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5	DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TUBERCULOSIS DRUG REGIMENS-
6	SCIENTIFIC AND CLINICAL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS
7	PUBLIC WORKSHOP
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13	White Oak Campus
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20	Reported by: Michael Farkas
21	Capital Reporting Company
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1 PROCEEDINGS

- 2 DR. COX: I wanted to welcome everybody today
- 3 to our TB drug development workshop. We will be
- 4 talking a lot about a regimen development and having
- 5 some discussions around all that. I really do
- 6 appreciate everybody making the time to join us here
- 7 today.
- 8 And, first, let me just start off with some
- 9 logistics, just so we can plan ahead a little bit. You
- 10 may have noticed as you walked in, there is a window
- 11 just beyond these large rooms and it is where lunch is
- 12 served. And so, if you can order ahead of time, so if
- 13 we can get your orders in, say, by about 10:30 in the
- 14 morning, that can help a little bit with the lunchtime
- 15 crunch, because then they're all prepared for serving
- 16 the individuals. So, it's always important to make
- 17 sure that everybody gets fed during lunchtime, so just
- 18 check with that window, if you can. Hopefully, we'll
- 19 be able to do that during the break. The folks over
- 20 there should be expecting people to come out.
- 21 Now, moving on to the topic for today. I
- 22 mean, as folks know here, probably better than I, the

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- 1 TB issue with global burden of disease really is
- 2 phenomenal, a tremendous cause of morbidity and
- 3 mortality with 10.4 million new cases of TB reported
- 4 worldwide by the WHO. With 2.2 million cases in
- 5 patients living with HIV, and estimates of 480,000
- 6 cases of MDR-TB in 2015. So, the burden of disease is
- 7 tremendous.
- 8 We also know, too, folks working this area
- 9 know how particularly challenging it is to develop new
- 10 therapies for TB, and the treatments are long, require
- 11 multiple drug therapy. And it's really not an area
- 12 that is economically attractive for drug development.
- 13 While we know the burden of disease is large, the areas
- 14 of the world where the burden of disease is largest are
- 15 not ones that have resources. And typically, it's low
- 16 and middle-income countries where there is limited
- 17 resources to be able to afford treatment and access to
- 18 care can oftentimes be challenging.
- But, really, despite these challenges, as I
- 20 look around the room and think about the
- 21 accomplishments of this group, the folks that have been
- 22 involved in TB work, I mean, it really is remarkable.

- 1 And lots of credit goes to the TB community, including
- 2 the drug developers, the philanthropists, scientists
- 3 from all sectors, patient advocacy groups, folks in
- 4 government, both here in the US and abroad, and
- 5 nongovernmental organizations that remain dedicated to
- 6 the work of developing new therapies for TB and caring
- 7 for patients with TB.
- 8 And, at least in my view, as I reflect on the
- 9 area, I think one of the things that has made things so
- 10 successful in this area is really the attention to
- 11 sound scientific principles and the dedication to work
- 12 in this field. We all recognize that this is an area
- 13 where there are unmet needs and that we can exercise
- 14 flexibility and balance benefits and risks. But I
- 15 think what allows us to do that is that underlying this
- 16 foundation of flexibility is the sound science that is
- 17 going on in the field, and that's great.
- 18 If we can think back to TB therapies, the last
- 19 new TB drug approval here in the US was bedaquiline for
- 20 MDR-TB that was approved in late 2012. But for those
- 21 that follow the field, there has also been a lot of
- 22 other important activity that has been going on out

- 1 there reported in journal articles and press releases,
- 2 and such. And so, we thought it would be a good
- 3 opportunity to get the field together to discuss some
- 4 of the important progress that has been made in the
- 5 field and share that more broadly. That's one of the
- 6 reasons, too, why we'll talk some about regimen
- 7 development.
- 8 And we're grateful, too, for the field's
- 9 general willingness to describe ongoing development
- 10 programs and have the chance to hear from the groups
- 11 that are involved in this work. We'll hear some
- 12 preliminary results from clinical trials to date, and I
- 13 think we'll all benefit by hearing and learning from
- 14 their experiences.
- 15 And then if you'll look at the agenda, too,
- 16 today, you'll see that we're going to span a range of
- 17 topics over a really fairly packed agenda. We'll start
- 18 out with hearing some about the current TB landscape
- 19 patient needs, and then move on to preclinical and
- 20 clinical development with a focus on TB regimen
- 21 development. And then to guide our discussion over the
- 22 course of the day, following the talks in the morning

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- 1 and the talks in the afternoon, we have a series of
- 2 questions that we'll try and cover during panel
- 3 discussions, both in the morning and the afternoon. I
- 4 look forward to hearing those discussions, and I hope
- 5 everybody has a chance to engage in the panel
- 6 discussions.
- 7 Today is a workshop, which is different than
- 8 an advisory committee. It's an informal chance for
- 9 discussion; it's not a chance for formal advice to the
- 10 FDA. So, that lets you know that it's a little more
- 11 freefalling, a little more flexible, and we think
- 12 that's a good opportunity, a good way to talk about
- 13 where things are in TB drug development.
- 14 So, thank you all again for your interest,
- 15 your dedication, your commitment to the field of TB
- 16 therapeutics and with the shared goal of focusing on
- 17 developing and improving treatments for patients with 17
- 18 tuberculosis.
- 19 So, now at this point I'd like to ask the
- 20 panelists to introduce themselves. And if you can just 20
- 21 tell people who you are and also your affiliation. And 21 Bansbach from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. I
- 22 so, that folks know, too, in the meeting materials we

- 1 I'm the deputy director for safety in the Division of
- 2 Anti-Infective Products at CDER, FDA.
- 3 DR. NAHID: Good morning. My name is Payam
- 4 Nahid. I'm at the University of California-San
- 5 Francisco. I am a TB clinical trialist working with
- 6 the CDC TB trials consortium.
- 7 DR. GITTERMAN: Steve Gitterman. I'm with the
- 8 Division of Microbiology Devices in the Center for
- 9 Devices at FDA.
- 10 DR. SCHITO: Marco Schito, scientific director
- 11 at Critical Path TB Drug regimens, Critical Path
- 12 Institute in Tucson, Arizona.
- 13 DR. VERNON: Good morning. I'm Andy Vernon.
- 14 I'm chief of the clinical research branch in the
- 15 Division of TB Elimination at CDC, and my group
- 16 oversees the TB trials consortium.
  - DR. HANNA: Debra Hanna. I'm the executive
- 18 director of the Critical Path, the TB drug regimens
- 19 initiative at the Critical Path Institute, Tucson, AZ.
  - DR. BANSBACH: Good morning. I'm Cathy
- 22 play a role of the portfolio and platform lead, which

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- 1 also have disclosures of conflicts of interest that are
- 2 available so that folks may, if you're interested in
- 3 peoples' affiliations and the works that they're
- 4 involved in, that will be in the printed materials.
- 5 So, maybe at this point I'll ask Dakshina Chilukuri to
- 6 start out with the introductions, and then we'll go
- 7 around the table this way. Dakshina?
- 8 DR. CHILUKURI: Good morning. My name is
- 9 Dakshina Chilukuri. I'm a clinical pharmacology
- 10 reviewer at FDA.
- DR. PELOQUIN: I'm Chuck Peloquin. I'm the
- 12 director of the pharmacokinetics lab at the College of
- 13 Pharmacy at the University of Florida.
- 14 DR. PATEL: Good morning. My name is Sheral
- 15 Patel. I'm a medical officer at FDA.
- DR. STARKE: Hi. I'm Jeff Starke. I'm a 16
- 17 pediatrician from Baylor College of medicine and run a
- 18 kids TB clinic.
- 19 DR. GEITER: Larry Geiter, vice president,
- 20 global clinical development for TB for Otsuka
- 21 Pharmaceuticals.
- 22 DR. TOERNER: Good morning. I'm Joe Toerner.

Page 13 1 basically means I work on product development with our

- 2 grantees and partners to try to have the greatest
- 3 impact we can. So, pleased to be here. Thank you.
- 4 DR. SPIGELMAN: Morning. My name is Mel
- 5 Spigelman and I'm from the Global Alliance for TB Drug
- 6 Development.
- 7 DR. NAMBIAR: Good morning. I'm Sumathi
- 8 Nambiar, director, Division of Anti-Infective Products,
- 9 CDER, FDA.
- 10 DR. LOBUE: Good morning. I'm Phil LoBue. I'm
- 11 director of the Division of TB Elimination at CDC.
- 12 DR. FARLEY: Good morning. John Farley,
- 13 deputy director of the Office of Antimicrobial Products
- 14 at CDER, FDA.
- 15 DR. LIENHARDT: Good morning. I'm Christian
- 16 Lienhardt. I'm working at the World Health
- 17 Organization in Geneva, where I'm leading a team on the
- 18 research for TB elimination, and that, among other
- 19 things, is doing guidelines for introduction of new
- 20 drugs and regimens for tuberculosis for countries,
- 21 member states of the World Health Organization.
- 22 DR. WELLS: Good morning. I'm Charles Wells.

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- 1 I'm the head of development for the infectious disease
- 2 therapeutic area at Sanofi.
- 3 DR. HUGHES: Good morning. David Hughes. I'm
- 4 the senior global program head responsible for anti-
- 5 infective development at Novartis.
- 6 MS. HIGGINS: Hi. I'm Karen Higgins. I'm
- 7 the statistical team leader supporting the Division of
- 8 Anti-Infective Products at FDA.
- 9 DR. PHILLIPS: Good morning. I'm Patrick
- 10 Phillips. I'm a statistician now at the University of
- 11 California-San Francisco.
- 12 MS. LESSEM: Hi. I'm Erica Lessem. I'm the
- 13 director of the TB project at Treatment Action Group, a
- 14 science-based activist organization.
- DR. NUERMBERGER: Good morning. Eric
- 16 Nuermberger, Johns Hopkins University with research
- 17 interest in preclinical and translational TB drug
- 18 development.
- 19 DR. YASINSKAYA: Good morning. My name is
- 20 Yuliya Yasinskaya, clinical team leader at the Division
- 21 of Anti-Infective Products, FDA.
- DR. IARIKOV: Good morning. Dmitri Iarikov.

- 1 I'm acting deputy division director of the Division of
- 2 Anti-Infective Products, FDA.
- 3 DR. COX: Thank you all. And I guess I didn't
- 4 introduce myself. I'm Ed Cox, director of the Office
- 5 of Antimicrobial Products. And just so folks know,
- 6 too, the meeting is being webcast and it's also --
- 7 there will be a transcript that will be available on
- 8 the meeting webpage after they produce the transcript.
- 9 So, it will probably be a few weeks after, same place
- 10 where the materials are already posted.
- So, at this point, thank you again for
- 12 joining, and now I will turn the chairship over to John
- 13 Farley and Phil LoBue, who will guide us through the
- 14 morning session. John?
- DR. FARLEY: Thanks, Ed. So, Phil and I will
- 16 be taking us through the morning session, and the focus
- 17 of the morning session is Landscape and Preclinical
- 18 Approaches to Inform Clinical Candidates for TB
- 19 Combination Regimens. And Phil is our first speaker.
- 20 As he mentioned, he's director of the Division of TB
- 21 Elimination at CDC. He's been at CDC since 1999, and
- 22 has served as chief of the medical consultation team,

- 1 as well as the associate director for science before
- 2 being appointed TB division director. So, Phil, thanks
- 3 very much for being here with us today.
- 4 DR. LOBUE: Thank you very much for inviting
- 5 me. So, the outline of my talk, I'm going to briefly
- 6 talk about the TB burden in the United States and
- 7 globally, and current treatment regimens. And doing
- 8 this pretty quickly at a high level, as I expect the
- 9 vast majority of people in the room are familiar with a
- 10 lot of this information, but just for completeness, for
- 11 those who may not be as familiar. And then spend the
- 12 rest of the presentation talking about some of the
- 13 challenges, at least from the CDC perspective.
- So, for those of you who are not familiar with
- 15 kind of the standard abbreviations for drugs and some
- 16 of the other terms, I just wanted to lay those out
- 17 here. So, the international single letter
- 18 abbreviations for various drugs. H is isoniazid, R is
- 19 rifampin, P is rifapentine, E is ethambutol, Z is
- 20 pyrazinamide. I use FQN for fluoroquinolones, MDR for
- 21 multi-drug resistant TB, which is TB where the isolate
- 22 is resistant to isoniazid and rifampin. It could be

- 1 other drugs in addition to that. A subcategory of MDR
- 2 is extensively drug-resistant TB, or XDR, which is MDR
- 3 plus resistance to at least fluoroquinolones and
- 4 injectables. And then LTBI is latent tuberculosis
- 5 infection, which is a condition where a person tests
- 6 positive by a skin test or interferon-gamma release
- 7 assay but don't have any clinical evidence of disease
- 8 by x-ray or symptoms. But those people are at risk for
- 9 progressing to TB disease and getting sick.
- So, a brief overview of the burden of TB, both
- 11 in the United States and globally. United States is a
- 12 low incidence country and as you'll see on this slide,
- 13 we're talking about orders of magnitude difference in
- 14 terms of the US problem versus globally. So, starting
- 15 out with the number of new cases of disease, in the
- 16 United States we have a little over 9,000 cases, where
- 17 globally there are over 10 million each year. Those
- 18 translate into case rates for the US of 2.9 per 100,000 19 as opposed to 142 per 100,000 globally. In the US our
- 20 prevalence of MDR is fairly low at about 1%, so in 2015
- 21 it was 89 cases of MDR-TB as opposed to globally,
- 22 where, as Ed already mentioned, we're talking about

1 almost 500,000 cases each year.

2 XDR in the US, usually we have between 0 and 6

3 cases per year. We had one in 2015, the last year that

4 we have our surveillance data for, and globally

5 estimates of about 45,000. Also, obviously, the

6 prevalence of HIV among persons with TB varies quite a

7 bit from country-to-country. In the US, it's less than

8 10%. We had 539 cases in 2016; globally there were 1.2

9 million, but there are obviously parts of the world,

10 such as Sub-Sahara in Africa, where the prevalence can

11 be 50%, 60% or more of HIV among persons with TB. We 11

12 have relatively few deaths at 493 as opposed to 1.8

13 million worldwide.

14 And then, finally, latent tuberculosis, which

15 although it is an asymptomatic condition and doesn't

16 cause any immediate issues and persons are not

17 infectious, the problem is that these are people who

18 are at risk for ultimately getting TB disease. In

19 fact, in the US, that's where about 85% of our cases

20 ultimately come from, and both in the US and globally

21 recognize that if we're going to eliminate disease, we

22 actually have to deal with this problem more

Page 19

1 effectively. There have been multiple models that have

2 shown that ultimately you cannot eliminate TB under

3 current circumstances without effectively addressing

4 LTBI.

5 But disease burden is not kind of uniformly

6 distributed. It tends to be concentrated globally.

7 Sixty percent of TB cases occurred in just six

8 countries, and I show them here. Not surprisingly,

9 these are the most populous countries in the world,

10 such as China or India, but other countries which are

11 low income, such as Nigeria, Pakistan, have quite high

12 TB rates and contribute substantially to the global TB

13 burden.

14 Analogously in the US, almost 60% of our TB

15 cases occur in just six states. Not surprisingly,

16 again, these are some of the more populous states,

17 including California and Texas, New York, Florida,

18 Illinois and Georgia.

So, moving on to current TB regimens. So, for

20 drug-susceptible TB disease we divide the regimen into

21 an intensive phase, which is the first two months, then

22 a continuation phase, which is the next four months.

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1 And the standard regimen both in the US and globally

2 starts with the four drugs of isoniazid, rifampin,

3 pyrazinamide and ethambutol for the intensive phase,

4 and then isoniazid and rifampin for four months in the

5 continuation phase. The dosing is daily recommended

6 globally, and daily is the preferred dosing regime in

7 the US. For directly observed therapy, which I'll talk

8 a little bit about later, it actually is generally the

9 recommended way of treating TB in the US, and the World

10 Health Organization guidance says it may be offered.

1 Moving on to multidrug-resistant TB. So, in

12 the US, basically, we use regimens of four to six

13 effective TB medicines, and those are based on the

14 results of drug susceptibility testing. The

15 conventional duration is 18 to 24 months. There is now

16 a shorter duration of regimen recommended globally, and

17 that's for people who are not previously treated with

18 second-line drugs, and who -- resistance to

19 fluoroquinolone and second-line injectable agents is

20 excluded or considered highly unlikely. That regimen

21 is not currently recommended in the US. However,

22 globally, as you can see, that 9- to 12-month regimen

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1 may be used instead of the conventional regimen for

2 patients who fit those categories. For those who

3 don't, the recommendation globally is that there are at

4 least five effective TB medicines during the intensive

5 phase, which is the first eight months, and then 20-

6 month total duration for conventional treatment is

7 generally what is recommended for most patients.

8 Moving on to latent tuberculosis, there are a

9 number of regimens that are available. The oldest one

10 is isoniazid alone, and both the US and WHO recommend

11 that for 6 to 9 months daily. More recent regimens are

12 isoniazid and rifapentine for 12 weekly doses;

13 rifampin, which in the US is recommended for 4 months

14 daily, globally 3 to 4 months daily, and then the

15 combination of isoniazid and rifampin, which is not

16 currently recommended in the US but is recommended

17 globally for 3 to 4 months daily.

So, I'm going to move on now to the challenges

19 that we face with these current treatment regimens from

20 the CDC's perspective.

So, number one is duration, and Ed already

22 mentioned that and I've already covered that basically

- 1 by going through each regimen duration, but you can see
- 2 that generally for TB disease we're dealing with at
- 3 least six months of treatment. For drug-resistant TB,
- 4 it can be two years or longer, so long regimens with
- 5 multiple drugs. That can engender substantial cost, as
- 6 I will talk about in subsequent slides. There is
- 7 substantial toxicity associated with a lot of these
- 8 drugs and regimens. There are issues with drug-drug
- 9 interactions with these long regimens, which are
- 10 multidrug and potential toxicity. We have issues with
- 11 adherence. And then, finally, obviously, outcomes,
- 12 what we're all about. We would like to cure pretty
- 13 much everyone, and with drug-resistant TB, that really
- 14 becomes a significant issue.
- So, while I went through that list, I don't
- 16 think you can really talk about these challenges in
- 17 isolation because there are inter-relationships and
- 18 there is interplay between them. So, if you have an
- 19 increased duration of a regimen, that's going to
- 20 increase the cost, it's going to tend to decrease
- 21 adherence and increases the risk of toxicity, because
- 22 the longer, just by probability, longer a person's on a

Page 23

- 1 drug the more chance there is for toxicity. Toxicity
- 2 will increase costs and decrease adherence. Increased
- 3 costs will decrease adherence if people have to pay for
- 4 part, even part of their regimen, which is fairly
- 5 typical in many parts of the world and in the United
- 6 States. And then obviously if you don't have good
- 7 adherence you're going to get worse outcomes, and also
- 8 with worsening toxicity you're going to get worse
- 9 outcomes. I don't need to cover every permutation of
- 10 this, but just to make the point that these things are
- 11 highly interrelated and all of them pose a problem.
- So, let's start talking with costs. So, if we
- 13 just look at the direct costs of treatment, globally
- 14 for drug-susceptible TB the estimates are that the
- 15 direct costs are between \$100 and \$1,000 for a course
- 16 of treatment. That goes up substantially with MDR-TB,
- 17 where the estimates are \$2,000 to \$20,000. In the US,
- 18 the costs are even more. For latent TB, the cost is
- 19 about \$500 to treat, for example, with 3HP. For
- 20 treating TB disease, the estimated average cost is
- 21 about \$18,000. Now, a lot of that is not related to
- 22 drugs. I'll show those specific drug costs in the next

Tuge

- 1 slide, but in US, where other medical costs are high,
- 2 particularly when you factor in hospitalization costs
- 3 for average cost, the costs are substantial, so about
- 4 \$18,000 to treat TB disease in the US. But when you
- 5 start moving into the drug-resistant forms of TB, which
- 6 is shown in the panel on the right, we start off with
- 7 drug-susceptible, as I said, \$18,000 direct cost. If
- 8 you start factoring productivity and other indirect
- 9 costs, so societal costs, that can go up to \$45,000.
- 10 However, once you move to MDR-TB, where the treatment
- 11 is much longer and more toxic with more difficult to
- 12 manage drugs, the direct costs, where hospitalization
- 13 is also more, it can go up to \$154,000 with the
- 14 productivity costs almost \$300,000. And then moving to
- 15 XDR, the most resistant form of TB, the direct costs
- 16 are just under \$0.5 million, \$494,000, and then when
- 17 you add in the productivity losses and other societal
- 18 costs, we're coming close to \$700,000 per case.
- 19 As I said, those costs are not just the drugs;
- 20 there are many other costs that go into it. So, when
- 21 we look at just the cost of drugs in the US, for drug-
- 22 susceptible TB, it's about \$400 for just the drugs for

- 1 drug-susceptible. The global, as you get drugs to the
- 2 global drug facility, it's about \$40 internationally.
- 3 When you start moving to MDR, the conventional regimen,
- 4 the drug costs in the US are about \$58,000. Global
- 5 drug facility internationally is \$2,000 to \$5,000. We
- 6 don't use the short course treatment in the US, but you
- 7 can decrease costs internationally to about \$1,000 if
- 8 you use the MDR short course. And then we have
- 9 estimated drug costs for the US for XDR at \$164,000.
- 10 So, you can see that with drug-resistant TB these costs
- 11 jump quite substantially and become really a burden on
- 12 patients and public health programs.
- And then toxicity. I did not go through every
- 14 possible form of toxicity, but there are many, but just
- 15 wanted to illustrate a few points. When we deal with
- 16 drug-susceptible TB, there are obviously a number of
- 17 other toxicities associated with each of the individual
- 18 drugs. But primarily the ones that programs have the
- 19 most problem with is hepatotoxicity, especially since
- 20 you have multiple hepatotoxic drugs in that regimen
- 21 particularly isoniazid and pyrazinamide.
- With drug-resistant TB, you really start

- 1 seeing multiple toxicities and severe ones from
- 2 hepatotoxicity -- kidney disease, ototoxicity,
- 3 psychosis, this whole list of individual toxicities
- 4 associated with the various drugs and many of which can
- 5 be very serious and often result in that individual
- 6 drug having to be stopped, and which obviously impacts
- 7 the ability to complete the regimen.
- 8 And then for LTBI, again, the two main ones
- 9 that we tend to see are hepatotoxicity, particularly
- 10 with isoniazid-containing regimens, and then
- 11 hypersensitivity reactions with rifamycin-containing
- 12 regimens. Again, those are not exhaustive lists, but I
- 13 think the major ones for these different forms of
- 14 disease.
- 15 And I mentioned drug-drug interactions, and
- 16 here I just used two examples, isoniazid and rifampin,
- 17 which obviously are very commonly used in the regimens.
- 18 And, as you can see, for both isoniazid and rifampin,
- 19 I'm not going to go through these whole lists, but you
- 20 can see there lots of drugs with interactions that
- 21 occur that really people have to be aware of. And they
- 22 have to at least alter dosing of either the TB drug or
  - Page 27
- 1 the drug which it interacts with. And so, this is
- 2 another issue that has to be considered when you're
- 3 treating people with TB.
- 4 And adherence. So, if you're going to get a
- 5 cure, the person needs to be adherent to the regimen.
- 6 And this is where directly observed therapy comes in,
- 7 which is the practice of having patients swallow the
- 8 antituberculosis medicines. The point is, you don't
- 9 want people, one, not completing, but also taking
- 10 individual drugs at different times, which is one of
- 11 the ways that drug resistance develops. And so, to
- 12 prevent that from happening, having someone make sure
- 13 that the patient takes all their drugs all the time
- 14 through completion of therapy is a standard practice in
- 15 the US and in many places globally. But it is
- 16 resource-intensive and costly because the standard
- 17 practice has been actually to have some kind of trained
- 18 worker from the health program do this. Various areas
- 19 in the US and globally now looking at ways of using
- 20 different technology, video, electronics, smartphones,
- 21 to try to cut down some of those costs. And so, that
- 22 may help, but this still resource-intensive.

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And then there are other things that we try to

- 2 do to get patients through, what we call patient-
- 3 centered care. And so, incentives, which are
- 4 innovations that try to motivate the patient that are
- 5 tailored to individual patient desires and needs. And
- 6 they should be meaningful, things like gift cards and
- 7 food vouchers. And then the other thing that is used
- 8 are enablers, which are other interventions to assist
- 9 the patient in completing therapy. Really, it's more
- 10 about removing barriers, so making sure they can get to
- 11 clinic. They want to get clinic but they can't because
- 12 they don't have transportation or that clinic hours are
- 13 just inconvenient for their work schedule. So, things
- 14 that enable them and help them get through their
- 15 treatment. Again, these things cost money.
- So, finally, outcomes. So, if we do 16
- 17 everything right, where do we went up? Well, I think
- 18 in general, other than drug-resistant TB, these are
- 19 fairly good. But obviously 100% would be -- or as
- 20 close as possible, 100% would be better. But we start
- 21 with latent TB, treatment efficacy for the regimen is
- 22 around 90%. The issue there is completion. Especially

- 1 with a longer course regimen of nine months of
- 2 isoniazid, at best you might see 50%. There are many
- 3 studies which show completion much, much less than
- 4 that. We have found with the shorter regimens, such as
- 5 three months of isoniazid or rifapentine, now we can do
- 6 substantially better, somewhere around 80%.
- 7 With drug-susceptible TB, most of the clinical
- 8 trials show you reach about a 95% cure. When you
- 9 translate it in the programmatic setting it's not quite
- 10 as good, and that very much depends on how good the
- 11 program is. But generally, you're looking at 85% to
- 12 95% success measured by cure or completion.
- 13 With MDR, not as good. We were surprised to
- 14 find that actually in the US programmatic setting that
- 15 recent publication showed that we could get about 80%,
- 16 90% success. Overall, globally it's been closer to
- 17 50%, although there are definitely places that do
- 18 substantially better, and especially with the newer
- 19 short-course MDR therapy seeing higher success rates
- 20 than that 50%.
- 21 So, finally, again, from our perspective at
- 22 CDC and mainly focused domestically, what are the

- 1 things that we're looking at and trying to improve, and
- 2 what has been our focus? Really, our focus has mainly
- 3 been on duration and shortening duration, because as I
- 4 showed earlier, duration affects so many other things -
- 5 cost, toxicity, adherence. We know with current
- 6 treatment we can do pretty well and get pretty good
- 7 results, but it would really be better in terms of
- 8 resources if we could get this shorter and actually
- 9 potentially use some of the saved resources to expand
- 10 more into the LTBI realm.
- 11 So, Andy Vernon is going to talk in more
- 12 detail about TBTC, but just to give you an idea,
- 13 overview of our focus, looking at trying to decrease
- 14 the duration of drug-susceptible TB to four months, for
- 15 example, or decrease the duration of treatment for LTBI
- 16 for four to six weeks. And globally there are many,
- 17 many other things that are being addressed, and so I
- 18 certainly -- this is not an exhaustive list, but just
- 19 for completion of talking about MDR-TB, again, in terms
- 20 of duration, people are aiming to get to more of the
- 21 six- to nine-month range, which is being addressed in
- 22 trials. And also with that shorter course, want to get
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- $1\,$  to the 85% to 90% success as opposed to the overall
- 2 average of kind of 50% currently. So, I will conclude
- 3 there and thank you, and turn it back to my colleague,
- 4 John. So, I don't know about timing, whether we'll
- 5 have time for questions or whether we're going to hold
- 6 based on where we are?
- 7 DR. FARLEY: Sure. Why don't we see how we do
- 8 after Cathy's talk?
- 9 DR. LOBUE: Okay. Thank you.
- 10 DR. FARLEY: Shall I introduce Cathy?
- 11 DR. LOBUE: Yes.
- DR. FARLEY: So, Cathy Bansbach is portfolio
- 13 and platform lead for the Bill & Melinda Gates
- 14 Foundation, global health program strategy team for TB.
- 15 Their goal was to reduce the incidence of infection and
- 16 disease, and she has worked in this field for over 20
- 17 years. We look forward to hearing form her this
- 18 morning.
- 19 DR. BANSBACH: Thank you. I'm relatively new
- 20 to the field of TB, only having joined the foundation
- 21 two years ago, but I do have quite a bit of experience
- 22 in drug development.

- Being new to the field, I went to my first
- 2 union meeting in Liverpool last year, and I learned a
- 3 very sobering statistic, which is that someone dies of
- 4 TB every 18 seconds. That was a reminder of why we do
- 5 what we do.
- 6 At the Gates Foundation, our goal is to try to
- 7 accelerate the decline in incidents by breaking
- 8 transmission. And in order to identify where we could
- 9 best place our investments to have the maximum impact,
- 10 we commissioned a Patient Pathway Analysis from 11 of
- 11 the highest prevalence countries and learned that in
- 12 the world overall, approximately 25% of people are
- 13 never even diagnosed with disease. Of those who are
- 14 diagnosed, approximately 12% never initiate treatment,
- 15 and of those who do start treatment, almost 20% don't
- 16 complete. This is an abysmal picture and something
- 17 that gives us a lot of opportunity for investment, but
- 18 there was no specific one place that we felt we should
- 19 place all of our bets. And so, the foundation's
- 20 approach has been to develop a portfolio of
- 21 interventions to try to close some of these gaps in the
- 22 care cascade. And the one we'll be focusing on today
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  - 1 is the work that we're doing to support a shorter
- 2 universal drug regimen. But before going there, I just
- 3 wanted to review what's been on drug development in TB
- 4 over the past decade.
- 5 There are five basic approaches. The first is
- 6 actually one that's borrowed somewhat from oncology,
- 7 where you take standard of care and you add on an
- 8 additional compound in the hopes of improving efficacy.
- 9 Although since it's an add-on, you really don't do
- 10 anything for the underlying safety issues with the
- 11 background therapy or the duration or the cost. In
- 12 fact, adding on will probably add cost. What you do
- 13 gain is faster development time. So, we consider this
- 14 a fast-to-market but unfortunately slow to impact,
- 15 because you're only affecting the MDR population.
- A slight variation on that model would be to
- 17 switch out one of the molecules in the optimized
- 18 background regimen and substitute it with a better
- 19 compound, again with the goal of increasing efficacy.
- 20 And you may, if you switch out a toxic element,
- 21 actually increase safety, but the question mark as to
- 22 whether you can affect duration, chances are the new

- 1 agent won't be in lower cost than the one you're
- 2 switching out but, again, you have a faster development
- 3 time. Both of these approaches, however, have a
- 4 liability that by adding into what could be a failing
- 5 regimen, you do carry the risk of resistance to the new
- 6 drug.
- 7 Again, borrowing from our friends in oncology,
- 8 the TB Alliance has taken a very brave approach to
- 9 developing a brand-new regimen in the XDR and pre-MDR
- 10 pre-XDR population, where they combine bedaquiline,
- 11 pretomanid and linezolid. And here they saw, as Mel, I
- 12 think, will tell you a little bit later, dramatic
- 13 efficacy, and improvement in safety compared to what
- 14 XDR patients are generally treated with, and a much,
- 15 much shorter duration -- six months as opposed to the
- 16 up to 20 months that we heard about just now. Cost
- 17 will not be lower. Development time was rather quick
- 18 considering, and the risk of resistance, because all of
- 19 the compounds in that regimen are new, should be
- 20 extremely low.
- 21 Then if you move from the MDR-XDR patient
- 22 populations that can tolerate some risk given the

- So, to expand a little bit on what the unified
- 2 development path looks like, it's pretty vanilla up
- 3 until you get through Phase 1. Then you would move
- 5 until you get through thase 1. Then you would mov
- 4 into a 14-day study in TB patients for the first time
- 5 to look at antibacterial activity, that's your
- 6 monotherapy EBA. Then you would open up a new study or
- 7 potentially amend -- carry on in your initial EBA with
- 8 combinations of various regimens that either
- 9 preclinical data or clinical information have given you
- 10 a sense would be good regimens, test a variety of them
- 11 in the rifampin-sensitive patients only, because if
- 12 there is a problem you have a salvage therapy in HRZE.
- 13 Then take that information and then study, rather than
- 14 for 14 days, look at the regimen for two months to get
- 15 additional safety. Now we move into both the rifampin-
- 16 resistant and rifampin-sensitive populations and we use
- 17 HRZE as a control for the drug-sensitive, the rifampin-
- 18 sensitive population, but we also have the rifampin-
- 19 resistant arm as an experimental.
- And then, finally, if we find a regimen that
- 21 meets all of our criteria, you would move into Phase 3.
- 22 You would be looking to demonstrate shortened

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- 1 benefit and look at the rifampin-sensitive population,
- 2 there are two models. One was used in the REMox
- 3 studies, where you swap out one element, in this case
- 4 either the isoniazid or the ethambutol and replace it
- 5 with moxifloxacin. Here the goal was to shorten
- 6 treatment. As we all know, that didn't work. The
- 7 regimen was effective, but no more effective than HRZE
- 8 itself.
- 9 And then, finally, the pathway that the
- 10 foundation is currently supporting, which is our
- 11 unified development regimen, which enrolls patients
- 12 both rifampin-sensitive and rifampin-resistant. And
- 13 the idea here is, at least in the rifampin-resistant,
- 14 to improve efficacy. I don't know that we can actually
- 15 demonstrate improved efficacy over 90%, 95%, which we
- 16 see in clinical trials for the rifampin-sensitive
- 17 population, but we should see better safety, better
- 18 convenience and duration. Cost will probably not be
- 19 lower, but it will take more time. Development time is
- 20 the cost you pay for having a greater impact by being
- 21 able to address all of the patients in the TB
- 22 population and not specific subsets.

