misuse – on how to integrate support for those suffering from TB into their work, and how to work in partnership with statutory health services. The Department of Health frequently quotes our programme in Parliament as evidence of efforts to increase awareness of TB among at risk communities.

We provide information via telephone and online to the public and we have a Patient Support Fund to meet essential needs of patients during treatment. We raise awareness with those working in primary care, liaising with Public Health England and the Royal College of GPs. We also promote the voice of patients – in particular through providing operational support to a patient-based organisation called the TB Action Group, that is active in policy, advocacy and the media and offers mutual support to patients.

In India we work with our sister organisation [TB Alert India](#) that we helped to create in early 2004. In recent years, we have jointly delivered two £500,000 projects in the state of Andhra Pradesh, funded by the UK government's Department for International Development (DfID), to improve awareness and access among under-served communities. We also manage a community-based diagnosis and treatment programme reaching out to 600,000 people in slum areas of northern Delhi. TB Alert India is a partner in a nationwide programme supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, a demonstration of how in a few short years they have become recognised as one of the significant national non-governmental organisations in TB.

In Africa, we work in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe through local NGO partners. In Zambia, with DfID funding, we work with seven local NGOs to raise awareness among local communities, advocate for better TB services, and engage in national TB-HIV advocacy.

In Zimbabwe, working with a mission hospital, we strengthen clinical services alongside our community work. In Malawi, we have worked in partnership with the national TB programme and local NGOs.

Advocacy

Our advocacy work in England was instrumental in the government recently forming a new committee to develop a national TB strategy. We work with ministers and senior civil servants and advocate in partnership with parliamentarians and key clinicians.

We are a member of the Lilly MDR-TB Partnership, a delivery partner of the TB Europe Coalition, on the steering committee of Stop TB UK, and organise Advocacy Corner as the civil society 'hub' at the annual world lung health conference.

Structure and finances

There is a normal charity structure: An active trustee team; a finance and operations Committee plus committees to support the UK and the international work; an effective Chief Executive, Mike Mandelbaum; and a motivated and skilled staff team mostly based at the office in Brighton but with UK officers also based in Leeds, London and Manchester.

Finances and fundraising: We want to grow to ensure more individuals worldwide get access to effective TB treatment. Turnover for the past two years has been just on £1 million annually. We have been successful in attracting institutional funding from both the Department of Health and the Department for International Development (DfID). Our challenge is to grow that kind of project-specific funding while also ensuring growth in unrestricted income – currently around 25% of turnover – from individuals, companies and trusts. A campaign to increase income from high-value donors is underway in memory of our past Honorary President, Sir John Crofton, a leading light in the development of TB treatment from the 1940s onward.



Future of current Chair

The new Chair will succeed Paul Sommerfeld, a TB Alert founder, who is stepping down after 15 years in the role. Paul wants to continue as a trustee, taking a particular interest in activities where his professional background is relevant, in advocacy, international programmes, and Europe-wide work with the TB Europe Coalition.

The position of Chair

TB Alert are looking for a person with the status and ability to help us make a significant step change in our size and impact while remaining a strong and healthy organisation. Thus the Chair must be well able to fulfill the usual tasks for such a role:

- Work with the board of trustees
- Contribute to the development of strategic policy
- Supervise and support the chief executive
- Chair meetings of trustees
- Be a public face of the organisation

And

- Be committed to leading a dynamic organisation to achieve impact worldwide
- Have the ability to think strategically
- Through her/his persona, background and contacts, provide added value to a growing and exceptional not-for-profit organisation, in particular helping to grow our fundraising

The person we are looking for

Our new Chair may come from any background. You may not necessarily have experience in the health, development and voluntary sectors, but you should be at ease with the not-for-profit and the development worlds, and have the cultural sensitivity to be effective in working with our partners in Africa and India. Experience of public health issues, social action, and international development could all be helpful but are not essential.

The time we require of you is noticeable but not vast. There is a highly competent staff team to do most of the work. The essentials are:

- Presence at all four formal trustee meetings annually: currently these are held during afternoons, usually in London, with one a year in Brighton
- Presence at meetings of the Finance and Operations Committee – around five a year, currently early evenings in London
- Being available to the chief executive to discuss issues between meetings
- Occasional attendance at other meetings to represent *TB Alert*
- Presence at strategy awaydays when organised, approximately once every two years
- Willingness to make time to visit projects in the field in Africa, India and the UK
- To be based in the UK



Overall, the person will have the leadership and policy strengths to:

- Lead us in achieving ever-greater impact on TB and services to combat TB worldwide
- Add value through contacts and experience in building our profile and sources of financial support

Please note that this is a voluntary position and no salary or fees are paid, only expenses for travel related to TB Alert as necessary.

Process and timescale

TB Alert's trustees have set up a search committee to lead the process of identifying the new Chair. This includes the current Chair, Treasurer, four other trustees and the Chief Executive.

After initial contacts with the current Chair and Chief Executive, interested individuals will be asked to confirm their interest. The search committee will then consider all expressions of interest and create a shortlist of individuals who will be invited to meet the full trustee body, probably in October, which will then make a decision on whom to invite to become Chair.

We aim to complete selection of the new Chair during the autumn of 2013 and for that person to take over early in 2014.

If you might be interested

- Explore the TB Alert websites: www.tbalert.org and www.thetruthabouttb.org
- Talk to the current Chair, Paul Sommerfeld: 020 8969 4830; 07979 860266; paul.sommerfeld@tbalert.org
- Talk to the Chief Executive, Mike Mandelbaum 01273 234865; 07855 741855 mike.mandelbaum@tbalert.org
- Confirm your interest by providing a CV or biographical note outlining your background, experience, and reasons for being interested in TB Alert – by email to Paul Sommerfeld: paul.sommerfeld@tbalert.org

Deadline

Expressions of interest must be received by the end of **Sunday, 13th October 2013**