The Stop TB Department of WHO in collaboration with the Consortium to Respond Effectively to the AIDS/TB Epidemic (CREATE) organized a meeting affiliated with the 16th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2009) in Montreal, Canada. This is the third in a series of meetings organized since 2007.

The meetings have successfully raised the profile of HIV/TB among HIV researchers in particular by sharing data from ongoing studies, identifying research gaps and stimulating further HIV/TB research. The main objective of the meeting at CROI 2009 was to promote high level scientific interchange of ideas and research priorities to have a better understanding of the magnitude and burden of TB (including drug resistant strains) especially in HIV prevalent settings.

Other presentations included showing better treatment outcomes (than previous reports) of HIV infected patients with XDR TB from Tugela Ferry, South Africa. This finding was controversial and was contested as it only represented a few patients who managed to access hospital care. Most patients still die before reaching the hospital. It was also shown that there is still a considerable delay of up to 70 days between diagnosis and start of treatment for XDR-TB patients.

The progress in pharmacokinetics studies of new TB drugs and ARVs was also presented. Further promotion of such studies including in children was highlighted as an urgent priority for research.

It was encouraging to discover that issues discussed at previous meetings in this series have been taken up by researchers. This was evidenced by the number and type of abstracts presented during the main conference. For example, there were at least three abstracts in the main conference which were based on the conclusions of the previous TB/HIV meetings. The overall visibility of TB in the Conference was also very high, including a plenary presentation, several abstracts and poster driven sessions.