- 1 treatment. Four month is the current model, but we
- 2 hope at some point we'll be able to make that even
- 3 shorter. And here we're looking for noninferiority in
- 4 the rifampin-sensitive population and hopefully
- 5 increased efficacy in rifampin-resistant.
- 6 So, what can we do with this drug development
- 7 pathway to accelerate? When I first looked at the
- 8 pathway, I said to myself, 14 days in healthy
- 9 volunteers, then 14 days in patients; can't we do both
- 10 of those studies in patients? And the reason I asked
- 11 that question was, my background in hepatitis C
- 12 research, where we have a very good, real-time
- 13 biomarker in viral load, and we were able to enroll
- 14 patients in Phase 1, the multiple ascending dose study,
- 15 which was probably more important in hep-C than in most
- 16 therapeutic areas because we don't have an animal model
- 17 that we can trust in hepatitis C. So, getting the
- 18 answers about activity in the patients as soon as
- 19 possible was very important.
- 20 And during that program we went through three
- 21 lead compounds, very rapid succession. The third
- 22 compound had the potency that we were looking for, but

- 1 we noticed that after four days we could see resistance
- 2 emerging in the population. So, we amended the
- 3 protocol and did a combination study in the MAD study,
- 4 where we added interferon, which is part of the
- 5 standard of care. And now, to our surprise, not only
- 6 did we see greater antiviral activity right from day
- 7 one, but we were able to overcome the resistance
- 8 problem. So, here very quickly we were able to get a
- 9 lot of information about how our drugs were performing
- 10 in the population of interest, not the least of which
- 11 is we get to understand the safety in what can be a
- 12 more sensitive patient population. So, that's one
- 13 thing. Let's combine the MAD and EBA.
- 14 There is no reason not to link the combination
- 15 and monotherapy parts of the EBA study, provided you
- 16 have the underlying preclinical toxicology to support
- 17 that. And one of the things that you could gain from
- 18 that is if you have a compound like bedaquiline that
- 19 doesn't have particularly strong activity in a 14-day
- 20 EBA, by then very quickly getting information of what
- 21 happens when you put it into a potential regimen can
- 22 really accelerate development.

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- And while we're on the topic, why stop there?
- 2 Why not combine option 1 and option 2, so that you use
- 3 patients in your MAD study and you go right into a
- 4 combination study.
- 5 And then, finally, once we have our hands on a
- 6 real-time biomarker, it would be fantastic if we could
- 7 do adaptive Phase 2/3 designs, where you take a number
- 8 of promising regimens into your Phase 2 part of the
- 9 study, very quickly identify which ones are potentially
- 10 better, and then carry out the full Phase 3 six-month
- 11 cure with those regimens.
- So, that's where we're thinking of going. I'm
- 13 hoping that we can have a nice panel discussion around
- 14 what sorts of nonclinical and other information you
- 15 would want to have in order to try some of these
- 16 options in the field.
- So, we mentioned the universal regimen. What
- 18 I've done here is basically summarized a lot of work
- 19 that was done with Chris John and the members of the
- 20 WHO task force to talk about what would be the regimen
- 21 profile. And here we're looking for shorter regimens.
- 22 I have six months there, but I think we'd all like to

1 see four months or less.

- 2 Simpler. One of the great notions behind the
- 3 universal, or pan-TB regimen, is that when a patient
- 4 walks into the clinic and receives a diagnosis of
- 5 tuberculosis, you could initiate therapy right then and
- 6 there. You don't need to know if they're rifampin-
- 7 sensitive or resistant to isoniazid, sensitive or
- 8 resistant, because the regimen won't contain any of the
- 9 compounds for which there is pre-existing resistance in
- 10 the population. We're hoping that the regimen will be
- 11 all-oral, so it's easier to take. Of course, we will
- 12 be considering, as they are developed, whether long-
- 13 acting injectables can play a role here. And, of
- 14 course, in order to help prevent cross-resistance of
- 15 compounds, it would be great to have fixed dose
- 16 combinations, where that is possible.
- 17 As far as safety, I know it's aspirational,
- 18 but we would like to have no laboratory or clinical
- 19 monitoring, because the reality in the field is that
- 20 even if the drugs are labeled for monitoring, it's not
- 21 getting done. And so, if you can build inherent safety
- 22 into the regimen by choosing the right individual

- 1 compounds, you should be able to address this. Again,
- 2 if we're going to be using FDCs, we can't have a lot of
- 3 dose adjustments, so we need to have compounds that
- 4 don't need to be weight-banded or don't have other
- 5 liabilities like that. And obviously, because of the
- 6 co-epidemics of HIV and diabetes, we have to be very
- 7 thoughtful about the potential DDI liabilities. And
- 8 all, of course, at affordable cost.
- 9 So, where is the chemical matter coming from
- 10 to build these fabulous new regimens? This is a page
- 11 from the Working Group for New Drugs that shows what is
- 12 currently in late-stage preclinical and through Phase
- 13 3. I've squared in red the compounds in which the
- 14 foundation is currently investing either through grants
- 15 to the TB Alliance or our work with Lausanne on PBTZ,
- 16 and we are in discussions currently with Otsuka about
- 17 supporting their work in this area.
- So, in summary, what are the challenges of
- 19 this brave new world that we're about to enter into?
- 20 We finally have a pipeline, which is very exciting but
- 21 is also very challenging. How do you choose the best
- 22 combinations of drugs out of this rich diversity? And

- 1 so, Debra Hanna will be telling us a little bit about
- 2 the work that is going on at CPTR to try to develop a
- 3 holistic view, bringing together the data from in
- 4 vitro, in vivo and clinical information to try to give
- 5 us some better sense of how to find the best
- 6 combinations. By looking at two-month data and
- 7 extrapolating to what might happen after six months of
- 8 treatment or even six months' follow-up, we do wind up
- 9 carrying a lot of risk into our Phase 3 studies, and I
- 10 think that that's something that the field needs to
- 11 think about. How can we better utilize data from 14-
- 12 day or two-month studies to help increase our
- 13 probability of success of cure?
- 14 I've said before, if we finally had a
- 15 treatment response biomarker what I couldn't do, and so
- 16 the field is looking at a variety of opportunities,
- 17 sputum and non-sputum assays, between Otsuka and CPTR
- 18 we're in the midst of trying to qualify a lamb sputum
- 19 assay. Cliff Barry and his group are doing a lot of
- 20 work with PET-CT imaging to see if that can be used as
- 21 an early indicator of activity, and there is a lot of
- 22 work going on in immune response markers, be they

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1 thanking the FDA for hosting this important workshop,

- 2 and for allowing a member of civil society such an
- 3 early slot on the agenda today. It's very appreciated.
- 4 It's not that common, and just one of the many examples
- 5 of how FDA's Office of Antimicrobial Products under Dr.
- 6 Cox's leadership really tries to meaningfully engage
- 7 with the community. So, I just wanted to acknowledge
- 8 that. And I wanted to thank all of you for being here,
- 9 because I think it's clear that even though we might
- 10 have some differences of opinions about the best way to
- 11 proceed, all of us really are trying to do better for
- 12 people who are affected by TB. And I think what we've
- 13 seen from the earlier presentations is that what's
- 14 really most important for patients is how we can get
- 15 safer, easier, and in the case of drug-resistant TB,
- 16 more effective treatment.
- So, why do we need new treatments? I think
- 18 Dr. LoBue and Dr. Bansbach presented it very nicely,
- 19 but here's another way of looking at it. This is from
- 20 an activist poster at the Union Conference in 2014.
- 21 It's just not good enough. We wouldn't accept these
- 22 kind of side effects in almost any other disease area,

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1 genetic or otherwise.

- 2 Two questions I'd like to leave you with, for
- 3 the panel to discuss later, and that is, we all know we
- 4 have to do regimen development. Resistance is real.
- 5 What kind of preclinical safety information do we
- 6 really need in order to study combinations in the7 clinic? Do we need to do nonclinical combination
- 8 safety studies? Are they really helpful or is
- 9 understanding the liabilities of each of the individual
- 10 components and knowing what to monitor for, when we get
- 11 to the clinic, sufficient? And, again, the continuing
- 12 question of how do we find the best regimens, and what
- 13 is best? Thank you. Ten million people waiting for
- 14 us.
- DR. LOBUE: Thank you. Our next speaker will
- 16 be Erica Lessem. Erica is director of TB-HIV at the
- 17 Treatment Action Group; an independent research and
- 18 policy think tank. Erica oversees TAG's activism for
- 19 research and access to improve tools and services to
- 20 prevent, diagnose and treat TB and TB-HIV. Thank you,
- 21 Erica.
- MS. LESSEM: Thank you. I'd like to start by

1 and we certainly shouldn't in TB, since we've been

- 2 treating it for so many decades.
- We have made a lot of progress in recent
- 4 years, but TB has been operating from a position of
- 5 scarcity, and that doesn't poise us well to do better.
- 6 And I think we need to really think about taking a more
- 7 bold approach and asking for more for patients, and
- 8 building that, really, into the research and regulatory
- 9 pathways. We all here are very well aware of the
- 10 critical funding gaps, and given the short time frame
- 11 for the talk today, I'll leave the questions of
- 12 investments for another day and just kind of focus on
- 13 the research and regulatory considerations that those
- 14 of us in the room can influence, and how we can best
- 15 employ the resources that we have.
- So, I think there are several overarching
- 17 questions that I and some of the other community groups
- 18 that we work with have been thinking about. I hope you
- 19 can see the text. I might have had some Mac-to-PC
- 20 conversion issues here. So, there are a lot of
- 21 questions. When is it -- when do we have enough
- 22 information to go into Phase 3? How can we balance the

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- 1 need for really wanting to accelerate research with
- 2 making sure we have all of our ducks in a row; to make
- 3 sure that we're being ethical in terms of moving
- 4 forward when we really know enough about safety and
- 5 efficacy to open up a trial and to start going for
- 6 regulatory approval? When, if ever, is it appropriate
- 7 to forego a control or to forego randomization? This
- 8 is a real problem in drug-resistant TB, as all of you
- 9 know, since we don't have a great, validated standard
- 10 of care.
- 11 How can trials generally be conducted
- 12 ethically in a way that we get information about a drug
- 13 or regimen while standards of care are changing? And
- 14 how can adopting new treatments that we have some
- 15 evidence, especially from kind of routine programmatic
- 16 use, and we want to do the best things for patients,
- 17 how can we balance that with being able to make sure we
- 18 can still collect enough data and not inhibiting data
- 19 collection?
- 20 How can we avoid perpetuating the current
- 21 state that we're in, where we're using drugs and
- 22 regimens because it's the best thing that we have, but

- 1 because TB has been the victim of decades of
- 2 underinvestment and we still don't have an optimal
- 3 standard of care for MDR-TB, that puts us in a
- 4 difficult position to say what the ideal trial design
- 5 should be.
- 6 And so, we have a lot of TB-specific issues,
- 7 but more broadly there is a climate of pushing for
- 8 increasing regulatory laxity from the 21st Century
- 9 Cures bill that was approved in the end of last year to
- 10 the Right to Try Movement, which is really pushing for
- 11 much earlier preapproval access. And some parties are
- 12 vilifying the important role that regulatory
- 13 authorities play and they are over-simplifying the
- 14 complex challenges of bringing a [product to market].
- 15 It's much easier to say, oh, it's the government that
- 16 is being too slow. Well, we know that that's not true.
- 17 And I think if these pushes are successful, we're
- 18 really in danger of being in a pre-FDA era, and that's
- 19 not going to be good for any of us, either for
- 20 patients, for the broader community, or even for the
- 21 sponsors, who would then really be on the hook for
- 22 this.

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- 1 we still don't have the complete evidence that we would
- 2 want to to support their safety and efficacy and
- 3 optimal use? And how can we balance the urgency of the
- 4 immediate access needs that we see for patients around
- 5 the world with the importance of really knowing the
- 6 full profiles of the drugs or regimens that we're
- 7 using?
- 8 And another thing that I want to ask, since
- 9 we're here at FDA is, how can FDA be empowered to hold
- 10 sponsors accountable for delivering on conditions of
- 11 approval? How can we better position FDA to really ask
- 12 for what's needed in this field? And I think it's
- 13 important to point out the broader regulatory climate
- 14 here.
- 15 There is a misconception, I think, among some
- 16 policymakers that patient groups only want faster
- 17 access to treatment, and that's not true. Patients
- 18 want access to safe and effective treatment that has
- 19 been studied. And TAG, where I work, was founded by
- 20 people with HIV, who really wanted more research and
- 21 more data to know whether the treatments that were
- 22 being given actually worked and were safe. And I think

- 1 In our experience, FDA has been highly
- 2 transparent and timely in its reviews. Already has a
- 3 lot of useful pathways for guaranteeing preapproval
- 4 access and for accelerated approval, and has several
- 5 incentives for drug development. So, that's why we
- 6 sent FDA a valentine last February. But since a lot of
- 7 us are really focused on TB, I just want to kind of
- 8 frame this in the bigger picture that TAG is really
- 9 concerned about, about jeopardizing the very strong and
- 10 transparent regulatory authority that we have here in
- 11 the US.
- So, going back kind of more specifically to
- 13 TB, some of the things that we've been thinking about
- 14 as a community are approaches to finding this balance
- 15 between getting the answers and moving trials
- 16 efficiently and having access in the meantime. So
- 17 a lot of these things need to be considered on a case-
- 18 by-case basis. But I think we're already learning a
- 19 lot from the experience that we've had in the past
- 20 decade or so of some revitalization of clinical

21 research for TB treatment.

So, just to point out a few of these kind of

- 1 options and things that we want you to think about and
- 2 I hope will solve all of this today. Seamless designs
- 3 would be -- are really useful, I think, for maximizing
- 4 efficiency. They allow the most advantageous arms to
- 5 move forward, but also really cut down on the delays
- 6 that might happen for having to go through regulatory
- 7 approval in multiple countries for multiple sites.
- 8 We're also very supportive of Phase 2c designs, to
- 9 gather more evidence about our regimen before moving to
- 10 Phase 3, as well as to validate endpoints. As we heard
- 11 from Cathy's talk, we really need some better endpoints
- 12 and biomarkers in TB.
- 13 And speaking of endpoints, I'd like to
- 14 encourage the group here to consider endpoints that
- 15 might be an alternative to kind of standard relapse-
- 16 free care, especially if we're thinking about pre-XDR,
- 17 XDR. It might be useful to think about adverse event-
- 18 free, relapse-free care as an outcome. That could help
- 19 reduce sample size as well as give a lot of information
- 20 that is very relevant to patients and providers, and we
- 21 could kind of build some of the safety considerations
- 22 into the outcome itself and allow for superiority
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- 1 studies to happen in that way even when a regimen is
- 2 not expected to increase efficacy. So, I'm just
- 3 thinking, if the regimen that is being studied in the
- 4 NIX trial, the BPaL regimen winds up continuing to look
- 5 as good as we're all hoping it does, then what's next?
- 6 That would potentially set a higher bar for efficacy.
- 7 We might not want to be focusing on increasing the
- 8 efficacy in terms of superiority, but certainly we
- 9 would want to reduce the linezolid toxicity. And so,
- 10 can we think of other endpoints that really capture
- 11 what's important to patients and to programs and to
- 12 providers in that?
- And thinking also about this, we have some
- 14 concerns that noninferiority studies may be setting the
- 15 bar too low in some cases, especially when margins
- 16 allow for potentially even worse performance than the
- 17 comparators. So, I think if we can think of innovative
- 18 endpoints, we might be able to think more about doing
- 19 superiority studies rather than noninferiority studies
- 20 for some conditions which really don't help us kind of
- 21 move the forward bar forward or raise the bar for
- 22 patients.

- 1 And then there's the question of a control,
- 2 and I didn't put bullets under this because it's really
- 3 hard to summarize. But I think the main point here is
- 4 we really want to move the field out of the dark that
- 5 we're in right now of not knowing how regimens perform
- 6 in clinical trial settings or compared to each other.
- 7 And we acknowledge the limitations of the existing
- 8 feasible controls for M/XDR TB particularly. But we
- 9 hope that if the regimens that are in development now
- 10 continue to perform well, we can have a new standard of
- 11 care that would set a higher bar for a control and can
- 12 obviate some of these questions.
- 13 And I just wanted to flag, too, with the
- 14 question of controls, because we've heard this as we
- 15 reviewed some protocols that a regulator might have
- 16 approved a study design. But I wanted to flag to you
- 17 that for studies proceeding without a comparator,
- 18 normative guidance can still be very challenging to
- 19 formulate, as can garnering community practitioner and
- 20 programmatic support.
- So, one question is the regulatory piece, but
- 22 that's not really the only approval that would need to

- 1 be in place to actually get regimens to patients. And
- 2 so, I would encourage everybody in the room to be
- 3 thinking about what does it really take to get a drug
- 4 or a regimen into bodies, and how can we set up for
- 5 research in a way that would have the most efficient
- 6 pathway to get there?
- 7 Something else to flag, and I see that we'll
- 8 discuss some of it later in the panel discussions, but
- 9 inclusion of vulnerable populations. There is
- 10 systematic exclusion of pregnant women and of
- 11 adolescents and children from research, and this is not
- 12 ethical and it's not scientifically sound.
- 13 There was a recent paper from community
- 14 representatives including my colleague, Lindsay McKenna
- 15 in CID, and I think this is a really powerful quote.
- 16 "In the absence of research, each pregnant woman
- 17 treated for TB becomes an individual experiment."
- 18 Pregnant women will get TB, people with TB will get
- 19 pregnant, and we need to know how drugs and regimens
- 20 will work in them. A lot of drugs could potentially be
- 21 safe in pregnant women, but there's a lot of fear
- 22 around including pregnant women in trials due to

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1 concerns about liability, getting insurance, getting

- 2 through ethics boards. Same for adolescents.
- 3 There is real consensus now that adolescents
- 4 metabolize drugs similarly to adults. There was a
- 5 consensus statement coming out of an NIH workshop
- 6 several years ago, that adolescents should be included
- 7 in later stage trials along with adults. And we also
- 8 need pediatrics-focused research, to make sure that in
- 9 children who do metabolize drugs differently or might 9 haven't been included in the research. So, we need
- 10 present disease differently that we know what the best 10 some additional research in a lot of special
- 11 regimens and drugs to use are in them and the best
- 12 dosing for doing so.
- 13 Unfortunately, there is what's intended to be
- 14 an incentive for developing orphan drugs actually
- 15 perversely disincentivizes research in children. There 15 for a lot of reasons they're excluded from clinical
- 16 is a regulation here in the US that drugs must be
- 17 studied in children, there must be a pediatric plan,
- 18 but the Orphan Drug Act actually allows an exemption 18
- 19 for that. So, in children with TB, who are probably
- 21 actually trying to incentivize drug development by
- 22 saying that you don't have to study TB in this

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- 1 population. And so, I think we really need to think of
- 2 regulatory solutions and legislative solutions to get
- 3 us out of that hole. And from TAG's perspective, the
- 4 default really should be to include pregnant women and
- 5 adolescents in research unless there is a rationale for
- 6 opting out. So, the current approach is opt-in, and
- 7 almost nobody is doing that. But I will give credit to
- 8 some of the studies, including from TBTC and ACTT, that
- 9 are trying to go down to age 12 or 15, in some cases.
- 10 But I think we need to reframe our thinking in that the
- 11 default must be to include these populations in
- 12 research unless there is a specific reason to take them
- 13 out, as well as to have a really robust pediatric
- 14 research plan in parallel to whatever is happening with
- 15 adults.
- 16 Another thing that would be really useful in
- 17 TB is a registry for pregnant women and seeing what
- 18 drugs they're on and note some of the outcomes. That
- 19 has been really helpful in the HIV field and it has
- 20 been expanded to hepatitis B as well. It would be
- 21 really useful to have this kind of registry in pregnant
- 22 women since it's unlikely that there would be enough

1 people to kind of have a separate clinical trial of a

- 2 certain product in pregnant women.
- 3 And then just to flag, there are other special
- 4 populations that are often excluded from studies
- 5 because we don't want to have the "noise" that might
- 6 detract from finding the efficacy and safety that we're
- 7 hoping to see in the broader population. But we see it
- 8 reflected a lot in the guidelines because people

- 11 populations, including people of advanced age. In a
- 12 lot of countries, the majority of TB is happening in
- 13 people who are over 65. We need people with very low
- 14 CD4 counts. They're at the highest risk of dying, but
- 16 trials, so we don't know really what the best options
- 17 for them are.

And then also people who use drugs or alcohol

- 19 or opioid substitution therapy, where there might be
- 20 one of the populations in most need of research, we're 20 extra concerns about toxicity and about drug
  - 21 interaction.
  - 22 So, there are a lot of issues to consider, and

- 1 just to note that we're here to help. TAG and the
- 2 community groups that we work with, in particular, the
- 3 Global TB Community Advisory Board and the Community
- 4 Research Advisors Group have a lot of experience
- 5 reviewing protocols and study concepts and are
- 6 available to do this for any sponsor that wants to
- 7 share with us, and we encourage everybody to do so.
- 8 And we've been able to review almost all of the late-
- 9 stage MDR-TB trials in the last six years. We haven't
- 10 been able to review the Otsuka protcols, but other than
- 11 that, I think it's been pretty much everything late in
- 12 the pipeline and most of the late-stage prevention and
- 13 drug-susceptible TB trials, pivotal ones that are
- 14 happening.
- 15 And there is a nice publication about -- or
- 16 presentation about what we've kind of found across
- 17 this, and it's just something to think about as you're
- 18 developing your research plans. But what can be
- 19 included upfront, more information about results
- 20 dissemination, plans for post-trial access. Again,
- 21 this issue of the control arm, what the composition of
- 22 it is, or whether it even exists. Using

- 1 nonstigmatizing language in study documents, so we
- 2 facilitate participation, and appropriate inclusion of
- 3 key affected populations, like I mentioned on the last
- 4 slide. So, feel free to email me if you want us to
- 5 take a look at anything you're working on. We'd be
- 6 very happy to.
- One more thing on kind of the R&D side is
- 8 thinking about what we need to do with some of these
- 9 older drugs that are being repurposed for TB, or maybe
- 10 have been used for a long time for TB but don't have an
- 11 official TB indication. And two that I think are on
- 12 our minds and probably a lot of yours are clofazimine
- 13 and linezolid. And we need to think about how to
- 14 balance, again, the urgent access needs for these drugs
- 15 that we have a lot of evidence from routine use work
- 16 quite well, but we don't have a lot of great evidence
- 17 from clinical trials in the case of clofazimine.
- 18 So, how can we ethically gather the data that
- 19 are still missing for optimal use of the drug when it's
- 20 now part of a standard of care? What would a control
- 21 look like if there was going to be one, and how can we
- 22 kind of ethically do that? And then how can we also
- - - Page 59
- 1 balance the urgent access needs? In the US, there has
- 2 to be an individual IND submitted for each patient who
- 3 wants to get clofazimine, and it's really unsustainable
- 4 and not feasible from a patient or provider
- 5 perspective. So, we know that the FDA is thinking
- 6 about these issues and we really encourage finding ways
- 7 to balance the immediate access needs with also still
- 8 finding ways forward for requiring some more data to
- 9 inform the optimal use.
- In kind of a different situation we have
- 11 linezolid, which is -- we do have some clinical trial
- 12 information about efficacy of the drug. We know it's
- 13 not optimal in terms of safety, but side effects can be
- 14 manageable and are certainly, in some cases, preferable
- 15 to going deaf or to dying from TB. But there is not a
- 16 clear regulatory pathway for the pediatric formulation,
- 17 and this is something that we really need to think
- 18 about is how we're disincentivizing future product
- 19 development, especially for populations, and can we
- 20 think of some kinds of flexibilities that might allow a
- 21 path forward to get new products, especially for the
- 22 populations in most need.

- Just looking into the access front,
- 2 preapproval access plans, as mentioned before, really
- 3 should be built into the research plan. There is a
- 4 movement in the US to try and push for what's called
- 5 the Right to Try, which is preapproval access as early
- 6 as Phase 1. We think that this could do a lot of harm
- 7 without addressing some of the barriers. In our
- 8 experience and I think data go to show that preapproval
- 9 access options under expanded access in the US are
- 10 really functional, they're working well. This is just
- 11 an excerpt from the paper that shows that nearly all
- 12 applications are accepted and very few wind up
- 13 affecting clinical holds or the product development
- 14 pathway. So, we're very happy with the expanded
- 15 pathway in the US and don't want to jeopardize the
- 16 stringency that FDA has right now.
- But we do think that preapproval access is 17
- 18 really important and globally that there needs to be a
- 19 lot more of it. It's important for patients who are in
- 20 urgent need and it also allows for more experience and
- 21 familiarity with the product. This isn't why it
- 22 exists, but it really helps programs gain more
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- 1 familiarity with a drug and gain some real-world use
- 2 with it, to then be able to roll out if the regimen
- 3 does wind up kind of being successful in trials and
- 4 approved.
- 5 So, one thing that we're thinking about is
- 6 there are several barriers to compassionate use or to
- 7 preapproval access, and can we find -- can we build
- 8 some kind of more unified platform and approach to this
- 9 where we manage some of the risk on the developer side?
- 10 Do we set more clear criteria for when it's appropriate
- 11 to start compassionate use, and also provide some more
- 12 support for getting through some of the importation and
- 13 regulatory hurdles. And helping countries harmonize
- 14 their approach to preapproval access to make it easier
- 15 on the sponsors, and also easier on providers and
- 16 patients so they don't have to individually apply to
- 17 each sponsor for potential access.
- 18 So, that is something to look out for. We'll
- 19 be putting out a concept note about that soon, and just
- 20 wanted to flag that. I think this is a really
- 21 important area where we want to maintain the current
- 22 levels of stringency in the US, but try to enable

- 1 access in other countries and also support sponsors to
- 2 provide access earlier and in a more efficient way.
- 3 On the access side, here in the US we also
- 4 have a lot of problems that are very related, price
- 5 hikes and drug shortages. And this is an example. The
- 6 top is a table. It's probably hard to read, but just
- 7 to show you that between 2011 and 2013, several TB
- 8 drugs were in shortage here in the US. At the same
- 9 time, a few years ago there was a huge price hike for
- 10 cycloserine that wound up being resolved, but it jumped
- 11 from \$480 for a month's supply to \$10,000. And these
- 12 are really two sides of the same coin, because we have
- 13 this low incidence paradox here. I think this is a
- 14 term coined by the CDC. But we're very vulnerable here
- 15 in the US because we have actually a relatively few
- 16 number of cases.
- So, it's not a particularly attractive market
- 18 when we're thinking about the active TB market. And
- 19 the underlying causes for both the drug shortages and
- 20 the price hikes are unaddressed, so we haven't seen one
- 21 of these in the past year or so. But we're always in
- 22 danger of this, and it's because it's very hard to

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- 1 attract and keep manufacturers invested in the US TB
- 2 market. It would be great if we could harmonize the
- 3 domestic drug supply with the global drug supply and
- 4 think of ways to do that. And I think it would address
- 5 what Dr. LoBue raised earlier, which is the wide
- 6 disparity in prices in the US and the global market.
- 7 But also, it could be really helpful to have a lot more
- 8 of the products in the global market kind of go through
- 9 the FDA review, especially now that WHO
- 10 prequalification fees are getting implemented. We
- 11 might want to have some of those products be registered
- 12 here with FDA, and they could also access the global
- 13 market through that stringent regulatory authority
- 14 approval.
- So, I think one thing I'd like to flag here is
- 16 that it would be great to have more support for the FDA
- 17 to be able to facilitate importation of global quality-
- 18 assured medicines to help harmonize the market and
- 19 create a more stable supply here so the US market can
- 20 kind of benefit from the bigger demand globally. Also,
- 21 it would be great if FDA could be more empowered to
- 22 enforce reporting of drug shortages and even to create

- 1 something like a list of essential medicines or a
- 2 formulary so that if there were a shortage or a supply
- 3 issue, there might be some recourse for either trying
- 4 to import a drug that was quality-assured from
- 5 elsewhere or really signaling to manufacturers that
- 6 these are priorities to invest in. And certainly, TB
- 7 as a communicable disease, I think products would
- 8 feature heavily on whatever list or formulary could be
- 9 developed.
- We have a lot more information about this. I
- 11 have the links at the bottom of the slide. But I
- 12 wanted to just end by trying to summarize as much as
- 13 possible the various issues here.
- 14 I'll close with remarks from Mark Harrington,
- 15 my boss, which was made up hearing about the
- 16 bedaquiline for its approval several years ago, and he
- 17 encouraged us to be bold and to make history, but to do
- 18 it stringently. And I think that this still holds true
- 19 today and really underpins the balance that we want to
- 20 see in access promoting innovation and providing
- 21 accountability for evidence.
- So, just to close, our regulatory and research

- 1 environments I think are really in jeopardy, and I
- 2 encourage all of you to take action as you are able to.
- 3 And TAG is creating a kind of list of how we can better
- 4 engage various partners, from researchers to clinicians
- 5 to policymakers. So, you can sign up on our website to
- 6 get kind of alerts about actions that you can take
- 7 either in your individual or organizational capacity.
- 8 And I've also included my email address, so anybody can
- 9 feel free to reach out with questions or comments, or
- 10 to have us review a protocol. Thank you.
- DR. FARLEY: Thanks very much, Erica. Our next
- 12 speaker is Eric Nuermberger from Johns Hopkins, where
- 13 he is a professor of medicine, and he's been primarily
- 14 engaged through his career in preclinical TB drug
- 15 development, research using both animal and in vitro
- 16 models. He has been a big part of the TB work at the
- 17 ACTG as well as a core science group of the CDC TB
- 18 Trials Consortium. So, thanks for being here.
- 19 DR. NUERMBERGER: Thank you. So, thanks very
- 20 much for the invitation to come and speak. It's always
- 21 a pleasure, and I think this is a very important reason
- 22 to be getting together and talking. So, at the risk of

