

National TB Conference

On May 16–17, 2018 Public Health center of Ministry of Health of Ukrainian and National Medical O.O. Bogomoletz University held a National-level conference on current issues of TB diagnosis and treatment. USAID, Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and Partnership Stop TB Ukraine supported the conference.

TB services reforming in Ukraine was in the focus on the Conference, including financial policy, strategy of laboratory network development, implementation of new treatment regimens and diagnostic techniques. Also, the participants discussed such challenges as access to diagnosis and treatment for internally displaced people and soldiers, and complicated diagnostic cases, in particular, extrapulmonary and pediatric TB.

Experts from Moldova, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and USA, and representatives of civil society and international organizations, involved into TB control, participated in the Conference. Ulana Suprun, acting Minister of Health of Ukraine, Oleh Petrenko, head of National Health Service, and Oleksiy Kyrychenko, People's Deputy of Ukraine, attended the Conference. The title of Vasyl Peterenko's, Head of TB and pulmonology department in National medical Bogomoletz University, talk became a keynote of the Conference: «Multidrug resistance TB spread in Ukraine as an indicator of the need for changes». It became clear that there are no alternatives of fundamental changes in TB service provision. Existing TB control system proved unsuccessful. Ukraine is among countries with highest burden of multidrug resistance TB, and genotypes circulating in the country are the most aggressive ones. Constant USA partners of National medical Bogomoletz University – Robert Horsburgh and Helen Jenkins from Boston University presented their talks via Skype, and a researcher from Brown University (Providence) Natasha Rybak visited Kyiv especially to present two reports. All talks aroused vivid interest.

Conference agenda included parallel meetings of the managers of local TB services and TB chairs of medical universities.