- 1 beginning with a clichéd quote, I thought that in the
- 2 limited time that we have it would be reasonable, a
- 3 reasonable way to frame the comments and perspectives
- 4 that I'd like to add today. And this is, I think, too
- 5 often, in thinking about preclinical drug development,
- 6 we get caught up in how well a given model, whether in
- 7 vitro or in vivo, mimics a particular disease state in
- 8 tuberculosis patients, or mimics a particular
- 9 subpopulation of persisters, and think less about
- 10 whether the data that are being provided by the model
- 11 are useful in some way, and whether they have to be
- 12 useful in a comprehensive way or useful in a
- 13 complementary way. And so, I'd like to provide the
- 14 perspective that I think we are better served by
- 15 thinking about how models can be used in a
- 16 complementary to provide useful data.
- But that then introduces the idea that we also
- 18 need to know how to use these data effectively. And so
- 19 there is whether the model provides useful data and
- 20 whether we have useful ways of using the data that are
- 21 provided that really go into this question. And so,
- 22 these are a few things that I'd like to hit on some

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- 1 today.
- 2 So, I've been asked to talk about both in
- 3 vitro and in vivo models. And again I'm going to focus
- 4 on some of the models that are a bit further along the
- 5 path, if you will, in drug discovery and in
- 6 development, and talk really from an in vitro
- 7 perspective only about a model such as the in vitro
- 8 hollow fiber system model, which provides an
- 9 opportunity to expose the bacteria to dynamic or
- 10 fluctuating concentrations of drug over time, as I
- 11 think that that has a greatest degree of applicability
- 12 to the kinds of questions that we're talking about
- 13 today.
- 14 But these in vitro models, like the hollow
- 15 fiber system model, have a number of real advantages.
- 16 Most importantly you can expose the organism to drug
- 17 under very well controlled conditions. Manipulating
- 18 media conditions, manipulating the various populations
- 19 of bacteria susceptible in drug resistance, if you
- 20 would like, and a variety of other conditions.
- One can also obviously expose the organisms to
- 22 a wide range of drug doses and exposures that are

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- 1 untenable in in vitro systems and certainly untenable
- 2 in patients, altered dosing schedules for long
- 3 monotherapy, etc., etc. And there is the opportunity
- 4 to precisely measure the concentrations that the
- 5 organisms are being exposed to at the effective site of
- 6 infection, something that is challenging to do in in
- 7 vitro tuberculosis models.
- 8 And, lastly, one of the cardinal advantages is
- 9 the opportunity to serially sample the organisms from a
- 10 single cartridge, in the case of the hollow fiber
- 11 system, which lends a great deal of advantage in terms
- 12 of statistical analysis. So, of course, the downside
- 13 is that you don't have the opportunity to introduce the
- 14 influence of the host into this system, and so one can
- 15 manipulate the environment to try and create
- 16 nonreplicating organisms, or organisms that may be, you
- 17 think, are mimicking certain niches within the infected
- 18 host. But one can certainly not get the kind of
- 19 spatial alignment or arrangement of organisms inside of
- 20 lesions that are seen in the host, effects of the host
- 21 immune response on the organisms in the system, and
- 22 other aspects. So, one really has to go into in vitro

- 1 models to be able to incorporate that in a
- 2 comprehensive way and really look at that in a dynamic
- 3 system.
- 4 The other value, I think, of looking in in
- 5 vitro models is, of course, you have a mixture of
- 6 various subpopulations, if you will. Depending on how
- 7 the model is set up, those subpopulations may be
- 8 present in different proportions, and at least in some
- 9 of those cases you would hope that some of these
- 10 proportions are actively multiplying and nonmultiplying
- 11 and slowly multiplying and persisting and dormant are
- 12 present in some sort of clinically-relevant proportion.
- 13 So, that potential is there.
- 14 The cons, of course, are many of the things
- 15 that are advantages to the in vitro systems. There are
- 16 limitations to the schedule. It's often difficult to
- 17 mimic the human PK very precisely, and any given in
- 18 vitro model may not represent all of the various
- 19 disease presentations or lesions types that are found
- 20 in patients.
- So, I want to, rather than pitting these two
- 22 types of models against each other, of course, we want

- 1 to get to -- you know, emphasize that I think these are
- 2 models that should be used in a complementary fashion
- 3 that really amplifies their -- each unique advantages.
- 4 And so, we, in collaboration with Debra and
- 5 the team at the CPTR, embarked on a landscape analysis
- 6 of preclinical models. This is now maybe five years
- 7 ago, maybe more, and really tried to survey what was
- 8 out there in terms of preclinical models and what
- 9 evidence there was to support their utility in the drug
- 10 development process. And we quickly identified the
- 11 hollow fiber system as a system for which there had
- 12 been enough data and the right kinds of data, meaning
- 13 quantitative data that had been used to try and address
- 14 key PK/PD-related questions related to the development
- 15 of TB drugs that would make that model suitable for an
- 16 evidence-based analysis of its utility to inform key
- 17 drug development decisions. And, again, most of these
- 18 related to PK/PD-based decisions. And so, this work
- 19 was largely done with Tawanda Gumbo and his team and
- 20 facilitated by the folks at CPTR. Pulled together data
- 21 both sort of retrospective and prospective for this
- 22 hollow fiber system and eventually wound up presenting

- 1 to say there is not a great deal of combination data on 2 a variety of common issues. (Sounding of alarm.) Is
- 3 that an offensive statement?
- 4 DR. COX: Okay. So, we'll exit and we'll
- 5 reconvene, we hope, after this.
- 6 Welcome back, everybody.
- DR. NUERMBERGER: All right. Well, evidently
- 8 a hot topic, as someone said. So, I think we were in
- 9 the midst of talking about this hollow fiber model of
- 10 tuberculosis. And I think really the point that I
- 11 wanted to leave you with there is that this does appear
- 12 to be a promising model for sorting out PK/PD-related
- 13 questions. I think when it comes to regimen
- 14 development that obviously can inform dose
- 15 optimization, that can inform regimen selection to some
- 16 extent, then you may be able to down-select regimens in
- 17 which drugs don't appear to have a complementary or
- 18 additive effects, although that remains somewhat
- 19 preliminary. And so, it has real potential there. It
- 20 also has potential to limit the numbers of animal study
- 21 arms and doses and things that have to be tested and
- 22 then validated in in vivo situations. So, that's

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- 1 the data package here at FDA, also at EMA. And at EMA
- 2 this presentation ultimately ended in this
- 3 qualification opinion for the hollow fiber system. And
- 4 I present this only to say that, one, this is evidence
- 5 of one approach that can be done to take an evidence-
- 6 based approach to demonstrating the utility of a tool
- 7 that is not meant to be a be-all, end-all tool to tell
- 8 you what to do with a drug or a regimen, but to
- 9 complement decisions. To show that this has value in
- 10 informing regulatory submissions, there was, again, the
- 11 statement included a statement that this was qualified
- 12 for use in regulatory submissions. And provided some
- 13 core areas in which -- in core questions in which this
- 14 model could be used in this capacity, where it was
- 15 qualified for this purpose. Now, most of these relate
- 16 to, again, PK/PD decision points looking at individual
- 17 drugs, identifying PK/PD drivers and targets and
- 18 susceptibility breakpoints that then ought to be
- 19 verified in further studies.
- 20 And also, stated here is the ability to
- 21 provide proof of -- preliminary proof of concept for
- 22 developing a specific drug or combinations. Suffice it

- 1 another aspect, I think, of the potential
- 2 complementarity of this model.
- 3 There remain some important questions that
- 4 have to be addressed, and I think this is still a model
- 5 that has been used largely at two research
- 6 laboratories. There are important questions about
- 7 reproducibility, about transferability or
- 8 transportability of the model to other sites. It is
- 9 important to note that this model has been in use for
- 10 other infectious organisms and used very effectively in
- 11 the pharmaceutical industry. And so, it's not that
- 12 there's not a wide range of experience in use of
- 13 systems like this, but with respect to TB and some of
- 14 the unique challenges with TB, the experience is
- 15 relatively limited. Now, that is being addressed in
- some ongoing programs that I think Debra will probably
- 17 want to talk about further.
- 18 I think another key question, especially as we
- 19 think about bedaquilines and the clofazimines of the
- 20 world, drugs that have very high protein binding, are
- 21 very lipophilic, distribute very differently through
- 22 different tissues. One really important question is

- 1 how do you begin to estimate the drug exposures at the
- 2 site of infection that you should be simulating in
- 3 systems like this. And I think the experience for
- 4 those types of drugs is very limited to date, and these
- 5 are important questions.
- 6 Predictive accuracy as well. Getting into the
- 7 regimen questions, there are novel regimens now being
- 8 studied in these systems to try and address, again,
- 9 questions about their ability to rank order, the
- 10 efficacy of novel regimens in comparison to standard of
- 11 care. And even to begin to think about estimates of
- 12 treatment duration that may come from such studies, but
- 13 to date I think this process is early.
- 14 And, lastly, the way to different actively
- 15 growing and persister subpopulations are modeled and
- 16 these systems are indistinct, experiments in distinct
- 17 cartridges, and so how do you begin to merge the data
- 18 coming from those different populations into a
- 19 synthetic whole that is predictive of overall drug
- 20 efficacy in a patient?
- 21 And this model, in addition to being qualified
- 22 by EMA, also was endorsed by FDA in a nice editorial

- 1 primary endpoints that are looked at are lung CFU
- 2 counts over time at different time points. Resistant
- 3 subpopulations can be quantified as well during that
- 4 time by plating on drug-containing agar. And then
- 5 because we often with many regimens, we'll get to a
- 6 point in time where we're not able to cultivate any
- o point in time where we're not usic to cultivate uny
- 7 organisms from the lung at the time the treatment ends,
- 8 but yet holding mice for additional periods of three or
- 9 six months will eventually result in resumed culture-
- 10 positive status. We put a lot of stock in this
- 11 assessment of relapse-free cure. So, holding mice
- 12 after different durations of treatment for an
- 13 additional three to six months without treatment to
- 14 assess whether they remain culture-negative when we
- 15 grind up the entire lung and plate it in its entirety
- 16 on the organ. So, this obviously has some similarities
- 17 to the kind of Phase 3 relapse assessments that are
- 18 done for novel regimens that lend some extra interest
- 19 in this endpoint. But it also accommodates some of the
- 20 issues pertaining to drug persistence in the lungs at
- 21 the time the treatment ends. And as we've observed
- 22 with clofazimine and bedaquiline, drug activity can

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- 1 that accompanied the papers describing the
- 2 qualification approach. But despite the promise of the
- 3 model, of course, there is, again, this emphasis that
- 4 this model could not be expected to be used in
- 5 isolation certainly at this point in its development.
- 6 And there will probably always be reasons that the
- 7 hypotheses generated in this model need to be validated
- 8 in in vivo systems.
- 9 And so, the in vivo systems that have been
- 10 used most extensively and thoroughly in these
- 11 preclinical studies, especially in recent decades, have
- 12 been murine models of tuberculosis. I'm presenting
- 13 here sort of a general schematic to make sure we're all
- 14 on the same page about some of the readouts that are
- 15 generally look at here. So, this describes an
- 16 experimental setup that we tend to use in our
- 17 combination development program that we collaborate on
- 18 with the TB Alliance.
- So, mice are infected by an aerosol route and
- 20 at day zero they start with a very large bacterial
- 21 population bordering on 10 to the 8th, or sometimes
- 22 exceeding 10 to the 8th organisms in the lung. And the

- 1 continue beyond the end of treatment and could lead to
- 2 additional cure that happens despite the fact that the
- 3 mice are not still being treated on a daily basis.
- 4 Now, this also, being able to stop the
- 5 treatment at various time points and look at cure
- 6 allows for an opportunity to ask what is the effect
- 7 size of a novel regimen? What is the treatment
- 8 shortening potential if you compare it to the standard
- 9 of care, which is typically a five- or six-month cure
- 10 in these? How much shorter can you go with a novel
- 11 regimen without resulting in excessive numbers of
- 12 relapses, or higher numbers of relapses?
- So, the way that this model is often used in
- 14 the context of drug development -- again, this is drawn
- 15 largely from our experience with the TB Alliance, is to
- 16 derive or confirm PK/PD relationships that help to
- 17 select the optimal dose of component drugs, to rank
- 18 order, drug -- novel drug combinations in terms of
- 19 efficacy. And this is often initially done on the
- 20 basis of serial CFU counts from the lungs, but
- 21 eventually for selected regimens on the basis of22 treatment-shortening potential relative to standard of

- 1 care; to estimate the treatment-shortening potential in
- 2 the way that I just mentioned.
- 3 And then more recently now, efforts to
- 4 incorporate this so-called Kramnik mouse strain that
- 5 I'll talk about in a moment, to try and assess the
- 6 impact of caseous pathology on the efficacy of drugs
- 7 and regimens. And the implication here, the BALB/c
- 8 mice and other mice that have been traditionally used
- 9 in this capacity, don't develop caseating necrotic
- 10 lesions that better resemble caseating lesions in TB
- 11 patients. And so there has always been some concern
- 12 that the intracellular bacterial populations in these
- 13 mouse lesions and these lesions themselves likely don't
- 14 fully represent the bacterial phenotypes present in
- 15 caseating lesions, likely don't represent the need for
- 16 drugs to distribute through the caseous portions of
- 17 lesions to reach extracellular bacilli in that space.
- 18 And so, we'll speak some more to this in a moment.
- And then, again, something that has not had as
- 20 much prominence as I think it perhaps should is the use
- 21 of experimental systems like this, if we're really
- 22 seeking to develop novel regimens, I don't think we
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- 1 should be complacent that simply putting three or four
- 2 drugs together is -- of uncertain efficacy is going to
- 3 automatically result in restriction of drug-resistant
- 4 mutant selection. And I think there are key questions
- 5 for novel regimens related to how stringently they will
- 6 suppress the emergence of resistance. That really
- 7 ought to be explored in preclinical models.
- 8 So, I don't want to spend a lot of time, but I
- 9 think, again, to get back to this idea of what is the
- 10 evidence base and how can we demonstrate utility of the
- 11 models? And certainly, the best case for the mouse
- 12 model was made by the fact that there were -- it was
- 13 studies in the mouse model that really first
- 14 demonstrated the treatment-shortening potential of
- 15 rifampin and pyrazinamide, the only two drugs that we
- 16 recognize at this point to be clinically validated
- 17 treatment-shortening drugs. And on the flip side,
- 18 every other drug that has been in existence up until
- 19 the last decade or so does not have that treatment-
- 20 shortening potential in mouse models or in clinical
- 21 trials, as far as we know.
- Now, in addition, there have been a number of

- 1 age
- 2 with some basis, evidence base in these high-dose
- 3 aerosol BALB/c mouse models. I think the one that has

1 more novel regimens that have progressed to the clinic

- 4 obviously attracted most attention is the substitution
- 5 of moxifloxacin into the standard of care, because
- 6 that's a regimen for which there are now Phase 3 data.
- 7 And certainly, a lot has been said about whether the
- 8 mouse or early clinical endpoints predicted the
- 9 outcomes of this Phase 3 trial or not. But an exercise
- 10 that we've gone through for this regimen and are now
- 11 going through for other regimens that are either in or
- 12 moving through clinical trials is to go back and
- 13 aggregate the mouse data, to really look as carefully
- 14 as we can at the treatment shortening effect that was
- 15 demonstrated in mouse studies, and to try and relate
- 16 that to clinical observations. And I think as we'll
- 17 hear again more later, this is an ongoing project that
- 18 is supported by the CPTR program, the PCS working group
- 19 of that.
- 20 And so, I'm just showing you here in this
- 21 table an example where there are novel regimens that
- 22 are either in or planning to progress to Phase 3.
  - Page 81
- 1 We'll have relapse endpoints and have been subjected to
- 2 this analysis where there have been at least two
- 3 relapse studies that have been examined. And so, one
- 4 looks, and when you really aggregate these data for the
- 5 REMox regimens, there is not a compelling case for a
- 6 two-month, an absolute two-month shortening effect of
- 7 the moxifloxacin in the mice. And in that sense these
- 8 data are not inconsistent with what was observed
- 9 clinically in these trials.
- And, indeed, there are, as has been alluded
- 11 to, some emerging data with a BPaL regimen, which do
- 12 support this thus far. Very preliminarily, of course,
- 13 as a six-month regimen that is effective within a six-
- 14 month time frame. And so, relative to RHC, that's been
- 15 an effect comparable to what was seen in these mouse
- 16 studies.
- 17 So, the real game-changer in the mouse studies
- 18 has been the combinations that include bedaquiline and
- 19 pyrazinamide. And those comprise a component of
- 20 regimens that we don't really have -- won't have
- 21 relapse data for soon, but will, again, provide an
- 22 important test for the mouse model as we expand the

- 1 number of regimens for which we can reflect on, on the
- 2 relationship between treatment-shortening effects in
- 3 mice and treatment-shortening effects in patients.
- 4 One aspect, obviously, again, in these
- 5 preclinical models is the opportunity to deconstruct
- 6 regimens and to look at the contribution of component
- 7 drugs. I'm showing here as an example from the, again,
- 8 work we've done with the TB Alliance, looking at
- 9 bedaquiline, pretomanid, moxi and PZA as a four-drug
- 10 regimen here in blue. And then looking at each of the
- 11 three drug components and asking does every drug
- 12 contribute to the activity of this regimen? And so,
- 13 one can see here the four-month -- I'm sorry, the four-
- 14 drug regimen is here and it's actually overlapping in
- 15 CFU counts with the same combination but minus
- 16 moxifloxacin. So, in this particular experiment,
- 17 moxifloxacin really didn't contribute much in the way
- 18 of bactericidal effect. But when one looks at the
- 19 relapse rates, there was a significantly lower relapse
- 20 rate after 1.5 months of treatment with this regimen if
- 21 moxifloxacin was in the regimen. And in subsequent
- 22 experiments we've seen a small effect on CFU counts as
  - Page 83
- 1 well as reproduced this sterilizing effect.
- 2 And so, one can do these kinds of experiments
- 3 and ask not only does each drug contribute, so there is
- 4 evidence presented here that each drug does contribute
- 5 to that combination, although the contribution of
- 6 pretomanid is not shown here. That's been shown in a
- 7 different study. One can also gauge the level or the
- 8 extent to which that drug contributes and see which
- 9 drugs tend to anchor the activity of the regimen based
- 10 on the effect of removing that drug from the regimen.
- Obviously, one can also look at the impact of
- 12 drugs on prevention or killing of spontaneously
- 13 resistant -- drug-resistant mutants that are present at
- 14 the beginning of treatment, and also look at different
- 15 durations of treatment for different components of the
- 16 drugs. And just allows a lot of flexibility that
- 17 really can't be done for very long periods in patients.
- So, I've already alluded to one, I think, of
- 19 the key challenges in trying to translate data from
- 20 these traditional so-called sterilizing mouse models to
- 21 human trials, and that is the issue of the caseous
- 22 lesion. And here, as opposed to what is seen in BALB/c

- 1 mice as the predominant lesion, it's a non-necrotizing
- 2 lesion in which the pink acid-fast bacilli are found
- 3 here inside of cells virtually uniformly. Inside of
- 4 cells where they are still pretty well linked to a
- 5 blood supply is only part of the story in the Kramnik
- 6 mice, in humans, and lots of other larger mammalian 7 species.
- 8 So, in these caseating granulomas, which are
- 9 really the hallmark of adult tuberculosis, one finds
- 10 not only these cellular populations around the rim of
- 11 these caseating lesions, but also extracellular
- 12 populations inside the caseum, whether it's a closed
- 13 lesion or an open lesion or cavitary lesion where the
- 14 caseum has largely been expectorated and there is just
- 15 a thin rim of caseum surrounding. And it's in these
- 16 environments where there is less impact of the host
- 17 immune response, the organisms are felt to be more
- 18 likely to be actively replicating. Organisms are also
- 19 extracellular as opposed to intracellular, and so this
- 20 may have a variety of effects on drug effect. And that
- 21 may pertain to differences in Mtb growth rate; that may
- 22 pertain to intracellular or extracellular residence and
  - Page 85
- 1 drug distribution either into cells or into the caseum,
- 2 where the extracellular organisms are, as well as
- 3 different aspects of the lesion microenvironment. So,
- 4 the areas of these caseating lesions tend to be more
- 5 hypoxic. In the case of the Kramnik mouse are
- 6 relatively neutral in pH as opposed to the acidic
- 7 compartments inside the cells of activated macrophages.
- 8 And these may all have important effects on the readout
- 9 of drug efficacy in animal models.
- And so, we've been -- we and others have been
- 11 pursuing studies to try and better understand how well
- 12 these Kramnik mice may contribute information to drug
- 13 and regimen development. And what stands out already
- 13 and regimen development. This what stands out aircad
- 14 are several examples where drug activity is represented
- 15 differently in these Kramnik mice as opposed to BALB/c
- 16 mice.
- 17 And one case in point is pyrazinamide, a drug
- 18 that appears to have limited bactericidal effect within
- 19 mice, Kramnik mice that have large caseating lesions,
- 20 where again the caseum has been shown to have a
- 21 relatively neutral pH and is thought to be, then,
- 22 conducive to PZA activity, which requires more acidic

- 1 pH. And this is not to invalidate the model, because
- 2 we do know that PZA works on some subset of organisms
- 3 within these mice. Because PZA is capable of
- 4 shortening the treatment duration when it's added to a
- 5 first-line drug combination in this strain of mice.
- 6 And so, looking at monotherapy over four weeks in mice
- 7 with large caseous lesions is not the only way to look
- 8 at the contribution of a drug to a regimen. And so,
- 9 longer studies of drugs in combination may be necessary
- 10 to better reveal the drug's effect against the
- 11 important subpopulations within a heterogeneously-
- 12 involved lung.
- So, clofazimine is another example of a drug
- 14 that as the monotherapy over four to eight weeks
- 15 doesn't show very pronounced bactericidal effect in
- 16 Kramnik mice, and very much in contrast to its efficacy
- 17 over the same time frame in BALB/c mice. And there may
- 18 be a number of issues here. The drug does not
- 19 distribute well into caseous lesions. It accumulates
- 20 to a great extent inside cells but doesn't distribute
- 21 well through caseum, and so that may be one reason that
- 22 it's being overly represented in terms of activity in
- Page 87
- 1 BALB/c mice and perhaps underrepresented in Kramnik
- 2 mice. But there are also issues with respect to a
- 3 neutral pH, which may affect clofazimine activity
- 4 adversely, and hypoxia, which may also to some extent
- 5 compromise the activity if clofazimine.
- 6 And bedaquiline may be in a similar can to the
- 7 extent that it also does not appear to, again, because
- 8 of physical chemical characteristics, to diffuse quite
- 9 as well through caseous lesions as some of the other
- 10 drugs that we use. Although the diminishment of its
- 11 activity seems to be less pronounced than that of
- 12 pyrazinamide or clofazimine.
- So, this also, this argument about using
- 14 caseous disease models for drug development has been
- 15 certainly part of the rationale for looking at larger
- 16 animal models in the context of drug development.
- 17 Guinea pigs, rabbits, nonhuman primates all develop
- 18 these caseating lesions. And so, what I have here is
- 19 not meant to in any way disparage these models. I
- 20 think these models certainly could have substantial
- 21 utility. You know, one of the most prominent issues,
- 22 of course, is the cost and the amount of resources that

- 1 have to go into studying these. But if we want to ask
- 2 is there an evidence base on which to support the use
- 3 of these models for regimen development, then that
- 4 evidence base at this point is modest. And this is an
- 5 admittedly somewhat cursory look at the literature, but
- 6 the amount of evidence that would support their use is
- 7 extremely limited.
- 8 Now, again, thinking about complementarity of
- 9 models, how well could we use PK/PD-based approaches to
- 10 understand the impact of caseous disease and think
- 11 about how to integrate that with BALB/c mouse models,
- 12 for example? There certainly are some very important
- 13 tools, I think, being generated by Veronique Dartois
- 14 and her group at Rutgers. I think many of you are
- 15 familiar with these techniques. This MALDI-MSI
- 16 technique, which provides semi-quantitative assessment
- 17 of drug concentrations that yield these heat maps. So,
- 18 these are maps rendered over TB lesions, caseating
- 19 lesions here, and the heat map, the red is a higher
- 20 drug concentration, the blue is a lower drug
- 21 concentration. And what's encircled here are the
- 22 caseous parts of the lesions. These studies are always
  - Page 89
- 1 done with the neck section going for histopathology.
- 2 And so, one can really try to orient now drug exposure
- 3 with the lesion. And they are also paired with in
- 4 vitro macrophage uptake studies. And so, one sees with
- 5 this panel of drugs that were assessed here, very
- 6 pronounced differences in how they distribute through
- 7 lesions. Some that distribute -- the smaller
- 8 hydrophilic compounds tend to distribute very well
- 9 through the caseum, and as they do in the cells lining
- 10 the caseum, whereas, as you go down the list and
- 11 molecules become more lipophilic, they tend to
- 11 morecules become more inpopulate, they tend to
- 12 accumulate in the cellular regions around the lesions13 but not to diffuse as well into the caseum. And so,
- To but not to unituse as wen into the easeain. This se
- 14 one could certainly imagine that these may have
- 15 important effects on drug exposure and efficacy in
- 16 these caseous lesions.
- But these are semi-quantitative assessments,
- 18 and what would be much more valuable is to have real
- 19 quantitative assessments. And her group has now
- 20 published on an even more exciting tool, I think, that
- 21 couple's laser capture or microdissection and
- 22 dissecting out small portions in various places on this

- 1 lesion section and quantifying drug concentrations by
- 2 LC-MS. And so, one is now getting absolute
- 3 quantification from various sections of the TB lesions
- 4 that would allow a more precise and geographically
- 5 relevant estimation of drug exposures at the site of
- 6 infection.
- Now, there are a number of other issues that
- 8 come up in terms of translating preclinical data to
- 9 clinical data, not the least of which is interspecies
- 10 differences in drug PK. But, of course, many of these
- 11 studies are done in inbred mice with a single
- 12 laboratory TB strain, a single aerosol dose, and very
- 13 limited, if not single range of drug doses. And so,
- 14 when you think about the vast heterogeneity in human
- 15 populations and TB patients, how could we really expect
- 16 that any one of these experiments would map directly
- 17 onto patient treatment? So, how do we begin to account
- 18 for PK variability in patients over population? So,
- 19 very different levels of severity of disease, different
- 20 degrees of immune status, different degrees of
- 21 adherence to treatment, and then various distributions
- 22 of drug susceptibility among TB populations that are

- 1 case from a clinical trial study, 2929X, about the 2 impact of cavitary disease on the dose or exposure
- 3 response relationship defining rifapentine's efficacy
- 4 and incorporated that into the model. As well as study
- 5 data from Veronique's study showing that rifampin can
- 6 be retained and concentrated in caseum with repeated
- 7 dosing.
- 8 And so, then we performed some clinical trial
- 9 simulations to look at sputum culture status to
- 10 estimate or predict sputum culture status at eight
- 11 weeks and relapse status after one year of treatment
- 12 for regimens that had gone on and been studied in the
- 13 clinic. And so, again, it's a very preliminary, sort
- 14 of first iteration of this type of model that is really
- 15 just based on the rifamycins and moxifloxacin, but
- 16 shown with -- you know, in the bars here are the
- 17 simulated 95% confidence intervals for the predicted
- 18 relapse-free, proportion of relapse-free patients. And
- 19 then in green are the point estimates from the clinical
- 20 trials.
- 21 And so, this was the four-month regimen
- 22 replacing ethambutol with moxifloxacin, where we

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- 1 bound out in the world.
- And so, for a number of these I really think
- 3 to really try and make the most confident or predictive
- 4 translation from preclinical to clinical systems, we
- 5 really need a quantitative PK/PD-based translational
- 6 mathematical model to help translate results. And
- 7 we've, in collaboration with Rada Savic and her team at
- 8 UCSF have started down this path to try and build a
- 9 model that relies on mouse PK and efficacy data perhaps
- 10 informed by early PK data from humans to try and make
- 11 predictions, develop models that can then simulate
- 12 clinical trials to better inform a regimen's potential
- 13 for treatment shortening. And so, this early iteration
- 14 of the model includes PK data and PD data in terms of
- 15 CFU counts from the mice. So, again dispensing with
- 16 relapse in this particular setup. Human PK data that
- 17 includes things like food effect that is known in the
- 18 case of rifapentine and rifamycin, moxifloxacin drug-
- 19 drug interaction. We derived an immune effect
- 20 parameter that was based on comparisons of
- 22 took some information that had been learned in this

1 somewhat underpredicted the activity of the regimen but

- 2 was still pretty close. And then again from the
- 3 RIFAQUIN study, the four-month arm that had a twice-
- 4 weekly rifapentine continuation phase regimen and a
- 5 six-month once weekly rifapentine/moxi-containing
- 6 regimen. And, again, some underestimation of the
- 7 activity of the regimens, but in both cases identified
- 8 the four-month regimens as potentially less effective
- 9 than the standard of care. Have also looked at the
- 10 PanACEA trial data with increasing rifamycin exposures.
- 11 So, in our view, for first go, this model
- 12 performed quite well. This is now in press. We're
- 13 really trying to improve on this by incorporating
- 14 individual PK/PD relationships for all the drugs in the
- 15 regimen, as well as interrelationships. We have also
- 16 simulated Study 31 and some other upcoming studies, but
- 17 we are now I think in collaboration with the Alliance,
- 18 hoping to move into some of the more novel regimens
- 19 containing bedaquiline and pretomanid and to use a
- 20 similar approach. And our ultimate goal is to try and
- 21 immunocompromised nude mice and BALB/c mice. And w21 merge this with some more mechanistic models that Rada
  - 22 has been working on to try and develop a really more

- 1 unified modeling platform in which, again, mouse and
- 2 maybe early human PK data, as well as some patient
- 3 clinical characteristics could be built in to try and
- 4 better predict regimen efficacy.
- 5 I'm just going to skip over this in the
- 6 interest of time. So, I think with respect to these --
- 7 the take-home points, the emphasis is that models that
- 8 we have available today, I think, have complementary
- 9 roles to play. The in vitro hollow fiber system,
- 10 although there is still work to be done, especially
- 11 with respect to evaluating drug regimens, I think has
- 12 real potential in the PK/PD space, in dose
- 13 optimization, and even potentially minimizing the
- 14 number of animals that need to be studied in
- 15 preclinical studies.
- 16 The mouse models do have an established track
- 17 record, admittedly, though, with a very limited number
- 18 of drugs and regimens, and there is really an important
- 19 opportunity here with the newer drugs that are being
- 20 studied in newer regimens. There are, I think,
- 21 important variables that may impact the way that models
- 22 like the BALB/c mouse model predict human trials. And
  - Page 95
- 1 I think this is, again, especially important for drugs
- 2 that may partition very differently into caseous
- 3 lesions, the clofazimines, bedaquilines of the world,
- 4 in particular.
- 5 And then just to emphasize this role, I think,
- 6 for a more integrated platform in which we can further
- 7 enhance our predictions using quantitative mathematical
- 8 models. So, with that I'll stop. I've got a lot of
- 9 people to thank, lots of collaborators and funders over
- 10 the years, and appreciate the opportunity.
- DR. FARLEY: Thanks very much. We apologize
- 12 for the interruption earlier. We're going to take a
- 13 15-minute break at this point and remind you that this
- 14 could be an opportunity for you to order lunch at the
- 15 window. We are going to keep to time, meaning that
- 16 we're planning on having lunch at about 12:35, and
- 17 we're going to take the talks in the order of the
- 18 program. So, we'll start with Chuck right after the
- 19 break. So, if we could ask everybody to come back
- 20 right at 11:05. Thanks.
- 21 [Break]
- 22 DR. LOBUE: I'd like to introduce Chuck

- 1 Peloquin, who is the professor of pharmacy and medicine
- 2 at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where the
- 3 University of Florida Infectious Disease
- 4 Pharmacokinetics Laboratory is located. Dr. Peloquin
- 5 and his lab are part of the University of Florida
- 6 Emerging Pathogens Institute. His laboratory serves as
- 7 a national reference center for the determination of
- 8 serum concentrations for antimicrobial, antifungal,
- 9 anti-HIV drugs, as well as beta-lactams and linezolid.
- 10 Dr. Peloquin?
- 11 DR. PELOQUIN: Thank you for this opportunity
- 12 to speak, and if Dr. Nuermberger can cause a fire
- 13 alarm, who knows what I can cause. Is there a fault
- 14 line near the building? Just asking. Now, I don't
- 15 have any industry conflicts of interest to disclose.
- 16 My laboratory, as mentioned, does do some therapeutic
- 17 drug monitoring. The laboratory is not-for-profit and
- 18 the clinical laboratory does not pay my salary.
- 19 So, I'm going to spend a minute on this slide,
- 20 because I think it's essential and it speaks to
- 21 everything that will follow. And I'm rapidly
- 22 approaching 30 years as a tuberculosis clinician and a
  - Page 97
- 1 tuberculosis researcher, and I'm impressed in the
- 2 meetings that I've gone to and presented at that
- 3 clinicians generally do not think in these terms. They
- 4 generally don't think about what's happening to the
- 5 drug after it's swallowed. They're interested in
- 6 making a diagnosis and in giving the dose, right? But
- 7 if we stop and think about it, the drug has to be
- 8 absorbed from -- it dissolves in the stomach, it goes
- 9 through the intestines, into the liver, from there to
- 10 the right side of the heart, to the lungs, back to the
- 11 left side of the heart, and then throughout the entire
- 12 body. And then you have a gradient of distributions  $\phi f$
- 13 drug. Some of the drug reaches where the TB lesions
- 14 are, some of the drug from that portion gets to the
- 15 bugs. Some of that portion gets into the bugs, and in
- 16 a small fraction still actually binds to the target,
- 17 typically a protein inside of the organism, and causes
- 18 its effect. So, from the pharmacological standpoint,
- 19 giving the dose is really just the kickoff of the
- 20 football game and then things happen. All of what I
- 21 just described are the pharmacokinetics of the drug, so
- 22 if you don't have good PK, you don't get good

- 1 pharmacodynamics, or PD.
- 2 So, where are we now? I'll spend a few
- 3 minutes talking about the RIPE -- rifampin, isoniazid,
- 4 pyrazinamide and ethambutol regimen. So, a lot of
- 5 clinicians think in terms of, well, I thought we just
- 6 gave the dose. And the dose implies that every patient
- 7 is the patient, in other words, they're clonal. And
- 8 while in a mouse model they're inbred, typically humans
- 9 are outbred, and therefore there is no average Joe.
- 10 There is a wide variety that you're going to have to
- 11 deal with, and all of the clinical trials clearly show
- 12 a lot of inter-individual variability in the PK. So,
- 13 why do we keep giving the dose? Well, it's tradition,
- 14 right? Some of you are old enough to remember the
- 15 Talking Heads and "same as it ever was."
- So, here's June's issue of Pharmacotherapy,
- 17 and there is an article on Personalized Medicine in the
- 18 Management of Diabetes. There is another article on
- 19 Driving Towards Precision Medicine -- the other term
- 20 for that -- in Leukemias: Are we there yet? As there
- 21 is an expectation that we're somehow late and we should
- 22 be further along. Meanwhile, we have standardized
  - Page 99
- 1 doses of the TB drugs. So, always remember that you
- 2 are unique, just like everybody else.
- 3 So, here's the regimen developed in the 1970s
- 4 by the British Medical Research Council, and we have a
- 5 fixed dose of rifampin at 600 mg, which Denny Mitchison
- 6 called the minimally effective dose of rifampin. We
- 7 have a fixed dose if isoniazid at 300, and they looked
- 8 at these milligram-per-kilogram doses for pyrazinamide
- 9 at 35 and ethambutol at 25 mg/kg. So, this is the
- 10 regimen they gave us the idea that we have a six-month
- 11 regimen that is 95% effective. But the way we actually
- 12 do it today, if you have someone who is my size -- yes,
- 13 I weigh 80 kilograms, but I don't consider myself a
- 14 giant person. I'm fairly typical for an American male.
- 15 So, we're actually giving me 60% of the drug exposure
- 16 that was given in the clinical trial. And likewise,
- 17 we're giving me 60% of the drug exposure for isoniazid
- 18 in those clinical trials. And arbitrarily in the US
- 19 we've dropped the dose of PZA down to 20 to 25 mg/kg,
- 20 and ethambutol to 15 mg/kg. So, all of these drugs
- 21 show concentration-dependent killing. More drug, more
- 22 killing. If you cut their doses by 40%, you're going

- 1 to get approximately 40% less killing.
- 2 So, if your patient happens to be this size
- 3 compared to what was originally studied, you've given
- 4 the full dose. But if your patients are my size,
- 5 you're really giving a lot less drug than that. Or, if
- 6 you like other pictures, if your patient looks like a
- 7 Mini Cooper, you've probably filled them up; but if
- 8 your patient looks like a Chevy Avalanche, you have not
- 9 filled them up with enough drug to get the kinds of
- 10 effects that were shown in those studies.
- But here is the number one reason why people
- 12 don't like to change. They say TB treatment is only
- 13 six months long and it's 95% effective. Now, this is
- 14 TB dogma. If you look at a review article or a chapter
- 15 in a book, you're going to see this, and it is true
- 16 that the British Medical Research Council showed using
- 17 per protocol analyses that you could get those kind of
- 18 responses. However, if you look at those papers, the
- 19 numbers vary from paper-to-paper, but on average about
- 20 10% of the patients evaluated were not included into
- 21 the study, and another 10%, approximately, dropped out
- 22 during the study. So, they really analyzed about 80%
  - Page 101
- 1 of the original people that they were looking at, which
- 2 is still really good. Most clinical trials today have
- 3 lower capture rates. But you might expect 76% efficacy
- 4 in your clinic at six months, if this map is correct,
- 5 right? That's wrong.
- 6 So, every year the CDC compiles the data from
- 7 across the United States and they analyze it, and of
- 8 course it takes a little while to do that. And then
- 9 they publish a slide set every year, and I strongly
- 10 recommend that you go their webpage and look at all the
- 11 information that they have. And on approximately slide
- 12 30, and this is from the 2015 slide set, it shows
- 13 completion of treatment. Now, we don't have cure as an
- 14 endpoint in the public domain; we have completion of
- 15 the scheduled doses. And so, we have completion of
- 16 treatment, and this is ending in year 2013, at one
- 17 year. Now, back in '93, at one year it was only about
- 18 64%, so there has been steady progress and it has kind
- 19 of plateaued over here in the last five years. So, the
- 20 natural question is, well, if this is at one year, what
- 21 happened between six months and 12 months? And this is
- 22 what happened.

- 1 At six months, 18% of the patients in the
- 2 United States in 2013 had completed treatment. At
- 3 seven months, which you might say is a more fair
- 4 measure, because patients might be diagnosed in the
- 5 hospital and have to transfer to public healthcare, so
- 6 it's 45%, 46% at seven months. And here is the 89.6
- 7 shown on the prior slide. And it does get to 95, but
- 8 it gets so at 19 months. Now, remember, the CDC is
- 9 compiling the data, all right? So, they're your
- 10 friends, they're making this data available. If you
- 11 don't like the results, send your cards and letters to
- 12 the individuals who treating TB. But, actually, nobody
- 13 is doing anything wrong, all right? This is the
- 14 reality of treating tuberculosis with the regimen that
- 15 we've reduced the area under the curve, if you will, by
- 16 40% across a population giving standardized doses.
- 17 This is what you're going to get. So, that's the TB
- 18 dogma. This is what Phil Hopewell had to say about
- 19 dogma: "There is a fine line between dogma and dog
- 20 manure."
- So, for the current regimen, and this is my
- 22 point. It's not to criticize the current regimen or

Page 1

- 1 at 100%-time above MIC, you can't really capture that,
- 2 and the trough concentration, or C minimum, does a
- 3 better job because it's a continuous variable. So,
- 4 once you know what it is you're trying to optimize,
- 5 then you can go about finding a dose and a frequency
- 6 that actually allows you to optimize it.
- Now, the PD linked, or pharmacodynamically-
- 8 linked parameter, is conserved for each drug in
- 9 organism pair. So, what you discover in the hollow
- 10 fiber model is going to be true in the mouse model, in
- 11 the mechanic model, and in the human model of the
- 12 disease, because these are one-trick ponies, basically,
- 13 or maybe they have two tricks. But the drugs only have
- 14 so many things that they can do to a mycobacterium, and
- 15 once you determine how to optimize what they do to a
- 16 mycobacterium, that's what you focus on.
- Now, I'll point up that the PD driver, because
- 18 TB has different phases of growth, at least as we
- 19 understand it, the driver for cell kill does not have
- 20 to be identical to the driver for suppression of
- 21 resistance.
- So, what does this look like when you try to

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- 1 what anybody is really doing with it, but what we
- 2 should do is just tell it like it is. And the current
- 3 regimen in the United States, RIPE, is about 90%
- 4 effective at 12 months, and it's only about 20%
- 5 effective at six months, and 46% effective at seven
- 6 months. That's what we can compare any new regimen to.
- 7 So, where are we going? And I've been asked a
- 8 similar number of questions as Eric was addressing, and
- 9 I'll bring those back and look at them from a slightly
- 10 different perspective, I hope. So, how do we bridge
- 11 preclinical data to clinical data? And what you really
- 12 want to do, as Eric was pointing out, is find the
- 13 pharmacodynamic index, or the pharmacodynamically
- 14 linked parameter. Typically, it's going to be the free
- 15 drug, that's what the "f" stands for -- free drug AUC,
- 16 or area under the curve, divided by the minimal
- 17 inhibitory concentration, or MIC. For most TB drugs,
- 18 this is the most closely linked parameter to efficacy.
- 19 Sometimes it's the peak concentration, sometimes it's
- 20 the trough concentration. An alternative is time above
- 21 MIC, but percent time above MIC caps at 100%. So, if
- 22 you have continuing improvement in efficacy and you're

- 1 look at it? So, these are data that we acquired in a
- 2 study with the CDC in an MDR-TB outbreak in Micronesia
- 3 and the Marshall Islands. And just sort of cutting to
- 4 the chase for this study, and you'll have the reference
- 5 for each of these so you can look them up later if you
- 6 wish. This was the parameter we chose to optimize, and
- 7 we chose to optimize this ratio at four possible values
- 8 based on the fact that there were no clear data for TB
- 9 and, depending on Gram-positive or Gram-negative
- 10 infections, different target values were proposed for
- 11 this ratio. We have the target attainment on the y-
- 12 axis and minimal inhibitory concentration on the x-
- 13 axis. And with the smallest dose, you have very poor
- 14 target attainment regardless of which of the targets
- 15 you're trying to hit. And as we go from 5 to 10 to 15
- 16 to 20 mg/kg, you see that if you're shooting for a low
- 17 target, the 40 target, and your MIC is low, with the
- 18 highest dose you have a very high probability of
- 19 hitting that target. But if your MIC is high and
- 20 you're not giving -- and you're aiming for this highest
- 21 target, you're probably not going to get it.
- So, if it turns out that 125 is what you need

- 1 for TB, even 20 mg/kg for levofloxacin, if the MID is
- 2 1, levofloxacin is not going to be really good in that
- 3 situation.
- 4 So, how to fine-tune in patients. Well, no
- 5 matter how good your stethoscope is, you can put it on
- 6 the antecubital fossa but you cannot hear the drug
- 7 going by, and you certainly can't quantitate it. So,
- 8 if you want to know what's going on in your patient,
- 9 you're going to have to draw a couple of blood samples.
- 10 Now, for TB drugs it's basically the same as getting a
- 11 chem panel, it's just the red top tube. And currently
- 12 we can, and other labs, can measure all of the drugs
- 13 with about 5 mL of blood, or 2.5 mL of serum, right?
- 14 Do TB patients metabolize drugs differently? No, but
- 15 they're much more variable than you would see in
- 16 healthy volunteers.
- 17 Discuss PK variability and considerations
- 18 across populations. Well, there is no single predictor
- 19 of poor drug absorption, so, again, if you don't absorb
- 20 the drug, it's never going to get to the lesion and
- 21 it's not going to work. And there are different
- 22 studies that have shown different populations with

- 1 hour sample. So, this is not a PK analysis; this is
- 2 just a QA analysis, or quality assurance. But you can
- 3 see that it ranged from 0, which is clearly not
- 4 therapeutic, up to 45 mcg/mL with this pattern on the
- 5 histogram. And if we look at the distribution of the
- 6 doses, we had some pediatric patients, so that's why
- 7 some of the doses are very small. We have the 450-mg
- 8 dose that used to be recommended for people who were
- 9 under 45 kg. I personally would not recommend that.
- 10 The standard 600 mg dose, where most of the density of
- 11 the data are. But you'll see there is a real
- 12 distribution across the doses, and I'll point up the
- 13 guys who got 1800 mg, they didn't have very high
- 14 concentrations despite an 1800 mg dose. They were
- 15 profound malabsorbers of rifampin, and you will see
- 16 this in your population.
- 17 So, over time people have either been fans of
- 18 or enemies of therapeutic drug monitoring in TB, and
- 19 you can decide for yourself how you choose to look at
- 20 it. But the decision to do TDM is really the same as
- 21 the decision to get any other test, whether it's
- 22 complete blood count, CAT scan or MRI. None of these

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- 1 malabsorption including the ones shown here, HIV/AIDS,
- 2 diabetes, acutely ill or cachectic patients, but from
- 3 study-to-study you see a lot of variability, and that's
- 4 just unfortunately the fact of the matter. There is no
- 5 one predictor for this.
- 6 Now, this is a study we did with David Perlman
- 7 in an AIDS clinical trial group in Study 309, and I'll
- 8 focus on rifampin, which is arguably the most important
- 9 drug. So, in the light blue, those are healthy
- 10 volunteers that were extensively sampled; in the dark
- 11 blue, those are TB patients who were extensively
- 12 sampled; in the purple, those are TB patients who only
- 13 had two blood draws at two and six hours. So, it was
- 14 pretty close to the pattern seen with the other two
- 15 groups. And in the yellow, those are the AIDS
- 16 patients. So, clearly, these patients have delayed
- 17 absorption, they have malabsorption, and the 600-mg
- 18 dose in this population, in this study, clearly was not
- 19 the optimal dose.
- This is a snapshot of quality control data
- 21 from our clinical laboratory for 2016, and this is well
- 22 over 800 rifampin samples, and just looking at the two-

- 1 guarantees the outcome of treatment. If you want a
- 2 guarantee, buy a fridge. For three years, anything
- 3 goes wrong, you get a new fridge. But in the clinic,
- 4 there is nothing like that, and you have to deal with
- 5 the uncertainty, but all of these tests allow you to
- 6 make an informed decision, and in this case an informed
- 7 decision about dose for an individual patient. So, if
- 8 you want the long-play version, this was published in
- 9 Microbiology Spectrum in the end of 2016.
- So, why use TDM? In the end, knowing is
- 11 better than guessing. So, I would propose it's best,
- 12 if possible, to get individual MIC data to know just
- 13 how susceptible a patient's bug is, individual PK, and
- 14 then you can optimize those parameters that I just
- 15 showed you. So, you want to use smart bombs and not
- 16 use dumb bombs, right?
- 17 How does PK change in TB patients over the
- 18 course of the months? Well, clearly, the rifamycin
- 19 have autoinduction, so their concentrations actually
- 20 get lower from the first dose out to the seventh or
- 21 fourteenth daily dose. Some patients take a full month
- 22 to come to full autoinduction, but most of it happens

1 in the first seven days or so.

- 2 Isoniazid absorption can improve once the
- 3 patient starts getting better. And so, we have
- 4 patients who will have very, very low doses or rather
- 5 concentrations of isoniazid, and we'll crank their dose
- 6 from 300 to 600 mg daily. And then after about a
- 7 month, if they're rechecked, they're in the normal
- 8 range, and then after another month they might be at
- 9 the upper end of the normal range and we can reduce the
- 10 dose again. So, isoniazid is the one drug that clearly
- 11 will show a rebound. For other drugs that depend on
- 12 renal clearance, like ethambutol, levofloxacin and
- 13 cycloserine, if you have a chance in your patient's
- 14 renal function, you're going to have to change the
- 15 dose.
- What about the epithelial lining fluid, or ELF
- 17 data? So, I asked the Keebler elf, but the Keebler elf
- 18 had no data on this, nor do I. You could argue that
- 19 the drug has to get into this fluid before it gets into
- 20 the lesion, but that's not absolutely proven for TB.
- 21 So, we await further study on this. There are data,
- 22 including the data that Veronique Dartois has produced,
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- 1 and Eric showed you that, about cavitary lesions.
- 2 There is also another approach that we've taken. This
- 3 is with Russell Kempker and the folks at Emory, and our
- 4 colleagues in the Republic of Georgia, in Tbilisi,
- 5 where we use microdialysis. So, this is a probe that
- 6 actually measures the free drug concentration, and we
- 7 put it in the center of a TB lesion that has just been
- 8 removed from a patient who was going to surgery
- 9 otherwise.
- 10 And one example, this is levofloxacin. You
- 11 can get a series of serum concentrations, including a
- 12 concurrent concentration in the serum; you can get
- 13 cavitary concentrations. And then from that you can
- 14 get a ratio. So, in this particular case the median
- 15 ratio shows that there is more drug in the lesion for
- 16 levo, a free drug in the center of the cavity, than was
- 17 found simultaneously in the serum. So, that's kind of
- 18 good news. You could argue that this number might vary
- 19 depending on when you sample after the dose.
- 20 Are there PK-specific predictors of drug
- 21 dosages from previous trials? Yes, including PK data
- 22 that speaks to some of the issues that I just

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- 1 mentioned. So, this is a study we participated in.
- 2 This was the Tuberculosis Trials Consortium Study 22,
- 3 which in in the continuation phase, after the first two
- 4 months gave once-weekly INH and once-weekly
- 5 rifapentine. And the patients who malabsorbed their
- 6 isoniazid were essentially getting rifapentine
- 7 monotherapy, and we selected for acquired drug
- 8 resistance.
- 9 Continuing in this school of hard knocks, this
- 10 was thrice weekly rifabutin and isoniazid in the
- 11 continuation phase. There was concern that we would
- 12 overdose people on rifabutin because of drug-drug
- 13 interactions with protease inhibitors. The problem is,
- 14 in some cases we underdosed them, and there was no
- 15 mechanism in the trial to adjust doses based on the
- 16 concentration. So, all of these data are post hoc
- 17 data. But the patients with the low exposures to
- 18 rifabutin had failure, relapse, and acquired rifamycin
- 19 resistance, which is essentially MDR-TB. And the odds
- 20 ratio for the rifabutin AUC being the driver for that
- 21 was 23, which may be in the odds ratio hall of fame.
- And why is that important? Well, Dr. LoBue

- 1 was pointing up some of the costs of treatment, and
- 2 this is a nice study from Suzanne Marks and the TB
- 3 Epidemiology Studies Consortium looking at how much it
- 4 costs. So, these are slightly older data than what
- 5 Phil presented. At the time, it was about \$17,000, but
- 6 if you, in the course of treatment, select for MDR-TB,
- 7 not only have you eaten that \$17,000, but now you have
- 8 to pony up an additional \$134,000, which is
- 9 approximately 250 times the cost of therapeutic drug
- 10 monitoring.
- 11 This is a prospective study on high-dose
- 12 rifampin by Martin Boeree and company with the PanACEA
- 13 Consortium, and in this publication, they went up to 35
- 14 mg/kg, but currently they are up to 50 mg/kg. So, in
- 15 that study they are at 2,400 mg, but now they're up to
- 16 basically 4,000 mg, a piperacillin-like dose of
- 17 rifampin. And there are more than proportional
- 18 concentrations. As you increase the dose of rifampin
- 19 you get a larger than expected increase in Cmax and
- 20 AUC. So, that's like a BOGO, you know, buy one, get
- 21 one free. And what they showed is, like I've shown you
- 22 in my clinical data, high interindividual variability.

- 1 So, even though the patient got the high dose, they
- 2 don't necessarily get a high exposure of drug. And the
- 3 patients who did get the greatest reduction in the
- 4 sputum colony counts had the highest exposures.
- 5 Same thing was seen in the study by Susan
- 6 Dorman and the TBTC with high-dose rifapentine.
- 7 Knowing the dose, whether it was 600, 900 or 1,200, did
- 8 not tell you how people were going to do. Knowing the
- 9 exposures, which were highly variable, did tell you how
- 10 people were going to do. So, again, it was the drug
- 11 exposure that was the driver of efficacy in the studies
- 12 that I just presented.
- Now, TDM does allow you individualized therapy
- 14 and it allows you to optimize the PD variables that I
- 15 was talking about. The most popular argument against
- 16 it is that it's expensive. So, we just round off the
- 17 number of patients in the United States to 10,000, and
- 18 if you did two and six-hour concentrations for RIP and
- 19 E, that would set you back about \$560 per patient, for
- 20 a total of \$5.6 million. So, that's a lot of money.
- 21 But if you say it's a lot, you have to say compared to
- 22 what? So, I'll compare it to the University of Florida

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- 1 athletic budget, which this year is \$128 million, and
- 2 the increase, just the increase, is \$6 million, right?
- 3 Our football team is going to cost \$25.5 million, but I
- 4 would argue that's less than the cost of the Alabama
- 5 team. I'm just saying, right?
- 6 So, there is nothing wrong with this; I enjoy
- 7 athletics. But as a nation we spend billions of
- 8 dollars on sports and entertainment. Wouldn't it be
- 9 nice to spend comparable or even a fraction of that
- 10 money on an airborne communicable disease?
- 11 So, I'd like to thank our top team of
- 12 researchers in my lab. As I get older, everybody in my
- 13 lab looks like this. So, do your assay and then clean
- 14 your room, right? I'd like to thank TJ,

Kyung Mee,

- 15 Emily, Yas and Stacy, who are the employees of the lab,
- 16 and my students, Wael, Mohammad, Yang, Toni, Carlos and
- 17 Maggie. Thank you very much.
- 18 DR. FARLEY: Thanks, Chuck. I think we got
- 19 the message. We're going to turn our attention to TB
- 20 biomarkers and hear from Payam Nahid, who is a
- 21 professor at the University of California-San Francisco
- 22 School of Medicine, and focuses his TB research both in

1 the United States and in Vietnam.

- 2 DR. NAHID: That is a tough act to follow,
- 3 Chuck. Let me start by echoing Erica's thanks to the
- 4 FDA for organizing and hosting this workshop on
- 5 tuberculosis. It's a disease that is often ignored,
- 6 it's a disease of the poor, and that should not allow
- 7 it to have such little attention given to it. So, I
- 8 appreciate the FDA bringing this forward.
- 9 Several of the speakers this morning have
- 10 alluded to somewhat strongly the need for biomarkers to
- 11 move our decision-making forward around which regimens
- 12 and drugs to move forward in the pipeline. And I must
- 13 say I feel under a great deal of stress and pressure
- 14 with my talk.
- 15 Here, I just have a couple of disclosures that
- 16 I'm federally funded through the CDC contract, TB
- 17 Trials Consortium and some NIH funding.
- So, the overview of my talk will be, first, I
- 19 just want to quickly review the current laboratory
- 20 methods for TB drug testing. Second, I want to speak
- 21 to you a bit about the challenge of culture-based
- 22 systems. I think this is important to reflect on,

- 1 because there is virtually no other infectious disease
- 2 entity that I'm aware of that has the complexities that
- 3 we face with sputum and in a way, we do with the
- 4 pathogen. I'm going to then talk to you a little bit
- 5 about the microbacteriology we've undertaken in Study
- 6 31, and then close with some novel biomarkers on the
- 7 horizon. I'll only be able to speak about a couple of
- 8 them, but I've listed a handful here that seem to be
- 9 emerging as interesting. So, let's just start first
- 10 with current laboratory methods and the importance of
- 11 microbacteriology in Phase 2 and Phase 3. Oops, this
- 12 is the wrong slide set. The one I just sent this
- 13 morning hasn't been replaced.
- 14 Well, while the correct slide set is found, I
- 15 don't want to use this one because I would be -- yeah,
- 16 that's the one; thank you. Perfect. Thanks very much.
- 17 So, these are the phases that you heard
- 18 presented by Cathy earlier in the morning. On the
- 19 bottom, you have the EBA studies, then Phase 2, and
- 20 then on the top Phase 3. The endpoints vary according
- 21 to these different phases, obviously. So, Phase 3
- 22 we're looking for disease-free survival at 12 months.

- 1 And, in fact, what we're really seeking for from our
- 2 biomarkers is some high sensitivity and specificity in
- 3 that follow-up period after treatment end to capture
- 4 people who are relapsing.
- 5 In Phase 2, the classical endpoints that are
- 6 used include the culture negative status at eight weeks
- 7 on solid and liquid media separately, time to culture
- 8 conversion, and some information on speed of decline of
- 9 viable bacilli in liquid media is also being evaluated.
- 10 In EBA it gets even more complicated. It's
- 11 logarithms of daily CFU counts per mL of sputum,
- 12 usually over a 14-day period. And I don't think people
- 13 quite appreciate the complexities of these assays. EBA
- 14 endpoint studies required tenfold dilutions, quadruple
- 15 cultures for each dilution. These are very burdensome
- 16 assays. But the one thing that they all have in common
- 17 is they all rely on culture. And in the Phase 3
- 18 setting we are really using it essentially as a
- 19 diagnostic, if you will, liquid or solid culture.
- 20 We're diagnosing patients as having relapsed during
- 21 their follow-up, and that then leads -- provides
- 22 isolates which we can use for gnomic sequencing and

1 drug regimen, even if you extend it out to 28 days, you

- 1 drug regimen, even ir you extend it out to 28 days, yo
- 2 do see some difference there from a regimen that
- 3 doesn't have rifamycins, but it's a modest difference,
- 4 and while -- I guess you could ask whether that really
- 5 does represent sterilizing or not.
- 6 The other part that bothers me about EBA is
- 7 there are drugs that we know do have clinical efficacy.
- 8 We use them in clinics. The linezolid that is used in
- 9 the Nix-TB regimen that surely is contributing
- 10 significantly at 600 mg twice daily here is showing
- 11 modest to no EBA effect. So, EBA wouldn't have told us
- 12 whether linezolid should be moved forward or not. The
- 13 same is true for pyrazinamide in Amina Jindani's early
- 14 work, showing that pyrazinamide that we know is
- 15 critical for TB regimens, has poor EBA or minimal EBA.
- So, then we move to two-month culture, and I
- 17 think in the long view the two-month culture must be
- 18 our best way of assessing sterilizing capability. And
- 19 this is on an individual level prediction analysis.
- 20 This is a meta-analysis forest plot showing to you that
- 21 the sensitivity and specificity of culture status at
- 22 two months is unacceptable for individual level

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- 1 determining whether or not a reinfection is occurring
- 2 or a relapse.
- The other Phase 2 endpoints, also liquid and
- 4 solid culture at various time points, and in the EBA
- 5 there is a very complex daily solid culture system that
- 6 enumerates CFU. All rely on culture.
- What can we say, then, about these culture-
- 8 based systems? And there are some uncertainties around
- 9 the prediction and surrogacy of these culture-based
- 10 systems, and I'll go over them. And there is also
- 11 technical and specimen-related issues.
- 12 Number one, EBA. It's well known, I think,
- 13 and accepted that EBA is not predictive of the
- 14 sterilizing activity or long-term outcomes. So, here
- 15 is a cutout from a letter that Bob Wallace submitted to
- 16 Lancet that shows you on the left here several
- 17 groupings of drugs -- isoniazid alone, with a multi-
- 18 drug regimen, and you can see at 14 days the essential
- 19 EBA effect of a regimen that we know can treat TB for
- 20 six months, and one we know that can't is about the
- 21 same. So, there is no distinction there. And a
- 22 similar point is illustrated here, that with a multi-

- 1 prediction. Sensitivity is in the 50%, specificity is
- 2 modestly in the 80% range. So, on an individual level
- 3 prediction, it doesn't seem to perform well and
- 4 decisions based on it are hard to make.
- 5 On a surrogate level, which I think is
- 6 something we really often have to remind ourselves as
- 7 biomarker researchers, there is a distinction between
- 8 prediction and surrogacy. This is work that Patrick
- 9 Phillips conducted using 37 treatment comparisons from
- 10 49 British Medical Research Council trials. And using
- 11 appropriate statistical techniques that involve trial
- 12 surrogacy comparisons, the month 1 culture, the month 2
- 13 culture, and the month 3 culture. And the
- 14 corresponding effect it has on log odds ratios of a
- 15 poor outcome. You can see these squares are really
- 16 dismal. So, R squares of the one-month culture of
- 17 0.36, 0.36 at two months, and modestly improved to 0.69
- 18 at three months. Yet we focused a lot of our intention
- 19 on the month 2-time point. And I think this
- 20 illustrates first the prediction versus surrogacy
- 21 distinction, but also that there is uncertainty about
- 22 what these time points are really telling us.

- 1 So, add to that the REMox trial, which you've
- 2 heard about earlier this morning, were found that the
- 3 two 4-month experimental regimens did not meet
- 4 noninferiority, yet in their own data culture
- 5 conversion was faster in the experimental regimens with
- 6 moxifloxacin substituted. So, within this setting we
- 7 also didn't -- whereas, we saw improved culture
- 8 conversion, that didn't translate to treatment
- 9 shortening at four months.
- 10 I think another interesting thing about this
- 11 study in subsequent analyses that Patrick Phillips did
- 12 is that not -- in a nonsignificant proportion of
- 13 patients in REMox converted very quickly and yet still
- 14 relapsed. So, that was also challenging. I think that
- 15 leads to this issue of level of detection. So, we have
- 16 our solid media that has a certain level of detection;
- 17 we have our liquid media that maybe has slightly better
- 18 level of detection; but after some point we no longer
- 19 know what's going on. They are undetectable based on
- 20 our culture systems.
- 21 Despite these significant, I think, issues,
- 22 there are some newer ways of modeling this -- the data

- 1 Powers, have pointed out there's a lot of places this
- 2 can go wrong. The intervention -- first of all, the
- 3 surrogate endpoint might not even be in the causal
- 4 pathway to the true clinical outcome. The intervention
- 5 that you use may affect the surrogate endpoint, but
- 6 there's other causal pathways where it doesn't have an
- 7 effect, and so on. It gets more complicated.
- 8 But the point is that that classical
- 9 intervention impacts the surrogate, which then leads in
- 10 the causal pathway to the endpoint of interest isn't
- 11 the case, in my opinion, for culture.
- 12 Let's move to the technical and specimen-
- 13 related issues. It's plausible that we actually are
- 14 working with the most informative surrogate marker
- 15 available to us already. But could our technical
- 16 methods be imperfect and need improving? There are
- 17 technical challenges with sputum as a sample time that,
- 18 as I would say, probably there is no other sample type
- 19 that I can think of other than stool, that would be as
- 20 complex. But we're dealing with Mtb in sputum, and in
- 21 stool studies they are often looking at other markers.
- 22 So, we really do face a big challenge technically here

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- 1 that I've shown you and some more data that Bob Wallace
- 2 has conducted and his colleagues. And he'll probably
- 3 speak to this a bit more later today, wherein, you can
- 4 essentially look at both the duration of the regimen
- 5 and the culture conversion at two months and model some
- 6 ability to predict the likelihood of that regimen
- 7 succeeding. And I think what I would draw your
- 8 attention to here is that really where a regimen is
- 9 likely to reach an acceptable efficacy to meet
- 10 noninferiority is on the range of having essentially
- 11 99% culture conversion at eight weeks. And this is
- 12 where a four-month regimen in pink starts to get to
- 13 recurrence of proportions that are, I guess, somewhat
- 14 in the realm of acceptable. So, really, an almost near
- 15 100% conversion at eight weeks is what's needed.
- So, going back to the surrogate endpoint
- 17 issue, because this is obviously very important for
- 18 regulatory agencies and well known to you. This is the
- 19 classical definition to remind people that it has to --
- 20 changes induced by therapy on the surrogate endpoint
- 21 are expected to reflect changes in the clinically
- 22 meaningful endpoint. And Dr. Fleming and others, Dr.

- 1 with sample type, the need for culture, the requirement
- 2 of training of laboratory staff and maintaining
- 3 proficiency. This is not a minor issue, especially
- 4 when one considers an international trials network that
- 5 has variability in the way they collect specimens,
- 6 transport specimens, process specimens. And there is
- 7 frankly a lack of standardization in these methods
- 8 across trial networks, trial sites internationally.
- 9 TB trials also occur where TB is, which is in
- 10 resource-limited settings. And so, these are not
- 11 state-of-the-art labs, as you might think of in other
- 12 disease entities. Furthermore, drug TB trials are
- 13 sponsored by not-for-profit networks with limited
- 14 resources, and sometimes they are in settings in which
- 15 there are a limited number of laboratories with
- 16 expertise for culture. And in one case, in Kenya,
- 17 currently there is only one laboratory in the entire
- 18 country that is certified to do this kind of work for
- 19 trials activities.
- I'm going to give you a real-life example
- 21 here. Here is a comparison of what -- hypothetically
- 22 an identical specimen at baseline. Lab A has a one-

- 1 hour transport, 4 degrees' transport temperature. You
- 2 see it's decontamination proportion used here. And it
- 3 gives you a baseline TTP of seven days. Great, TB
- 4 diagnosed.
- Lab B, three days' transport time. It takes a
- 6 long while to get to that Kenya lab. It's got 21
- 7 degrees' exposure during transport. It has a different
- 8 decontamination for the sodium hydroxide used and
- 9 slightly different methods. It gives you a TTP of 12
- 10 days. Great, TB diagnosed. That's fine for diagnosis
- 12 looking at time to positivity as a marker or biomarker 12 that this contamination issue is worse during treatment
- 13 of interest, these details matter.
- 14 So, this is the same specimen now looked at
- 15 eight weeks. At eight weeks, Lab A using these
- 16 techniques and methodologies gives you a TTP of 21
- 17 days. And then you can use this for modeling work,
- 18 PK/PD modeling work, and so on and so forth.
- 19 This identical sample will be negative culture
- 20 because of these, if you will, aberrancies or
- 21 differences in methodology. So, this sort of
- 22 underscores why this is (a) it's a complex --

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- 1 technically, it's complex specimen type. These details
- 2 matter and they vary across sites worldwide.
- 3 So, is it challenging to standardize? Yes.
- 4 However, and the however is in relation to what we're
- 5 at least trying to do in Study 31, so please bear with
- 6 me. But for one, the specimen is not sterile at
- 7 collection. It has contaminants that will affect
- 8 culture results. The specimen, unlike probably any
- 9 other specimen, with the exception of stool, has to be
- 10 manipulated, extensively processed, decontaminated, and
- 11 these are tedious methods. It takes 1.5 hours to
- 12 decontaminate a sputum specimen, and there are critical
- 13 steps that I just showed you in terms of
- 14 centrifugation, resuspension, and any lack of precision
- 15 will affect your recovery and cause variability in the
- 16 results. Further, we have to use harsh chemicals to
- 17 reduce the likely of contaminants, and these will also
- 18 destroy Mtb and reduce culture yield.
- 19 So, with those, I guess, playing cards, we've
- 20 come up with some basic ways to come to a compromise.
- 21 We expect a rate of contamination for cultures, 2.2% to
- 22 5% for solid media; 5% to 10% for liquid media is

- 1 standard. We try to get two culture media to prevent
- 2 complete loss of a specimen due to contamination,
- 3 wherein -- like if your culture has no results, that
- 4 would be devastating. The whole patient contribution
- 5 will be essentially lost to some degree.
- 6 We're using solid media -- the solid media
- 7 types vary by labs and, to be frank, I was asked to
- 8 address this. The solid media that is best for
- 9 clinical trials remains uncertain, and it probably is
- 10 still a scenario wherein a media type is best suited
- 11 However, when you're looking at TB trials and you're 11 for a particular lab. And then it is also important

  - 13 as the sputum quality itself reduces weeks into
  - 14 therapy.
  - 15 So, this is some of the activities we've done
  - 16 to address these issues, to try to mitigate them. Just
  - 17 to remind people, Study 31/A5349 is a large, 2,500-
  - 18 patient FDA registered trial comparison two 4-month
  - 19 daily high dose rifapentine-based regimens to a
  - 20 standard six-month regimen.
  - 21 In this study, we have pursued what we're
  - 22 calling key elements. These are essentially attempts

- 1 to harmonize across trial networks, the TBTC and the
- 2 AIDS Clinical Trials Group, 20 key steps in TB methods
- 3 focusing on those that are most likely to impact
- 4 endpoints and measures. This required a significant
- 5 within-lab validation at some sites prior to the
- 6 adoption of key elements. When you tell a lab, you've
- 7 got change your concentration of your sodium hydroxide,
- 8 their response is usually no, and we have to validate
- 9 it. So, this took quite a lot of effort, but it has
- 10 paid off, I believe.
- 11 In addition, thanks to systems that have been
- 12 established with the data center at TBTC, we're doing
- 13 real-time monitoring for deviations from standard
- 14 methodology and reporting to assure quality data are
- 15 collected real time. Why does that matter? The trial
- 16 is 2,500 patients; it's going to take years to finish.
- 17 We don't want to find out in 18 months that there's
- 18 errors here or deviations from the methodologies
- 19 recommended. And really what we want to do is maintain
- 20 the QA continuously so that we can lock the database
- 21 within a few weeks or a couple of months of the trial
- 22 ending.

1 And we've also tried to collect the data in a

- 2 CDISC-compliant manner so they can be pooled and
- 3 transferability is possible with pooled analyses.
- 4 In terms of the cultures, we decided to use
- 5 both liquid and solid media for Study 31. We used --
- 6 we are using MGIT 960, an automated system by all,
- 7 except one site that currently uses manual MGIT. The
- 8 use of MGIT and automated systems reduces variability,
- 9 it uses a standard commercial media, it automates the
- 10 time to detection. So, there's lots of advantages
- 11 there, and Debra will likely speak to this.
- We could not prescribe a particular solid
- 13 type, as I told you. It's not clear that one media
- 14 fits all labs, and so we'll be able to compare this,
- 15 but so far, I was told that 75% of our specimens are
- 16 being cultured on LJ, 74% on 7HIIS, and 1% on 7H10.
- One of the things that I want to call out and
- 18 is essential for trials networks I think going forward
- 19 is that I was impressed by the TBTC and ACTG
- 20 leadership, for their strong support of this technical
- 21 training for laboratorians, as well as lab focused site
- 22 visits. And there is a lot you learn when you actually

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- 1 go in the lab and process samples with these
- 2 technicians. And the labs have been welcoming. That
- 3 would be the other part of the story is that they have
- 4 not felt it as a threat but as a partnership and
- 5 collaborative approach that has been wonderful.
- This is the 20 key elements, just a snapshot,
- 7 to show you there is everything from the transport --
- 8 sputum collection and transport features in terms of
- 9 the temperature, the processing of the sodium hydroxide
- 10 concentrations, and so on and so forth. But this has
- 11 been essentially presented; sites have been trained.
- 12 Before a site can open they must prove they can do all
- 13 20 key elements and sign off on them, and that has
- 14 caused delays for several of our sites from opening
- 15 because their labs are still in the process of
- 16 validation. So, this is an example of how we can try
- 17 to harmonize and standardize and address those
- 18 differences.
- 19 Lastly, I'm going to close with what I hope to
- 20 be some positive and encouraging biomarker
- 21 opportunities. One of the areas that I think is
- 22 exciting is the potential to look at time to positivity

- 1 on liquid media as a way to replace classical EBA
- 2 studies, which I told you have these very complex
- 3 systems, 10 dilutions quadruple cultures for each
- 4 dilution.
- 5 And this is work that is done by Andreas
- 6 Diacon and colleagues. There has been other work done
- 7 at other centers. But it essentially shows across
- 8 5,700 sputum samples from about 500 patients using sort
- 9 of a formula here, there is the ability to convert the
- 10 time to positivity to be at least highly correlated
- 11 with the CFU, and this obviously has a spread to it.
- 12 But this line would be a -- this solid line would be a
- 13 perfect association or correlation, and it shows some
- 14 promise there but needs further development.
- I want to tell you about a new project that is
- 16 embedded into Study 31 that is called Sputum
- 17 Transcriptomic Expression Profiling. This is Study 31A
- 18 of the clinical trial I just presented. And why I find
- 19 this particular project exciting is that it's really,
- 20 to my knowledge, for the first time really looking to
- 21 alternatives to enumeration. Everything I've told you
- 22 about has been about enumeration -- enumeration of

- 1 cycle thresholds, enumeration of CFU, the time to2 conversion. This is really looking at the Mtb
- 3 physiologic state, because we know the physiologic
- 4 state, as has been presented by Eric and others, is
- 5 dynamic. We know that it is adapted to immunity and
- 6 tissue microenvironments, and we know that this affects
- 7 drug effectiveness. And we also know that it differs
- 8 in vitro and in humans. We heard about various in
- 9 vitro systems and whether or not these in vitro systems
- 10 recapitulate what happens in humans has quite a lot of
- 11 uncertainty to it.
- So, this study is in humans, and what we're
- 13 using is a nested qRT-PCR assay of 2,400 Mtb mRNA
- 14 transcripts that covers about 60% of the genome. So,
- 15 it was developed by Gary Schoolnik and Greg Dolganov at
- 16 Stanford. And it essentially gives us the
- 17 transcriptome of TB. This is not host transcriptomics;
- 18 this is bacterial transcriptomics. Because mRNA half-
- 19 life is minutes long, we think this gives us a
- 20 biological snapshot of the Mtb population in sputum,
- 21 the physiologic state. And what's been found is really
- 22 fascinating.

- 1 First, there is the usual enumeration findings
- 2 that I'm showing you here. DNA is slow to decline but
- 3 it does decline over 60 days of treatment, but RNA has
- 4 a very rapid drop. What was very exciting and
- 5 interesting to see was that you can detect Mtb mRNA in
- 6 100% of patients at day 56, even those that are
- 7 culture-negative. We achieved culture negativity in
- 8 maybe 80% of patients. We can still detect
- 9 mycobacterial mRNA, and that suggested there is viable
- 10 mycobacteria present at that time point, even though
- 11 we're not culturing it.
- 12 In regard to the actual physiology, this is
- 13 also interesting. So, first of all, I acknowledge that
- 14 there is massive alteration of the Mtb transcriptome
- 15 within days of receiving anti-TB-type therapy, and at
- 16 least 20% of the genes are differentially expressed
- 17 each day. When you categorize these in sort of --
- 18 classify them into groupings, you can see that there
- 19 are reductions in massive down-regulation. So, this is
- 20 day 2, day 4 of treatment, day 7, day 14. In relation
- 21 to baseline there is massive down-regulation of
- 22 metabolism pathways, Mtb. So, it is adapting in

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- 1 treatment, shutting systems down, and dealing with the
- 2 physiologic stresses of the drugs in the immune system.
- 3 So, there is reduced energy metabolism; there
- 4 is educed protein translation; there is reduced DNA
- 5 synthesis; there is reduced lipid synthesis. These are
- 6 all down-regulation pathways. Reduced expression of
- 7 ESAT-6 genes. And then there's transcriptional
- 8 regulation that seems to be increased oxidative stress
- 9 response, increased translational regulators, increased
- 10 transcriptional initiation factors, and increased
- 11 stress signature. There's even findings that I think
- 12 could potentially hold promise for finding new targets,
- 13 drug targets. These are two efflux pumps that show up-
- 14 regulation, significant up-regulation on treatment.
- 15 And these are two efflux pumps that are involved with
- 16 isoniazid and rifampin. So, if we could target which
- 17 of these efflux pumps are being turned on in response
- 18 to drug therapy, we would be able to potentially find
- 19 new targets for action.
- 20 In closing, I wanted to tell you about a
- 21 terrific resource. It is the Consortium for TB
- 22 Biomarkers Biorepository CTB2. It's a collaborative

rage 13

- 1 biobank accelerating development of new TB cures by
- 2 validating biomarkers of response for TB drug
- 3 treatments. The goal is to have about 1,000 patients
- 4 with longitudinally collected samples. There are seven
- 5 scheduled time points which samples are collected, a
- 6 whole array of samples collected. This work, this bank
- 7 would not be in existence were it not first for FDA to
- 8 recognize its need and fund it as a first federal
- 9 source of funding.
- But you can see it's a partnership now with
- 11 NIAID, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the
- 12 patients are being enrolled at TB Alliance sites, ACTG
- 13 sites and TBTC sites. And we've had several founds of
- 14 application proposals and have had 11 submissions. And
- 15 please distribute this information to as many people as
- 16 possible, because it's a good resource for people
- 17 exploring TB biomarkers of treatment effect.
- So, in summary, all phases of TB drug
- 19 development rely on culture. Sensitivity appears to be
- 20 somewhat of a priority in Phase 3, but, really,
- 21 accuracy and precision in enumeration are paramount for
- 22 EBA in Phase 2. There are uncertainties still about

- 1 the prediction and surrogacy of these culture-based
- 2 systems, because, frankly, mechanisms of relapse exist
- 3 that are not fully captured by the culture-based
- 4 intermediate markers because there are non-culturable
- 5 bacilli present as the mRNA data showed you.
- 6 Standardization of methods is feasible
- 7 Standardization of methods is feasible and essential.
- 8 I didn't write it in this slide, but I would say it's
- 9 not done enough and requires more attention. These
- 10 standards will assuredly reduce noise, increase
- 11 precision, accuracy and sensitivity, classical things
- 12 in research -- in the conduct of rigorous research.
- 13 And I think more investment should be put into the
- 14 standardization methods in the labs. And support for
- 15 the labs, frankly. A lot of the labs are public labs
- 16 that are contributing to trial network data.
- 17 Harmonization across networks and sites is also
- 18 essential. This will allow us to do multi-site, multi-
- 19 trial pooled analyses.
- 20 And then biomarkers that move the field beyond
- 21 the simple enumeration, at least in my mind -- and
- 22 imaging is another one, by the way, that was mentioned

- 1 earlier -- holds some promise. I think the work that I
- 2 showed you provide insights into the physiologic
- 3 adaptations of TB in response to drugs, and they may
- 4 vary by the drugs used, so this could be a potential
- 5 EBA alternative in accessing new therapies. And then
- 6 potentially we could identify the mechanisms of
- 7 persistence that are indeed in the causal pathway to
- 8 relapse, how TB is modifying its physiology to survive.
- 9 I just want to acknowledge the protocol team
- 10 for Study 31. The data center at TBTC has been
- 11 immensely helpful and supporting embedding biomarker
- 12 studies in this trial. I want to call out Anne
- 13 Purfield, who helped with feedback and input into this
- 14 talk, as well as Andy Vernon. And this is the Express
- 15 31 transcriptional profiling collective. Thank you.
- DR. LOBUE: Thank you, Payam. Next speaker,
- 17 moving on to diagnostics, is Marco Schito, who is
- 18 scientific director of the Critical Path to TB Drug
- 19 Regimens. He leads several work groups to facilitate
- 20 the development of novel TB drug diagnostics for wide
- 21 collaboration between basic science approaches to
- 22 better understand mechanisms of resistance, molecular

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- 1 the right, you can see over the past 10 years there2 have been a number of advances in those diagnostic
- 3 tools that have been made. And even if you go further
- 4 to the right, some additional ones, including the PET-
- 5 CT scan that others have talked about as well.
- 6 But, really, TB, I'm not going to go into the
- 7 background to it, but I would like to mention that it
- 8 is a spectrum of diseases. It's not just you have TB
- 9 or you don't have TB; it is a wide spectrum of disease.
- 10 And the problem is that most of the diagnostic tests,
- 11 at least the TST/IGRA, as you can see on the bottom of
- 12 this, really span a wide variety and range of that
- 13 spectrum. Whereas, the smear, microscopy, the culture
- 14 and the molecular assays are really more towards the
- 15 right-hand side, where it is looking more at active
- 16 disease. So, to be able to identify what distinguishes
- 17 individuals to move into these various different
- 18 categories is really unknown, and we really don't
- 19 understand why individuals progress to those various
- 20 areas, whereas, those can remain latent for oftentimes
- 21 decades.
- 22 And I'm not going to talk too much about the

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- 1 surveillance, drug resistance database efforts, and in
- 2 vitro diagnostic assay developers. And prior to
- 3 joining Critical Path Institute, he spent nine years in
- 4 TB as HIV clinical research branch at Division of AIDS
- 5 at NIH.
- 6 DR. SCHITO: Thank you very much. I would
- 7 also like to echo some of the comments with regards to
- 8 having the FDA produce this and have this type of
- 9 meeting, especially for TB. And also for including TB
- 10 diagnostics. Oftentimes that's left out. I'm going to
- 11 provide a little bit of an overview, and it really is
- 12 quite a big overview as opposed to going into a lot of
- 13 details, especially for the culture and the molecular
- 14 tools that are currently available. But I will be
- 15 spending a little bit more time on sequencing-based
- 16 assays, as well as those applications for clinical
- 17 trials.
- And just to begin, there have been a large
- 19 number of classical ways in which diagnostics have been
- 20 done not only in the US but, more importantly, outside
- 21 in high burden countries, and those are represented on
- 22 the left-hand side of the slide. And as you move to

- 1 gold standard, because other have already talked about
- 2 this, and talking about the sample type primarily being
- 3 sputum. But there are obviously some pathogens,
- 4 specific challenges about TB growing slowly,
- 5 contamination issues, laboratory delays. And that's
- 6 just enabled to actually be able to identify TB,
- 7 getting TB in culture.
- 8 But then there are phenotypic DST delays after
- 9 that, which requires additional time for first-line,
- 10 second-line, and obviously limited capacity in
- 11 countries that have that capacity to do those.
- 12 And then there are some established
- 13 challenges, obviously. There have been huge
- 14 investments that have been made in the past decade. A
- 15 lot of technical capacity has been gone on,
- 16 infrastructure, a lot of the quality issues that Payam
- 17 and others have talked about, contamination rates as
- 18 well. But there are emerging challenges as well. The
- 19 maintenance of equipment in labs; the infrastructure to
- 20 get samples to those labs; the capacity of those labs;
- 21 appropriate infection control measures; and programs
- 22 for staff screening. And then there are additional new

- 1 costs more recently on legislation and international
- 2 transfer. And all of this really culminates in the
- 3 need for rapid and affordable point-of-care diagnostic
- 4 tests. And over the past seven or eight years that's
- 5 really been something that has been driven primarily as
- 6 a result of the Xpert MTB/RIF assay that was WHO-
- 7 endorsed back in 2010. And since then there really has
- 8 been almost an explosion of different types of genomic
- 9 tests that can be done at point-of-care. And this has
- 10 gone throughout the different healthcare systems, going
- 11 all the way up to the reference labs, where you have
- 12 large companies, like Becton Dickinson, Abbott, as well
- 13 as Roche, providing these types of diagnostic tests and
- 14 reference labs, all the way down even to the microscopy
- 15 center.
- And then there are also other technologies
- 17 other than molecular types of technologies that are in
- 18 development including phage-based breath detection,
- 19 which nobody has mentioned yet; biomarkers again come
- 20 up as well. But even though you have commercially
- 21 available diagnostics at the bottom at 2012, 2013 and
- 22 2014, many of those actually don't get WHO-endorsed

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  1 countries? And here is a trial that was recently
- 2 published out of the ieDEA program. This is an NIH-
- 3 funded epidemiology cohort looking at HIV/TB-infected
- 4 individuals. And just to note that although HIV
- 5 individuals should be tested with TB, only about three-
- 6 quarters of this in a programmatic setting that is well
- 7 funded were actually tested with TB. And out of those,
- 8 it was only 80% -- actually, 80% were tested for AFB
- 9 smear microscopy, and shockingly only 5% actually were
- 10 tested with GeneXpert, even though the majority of the
- 11 sites had access to the test.
- This isn't just a one-off type of observation;
- 13 there is also a number of work that's in press now from
- 14 Madhukar Pai's group, and the purpose of this slide
- 15 here on the right is that he's looking at the number of
- 16 smears that were done in country versus the number of
- 17 Xpert cartridges that were procured in that country for
- 18 that year. And this just gives you a very rough, crude
- 19 estimation on how much GeneXpert was actually done
- 20 within countries, and the countries are listed on the
- 21 left-hand side, although you can't see them. What's
- 22 important to see is that in the bar graph on the very

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- 1 until much later. Just the process in that is very
- 2 extensive. And then there are others, like Alere q,
- 3 that have dropped out of the market as well. So, there
- 4 are challenges there.
- 5 But looking at probe-based GeneXpert assay, it
- 6 was FDA cleared in 2013. So, a few years later FDA was
- 7 able to get that cleared. It provides results in
- 8 sputum, as you know, in two hours. It identifies TB
- 9 and determines resistance to rifampin. But more
- 10 recently the ultra-cartridge has just been released.
- 11 It is as sensitive as culture but there is a downside
- 12 to this and it has a slightly lower specificity, and I
- 13 can talk specifically about that a little later. There
- 14 is a new Omni form factor that will probably be coming
- 15 out next year for point-of-care applications, and
- 16 that's what it looks like. So, you can use a cell
- 17 phone to operate that. And the year after they're
- 18 hoping a new XDR cartridge will expand the drug menu,
- 19 so that you can start looking at fluoroquinolone as
- 20 well as aminoglycoside resistance.
- But the question that came to me early on is
- 22 how well are these tools actually being utilized in

- 1 right-hand side, closer to the left, the lower the
- 2 ratio the more Xpert that is being used. And the only
- 3 country that really is replacing smear microscopy with
- 4 Xpert is South Africa. Almost all the other countries
- 5 are using this as a research type of tool.
- 6 And why is that? That's a good question. I
- 7 think a lot of it has to do with cost; a lot of it has
- 8 to do with political will. But there are also other
- 9 concerns, such as discordance and concordance assays
- 10 between these various different ones. This is a paper
- 11 that was published a few years ago, but it does provide
- 12 an example of how discordant some of these different
- 13 assays, whether they be liquid culture, solid culture,
- 14 GeneXpert, other molecular-based tests, or even some
- 15 laboratory assays.
- So, why the discrepancies? Well, there are
- 17 some phenotypic issues known for some drugs, especially
- 18 for ethambutol and pyrazinamide. There are unknown
- 19 rare or unique single nucleotide polymorphisms, or
- 20 mutations, that can be picked up in one assay but not
- 21 in the other. The critical concentrations are often
- 22 poorly characterized, and we really don't have a good

- 1 idea of the epidemiological cutoffs for MIC detection
- 2 as well. And there is low-level mixed population in
- 3 many of these circumstances which result in
- 4 heteroresistance, and I'll get back to heteroresistance
- 5 in a little while. But first I want to talk a little
- 6 bit about next-generation sequencing, which is where I
- 7 want to spend most of my time, because this really is
- 8 an all-in-one type of tool. We can identify TB, drug
- 9 resistance, virulence determinants, and because of the
- 10 way TB is transmitted in a population, it is oftentimes
- 11 clonal. So, it's really important from an
- 12 epidemiological standpoint to understand the
- 13 genotyping, evolution, population structure as well as
- 14 the phylogenetics. And all of this can be done with
- 15 next-generation sequencing.
- And when we talk about next-generation
- 17 sequencing, oftentimes we're talking about whole genome
- 18 sequencing. It's one of the most comprehensive ways in
- 19 which NGS, or next-generation sequencing can be done.
- 20 However, it is culture-dependent. As a result of that,
- 21 it's slow, still fairly expensive, because you're using
- 22 both culture and molecular at the same time. And

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- 1 because it is so comprehensive, it's a huge amount of
- 2 bioinformatics that need to go in with that.
- 3 More recently a lot of people have been
- 4 turning to targeted amplicon sequencing primarily
- 5 because you can sequence the sample directly, so you
- 6 don't have to rely on culture and, as a result,
- 7 simpler, it's a lot faster. You can actually do much
- 8 deeper sequencing and you can do several hundred
- 9 different loci at the same time. The weakness, of
- 10 course, it's not as comprehensive and you have to have 10
- 11 prior knowledge of the targets that you're going to be
- 12 looking at. And, finally, you do need some additional
- 13 optimization. It's not a really well characterized
- 14 assay as of yet.
- So, as a result we need for a comprehensive,
- 16 standardized database to provide a priori information
- 17 regarding these drug-resistant loci and mutations that
- 18 are associated with drug resistance, and that's really
- 19 the remit of ReSeqTB. And it's not just finding out
- 20 what these mutations are, but it's the interpretation
- 21 of these mutations that is really holding a lot of the
- 22 field back. And this is where we think that we're

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- 1 differentiating ourselves from other databases that are
- 2 already out there. So, we have predefined a number of
- 3 different criteria where we take a look at a very basic
- 4 statistical approach to the date, looking at p-values,
- 5 likelihood ratios, looking at homoplasy as a next step
- 6 to determine lineage markers, ensuring those are not
- 7 included in this analysis.
- 8 And then there's a number of expert rules,
- 9 where we take a look at each individual mutation and
- 10 determine whether that mutation is associated with
- 11 increase in the minimum inhibitory concentrations,
- 12 whether that's also associated with an adverse clinical
- 13 outcome, and then go back and look at some functional
- 14 genetics to confirm that those observations are also
- 15 true.
- 16 So, sequencing has been done in clinical
- 17 trials. This has been shown by a number of different
- 18 speakers. Looking at transmission of multidrug
- 19 resistance, looking at relapse versus reinfection, drug
- 20 resistance. But I do want to spend a little bit of
- 21 time on heteroresistance. And, again,
- 22 heteroresistance, really what this means is a presence

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- 1 of a small number of organisms that are resistant to an
- 2 antimicrobial drug within a population that is
- 3 susceptible to that drug. And this actually may
- 4 explain why we're seeing some failure to eradicate an
- 5 infection in some patients that seem to be actually
- 6 treated with appropriate antibiotic drugs. And the
- 7 reason for this may be that the sensitivity of
- 8 detecting heteroresistance is different for the
- 9 different assays.

So, Sanger sequencing, line probe assays, it's

- 11 around 30% to 50%. Whole genome sequencing can go a
- 12 little bit lower, 5% to 10%. Culture, which is our
- 13 standard, standard methodology, typically 1%, but often
- 14 -- actually, it can go down as low as 1%, but typically
- 15 3% to 5%. And targeted sequencing actually can get
- 16 much lower than that at 0.01%.
- 17 Targeted amplicon sequencing, and the one that
- 18 I'm going to be mentioning is a single molecule
- 19 overlapping read or the SMOR assay, can reduce
- 20 sequencing error rate and that's how they're able to
- 21 get down to that low amount. And this also has the
- 22 potential to identify populations of resistant bacteria

- 1 with sensitivity that exceeds the current gold
- 2 standard, and that's almost a problem when we're
- 3 looking at clinical trials. So, is that a false
- 4 positive? And so, the only way to really take a look
- 5 at this is to take a look at serial samples of an
- 6 individual that is under treatment, and this is a
- 7 published -- a study that's recently been published by
- 8 John Metcalfe and Rob Warren. This is a patient out of
- 9 Moldova who is MDR-positive. And what they've done is
- 10 tested, taken some samples throughout a period of about
- 11 four years. They have tested amikacin DST both
- 12 phenotypically and genotypically, and then did their
- 13 SMOR assay. And the bottom line to this is that you
- 14 can actually detect very small numbers on the first
- 15 2011 time point in the SMOR assay, that it's less than
- 16 1%, but it's susceptible for the DST assays. And then
- 17 obviously, it becomes positive once those numbers
- 18 increase above 10%.
- 19 So, I really concentrated mainly on the
- 20 pathogen side of the equation, but there is the host
- 21 side as well, and so can NGS be used to assist host
- 22 pharmacogenomics? And the answer is yes, it can.
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- 1 There's a number of genetic variations for specific
- 2 targeted human genes that can be associated with drug-
- 3 induced liver injury or with, on the other hand, on the
- 4 right-hand side, greater drug exposure. And the result
- 5 of this, if you can start doing a systematic review and
- 6 start taking a look at what's available in the
- 7 literature, and this is by no means comprehensive, but
- 8 you can start seeing that there are a number of genes
- 9 that are associated with having a number of different
- 10 SNPs. And those SNP frequencies oftentimes population-
- 11 dependent, but they do have an effect on adverse
- 12 reactions.
- So, if you increase levels of the drug,
- 14 obviously, you approach maximum tolerated dose,
- 15 accumulation of toxic metabolites and adverse events.
- 16 So, you can probably predict some of those. If the
- 17 levels decrease, however, you could reduce treatment
- 18 efficacy, incomplete eradication of bacteria, prolonged
- 19 treatment, and potentially relapse. Alternatively, you
- 20 can actually increase the chance of developing drug
- 21 resistance. So, this may be some mechanisms that could
- 22 be more characterized better in clinical trials.

- So, in conclusion, culture remains a
- 2 challenge. I think it's still a very important tool to
- 3 keep in mind that is within our armament, but we need
- 4 to start optimizing other tools that are much faster
- 5 and quicker to get that type of information to patients
- 6 much better. And we need to be able to optimize those
- 7 tools. From a clinical trial perspective, sequencing
- 8 assays, I think, are a couple of things that we can do.
- 9 One for the pathogen side is resistance prediction, and
- 10 one from the host side is predicting adverse events.
- There are a number of biomarker assay tools
- 12 that are still in development. I'm not going to go
- 13 through these in the interest of time, but I will
- 14 mention that the treatment-monitoring assay, the
- 15 prediction of cure versus relapse, and the biomarker
- 16 LAM tool is something that my colleague, Debra Hanna,
- 17 will present next.
- 18 I'd just like to acknowledge members of -- my
- 19 colleagues at Critical Path Institute, as well as our
- 20 partners, and they're listed on this slide. Thank you
- 21 very much.
- DR. FARLEY: Thanks very much. We're going to

- 1 hear next from Debra Hanna, who is the executive
- 2 director of the Critical Path to TB Drug Regimens
- 3 initiative led by the Critical Path Institute and
- 4 funded by the Gates Foundation.
- 5 DR. HANNA: Wonderful. So, thank you to FDA
- 6 for the opportunity to speak today on the role of the
- 7 Critical Path to TB Drug Regimen initiative in
- 8 facilitating drug development for TB. I was asked to
- 9 make up a little bit of our time today and fortunately
- 10 that is very doable, because you've heard from many of
- 11 our critical experts and partners who contribute to the
- 12 CPTR program, Eric, Payam, and others today. So, if I
- 13 skip over a few slides, I'm happy to answer any
- 14 questions you might have during the discussion session
- 15 about those particular projects.
- So, for those of you who aren't familiar with
- 17 the CPTR initiative, we are a public private
- 18 partnership that was launched about seven years ago,
- 19 now with the focus of the remit to accelerate the
- 20 development of entirely novel regimens for TB. So,
- 21 specifically we're interested in helping our partners
- 22 move forward the combination of multiple new agents

1 that haven't been individually approved.

2 The areas of focus, primarily focus for CPTR

3 really are around the advancement of new drug

4 development tools, which include biomarkers. I'm going

5 to talk about one exciting program today. And the way

6 that we do this is really taking an evidence-based

7 approach so that we're ensuring that we're applying the

8 most robust scientific framework around evaluation of

9 these model systems.

We're really at an important part in our

11 lifecycle as a CPTR program, so we're in the midst of

12 evaluating the work we've done over the past six years

13 and applying for a new award with the Gates Foundation.

14 And through those discussions and through discussions

15 with our partners we've really decided that we're going

16 to hone in and refine our work specifically on

17 advancement of these preclinical methods, drug

18 development tools, which also include modeling and

19 simulation components. A big part of the theme of my

20 talk today will be the importance of collecting,

21 curating, aggregating data across multiple different

22 sectors and contributors within our program. I'll talk

1 important for advancing our projects.

2 So, I talk a lot about the evidence-based

3 evaluation of methodologies. And the reason that we

4 use that terminology is that in the CPTR program, and

5 really in this community here in the room, we're very

6 focused on how you apply these different methodologies

7 for making drug development decisions. There's a lot

8 of important and wonderful work that are done in these

9 model systems to drive future research and scientific

10 hypothesis, but we care specifically about applying the

11 rigor to give developers confidence that they can use

12 these data to make robust decisions about derisking

13 compounds.

So, this is just a quick slide to tell you

15 about the framework that we use, which is called the

16 Qualification Pathway. Both FDA and EMA have a

17 strategy for the qualification of novel drug

18 development tools, and two points that I want to make

19 on this slide is that you begin all of these projects,

20 including hollow fibers, sterilizing mouse model, LAM

21 biomarker work, that I'll talk about, with a definition

22 of a context of use statement. And what that really

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1 about how we do that in a moment. And really focusing

2 on developing pathways for new treatment regimens that

3 include drugs that are not yet individually approved.

4 We have a large number of members and partners

5 that participate in our organization. I've described

6 it here at the bottom of this slide. In this graphical

7 depiction, what I'm showing you on the outer side of

8 this circle is all of the different sectors that do

9 participate in the work of CPTR. So, we have large

10 pharma, biotech companies, small pharmaceutical

11 organizations; we have academia, government

12 institutions, patient advocacy groups. And,

13 importantly, this infrastructure supports the work that

14 we do because we provide a neutral ground for data

15 collaboration, again, which is underpinning for all of

16 the model and methods work that we do. We provide a

17 legal infrastructure that allows for the safe sharing

18 of those data. But as importantly, it's a neutral

19 opportunity for the members of our consortia to

20 interface with regulatory agencies, which for our

21 programs include both FDA and EMA, and I'll talk about

22 a couple of projects where that has been critically

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1 means is that we're making a very clear statement about

2 how a particular method should be used to make a

3 particular decision in the drug development pathway.

4 And that's a lot harder than it sounds.

5 And depending on the context of use statement,

6 that will drive how much data is required to prove that

7 context of use is true and applicable. And so, this is

8 the approach whether we pursue formal qualification or

9 not that we use to assess methodologies in the program.

0 So, I'll skip a couple of slides here. I do

11 want to mention very briefly the importance of data

12 collaboration within the context of this consortia.

13 So, one of the very first deliverables of the CPTR

14 program was to develop with our partner at CDISC a TB

15 therapeutic area data standard which allows us to

16 aggregate clinical trial data across multiple sources.

17 And for those of you who are moving forward with new

18 drugs that you hope to register, you know now that you

19 have to collect all your clinical trial data using that

20 standard to submit to FDA. And so we as a consortia

21 develop that standard. We implement it within the 22 course of our consortia, and this allows us to evaluate

- 1 preclinical data that is shared by many of the
- 2 collaboratives in the room with clinical outcome data
- 3 to really assess productivity. Marco has already told
- 4 you about our ReSeqTB data platform, and I do want to
- 5 briefly mention another partnership between CPTR and
- 6 WHO, where we have -- and TB Alliance, where we have
- 7 aggregated the Phase 3 quinolone-containing trials and
- 8 made those fully publicly accessible to everybody in
- 9 the room and researchers across the globe to ask
- 10 important questions about those data sets.
- 11 So, this is really a great summary slide, if I
- 12 needed to just, in one slide, describe to you what
- 13 we're doing in CPTR now. So, our original remit from
- 14 the Gates Foundation was to assess in this drug
- 15 development paradigm gaps in our understanding of
- 16 either how to choose the right drug to put in earl
- 17 combination studies, how to choose the right dose, or
- 18 translatability among steps. And we found a couple of
- 19 big gap areas that will not be a surprise to any of
- 20 you. We have focused a lot of our efforts in
- 21 preclinical methodologies, as you've heard about today,
- 22 because we think it's critically important for these

1 and a very expensive leap and time-consuming leap

- 2 between Phase 2b studies and Phase 3, and so we're
- 3 doing a lot of mathematical simulation work around
- 4 understanding quantitative assessment of time to
- 5 positivity, as Payam mentioned earlier. Chuck talked
- 6 about the importance of population PK. He's leading a
- 7 project with CPTR to develop that model and make it
- 8 accessible.
- 9 We're doing a lot of work with Rada Savic's
- 10 lab at UCSF and Eric Nuermberger to understand
- 11 mechanism-based implications in developing new drugs
- and drug combinations. Happy to talk about any of
- 13 those in detail during the discussion.
- 14 So, this is a dangerous slide, as we found out
- 15 earlier this morning, but the good news is I don't need
- 16 to spend a lot of time on it. Just simply want to say
- 17 that, yes, we did a robust assessment of the in vitro
- 18 hollow fiber system and for a couple of reasons. One,
- 19 we know that we needed to improve that PK/PD
- 20 understanding, and this was one methodology that was
- 21 going to generate intensive quantitative information in
- 22 that space. But as Eric had mentioned, this model has

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- 1 new drugs moving forward that we understand very
- 2 crisply as much as possible about the PK/PD
- 3 relationship that individual drugs will have and also
- 4 how those will behave in combinations.
- So, we turned our focus first to the hollow
- 6 fiber system. We're now working on a similar
- 7 assessment of the sterilizing mouse model. I will say
- 8 in this critical preclinical to early clinical study
- 9 transition phase we have hit another important
- 10 milestone, which is the development of physiologically-
- 11 based PK model to help describe potential drug
- 12 penetration in the granuloma of adult patients. This
- 13 is based off the South African population. This model
- 14 is fully developed. It was developed based on the data
- 15 repository that we have in hand, including preclinical
- 16 data from Veronique Dartois, the hollow fiber system
- 17 data, the Baylor labs. Also, Eric Nuermberger's data.
- 18 This model is publicly accessible. We can provide it,
- 19 we can also provide training to any developers
- 20 interested in applying the model. But very important
- 21 to understanding translation from preclinical space
- 22 into early clinical studies. There is also a big gap

- 1 been used for the past decade in lots of different
- 2 anti-infective programs, as well as TB, but really as a
- 3 research tool. And so, we had a lot of work to do
- 4 assess predictive accuracy. He told you about the
- 5 outcome of that work, but what I do want to mention is
- 6 he mentioned two important points. Questions remaining
- 7 around reproducibility of the model and the ability of
- 8 other laboratories to take up this technology. So, 20
- 9 months after -- for the 20 months following the
- 10 qualification with EMA of this methodology, we did
- 11 intensive studies around -- in trying interlab
- 12 reproducibility for the hollow fiber system. And we
- 13 will be publishing on that soon. We're so confident
- 14 with that work that several of our pharma partners are
- 15 now working with us for the industrialized application
- 16 of their new chemical entities in combination going
- 17 into filings.
- 18 In terms of uptake into other laboratories,
- 19 we've also developed a laboratory manual with several
- 20 experts. That laboratory manual will be fully
- 21 accessible for those who want to start up systems like
- 22 this in their own facilities and want to reproduce

1 studies.

- 2 So, I'm not going to spend a lot of time on
- 3 the sterilizing mouse model work, but to simply say
- 4 that we're applying the same kind of approach. So, I
- 5 think that there is a false assumption that because
- 6 there is so much data in the sterilizing mouse system
- 7 because it has been such a pivotal methodology in drug
- 8 development decision-making in TB, that we may have had
- 9 more standardized data, or more standardized systems,
- 10 or had done this predictivity analysis with a mouse
- 11 model as we did with hollow fiber system, but that's
- 12 not true. And so, we are at the point where we've
- 13 collected all of the important data that we think we
- 14 need in order to do that predictivity analysis and
- 15 literally within the next month we'll kick off that
- 16 statistical analysis plan.
- 17 So, I do want to spend the last few minutes of
- 18 my talk specifically focused on the LAM pharmacodynamic
- 19 biomarker program. This was alluded to in a couple of
- 20 different talks earlier this morning and really is one
- 21 of the areas of most energy CPTR right now, and I think
- 22 for really just cause. We've talked in several

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- 1 presentations today about the high-unmet need for real
- 2 time assessment of efficacy in TB drug development
- 3 trials. We really do require a tool that can assess
- 4 early bactericidal activity and sputum culture
- 5 conversion endpoints, which we know are recommended by
- 6 regulators in real time or as close to real time as
- 7 possible, allowing for quick decision-making.
- 8 There are lots of bonuses that come along with
- 9 that, like reduced cost and reduced time for trials.
- 10 We've heard from Payam, we've also just heard from
- 11 Marco, that we need to be able to have methodologies
- 12 that are easily implemented in laboratories where these
- 13 clinical trials are run. And if at all possible,
- 14 methodologies that aren't affected by contamination for
- 15 measuring burden sputum or impacted by drug carryover
- 16 effect.
- We've talked about the potential value of EBA.
- 18 We know sputum culture conversion is very important,
- 19 but there are a lot of issues with these, including the
- 20 number of different laboratories, which is very, very
- 21 minimal, that can do -- or trial sites that can do EBA
- 22 studies. And there's lots of problems with

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- 1 contamination, and then the time to grow up cultures
- 2 from sputum.
- 3 So, through our partnership with Otsuka and
- 4 through CPTR, the LAM biomarker has come forward. We
- 5 know that lipoarabinomanna is a major cell wall
- 6 component and may have developed a new immunoassay,
- 7 which is an ELISA-based methodology that measures LAM
- 8 in sputum. The good news is that very specific for LAM
- 9 from Mtb and doesn't have cross-contamination with
- 10 other oral bacteria. And there is strong correlation
- 11 between sputum LAM and colony-forming units, as well as
- 12 TTD. Two wonderful qualities of this is that the data
- 13 to date say that it's not affected by contamination or
- 14 drug carryover, and it offers much quicker testing,
- 15 approximately five hours, which we can agree is better
- 16 than six to eight weeks.
- 17 So, we are taking the qualification approach
- 18 with FDA on this specific pharmacodynamic biomarker,
- 19 and I've talked to you about the importance of defining
- 20 a context of use statement. So, we have done that and
- 21 we have actually submitted a full letter of intent with
- 22 all of the data that are available to date on this

- 1 specific pharmacodynamic biomarker, and submitted that
- 2 letter of intent on June 9th of this year to FDA, and
- 3 we are continuing conversation with them.
- 4 Context of use, incredibly important. So,
- 5 this one I'm going to read, right, because we choose
- 6 our words carefully. LAM is a pharmacodynamic
- 7 biomarker for quantitative measurement of bacterial
- 8 load in sputum. A decrease in LAM sputum likely
- 9 affects the reduction of bacterial load in the lung.
- 10 This pharmacodynamic biomarkers should be considered
- 11 with other microbiological measurements, such as
- 12 culture, as a real-time evaluation of treatment
- 13 response in clinical trials that patients with
- 14 pulmonary TB and positive smears and cultures, such as
- 15 14-day EBA trials, clinical trials of pulmonary TB up
- 16 to 56 days, or clinical trials to provide evidence for
- 17 early decision-making in adaptive trial designs. And
- 18 so now it's our job to coordinate all the data that
- 19 supports this context of use statement and execute the
- 20 statistical analysis plan, which will result in the
- 21 submission of a briefing book to both FDA and
- 22 potentially over time, EMA.

- 1 So, the envisioned impact, which is really the
- 2 punchline of this presentation and I think what many
- 3 alluded to as an important pivotal game-changer within
- 4 the TB regimen development space is what a real-time
- 5 pharmacodynamic biomarker could do for this field. So,
- 6 again, we are not proposing this as a surrogate
- 7 biomarker for culture, but now we can get a real-time
- 8 assessment that with confidence we know can measure the
- 9 decrease of bacterial load in sputum in patients within
- 10 the course of clinical trials?
- So, you've heard about the length If clinical
- 12 trials in that the typical strategy is regimen EBA
- 13 trials followed by a Phase 2b study, which is most
- 14 likely two-month sputum culture conversion, and then
- 15 moving on to the very labor-intensive Phase 3 pivotal
- 16 endpoint studies. And between each of those phases
- 17 there is a 12 to 18, 18 to 24-month delay in working
- 18 with regulators in countries where these clinical
- 19 trials were designed. So, that is a huge time sync for
- 20 these different programs. And also, you're losing the
- 21 understanding that you have within individual patients
- 22 across the course of a clinical trial. And so, Patrick
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- 1 Phillips has done and proposed some work on potential
- 2 seamless adaptive trial designs that could be
- 3 implemented should a qualified pharmacodynamic
- 4 biomarker that gives you a real time assessment could
- 5 be implemented within the course of these trials.
- 6 So, one of the aspirational goals we heard
- 7 about earlier in Erica's presentation was a more
- 8 seamless trial design, where you could have a single
- 9 program and continual enrollment, and that's the
- 10 aspiration of the application for a biomarker such as
- 11 LAM, should the data warrant that type of qualification
- 12 decision. We at CPTR work together with Patrick and
- 13 others in the room to do a landscape analysis and
- 14 actual mathematical simulation of the impact and
- 15 implementation of a biomarker like LAM if qualified,
- 16 and that work will become one of the core projects of
- 17 CPTR going forward.
- So, with that thought I will just end with a
- 19 thank you to all of our partners and collaborators, and
- 20 just continue to put in a strong pitch for data
- 21 collaboration and top partnership, because that's what
- 22 makes CPTR possible. Thank you.

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- 1 DR. FARLEY: Thanks, Debra. Robert Wallis,
- 2 you are invited to come right up to the podium. In the
- 3 Federal Register notice for this meeting, we invited
- 4 folks who wanted to, to provide some very brief formal
- 5 comments, and Bob took us up on that. So, he has about
- 6 a five-minute, five-slide presentation. We'll hear
- 7 from him right now.
- 8 DR. WALLIS: Thank you very much. I'm
- 9 delighted, actually, to take up some comments from
- 10 Payam and to talk about this question of moving from
- 11 Phase 2 to Phase 3 more efficiently. I think all of
- 12 you are familiar with this work that we did while I was
- 13 still at Pfizer, looking at results from 24 trials from
- 14 20 to 40 years ago, of 58 regimens, almost 8,000
- 15 patients, in which we identified month 2 culture status
- 16 and treatment duration as predictors of relapse. There
- 17 was a rather simple mathematical equation. What was
- 18 interesting about it is our ability to then go ahead
- 19 and subsequently validate this, using independent data
- 20 from six studies, 12 regimens, involving another 4,000
- 21 patients, and that's what I want to talk about here.
- So, the way I'm showing these data, the

- 1 observed relapse -- the observed recurrence rate on
- 2 this axis, the predicted recurrence rate on the
- 3 vertical axis, this scale is Logit transformation,
- 4 which takes a proportion that can range from 0 to 1,
- 5 and stretches it out from negative infinity to positive
- 6 infinity. It's a very useful transformation for this
- 7 type of analysis but it's not very intuitive. So, for
- 8 each of the corresponding values I have the percentage
- 9 here represented in the inset. And obviously, a
- 10 perfect prediction is this 45-degree dotted line here.
- 11 And then here at 10%, this is my personal threshold for
- 12 the limit of acceptability for relapse rate. We can
- 13 argue about whether it should be higher or lower. It's
- 14 a reasonable guess.
- 15 So, what we first looked at was for the three
- 16 fluoroquinolone trials. We wanted to predict the
- 17 results of the four arms, experimental arms, from five
- 18 Phase 2 trials of six fluoroquinolone regimens, and
- 19 this is the prediction, exactly on target.
- The relapse rates in all eight arms of these
- 21 trials were then predicted based on the month 2 culture
- 22 results and the duration of each arm, and I'm showing

- 1 these results here. So, in green are the six-month
- 2 arms, and in pink are the four-month arms, and this was
- 3 published in 2015.
- 4 We have two new studies to add. One is the
- 5 TBRU treatment shortening trial. This study took 390
- 6 HIV-negative patients with noncavetary disease at
- 7 baseline and negative culture at month 2, and randomly
- 8 assigned them to six or four months of treatment. From
- 9 my perspective, this study succeeded, actually, in
- 10 showing that low relapse rates in this population were
- 11 consistent with what we thought in advance. So, 1.6%,
- 12 this is the six-month arm, and 7% in the four-month
- 13 arm. So, a 7% relapse rate in a four-month regimen
- 14 actually is pretty good, but unfortunately the study
- 15 failed by finding that duration was a predictor of
- 16 relapse, which for reasons known only to the
- 17 investigator was contrary to the study's hypothesis.
- 18 In any case, the predictions were quite in line with
- 19 what they should have been.
- 20 And then, lastly, two additional studies of a
- 21 single arm, open label studies of the Bangladesh
- 22 regimen in Niger and Cameroon. The month 2 positive

- So, the conclusion, the model is accurate, R-
- 2 square value of greater than 0.9 in this independent
- 3 dataset, and it's generalizable. And by that, I mean
- 4 it remained accurate under previously untested
- 5 conditions. So, the fluoroquinolone results were
- 6 predicted without fluoroquinolone data. The TBRU study
- 7 results were predicted without any information about
- 8 host data, and the MDR results were predicted without
- 9 any MDR or clofazimine data. Does this mean that it
- 10 will continue to be similarly useful in all studies in
- 11 the future? I don't know, but this is a reasonably
- 12 impressive track record.
- None of the studies in the training dataset
- 14 and very few in the validation dataset excluded
- 15 recurrent disease due to reinfection. And this
- 16 presumably introduced noise into the predictions, and
- 17 you would think that accuracy would be increased if we
- 18 had had the ability to look at true relapse.
- 19 The data right now are insufficient to create
- 20 a similar model using time to culture conversion and
- 21 liquid medium or one including baseline parameters, and
- 22 I think collecting those sorts of data and

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- 1 proportions were 6% and 13%, and they followed about
- 2 150 patients in total for one year, and no relapses
- 3 were detected. And these show up over here in blue.
- 4 These were assigned a value of 0.5% relapse rate
- 5 because values of zero are not permitted, and we had
- 6 originally used this method for small studies with
- 7 either relapse rates or culture-positive rates of zero
- 8 in the original publication. But these -- this
- 9 estimate, there is some uncertainty, could be further
- 10 in this direction, further in that direction; we'll
- 11 have to wait for larger trials. But in any case, this
- 12 overall result I think is quite impressive.
- This is what the database looks like now.
- 14 Seventy regimens, a distribution of less than six
- 15 months, six months, and more than six months, and a
- 16 distribution of African studies and global studies.
- 17 And these are the p-values for the parameters
- 18 for the equation. And I want to point out, this is 10
- 19 to the minus fourth to 10 to the minus fifth. This is
- 20 very striking. And if anyone wants to play with a
- 21 simplified version of the calculator, it's online here
- 22 at my website.

- 1 incorporating into this sort of model should be a
- 2 research priority. And I would be particularly
- 3 interested in incorporating the sputum LAM assay into
- 4 this sort of model. I think that would give you an
- 5 outstanding approach to informing the required duration
- 6 of new, potentially shorter regimens, and that's my
- 7 five minutes. Thank you.
- 8 DR. FARLEY: Thanks very much. We absolutely
- 9 promise that you will get to eat lunch soon. But we
- 10 wanted to turn our attention, to have a short panel
- 11 discussion and opportunity for some questions and
- 12 answers and interactions. And as folks think about
- 13 question they want to follow up with the speakers,
- 14 we've heard a lot of good information this morning, as
- 15 well as discussion points they would like to bring up,
- 16 I'd kind of like to remind the panel that our focus
- 17 today is development of drug regimens. And what you'll
- 18 hear this afternoon is that evaluation of those
- 19 regimens, once we move into efficacy studies, the
- 20 benefit of each of the components of those regimens has
- 21 already been understood. And part of that has been
- 22 through in vitro and animal work as well as PK, and so

- 2 learned and approaches going forward, and things that
- 3 developers ought to keep in mind, based on our

1 we invite you to focus discussion around lessons

- 4 experience, to help move the field forward. So, we
- 5 invite the panel to open the discussion, and then if
- 6 the audience wishes to participate, you just need to
- 7 stand at that microphone and we'll see you. Thanks.
- 8 DR. COX: So, Eric, you talked some about the
- 9 animal models and the animal models are sometimes
- 10 helpful but not always correct. As far as TB regimens,
- 11 a whole new regimen somebody is constructing, how
- 12 confident do you feel from the data that you might get
- 13 from animal models that you're able to select a good
- 14 regimen to effectively treat patients with TB? Your
- 15 thoughts?
- DR. NUERMBERGER: Well, I think it really gets
- 17 to the justification for doing the kinds of evidence-
- 18 based assessments of these methodologies so you can
- 19 understand exactly how much confidence that you can
- 20 have in these tools. So, I don't think we're at the
- 21 point where we could say with supreme confidence that
- 22 we can adequately predict a contribution of each agent.

- 1 information we get from it, or are there inherent
- 2 limits in what the mice can tell us?
- 3 DR. NUERMBERGER: Yeah, I mean, it's a model,
- 4 but I think that if we -- if we really look objectively
- 5 at what we know on either side of the equation, what
- 6 the mouse model has yielded and what the clinical
- 7 trials have yielded. I think it's difficult to argue
- 8 that the mouse has provided false or misleading
- 9 information.
- 10 I think the key issue is how we interpret
- 11 results that come from the model. And if you look at
- 12 these REMox regimens as an example, there were
- 13 increased bactericidal effect in mouse models, there
- 14 was a relatively small effect on the treatment
- 15 duration, and I think that was wholly consistent with
- 16 the REMox result in the sense that there was
- 17 demonstrated increase in bactericidal effect. But
- 18 whatever effect size there may have been on treatment
- 19 shortening, it was not a two-month effect. And so, I
- 20 don't think the mouse gave us bad data; I think it's --
- 21 we were -- we as a group, in moving forward with a
- 22 trial like that, we're perhaps in hindsight overly

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- 1 Certainly, within the preclinical setting it's
- 2 relatively straightforward to demonstrate the
- 3 contribution of an individual drug with the kind of
- 4 factorial designs that are quite amenable. And the
- 5 better one can demonstrate that with -- by showing dose
- 6 response and efficacy at exposures that we could
- 7 justify as being clinically achievable the more
- 8 powerful that is.
- 9 I think an important question is when -- we
- 10 look at a variety of different endpoints, and I would,
- 11 again, generally have the most confidence in looking at
- 12 -- in proclaiming a contribution if we can show that
- 13 the component contributes to bactericidal effect,
- 14 contributes to sterilizing effect, contributes to
- 15 suppression of resistant mutants that are resistant to
- 16 other companion drugs in the regimen. So, the more
- 17 preclinical endpoints one can bring to bear and
- 18 demonstrate activity or contribution, the better. So,
- 19 I think that's an important aspect of it.
- DR. COX: Do you think the mouse model, with
- 21 further research, can it be pushed so that we can
- 22 squeeze more water from the stone, as far as

- 1 optimistic, but that was based on some of these, you
- 2 know, at the time, recognition that many patients do
- 3 well with four months of standard therapy. And there
- 4 were other rationales for moving forward with a Phase 3
- 5 trial at that point, building capacity and, you know,
- 6 and there weren't a lot of other regimens to push
- 7 forward at that time. So, I think obviously, the mouse
- 8 model was also not the only reason that that trial went
- 9 forward, so we have to think about the decision-making
- 10 in that context.
- DR. SPIGELMAN: You know, a common theme to
- 12 me, and it applies here and it applies to a lot of
- 13 other areas, and I'll get into it maybe in the
- 14 afternoon a little bit, is distinguishing between what
- 15 we can learn qualitatively and what we can learn
- 16 quantitatively. And I think that's basically what Eric
- 17 has been saying.
- 18 And if we look for over-interpret -- if we
- 19 look for having to derive truly strict quantitative
- 20 data from a lot of these, we're going to be
- 21 disappointed and, to a certain extent, throw out the
- 22 baby with the bathwater. If we realize that

- 1 directionally or qualitatively there is a huge amount
- 2 that can be learned, then I think it can inform steps
- 3 moving forward. But I think we have to be careful in
- 4 terms of what the expectations are in terms of
- 5 quantitative relationships.
- 6 DR. HANNA: I would just add, to underscore a
- 7 point that Eric made during his presentation, I don't
- 8 think we've ever said there is going to be one single
- 9 model that gives us all the answers that we need. And
- 10 I think this is where we think pairing the quantitative
- 11 system in the in vitro PK/PD model with more
- 12 qualitative data that is assessed in the appropriate
- 13 mouse model, those two pieces of information together
- 14 will be important.
- DR. NUERMBERGER: And I certainly wouldn't
- 16 have wanted my comments to suggest that I think the
- 17 mouse model is a be all, end all. I think it's just as
- 18 suggested. And I think there are plenty of
- 19 opportunities to continue to improve. And, again,
- 20 incorporating information that may come from Kramnik
- 21 mice or marmosets or other caseous models with respect
- 22 to how well drugs are partitioning into various

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- 1 important places. I think there is very good
- 2 rationale, at least, to believe and certainly
- 3 opportunity to demonstrate in these types of models
- 4 that there may be compartmentalization of certain drug
- 5 effects. And maybe there is a rationale for putting a
- 6 drug in a combination just because it's only one of two
- 7 or three instead of all four of the drugs that really
- 8 achieve the kind of concentrations that you think you
- 9 need in the caseous portion of a lesion.
- 10 And so, I think there are ways to build on
- 11 that and certainly ways to continue to try and enhance
- 12 our quantitative understanding. I think it sounds pie
- 13 in the sky at the moment, but I think there is no
- 14 reason to think that we can't continue to build and
- 15 move closer and closer to quantitative appraisals of
- 16 what various preclinical models can tell us in an
- 17 integrated and comprehensive way. But that work has
- 18 got to start somewhere.
- 19 DR. COX: And I guess one more part of this,
- 20 too, is that to the extent the animal models and the
- 21 other tools are used to inform choices that then go
- 22 forward in clinical trials, you'll be able to have that

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- 1 feedback and that database will grow over time to
- 2 further increase the understanding of what can be
- 3 concluded from those various different preclinical
- 4 models.
- 5 DR. NUERMBERGER: That's absolutely right. If
- 6 we're not asking these questions and thinking about how
- 7 we want to answer these questions right now, then we
- 8 won't be in a position to capitalize on these kinds of
- 9 opportunities. And it's critical because a lot of the
- 10 new drugs coming forward now are different in the sense
- 11 of their physical chemistry, their PK characteristics,
- 12 and they don't necessarily act like the isoniazids and
- 13 the pyrazinamides. And so, it's a really important
- 14 stress test for the preclinical models.
- DR. COX: Chuck, can I ask you, you seem to be
- 16 hinting at TDM. Do you want to say anything more about
- 17 that?
- 18 DR. PELOQUIN: I appreciate the fact that you
- 19 picked up on that.
- DR. COX: And how would that work? I'm just
- 21 sort of curious, your vision on this?
- DR. PELOQUIN: So, if you get on an airplane,

- 1 someone is flying the airplane, typically, right? Or
- 2 if you get on a bus, somebody is driving the bus. And
- 3 if you're giving drug therapy and you're not going to
- 4 do surgery, then you want to get the most out of that
- 5 drug therapy. So, either you're controlling the
- 6 therapy or its controlling you. So, if you give
- 7 standardized doses, which is generally what's done,
- 8 that broad spectrum -- I gave the example of rifampin
- 9 from 0 to 45, that's what you're going to get. Now, it
- 10 would be convenient of that wasn't the case, but
- 11 unfortunately it is. And we have similar data for all
- 12 the different drugs.
- So, if you wish to -- and I would suggest
- 14 doing it early, before you select for drug resistance,
- 15 if that's going to happen. If you can get even just
- 16 two blood samples in an individual patient for the
- 17 drugs that you're using, you have a snapshot of what's
- 18 going on. If you have the MIC, you might be lucky, and
- 19 their organism is very, very susceptible, and you might
- 20 not need to push the drug really hard. On the other
- 21 hand, the patient's isolate might have an MIC that goes
- 22 right up to the epidemiological breakpoint that we use

- 1 clinically and in which case you might have to push
- 2 harder. And if you know that, then you have a good
- 3 idea of how hard you're going to have to push and how
- 4 much toxicity you might be expected or willing to
- 5 tolerate in that situation.
- 6 DR. COX: So, it seems there are two laudable
- 7 goals that we heard about. One is you want to get the
- 8 dose right, you want to get to an exposure that's
- 9 actually going to be able to treat the patient. And
- 10 the other is the idea of sort of a pan-TB regimen, in
- 11 essence, something that is simple that you could
- 12 administer to patients that doesn't -- you know,
- 13 ideally not have to do testing for either drug toxicity
- 14 and all. So, it sounds like what you're describing
- 15 would be something where you did some testing early on
- 16 to see how you're doing with dosing, maybe adjust it
- 17 once, do one more test, and then hope at that point
- 18 that you're on autopilot for the dosing and you're
- 19 going to achieve exposures that would remain constant
- 20 throughout. Fair or --
- DR. PELOQUIN: Well, hope is not a strategy.
- 22 What I would say is that if we have drugs that are

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- 1 US that can do this, and there are several labs in
- 2 Europe that can do this. So, it's not impossible to do
- 3 it. That's all I can say.
- 4 DR. COX: So, one other thing, and just so
- 5 folks sort of have a feel. So, what we're going to try
- 6 to do is we're going to break for lunch at 12:55. So,
- 7 we'll do about five more minutes with the panel this
- 8 morning and then we'll -- that way we can start the
- 9 afternoon session on time, and we can finish on time,
- 10 which I think will be really important. So, if anyone
- 11 has any burning issues they want to surface for the
- 12 morning, please do so now. Mel, please.
- DR. SPIGELMAN: Chuck, only because I know you
- 14 so well. More is always better and apple pie is great.
- 15 Have you come up with a clinical trial design that
- 16 would actually test what is the obvious, you know, true
- 17 hypothesis that therapeutic drug testing really does
- 18 yield better clinical results, more cross-detective
- 19 results, etc. in TB? Because I think as a next step to
- 20 actually ever get to the point of implementation is
- 21 frankly having clinical trial robust, prospective data
- 22 that quantifies to a certain extent the benefit.

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- 1 immensely potent relative to how much is required in a
- 2 patient. So, if your AUC to MIC is in the thousands,
- 3 because you have an incredibly potent drug, then you
- 4 probably don't need therapeutic drug monitoring,
- 5 because you're way, way above it. But that's not true
- 6 of virtually any of the drugs that are being looked at
- 7 right now as experimental drugs or the drugs that are
- 8 in clinic. And we're really much more in a situation
- $9\,$  that, for example, our lab does TDM for patients with
- 10 fungal infections, and fungi can't even make up their
- 11 mind what they are, they're a yeast, they're a hypha,
- 12 or whatever. Yet if you're treating a transplant
- 13 patient, they get TDM for all their immunosuppressants
- 14 and their antifungals. And now in our intensive care
- 15 units we're measuring beta-lactams because the MICs are
- 16 getting higher and higher and the concentrations are
- 17 all over the place with all the things we do to
- 18 patients in the ICU. So, TB is not quite as extreme as
- 19 those cases, but there is still a lot of variability,
- 20 and up until now we generally don't control it.
- 21 About 200 different centers around the country
- 22 send samples to my lab. There are several labs in the

- 1 DR. PELOQUIN: The closing number of studies
- 2 that I showed, showed the consequences of low exposure
- 3 of the drug, and the last two, the high rifamycin
- 4 studies, showed the advantages of high exposures of the
- 5 drug. So, I think actually the data are there in
- 6 clinical situation. Now, as far as testing, TDM versus
- 7 not TDM, could it be done? Yes, it could be done, but
- 8 that's a little bit more challenging. But I think from
- 9 the clinical trial data, it's pretty clear that, again,
- 10 unless you're going to do surgery, you're relying on
- 11 the drugs. And what the drugs work through is a
- 12 pharmacodynamic parameter, and you can identify that
- 13 preclinically and then you can optimize it. So, in a
- 14 clinical trial you could get early concentrations and
- 15 feedback.
- So, it's just like flying a plane -- you
- 17 direct the plane where you want it to go and then you
- 18 get feedback of whether, as you turn the plane, if it
- 19 actually went where you wanted it to go. You can get
- 20 that information with serum concentrations, adjust the
- 21 dose even in a clinical trial. I'm not saying it's
- 22 easy; you'd have to have the assays probably close to

- 1 the different centers, but you could do it. HPLC is
- 2 not a new tool. I was using it as an undergrad, and
- 3 that's a long time ago.
- 4 DR. SPIGELMAN: Yeah, but I think, again, not
- 5 meaning to belabor the point, there is a difference
- 6 between frankly retrospective cherry-picking with data
- 7 to show what could be considered obvious if somebody
- 8 malabsorbs and doesn't get the drug, they're probably
- 9 not going to do as well, to prospectively actually
- 10 quantifying basically almost even cross-benefit. Do
- 11 you do it for everybody? Do you wait until somebody
- 12 doesn't respond? If you do it for everybody, with
- 13 which drugs? How do you intervene in terms of the
- 14 changing? What difference does that make ultimately?
- 15 So, I do think if you want to change policy and
- 16 ultimately really impact systems, it's just necessary
- 17 to go that next step.
- DR. PELOQUIN: Well, I'm open to doing that.
- 19 As far as the studies, obviously, I had a finite time
- 20 to present, so I don't really think that they're
- 21 cherry-picked, per se. I think the most recent
- 22 rifampin and rifapentine studies really encourage
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- 1 people to look at those in great detail, because it's
- 2 telling us that without good PK you don't get PD. But,
- 3 conversely, with good PK you get excellent PD. So,
- 4 again, I refer you to those papers.
- 5 DR. COX: And it sounds like, Mel, maybe what
- 6 you're suggesting would be a randomized trial where one
- 7 arm got TDM and the other did not, and then the
- 8 question is, are the outcomes different between the two
- 9 groups, yeah.
- 10 DR. SPIGELMAN: Yeah, I mean, that's the most
- 11 obvious, sort of off-the-hand clinical trial design,
- 12 but I'm sure when people would sit around and think
- 13 about it, you might be able to come up with something
- 14 better, but that sort of data, to me, would almost be
- 15 the next step.
- DR. LOBUE: I mean, I think the issue from a
- 17 program standpoint is ideal versus good enough, and we
- 18 might need those level of data to make those type of
- 19 programmatic changes. Because unlike the University of
- 20 Alabama football program, TB -- even in this country,
- 21 TB programs are not that well resourced or funded. And
- 22 while you made the point, well, if they're contributing

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- 1 to the development of drug resistance, that would make
- 2 up for the cost, but in fact we really don't see a lot
- 3 of acquired drug resistance in programs that really
- 4 start patients on the right regimen at the right time
- 5 and do good directives or therapy.
- 6 DR. PELOQUIN: What you say is true. I think
- 7 where you could see an advantage would be the duration
- 8 of the treatment. So, if you optimized early, you
- 9 might be able to get back to more what was seen in the
- 10 BMRC trials, whereas, you hit them hard, you hit them
- 11 early, which is really the mantra in HIV. Hit hard,
- 12 hit early. And that's not really what's done in TB.
- 13 We just sort of use the standard regimen, and that
- 14 regimen by itself is not really optimized. It was sort
- 15 of, this was good enough at the time, and decisions
- 16 were made. You know, the BMRC was not highly funded
- 17 and they had only so many things that they could do.
- So, again, I think however we approach this,
- 19 the PK and the PD are essential components, because
- 20 that's now drugs operate. And if we have the
- 21 opportunity clinically to optimize it individually,
- 22 that would be fantastic. And that's really what we do
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- 1 with other disease states. With diabetes, we don't
- 2 give everybody 10 units of regular insulin three times
- 3 a day regardless of the glucose being 300 or 30, and we
- 4 don't give standardized doses of warfarin. And you can
- 5 go down the list, so we don't give standardized doses.
- 6 TB is one of the exceptions where we do.
- 7 DR. FARLEY: Great. Well, we're going to
- 8 break at this point and we promise to get to you this
- 9 afternoon first thing. So, we're going to try to
- 10 resume at 1:35. That will be Dr. Higgins' talk, the
- 11 FDA talk. You don't want to miss that. And we'll see
- 12 you all in about 40 minutes. So, thanks very much and
- 13 we'll have more time for talking this afternoon.
- 14 [Lunch break.]
- DR. SPIGELMAN: I'd like to initially, for the
- 16 first talk this afternoon, introduce Karen Higgins.
- 17 Karen, as I think most of us know, is the statistical
- 18 team leader that supports the division of anti-
- 19 infective products at the FDA and has clearly been
- 20 involved in so many of the programs that have come
- 21 before the FDA. Karen, thank you.
- 22 DR. HIGGINS: Thanks, Mel. So, I'm going to

- 1 go over some regulatory issues to think about when
- 2 designing your adequate and well-controlled trial for
- 3 TB regimen development. There is a lot to talk about,
- 4 so I'm going to kind of briefly talk about a lot of
- 5 things. My main point, and it's something I'm
- 6 hopefully going to repeat a lot, is every TB
- 7 development program is different, so I highly recommend
- 8 that you come into FDA and talk about your specific
- 9 program, because there are going to be a lot of
- 10 nuances.
- But I'm going to talk about some regulatory
- 12 requirements, including substantial evidence,
- 13 accelerated approval, and added contribution of
- 14 components of the TB regimen. And then I'll go into
- 15 some of the clinical trial design things to think
- 16 about, including patient population, control, endpoints
- 17 and statistical analysis. My focus is really going to
- 18 be on efficacy.
- 19 So, the FDA has required since 1962 to have
- 20 substantial evidence of effectiveness to approve a
- 21 drug. That is outlined in the Code of Federal
- 22 Regulations, and it discusses adequate and well-

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- 1 controlled trials, which you probably all heard, since
- 2 it's plural, it's been meant to mean two or more
- 3 trials. However, in 1998, the Clinical Effectiveness
- 4 Guidance came out as part of the FDA Modernization Act,
- 5 and in that it kind of opened the door a little bit
- 6 more and gave situations where one adequate and well-
- 7 controlled trial would be sufficient, along with
- 8 independent substantiation of the findings. And in TB
- 9 we often find that that would be the case where we
- 10 would have one adequate and well-controlled trial plus
- 11 a large amount of information from EBA trials, and plus
- 12 studies in animal and in vitro.
- But keep in mind the importance of adequate
- 14 comparative safety information. So, sometimes one
- 15 trial might be appropriate for efficacy but it wouldn't
- 16 lead you to quite enough adequate safety information.
- 17 So, that is always something to keep in mind.
- 18 Sometimes, if there is not a large enough safety
- 19 database it could lead to some kind of a limited use
- 20 indication.
- So, the accelerated approval program is
- 22 something important to think about when developing a TB

Page 19.

- 1 regimen. This allows for earlier approval of drugs
- 2 that treat serious conditions that provide meaningful
- 3 therapeutic benefit over existing therapies. So, it
- 4 uses an accelerated approval endpoint that is
- 5 reasonably likely to predict clinical benefit, but in
- 6 itself not a measure of clinical benefit. And, of
- 7 course, the whole point of the accelerated approval
- 8 program is it can considerably shorten the time
- 9 required prior to receiving FDA approval.
- 10 A sponsor would then be required to conduct a
- 11 post-marketing study to confirm the anticipated
- 12 clinical benefit. If it's confirmed, then they would
- 13 get full approval; if not, it potentially could remove
- 14 the drug from the market.
- 15 So, some things to think about regarding
- 16 accelerated versus standard approval for TB regimens.
- 17 I kind of have a couple of thoughts on this slide. One
- 18 thing we should think about as kind of the impact of
- 19 the regimen is it's a high impact regimen. And, if so,
- 20 you would tend to think more towards accelerated
- 21 approval, and that would certainly be the case for MDR
- 22 treatment regimen that is more effective or less toxic,

- 1 or an XDR regimen that has fairly good efficacy.
- 2 But an additional thing to think about, not
- 3 only is the regimen high impact but, kind of, how much
- 4 complete information do we need? And the more complete
- 5 information you need, the more maybe you'd think
- 6 towards standard approval. And something I would think
- 7 about would be for a drug-sensitive regimen we really
- 8 may need information on the final long-term outcome
- 9 before switching patients from a highly effective
- 10 standard regimen of the HRZE. So, in that case, even
- 11 though a new drug-sensitive regimen with a totally new
- 12 treatment regime would certainly be high impact, it
- 13 might not be appropriate for accelerated approval
- 14 because we would really want information on that long-
- 15 term endpoint.
- 16 For an MDR regimen, if the test regimen has a
- 17 markedly shorter duration, it's quite likely that we'll
- 18 want to have an endpoint past the end of treatment.
- 19 So, again, that would give us some estimate of relapse
- 20 rate to make sure patients wouldn't be at a high risk
- 21 of relapse if they were on this markedly shorter MDR
- 22 regimen. And once you have that information, that in

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- 1 fact might be evidence of clinical benefit, so that
- 2 might just automatically lead you more towards standard
- 3 approval. But this just kind of underscores, again,
- 4 the need to come in early and kind of talk about your
- 5 program and your drug, what you're going to be studying
- 6 and maybe what the best plan for approval would be.
- 7 So, an example of accelerated approval is
- 8 bedaquiline. It was approved in 2012 for the treatment
- 9 of adults with MDR pulmonary tuberculosis. It was an
- 10 add-on trial where patients were randomized to
- 11 bedaquiline or placebo for 24 weeks. Patients received
- 12 best available therapies for 18 to 24 months. The
- 13 accelerated approval was based on time to sputum
- 14 culture conversion, where there was a superior effect
- 15 over placebo. But due to limited safety and an
- 16 increased mortality on bedaquiline, it received a
- 17 limited use statement saying to reserve use when an
- 18 effective treatment regimen cannot otherwise be
- 19 provided. And, again, the sponsor would need to
- 20 conduct a confirmatory trial assessing patient
- 21 survival, clinical resolution of tuberculosis, and rate
- 22 of relapse at a later endpoint after patients have
- Page 195

- 1 completed TB therapy.
- 2 So, something to consider and that we've
- 3 discussed today already is this combination rule, since
- 4 we have a multiple drug regimen. So, the combination
- 5 rule as stated in the Code of Federal Regulations
- 6 states that two or more drugs may be combined into a
- 7 single dosage form when each component makes a
- 8 contribution to the claimed effect. So, you need to
- 9 know that if you're going to give patients an
- 10 additional drug that that drug is actually adding
- 11 efficacy and not just potentially adding toxicity.
- 12 That's been interpreted to mean a factorial design
- 13 trial, which can be -- grow huge if you have multi-drug
- 14 regimens. So, just in this little example of a two-
- 15 component regimen, you'd need at least a three-arm
- 16 trial, and you need to show the superiority of the
- 17 combination to each of the individual components. So,
- 18 that could be a high hurdle.
- 19 So, in 2013, the guidance on co-development of
- 20 two more new investigational drugs for use in
- 21 combination talked about that, and talked about how a
- 22 factorial designed clinical study is certainly

- 1 preferred, but that in some cases it may not be
- 2 possible. And in those cases, which TB is likely one,
- 3 because you wouldn't want to give patients a regimen
- 4 that is not fully effective. That perhaps information
- 5 on the added contribution of the components could come
- 6 from in vitro and in vivo animal models, Phase 1 or
- 7 early studies, where the clinical study would assess
- 8 the full regimen. So, in many cases this might be what
- 9 we can do with TB development.
- So, just to keep in mind, you could develop a
- 11 TB regimen as a fixed dose combination, where all the
- 12 components of the regimen are formulated together into,
- 13 say, one tablet. It could be co-packaged in, say, a
- 14 blister pack, or they could be individually packaged
- 15 but labeled to be used in combination. And I just
- 16 wanted to let you know that pretty much the efficacy
- 17 and safety requirements will be similar for those three
- 18 situations.
- So, some things to consider for designing the
- 20 TB efficacy trial. The main one is what is that TB
- 21 regimen you're looking at, and is it a new, completely
- 22 new regimen or is it really a new drug kind of being

- 1 added to a regimen that's already out there? So, for
- 2 example, if it's a new regimen, if it's a high impact
- 3 new regimen, for example, three or four new drugs with
- 4 new mechanisms of action to treat TB in four to six
- 5 months; that would be a high-impact brand-new regimen.6 Or, similarly, two new drugs with new mechanisms of
- 7 action possibly paired with an older drug. If the
- 8 contribution of the effect of the components could come
- 9 from an earlier phase of development, such as EBA
- 10 trials in animal models. Then the clinical trial could
- 11 assess the efficacy of the regimen as a whole.
- But on the other extreme, let's say it's a new
- 13 drug being developed, for example, a new drug to treat
- 14 MDR-TB given on top of the best available therapy, or a
- 15 new drug to replace one drug in the standard drug-
- 16 sensitive regimen, then it's more of the development of
- 17 a single drug, and the efficacy of that single drug we
- 18 will likely need to know from a clinical trial. And
- 19 just an example, bedaquiline was that case. Of course,
- 20 these are kind of two extremes of the spectrum. You
- 21 could fall somewhere in between there, so, again,
- 22 coming into discuss it with the division early on would

1 be helpful.

2 So, the patient population of your clinical

3 trial could be drug-sensitive TB, MDR-TB, XDR-TB, or

4 any combination or all combined. And, as mentioned

5 earlier, different patient populations might lead to

6 different routes of approval. So, the expectation is

7 that you would conduct a randomized, controlled,

8 blinded trial. There are some cases where blinding is

9 just not feasible, so the trial should really be then

10 conducted in a blinded manner however possible.

11 The control treatment would really depend on

12 the patient population and the regimen. So, for

13 example, if it was a drug-sensitive TB trial you were

14 conducting, we would expect that standard six-month

15 HRZE regimen is the control. For MDR-TB, it would

16 really depend on the resistant patterns and the

17 location where it was studied. For XDR-TB, given the

18 poor outcome and long duration of treatment, it might

19 be possible for a drug with great effect to have it be

20 assessed in a single-arm trial with an historical

21 control group. I worry about mentioning historical

22 control groups because they are the weakest of the

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1 controls. It's nonconcurrent and it's very difficult

2 to have a confidence that the patients in the

3 historical control are comparable to the patients in

4 the trial that would have XDR patients. So, again, I'd

5 come in early and we'd talk about how best to come up

6 with an adequate historical control for that.

7 And I just want to mention briefly, again,

8 like was done for bedaquiline, for a single new drug

9 for MDR/XDR, you might use an add-on design where

10 patients are randomized to either an optimized

11 background regimen plus the new drug versus optimized

12 background regimen plus placebo. And this is really a

13 placebo-controlled trial. I know over time this is

14 likely going to be getting more and more difficult to

15 conduct as therapies for MDR-TB improve, but I just

16 wanted to point that out.

So, we've talked about endpoints already this

18 morning, but there are early endpoints that people

19 would measure -- sputum culture conversion at two or

20 six months, say; time to sputum culture conversion.

21 But keep in mind these early endpoints really don't

22 test whether the planned duration of the regimen is

1 adequate.

2 The late endpoint is the one we consider kind

3 of the final or the ultimate endpoint in measuring TB

4 efficacy. Sustained culture conversion 6 to 12 months

5 after treatment ends. I'd say the timing of the

6 endpoint really should be based on time from

7 randomization and it should be the same for the two

8 treatment arms. So, even though I'm referring to it as

9 it is approximately measured at 6 to 12 months after

10 the end of treatment, that should then be defined in

11 the protocol as a time from randomization.

12 And you should capture the reason for failure,

13 as in treatment failure, relapse, reinfection, if

14 you're able to differentiate the two, and if you've

15 lost the patient.

And then the last point I want to talk about

17 is just the analysis of the clinical trial. Obviously,

18 it depends on the specific clinical trial in your

19 hypothesis, so you could assess it using a superiority

20 analysis or noninferiority analysis. You all pretty

21 much understand superiority analysis, but it helps to

22 then go on to explain noninferiority once I've walked

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1 through this a little bit.

2 So, superiority is really the gold standard of

3 assessing efficacy. It's determined by showing the

4 test arm is better than the control. And really since

5 an add-on design is a placebo-controlled trial, it

6 would be an automatic analysis for an add-on design.

7 And here is just a figure to represent the

8 superiority design, where I have a number line which

9 captures the treatment difference between test and

10 control. On the left, it's in favor of control drug;

11 on the right it's in favor of the test drug. The

12 diamonds, the point estimate from the trial, and the

13 parentheses capture the 95% confidence interval. So,

14 in this case for superiority, that confidence interval

15 would have to be completely to the right of zero,

16 demonstrating that the test is superior to control.

Now, moving on to noninferiority, efficacy is

18 now determined by showing that efficacy of the test arm

19 is close enough to a known effective control. So, two

20 key points in that sentence are close enough, how close

21 it has to be, and to a known effective control. So,

22 how close it needs to be is the noninferiority margin,

- 1 which is labeled as M here. And this is all greatly
- 2 detailed in the FDA Guidance on Noninferiority Trials.
- 3 So, this margin, M, depends on two pieces of
- 4 information. One is how effective is that control, and
- 5 that's called M1, and the other is just based on
- 6 clinical judgment, and that's how much efficacy we
- 7 would be willing to lose. And the margin can't be
- 8 greater than either of those two numbers.
- 9 So, in this case it's the same number line,
- 10 where on the left is still in favor of the active
- 11 control, and right is favor of placebo. But now that
- 12 confidence interval doesn't need to be completely to
- 13 the right of zero; it's a more relaxed test. And
- 14 you're actually -- it can go down to up against that
- 15 margin, which is the limit of how much the new test
- 16 regimen can be worse than the active control. And
- 17 coming up with that margin for TB can be very
- 18 difficult.
- 19 So, it depends on the specific trial design,
- 20 including the patient population, timing and definition
- 21 of endpoint. And it really depends on what that active
- 22 control is. So, in the situation that I mentioned

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- 1 earlier, if it's a test regimen, if you're going to
- 2 test the efficacy of your complete test regimen to the
- 3 complete control regimen, and that means you kind of
- 4 determine the added contribution of the effects from
- 5 previous Phase 1 or animal studies. Then you need to
- 6 understand that the effect of the whole control
- 7 regimen, which is highly effective in TB. So, that M1
- 8 that we've estimated would be really very large and
- 9 should be fairly easy to estimate.
- So, for instance, in the drug-sensitive TB
- 11 study, HRZE versus no treatment is going to be very
- 12 large for patients. Similarly, for MDR-TB, best
- 13 available therapy for MDR-TB is going to be really
- 14 quite large compared to no treatment. So, when it
- 15 comes to estimating a noninferiority margin for testing
- 16 a test regimen to a control regimen, it's going to
- 17 really hinge on that clinical judgment of how much
- 18 efficacy you're willing to lose. It still might wind
- 19 up being a small number, but at least it's -- there is
- 20 no data, you are able to come up with a number and then
- 21 you conduct your study.
- 22 And just keep in mind, this is often for kind

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- 1 of this high impact regimen, which might be better in
- 2 terms of treatment duration or sputum culture
- 3 conversion or toxicity, but we'll still want to make
- 4 sure that you're not losing too much on that final
- 5 clinical endpoint, which is why we're assessing it for
- 6 noninferiority.7 When you assess noninferiority of a test drug
- 8 to a control drug, it's much more complicated. Because
- 9 you have a multi-drug regimen, the efficacy of any one
- 10 of those particular drugs in that regimen is going to
- 11 be fairly modest compared to the efficacy of the whole
- 12 regimen. So, in this case it's going to be much harder
- 13 to conduct the trial.
- 14 An example would be, let's say you'll have a
- 15 new drug and you want to replace ethambutol in the
- 16 drug-sensitive TB regimen. So, you're going to
- 17 randomize subjects to HRZX as the new drug versus HRZE
- 18 In order to determine that FX has efficacy, you need to
- 19 understand how efficacious ethambutol is in that drug-
- 20 sensitive TB regimen, and that is going to be very hard
- 21 to estimate from the literature.
- 22 Another option would be, let's say a new drug

- 1 added to drug-sensitive TB regimen, but the regimen is
- 2 shortened by two months. In that case, it's a little
- 3 bit easier because your drug would kind of be replacing
- 4 the last two months of therapy in a drug-sensitive TB
- 5 regimen. And there is some data to show that that has
- 6 a fairly large effect. And that's actually in the TB,
- 7 the draft TB guidance. It's in the appendix, a
- 8 justification for how you would do that.
- 9 So, just in conclusion, adequate and well-
- 10 controlled trials are required to determine the
- 11 efficacy for TB regimens or drugs, and you really need
- 12 to put together good evidence on the contribution of
- 13 each drug in a regimen.
- 14 The pathway for approval depends on the impact
- 15 of the regimen. Accelerated approval is possible.
- 16 It's also possible it could lead to a limited
- 17 indication if you have limited safety data.
- 18 Development of a single drug will lead to a different
- 19 study design than development of a full regimen,
- 20 especially with high impact. And it's important to
- 21 discuss development program with FDA as early as you
- 22 can. Thank you.

1 DR. NAMBIAR: I think we have a couple of

2 minutes, if there are any clarifying questions for

- 3 Karen.
- 4 DR. LIENHARDT: Yes, thank you very much. A
- 5 very, very short question, please, Karen. For the
- 6 early endpoints, sputum culture conversion, you
- 7 mentioned that you would like to see sputum culture
- 8 conversion at two or six months. What is this or? Can
- 9 you please tell us? What does it depend upon?
- 10 DR. HIGGINS: The or was just listing some
- 11 possible early endpoints. So, I think that would also
- 12 be something to discuss with us in the development of
- 13 your program.
- 14 DR. LIENHARDT: Okay, there was nothing really
- 15 due to the fact that you want two-month culture
- 16 conversion if it is drug-susceptible TB and six months
- 17 if it is MDR, or was it really more on type of
- 18 appreciation of the investigation arm and what the
- 19 regimen might be?
- 20 DR. HIGGINS: Exactly.
- 21 DR. LIENHARDT: Thank you.
- DR. NAMBIAR: So, we move on to our next

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- 1 topic, which will be New Approaches to TB Drug
- 2 Development. We hear both from a developer and some of
- 3 you are presenting industry. So, it is my pleasure to
- 4 introduce Mel Spigelman, who is the president and chief
- 5 executive officer of the Global Alliance for TB Drug
- 6 Development. And prior to joining TB Alliance, Dr.
- 7 Spigelman was at Knoll Pharmaceuticals, which is a
- 8 division of BASF Pharma. Thanks.
- 9 DR. SPIGELMAN: Thank you very much, and
- 10 definitely thank the FDA for convening this meeting.
- 11 It really is fantastic to see the attention being given
- 12 to TB. So, the first thing that I've done is change
- 13 the topic of my talk a little bit from new approaches
- 14 to TB drug development to the past, present, and I
- 15 should say potential future approaches. So, I took
- 16 that liberty first, and I think you'll see why.
- 17 Disclosures, I work for the TB Alliance. And
- 18 now let me first start with what, from my perspective,
- 19 as being with an organization that is responsible for
- 20 developing new therapies for TB, the approaches that we
- 21 see as being relevant, if not mandatory. And this may
- 22 be different depending on organizations and where

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- 1 people come from. But a common anchor of what we've
- 2 always believed and frankly I think may be the
- 3 situation in all other diseases around the world, and
- 4 therefore I've labeled this as being an approach that
- 5 has existed in the past, although more so recently, in
- 6 the present, and I think will continue even more so to
- 7 be important in the future. It starts out with maybe
- 8 what could be viewed as a truism, and that is that we
- 9 have to ensure explicit clarity on exactly the problem
- 10 that we're trying to fix with the development program.
- 11 And it has to provide very practical, cost-effective,
- 12 and implementable solutions for the identified problem.
- 13 And one of the subsets of this is especially
- 14 where it deviates a little bit from something like an
- 15 FDA charge, getting regulatory approval is necessary
- 16 but not sufficient in order to justify a TB drug
- 17 development program. Now, that doesn't mean that the
- 18 solutions have to be optimized, but they do have to
- 19 have a net compelling benefit to patients, to payers,
- 20 and to healthcare systems. Now, I would say that this
- 21 is really important in developed countries that are
- 22 resource-starved, but I think for any of us who follow

- 1 or are involved in what's going on even in the United
- 2 States, this is certainly true here in the US, too.
- 3 Not from an FDA perspective of approving something, but
- 4 for having it actually do something in the real world.
- 5 Let me give a couple of concrete examples that might
- 6 raise a little more clarity on what I'm trying to say
- 7 here.
- 8 The first one is an example, and that's
- 9 actually a real-life example, that if -- you know,
- 10 would one substitute a drug in first-line therapy but
- 11 not shorten the duration or increase or decrease the
- 12 side effects?
- Now, it's interesting, about 10 years ago, or
- 14 something like that. It was a while ago, Mark
- 15 Goldberger, who, you know, Ed's predecessor at the FDA,
- 16 we were in the first meeting I had with the FDA and we
- 17 were presenting, actually, in a four-month regimen.
- 18 And he asked, well, why don't you just study a six-
- 19 month regimen with a drug substitution, you know, and
- 20 if it works, if it's safe, if it's effective, etc.,
- 21 etc., you can get the drug approved. And I was sort of
- 22 dumbfounded from even having been in the TB world for a

- 1 while, because I said why would we do that? It would,
- 2 you know -- yeah, you would get the drug approved, but
- 3 why would we do it? He said -- obviously, if anybody
- 4 who knows Mark, he was trying to be helpful, you know.
- 5 The goal was to get the drug approved in TB.
- 6 Now, so that may not be that controversial,
- 7 but the second example, which I think could be more
- 8 controversial for discussion at some point is, does
- 9 adding an additional drug to poor second-line regimens
- 10 with the only obvious advantage being getting higher
- 11 sputum conversion rates but no other advantages, does
- 12 that offer a net benefit?
- 13 You can get the drugs approved. We've seen
- 14 two drugs globally get approved on that basis. Does it
- 15 offer truly a net benefit, if you really consider all
- 16 of the sort of accompaniments that would go along with
- 17 that type of development program? So, that is past,
- 18 present and future. Let me now get down to the real
- 19 present of what are we really doing in terms of the
- 20 development programs that we have, at least the TB
- 21 Alliance. I want to just present two programs, or two
- 22 approaches that we currently use, one of which has
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- 1 already been gone into -- both of them have already
- 2 been mentioned.
- 3 So, these are specific -- right now, not new
- 4 approaches, but things that we do. The first one, and
- 5 Cathy put this slide up earlier, I think, as part of
- 6 her presentation, is an approach that we really
- 7 designed -- I think it's now about seven years ago --
- 8 when we really were looking for what we called a
- 9 unified pathway for moving really -- and at that point
- 10 we were thinking of pretty much of a straightforward
- 11 start at the beginning, go to the end process. We
- 12 started it with a pretty intricate preclinical program
- 13 that defined preclinically -- and Eric can speak to
- 14 this because he was involved from the beginning -- that
- 15 we had at that point in time a basket of about 10
- 16 different drugs. And we said, look -- and they were
- 17 either in late development or late preclinical or
- 18 approved drugs seven. And we said, if we took all
- 19 combinations and permutations that made sense, which
- 20 regimens would surface to the top as being the most
- 21 effective or the most promising?
- That was done in parallel with standard Phase

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- 1 1 type of work. And if a drug could pass Phase 1 work,2 then it would go into a straightforward two-week --
- 3 and, again, I don't like the term EBA. We try to get
- 4 away from that early bactericidal activity, because,
- 5 frankly, the real benefit as we see in two-week studies
- 6 of single drugs is dose ranging. Because there's
- 7 almost no other chance from a practical point of view
- 8 to do much in the way of dose ranging for TB drugs.
- 9 And obviously, it's critical to figure out what dose do
- 10 you want to work with and -- as opposed to almost every
- 11 other disease. We can't do dose ranging from a
- 12 practical point of view when we get into late stage
- 13 Phase 2s or Phase 3s, not to any appreciable extent.
- Now, the fact that it has to kill bugs in
- 15 human beings is clearly critical, but it's not the old
- 16 days of a two-day EBA to click off yes, no, does the
- 17 drug kill bugs in people; it's really to try to figure
- 18 out what's the dose that we want to bring forward that
- 19 we can at least convince ourselves a little bit that it
- 20 is the optimized dose.
- Then the -- what we designed then was saying,
- 22 okay, before we go much further, we want to take two

- 1 weeks and look at a two-week combination program, and
- 2 this is all intertwined with the preclinical work and
- 3 with the Phase 1 work. So, clearly, this has to be
- 4 done not just based on a single go/no-go criterion, but
- 5 really on the total profile. If you have two or three
- 6 drugs with similar toxicologic issues, you know, that's
- 7 tough to think you're going to push those forward, etc.
- 8 And similarly, is the benefit -- is there any evidence
- 9 of synergy preclinically, etc., and then moving into a
- 10 two-month regimen and then moving into a three-month
- 11 regimen -- or into a definitive Phase 3 trial.
- So, this approach, and also the advantage here
- 13 of what we tried to integrate, and this is another
- 14 important piece of it is, we were looking for regimens
- 15 that could cross over between drug-sensitive and
- 16 conventionally what was called MDR-TB. At least MDR-
- 17 TB, so we were looking at novel regimens that one could
- 18 obliterate this distinction. And that raises all sorts
- 19 of difficulties of how to design those trials when you
- 20 get especially into the later stages. How do you fit -
- 21 you can't randomize MDR patients, for example, to
- 22 HRZE as the control group?

- 1 So, without going into all the details of how
- 2 we finally decided to move this whole paradigm forward,
- 3 we figured out a way that made sense that if the MDR
- 4 patients do just as well as the DS patients for all
- 5 intents and purposes, that would be convincing -- with
- 6 the same regimen -- that would be convincing and enough
- 7 proof that it was valid in both.
- 8 Now, it's been raised by other regulatory
- 9 authorities, also, on the issue of do you really need
- 10 that or do you simply have a regimen that says you want
- 11 to use it in patients who are sensitive to the known
- 12 entities in the regimen, but it's irrelevant what their
- 13 resistant to. So, again, that's a nuance that went
- 14 into the whole consideration of designing this path
- 15 forward for developing regimens.
- Now, about three years ago, four years ago at
- 17 the most, we started thinking about, well, could we do
- 18 it a little differently? Because by now we had at
- 19 least two totally novel drugs that we had access to,
- 20 and a third one that wasn't totally novel but for which
- 21 there was almost no preexisting resistance, and said
- 22 could we sort of skip all of this stuff and kind of
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- 1 just go to the end and potentially then move backwards?
- 2 And that was really the genesis of the Nix trial, where
- 3 we said, okay, you know, have access to bedaquiline,
- 4 we've got pretomanid, we've got really good early data
- 5 on those two. We've even used those two a little
- 6 together. We knew from other people's work that
- 7 linezolid certainly appeared to have activity in TB,
- 8 although it had some side effects.
- 9 Now, note that these three drugs had never
- 10 been used together in a single patient, to our
- 11 knowledge, and I'm pretty much 100% sure, and we said,
- 12 look, in the XDR-TB population, we can go right not to
- 13 a two-month sputum conversion or to have a regimen that
- 14 may have efficacy, but we can't really even tell people
- 15 how to definitively use the regimen. But based on the
- 16 mouse data that Eric had generated with us, and based
- 17 on other data, we really said let's be a little
- 18 conservative in the sense of maybe this regimen can
- 19 cure in four months, but that's maybe going a little
- 20 too far. And we frankly arbitrarily said let's treat
- 21 patients for six months, XDR-TB patients for whom the
- 22 risk-benefits seem to be justified. And obviously do

- 1 this in a well-controlled clinical trial in the sense
- 2 of the oversight but not in the sense of a control
- 3 group in the clinical trial. And, frankly, not look at
- 4 any surrogate endpoints. Look at two-month, actually,
- 5 at the end of the day cure rates in these patients,
- 6 understanding full well that this trial could have
- 7 blown up in the first 10 patients by virtue of either
- 8 toxicity or lack of efficacy, or anything. And we said
- 9 let's try this as a different approach, and that's what
- 10 I think people have heard about now in the Nix trial.
- 11 So, if we look at what are the present
- 12 approaches that we see in terms of developing new
- 13 therapies, new regimens in TB, I think for us, at
- 14 least, we can either kind of move forward with the
- 15 approach that I showed initially, or in a sense move
- 16 backward. Because the next step actually with Nix is
- 17 now that we think we see compelling evidence that those
- 18 three drugs work in the XDR-TB population, obviously,
- 19 we're still doing that trial, but we are already
- 20 starting an optimization trial of that regimen to move
- 21 backwards. And by that, I mean it would be difficult,
- 22 although not impossible, certainly, to use the regimen

- 1 in MDR-TB patients. I would say it would not at all be
- 2 justified to even consider that regimen because of the
- 3 linezolid in DS patients. But if we can optimize the
- 4 regimen in terms of safety, especially, then one could
- 5 move backwards, so-to-speak, and move it into MDR and
- 6 move it into drug-sensitive patients, and have that as
- 7 the path, development path to get one regimen that
- , the path, development path to get one regimen th
- 8 would suffice for all patients.
- 9 So, I think both of these approaches are
- 10 viable. I think we've already moved regimens forward
- 11 and backwards now with both of these approaches. So,
- 12 with that, let me now move to the next question is,
- 13 what's the story with new approaches? Because
- 14 everything I've talked about so far, to me, at least,
- 15 are what I would call old or present approaches.
- So, I don't have to spend a lot of time on
- 17 this, because I think we've really been talking about
- 18 it for most of the morning. Clearly, the lack of the
- 19 instantaneous readout of response severely limits the
- 20 implementation, at least in my opinion, of different
- 21 types of adaptive designs that could be put into drug
- 22 development.

Now, clearly, we've heard about the LAM assay, 1

- 2 which could serve a tremendous purpose in that regard
- 3 if it truly were -- you know, if all the data falls in
- 4 place and it's scalable, etc. But right now, we still
- 5 don't have that instantaneous readout that could give
- 6 us the ability to really pivot very quickly from Phase
- 7 2 to Phase 3, etc.
- The other point that really is a problem, and
- 9 I think I tried to bring this up a little bit in the
- 10 morning discussion is, we don't have a predictive
- 11 quantitative relationship between Phase 2 readouts and
- 12 Phase 3 readouts. So, when we look at culture
- 13 conversion and we really try to then design Phase 3
- 14 trials and ask the specific questions of, okay, well,
- 15 what are really the specifics? Are we going to do a
- 16 four-month experimental arm, a five month, a three
- 17 month, three-and-a-half months? We don't have the data
- 18 preclinically that give us a huge amount of comfort
- 19 that we're picking the one point. And that, I think,
- 20 is still a limiting factor. But I think we have to be
- 21 careful not to, you know, as the saying goes, throw the
- 22 baby out with the bathwater. Because, again, I tried

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- 1 to mention this morning, preclinical models are
- 2 predictive; they're just not quantitatively predictive
- 3 the way it would ideally be desirable to have them.
- 4 And what do I mean by that? This is a slide that Eric
- 5 showed, so I'm not going to go into it in terms of if
- 6 we look at mouse relapse experiment data and then we 6 see fit. One is the concept of large, simplified
- 7 apply that to a variety of regimens that have been
- 8 studied in the clinic -- and, again, the slide that
- 9 Eric showed this morning from his data. Whereas, I
- 10 don't believe, and I'm sure Eric doesn't believe it, if
- 11 a regimen cures in a mouse in four months, will it curel 1 around the cost of clinical trials, the complexity of
- 12 in four months in man? That still is a bit of a leap
- 13 of faith, in my opinion, whether it's four-and-a-half,
- 14 five, etc. But what really is convincing in terms of
- 15 the preclinical data is the rank order of the duration,
- 16 so that in fact from everything we've seen, if the
- 17 preclinical mouse model, and we still have yet to be
- 18 able to add on to this hollow fiber and other
- 19 modalities in terms of preclinical data. But the rank
- 20 order of efficacy and of predictiveness in man really
- 21 appears to hold up, at least in this five regimens that
- 22 are on this page, for which Eric also showed the data

1 this morning. So, I do think we can learn a huge

- 2 amount from the preclinical models; obviously, never
- 3 enough.
- 4 So, that brings us, really, to the next
- 5 question of, okay, speculating now on what are
- 6 potential future or new approaches that could be used
- 7 in TB drug development? And I really put these out as
- 8 really just sort of very abstract thinking at this
- 9 point. Because I have to tell you, there's not a huge
- 10 amount of real thoughtfulness or real concrete
- 11 proposals behind them, but just to throw out a couple
- 12 of ideas. Oh, and also, before that, I really want to
- 13 add, because I think we're all aware of this, is that
- 14 approaches to TB drug development are going to be
- 15 highly dependent on any advance we make. So, an
- 16 approach, for example, like Nix could totally go away
- 17 almost if we're successful in XDR-TB patients. When we
- 18 have a four-month regimen, if TBTC and ACTG trial, for
- 19 example, works and our new standard becomes four
- 20 months, we've got a whole new ballgame, then, in terms
- 21 of how to predict for a three-month or a two-month,
- 22 etc.

- 1 But having said that, and absent either having
- 2 new technological advances or having new breakthroughs
- 3 with new approvals for different regimens for either
- 4 DS, MDR or XDR, there are two ideas that I just wanted
- 5 to float by everyone and obviously for discussion as we
- 7 clinical trials. These are -- for those of you who are
- 8 old enough, like me, to remember the concept of large,
- 9 simplified clinical trials was in vogue really around
- 10 the '80s and '90s in terms of, you know, the issues
- 12 clinical trials, and could they be made somewhat bigger
- 13 but with less data collection and all of that? And I'm
- 14 not sure that we can't do something along those lines
- 15 in TB.
- 16 I think -- you know, I won't do it justice --
- 17 you know, Payam brought up the fantastic point this
- 18 morning that just going through the culture issues in
- 19 Phase 3 clinical trials is a bear. I mean, it is a
- 20 nightmare and fully agree with everything that Payam
- 21 talked about and give credit to what TBTC and ACTG have
- 22 done in terms of trying to standardize them. But then

- 1 I raise the issue that if we really had big enough2 studies, do we have to do culture, or can we live with
- 3 very few cultures at the end of therapy, for example?
- 4 Even with different labs doing them somewhat
- 5 differently but with larger numbers that truly would
- 6 separate out something that work from something that
- 7 doesn't.
- 8 And this goes all the way along the lines, for
- 9 those of us who have the 100-page case report forms and
- 10 all the ancillary tests, etc., etc., that really eats
- 11 into a huge amount of resources, is that could we be
- 12 thinking about larger but simplified clinical trials
- 13 that could even be done in some of the better TB
- 14 programs that exist around the world, etc.? So, that's
- 15 just one idea to float.
- And the other idea that I wanted to float by
- 17 is, should we be thinking about in a Phase 3 type of
- 18 design, looking at multiple arms, and we could talk
- 19 about having large, relatively large or noninferiority
- 20 margins that look at multiple time points for cure.
- 21 So, that if we had a -- and then, in doing that, we
- 22 could potentially look at the shape of that cure curve

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- 1 and not just each one arm by itself in terms of
- 2 generating more data.
- 3 So, if we did trials, for example, with a
- 4 three, four, five -- and I'm just arbitrarily picking
- 5 these numbers out there. You know, if we did a trial
- 6 that had a three-month arm in it, a four-month arm, a
- 7 five-month, and a six-month, even, or not -- if we get
- 8 a six-month, and obviously a control arm, could we
- 9 potentially, in a study like that, deal with the issue
- 10 that we don't have the translational power to know that
- 11 this will be a four-month regimen, this is a five-month
- 12 regimen, this is a three-month regimen? And we put all
- 13 of our eggs into that one basket when we roll the dice
- 14 on designing that clinical trial, knowing that if we
- 15 get conservative, like I said on the earliest example,
- 16 we go with a six-month arm and almost know for sure
- 17 that we'll get the drug approved, but that's worthless.
- On the other hand, if we get a drug approved,
- 19 or a regimen approved for a five-month or a four-month,
- 20 but, you know, it really could be a three-month
- 21 regimen, that would be a shame, because that's another
- 22 five to seven years of a clinical trial to actually

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- 1 feel comfortable with that after we've proven that it's
- 2 either a four- or a five-month regimen.
- 3 So, this would take a much more sophisticated
- 4 statistical expertise than certainly I have, but to be
- 5 thinking about would such a design be feasible and
- 6 practical in terms of dealing with the problems that we
- 7 have and the limitations that we have as of today?
- 8 So, anyhow, that's -- thank you very much for
- 9 the opportunity, and hopefully at least generate some
- 10 feedback later on this afternoon.
- 11 DR. NAMBIAR: Thanks, Mel. Our next speaker
- 12 is Charles Wells, who is an associate vice president
- 13 and head of development for infectious diseases
- 14 therapeutic area at Sanofi. And prior to joining
- 15 Sanofi he was at Otsuka, and before that spent a few
- 16 years in the CDC. Thanks, Charles.
- 17 DR. WELLS: Good afternoon, everyone. Can you
- 18 hear me okay? It's a great pleasure to be here this
- 19 afternoon to speak with you about perhaps a little bit
- 20 different perspective on drug development for TB from
- 21 industry. And as was mentioned, my disclosure is that
- 22 I work for Sanofi. And I was asked to speak about

- 1 these points in thinking about my talk. In particular,
- 2 approaches taken from industry-based development
- 3 programs. And as you'll see in my talk, I kind of look
- 4 at it from the period before 2005, building up to when
- 5 the new drugs went into development at that time point.
- 6 And then up until -- okay, sorry, this is always a
- 7 problem, logistics, for people who are 6.5 feet tall.
- 8 At any rate, I will talk about this sort of breakdown
- 9 of periods for development, especially focusing on the
- 10 two new agents that were approved three or four years
- 11 ago, the regimens that were studied and why; the trial
- 12 design endpoints; nuances of combination development
- 12 design endpoints, numbers of combination development
- 13 from the perspective of taking single agents through
- 14 development; challenges and barriers in development
- 15 programs; and then kind of moving forward to
- 16 registration and beyond. And I think many things that
- 17 went on during that period apply to what we're looking
- 18 at today.
- 19 So, the first really important point to make
- 20 about industry's perspective is expediency. The clock
- 21 is ticking. There's -- time-limited patent protection
- 22 for molecules in development for TB takes 10 to 12

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- 1 years, so there's a rush ahead to try to get something
- 2 through the development pipeline. And also, too,
- 3 because of competing resources internally, you really
- 4 have to give a reason to believe to the key stakeholder
- 5 to make decisions about appropriation of resources for
- 6 projects. And so, you really need a quick path to and
- 7 through proof-of-concept and then bold and grand plans
- 8 for later-stage development to keep people engaged and
- 9 committed.
- 10 Unfortunately, the biology of tuberculosis, as
- 11 we've heard all day today, works against expediency.
- 12 It's anything but that, and if you think about
- 13 previously with TB trials coming up to the time that
- 14 the new agents were developed, treatment at six months,
- 15 two years of follow-up to chart relapse made a lot of
- 16 sense from a public health perspective and for
- 17 patients, but it's a huge challenge for developers.
- 18 Animal models and early bactericidal activity studies
- 19 are great early tools but they have limitations, as
- 20 we've heard again and again today.
- 21 And then sputum culture conversion as a
- 22 surrogate marker, which I'll talk a little bit more

1 So, just briefly, this is a very simplified,

- 2 scaled-down TPP, but you're looking for, if it's a new
- 3 drug or new regimens, novel mechanism of action that's
- 4 active against resistant strains that are in
- 5 circulation. In terms or target patient population, at
- 6 a minimum it should be good for multidrug and
- 7 extensively drug-resistant TB patients, but as a base,
- 8 then also good for drug-susceptible TB patients as
- 9 well.
- 10 Skipping down to efficacy, where M and XDR-TB
- 11 are concerned, the new agent added to or the new
- 12 regimens should be superior to the existing treatment
- 13 that can be achieved. And then also because of the
- 14 degree of toxicity for treating MDR and XDR-TB, it
- 15 should be safer.
- So, a little bit more focused now on M and
- 17 XDR-TB, and it's interesting, because XDR-TB wasn't
- 18 even defined until 2006 or '07 -- 2006, I believe. So,
- 19 looking at them collectively as an opportunity for
- 20 development, it is clear there is an unmet medical need
- 21 for better efficacy, and shorter, easier and safer
- 22 regimens. And the idea in the mid-2000s, that this

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- 1 about. Important help in moving the new agents that
- 2 came through ahead faster, further and faster. And
- 3 there is no doubt, earlier sputum culture conversion
- 4 means something clinically for the patients' overall
- 5 trajectory if they're treated long enough and, of
- 6 course, it's important for public health. But when?
- 7 Two months? Three months? Four months? Six months?
- 8 Even now, 10, 12 years later, there is still some
- 9 debate about when is the much meaningful time point?
- 10 And then most importantly, as was said again
- 11 and again today, practical considerations of using that
- 12 for trials slow contamination capacity for laboratories
- 13 to support trials.
- So, the other important thing in industry, at
- 15 least from my experience, is all roads lead to the
- 16 target product profile and what your label will look
- 17 like at the end of development. And so, that serves as
- 18 the blueprint for development throughout the process,
- 19 and so you should really have a very good idea of where
- 20 you're headed at the very beginning of the process, and
- 21 you will be held very accountable to that throughout
- 22 the process.

- 1 population could be a great entry point for development
- 2 was really laid out very nicely in a paper by Dr. Sacks
- 3 in 2008, where I quote, "Exploring efficacy in the
- 4 setting of drug-resistant disease may present a certain
- 5 opportunity," and, "The possibility of accelerated
- 6 approval based on the surrogate endpoint might be
- 7 feasible." So, that really set the stage on how to
- 8 approach development for the new agents that were
- 9 coming through the pipeline at the time. And this,
- 10 ironically, could actually confer efficiency for
- 11 development and hasten the arrival of new drugs to
- 12 patients who really needed them. Yes, faster to
- 13 market, but even more importantly, faster access for
- 14 patients.
- But now to -- so, it's one thing to sort of
- 16 have the sort of blueprint and the pathway forward, but
- 17 it's another thing to execute it. And so, I really
- 18 want to highlight what was going on at the time that
- 19 the development programs were going on and getting
- 20 launched for the new drugs, because I think it's really
- 21 important to keep these things in mind and think into
- 22 the future for development.

- 1 So, what had been identified in the late '90s
- 2 and early 2000s that drug-resistant tuberculosis was
- 3 going to undo all the great progress that was being
- 4 made for global TB control. And within the auspices of
- 5 the Stop TB Partnership, the Green Light Committee
- 6 mechanism was established to help the rollout and
- 7 expansion of treatment for MDR-TB in helping programs
- 8 build better services and support for treating patients
- 9 reliable drug supply, quality drugs, and as
- 10 importantly, laboratory services to support their
- 11 treatment and care. And as you can see, a whole list
- 12 of things were going on -- limited diagnostic capacity.
- 13 There were a large reservoir of chronic patients, those
- 14 that had already been treated with some combination of
- 15 second-line treatment after several cycles of TB.
- 16 Weaker second-line drugs were available, like
- 17 ciprofloxacin. And as the initiative got underway and
- 18 progress was made, by about 2005, in total globally
- 19 there were about 20,000 patients that had been brought
- 20 onto good quality treatment that could even be accessed
- 21 for possible development. And also, of course, since
- 22 there had been no new drugs for TB in 40 years, no new

1 age 2.

- 1 bedaquiline in the US and Europe, and delamanid in
- 2 Europe, it really did stand to test that the Green
- 3 Light Committee site served as a great network and had
- 4 the laboratory support to lead to the development of
- 5 the agents. And I think in a paper by Carol Milnick
- 6 that suggested this idea of using these sites, that
- 7 they could be a great platform for development, really
- 8 held true.
- 9 At the same time, there were stringent
- 10 definitions that WHO released requiring multiple
- 11 cultures to confirm sputum culture conversion and cure.
- 12 And as you can see, the basic design of the trials was,
- 13 as has been discussed, an optimized background regimen
- 14 plus a test agent versus the optimized background
- 15 regimen. This was actually outlined in Dr. Sacks'
- 16 paper in suggesting that we follow what had been done
- 17 in the HIV development community.
- And looking at the effects on sputum culture
- 19 conversion for the six months, the way that the trial
- 20 was designed for bedaquiline, you can see the
- 21 differences there. And then for delamanid on the two-
- 22 month sputum culture conversion endpoint. And, of

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- 1 or novel drugs, there was limited experience for doing
- 2 clinical trials and most definitely with GCP.
- 3 So, in these earlier years, after the Green
- 4 Light Committee was launched, some of the earlier
- 5 programs, the best rates that you could see two months'
- 6 sputum culture conversion of 30% cure, and the best
- 7 prevalence was about 60% to 65% with some exceptions,
- 8 and mortality was about 10% to 20%. So, this was the
- 9 backdrop for the new agents.
- I want to highlight here from one of those
- 11 programs, data from Latvia. These survival curves
- 12 indicate sort of the heterogeneity of patient
- 13 populations, and I think it's very informative now,
- 14 looking forward to the future, some of these breakdowns
- 15 of patients. And in this analysis, you see that for
- 16 patients who have never been treated for TB before and
- 17 are started on MDR-TB treatment, the respond fairly
- 18 well and fairly quickly compared to those who have had
- 19 previous treatment with second-line drugs, which is the
- 20 top dotted line curve.
- So, leading into the 10 years that it took for
- 22 bedaquiline and delamanid to be developed and approved,

- 1 course, because of the accelerated approval, processes
- 2 for these drugs, they had limited datasets and so they
- 3 wound up with restricted labels in very specific
- 4 patient populations for which they could be used. The
- 5 irony in all this is that they were putting
- 6 combinations with drugs that had never been formally
- 7 evaluated for MDR-TB. But I don't think their approval
- 8 was the end of the story; I actually think that was the
- 9 beginning of the story. Because what has followed
- 10 since is that those drugs have actually gone on to be
- 11 included in drug-drug interaction studies that would
- 12 evaluate their use together. And then they've been
- 13 incorporated in treatment optimization trials that I'll
- 14 talk a little bit about later. So, in fact, that's the
- 15 beginning of the odyssey and perhaps even the
- 16 experience with the bedaquiline trial informed to some
- 17 degree the Nix trial.
- So, where are we now versus 10 years ago, or
- 19 12 years ago? So, treatment capacity has expanded.
- 20 There are a lot more opportunities for patients now.
- 21 More than 100,000 come onto treatment annually. This
- 22 is woefully short of the 400,000 or 500,000 that should

- 1 be on treatment, but it is much improved from earlier
- 2 in the story. There are also a decreased population of
- 3 chronic patients now. Those that have gone through
- 4 iterative rounds of treatment, there are not as many of
- 5 those patients most likely now as there were before.
- 6 Better diagnosis. We can go for months now
- 7 down to days to know that we have a drug-resistant TB
- 8 patient, and that has had a huge impact independent of
- 9 the drugs being better available. And then now we have
- 10 better drugs. Moxifloxacin and linezolid and
- 11 clofazimine from the existing catalog, and then the new
- 12 agents themselves. There is also some very good
- 13 experience looking at MDR-TB patients without previous
- 14 second-line treatment who can be treated with a shorter
- 15 course regimen for MDR-TB that was tested out initially
- 16 in Bangladesh with cure rates of 88%.
- And so, I definitely think, when you think 17
- 18 about where we are in patient populations for
- 19 development, the WHO report does state that 52%
- 20 treatment success is what's been achieved overall
- 21 annually. But that doesn't tell the whole story about
- 22 the treatment programs that have been well established

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- 1 and are doing great work in taking care of patients.
- 2 And so now I'll call your attention to a publication
- 3 shortly, but in fact, some of these more mature
- 4 programs can achieve treatment success of greater than
- 5 80%, and even for XDR-TB patients, greater than 60%.
- I want to highlight this study from Peter
- 7 Cegielski and a whole sea of colleagues called the
- 8 Preserving Effect of TB Treatment Study published last
- 9 year. This is a multinational perspective cohort
- 10 study, over 1,000 patients, nine countries and 26
- 11 sites, and basically all of these sites receiving
- 12 essentially the same treatment regimen. But what this
- 13 study was designed to do was to ask the question, did
- 14 the Green Light Committee mechanism essentially prevent
- 15 the emergence of additional resistance to second-line
- 16 drugs? And the answer from the publications is yes,
- 17 but what it also gave us an opportunity is to really
- 18 look at treatment in a prospective way and what can be
- 19 achieved by better programs and better lab services.
- 20 So, if you look at the top there, you can see
- 21 that in sites in this stud that received Green Light
- 22 Committee approval and went through the effort to build

- 1 programs, very high cure, 83%, versus those sites that
- 2 did not go under the same sort of development, 59.8%.
- 3 The same for the labs. Labs that had more capacity to
- 4 do second-line drug susceptibility testing had higher
- 5 performance than those that had labs with less
- 6 capacity. And then lastly you see the breakdown there
- 7 of outcomes for patients based on previous treatment
- 8 history.
- 9 Also, too, another great publication from
- 10 Korea, which shows, in addition to programs, what the
- 11 newer drugs or the repurposed drugs could do. Shows in
- 12 this nice study that over the course of three different
- 13 cohorts evaluated, the treatment success went up from
- 14 54% up to 84%. And improved outcomes were mostly
- 15 associated with the frequent use of later-generation
- 16 fluoroquinolone and linezolid in the third cohort. And
- 17 linezolid in particular was used for those patients who
- 18 were refractory to treatment at three to six months.
- 19 And about one-fifth of those patients were XDR-TB
- 20 patients.
- 21 And even where XDR-TB is concerned, things
- 22 have gotten better. They are still woefully away from

- 1 where the need to be, but this gives you an idea that
- 2 things are changing. And I call your attention to the
- 3 top study there. Sorry for the busy slide. But this
- 4 is from colleagues in Korea in collaboration with NIH,
- 5 who did a nice controlled study looking at the benefit
- 6 of linezolid, basically as monotherapy for chronic XDR-
- 7 TB patients. And in that study, they achieved six-
- 8 month sputum culture conversion at 87%, and cure rate
- 9 of about 71%, with about 11% having -- developed
- 10 resistance.
- 11 Equally of interest in Peru, in the lower
- 12 left-hand corner, our colleagues there building a
- 13 strong program over the years, showed that for XDR-TB
- 14 patients who had good laboratory services and access to
- 15 the drugs, they could actually do quite well with those 16 patients.
- 17 And then lastly, the trial that was used for
- 18 the registration of delamanid, about 15% of the
- 19 patients in that study were XDR-TB, and as you can see,
- 20 there was an improvement of sputum culture conversion
- 21 at two months and mortality at the end of 24 months of
- 22 treatment.

- 1 So, looking to the future in terms of where
- 2 we're headed, I think it's very encouraging what we've
- 3 heard this morning, that advances in the nonclinical
- 4 realm to improve translational accuracy for the
- 5 selection of the development of new regimens is very
- 6 encouraging. It looks like advances have been made
- 7 with models in the Kramnik mice model, marmosets. A
- 8 lot of encouraging data coming out of that that could
- 9 help early on know if we have something or not. And
- 10 these models are hopefully going to provide better
- 11 details on drug synergy, antagonism, cross-resistance
- 12 and whatnot.
- So, just kind of taking what I took -- what I
- 14 presented about the period of development for the two
- 15 new agents, how do we look at patient populations now
- 16 moving forward? So, clearly, there is still a lot of
- 17 room for pre-XDR and XDR-TB patients to do superiority
- 18 trials, but what are the appropriate comparators now?
- 19 We have regimens with linezolid -- or should we have
- 20 regimens with linezolid, bedaquiline, delamanid and/or
- 21 clofazimine? For MDR-TB patients that don't have
- 22 resistance to fluoroquinolones and injectables, maybe
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- 1 now the standard should be the nine-month regimen, and
- 2 so on.
- 3 And, again, I really don't have to go through
- 4 all the details of this slide. It's the challenges of
- 5 culture-based assessments for endpoints for trials in
- 6 assessing treatment effect. So, I won't, in the
- 7 interest of time, I'll skip over this, because it's
- 8 already been stated this morning.
- 9 So, bottom line is, we need new tools. And I
- 10 think there is some very encouraging developments that
- 11 have been talked about today, which I think makes the
- 12 future look a bit brighter for expediency and
- 13 efficiency in getting new regimens developed, the
- 14 PET/CT imaging holds great promise. And then very,
- 15 very exciting today, what was presented this morning
- 16 and then at a webcast with Resist-TB about a month ago,
- 17 on sputum LAM. And if it holds that it's a
- 18 quantitative marker that can show potential
- 19 pharmacodynamic trends, if this assay holds up, this
- 20 could really revolutionize things for the future. And
- 21 there I've cited the trials that are ongoing in
- 22 evaluating this, and it's going through the

- 1 qualification process.
- 2 So, now a little bit more about trial design.
- 3 It's been talked about a lot already, so I'll only be
- 4 adding very little to some really great points made
- 5 earlier. But just, again, keeping in mind that with
- 6 conventional design it can take up to 10 years, and you
- 7 have your standard Phase 1 program, your sort of proof-
- 8 of-concept, which is a combination of EBA studies and
- 9 the two-month combination studies. And then onto your
- 10 Phase 3 program with fixed, balanced randomization.
- 11 Very, very slow, steady progress of development. But
- 12 maybe now is the time to investigate adaptive trial
- 13 design, and some really innovative things are already
- 14 going on in terms of either using Bayesian adaptive
- 15 design as is being used in the endTB trial, or the
- 16 multi-arm, multi-stage design MAMS that's been used by
- 17 the PanACEA consortium for evaluating high-dose
- 18 rifamycins for revisiting treatment.
- 19 Both use information, sputum culture
- 20 conversion during the course of the trial to adapt the
- 21 trial, and Bayesian perhaps has more efficiency if you
- 22 have more than one regimen in the mix that you're
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- 2 whereas, MAMS may be more efficient if only one regimen
- 3 is going to make it through. But both have more

1 evaluating, that you're trying to move forward,

- 4 efficiency that conventional design.
- 5 And just a little bit more in thinking about
- 6 adaptive trial design and the endTB trial. Again, I
- 7 mentioned that the two new drugs were evaluated as a
- 8 single agent added to an existing regimen, but then --
- 9 and the story really didn't stop there. And I think
- 10 this is a very exciting indicator that in fact the
- 11 story was just starting. Once the benefit-risk profile
- 12 of these new drugs had some degree of establishment,
- 13 then they could move into these trials to be evaluated
- 14 I combination with other agents. And as you've seen
- 15 here in the table, the various agents include
- 16 bedaquiline, delamanid, clofazimine, linezolid,
- 17 fluoroquinolones and pyrazinamide. And in this Phase 3
- 18 study they're examining these five new regimens
- 19 compared to the WHO control regimen, which is following
- 20 the guidelines for treatment that WHO has. And here at
- 21 the bottom you can see the efficiencies that some
- 22 simulations attached to that trial have suggested it

1 might have.

2 And so, taking all of this together, this

3 slide was presented already this morning, so I don't

4 need to go through the details. But something like

5 this is really a game-changer at the point -- at the

6 risk of being cliché, for the future of development,

7 and regimen development in particular. And so, with

8 LAM applied to an adaptive design approach can see the

9 light of day, I think it could really change things for

10 the future. So, I'm glad to reinforce the message from

11 Debra earlier this morning.

12 So, lastly, I can't stress this enough and

13 it's been stated by Dr. Higgins. In looking to the

14 future and working on your plan and your development

15 strategy, early engagement of authorities is essential.

16 Seek critical feedback on design of programs and trials

17 in the face of a very steadily, rapidly evolving field,

18 and pay attention to what they tell you. Really listen

19 and work together. Questions about patient population,

20 the comparator arm, endpoints, follow-up, trial design,

21 combination rules, you know, are there efficiencies for

22 that, that Dr. Higgins presented earlier. All of these

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1 conversations can help really, really improve the

2 likelihood of success for getting things through

3 development.

4 And then just a couple of final two points

5 here. It's very, very encouraging in thinking about

6 taking your development program forward to multiple

7 authorities for review and potential approval that the

8 possibility that they're harmonized and that your

9 program could fit the needs and requirements of various

10 authorities is really important. And it's very

11 encouraging, in fact, that the EMG, the PMDA and the

12 FDA have been in dialogue and have reached an agreement

13 to align certain data requirements to stimulate

14 development to fight any microbial resistance, which TB

15 would fall under that category, I hope, an protect

16 global public health.

17 And, finally, despite how it's categorized or

18 what list it makes or doesn't make, TB is and should be

19 a priority pathogen in the fight against AMR. And the

20 pull and push mechanisms that are being entertained for

21 AMR more broadly are the lifeblood to TB, and I hope

22 that TB doesn't lose out in this juggernaut that is AMR

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1 now. And it's ironic, too, when you think about it,

2 that Jim O'Neill's report about AMR, one of the largest

3 parts of the story that he tells in that report is

4 drug-resistant tuberculosis. So, with that I'll end,

5 and thank you very much for your time.

6 DR. SPIGELMAN: Charles, thank you. I think

7 because of the pressure of time, let's move on. Next

8 speaker is Andy Vernon. Andy is the chief of the

9 clinical research branch of the Division of Elimination

10 at the US CDC, and has been involved in clinical trials

11 for, oh, a couple of decades at least.

DR. VERNON: Yes. Thank you very much. I'll

13 echo the sentiments of others who have preceded me here

14 at the podium in thanking FDA and encouraging their

15 continued engagement in this domain. The opinions I'll

16 express are those of myself and not of my agency, and

17 my conflicts of interest are declared here.

18 I'll move quickly through the overview of

19 TBTC. I think most of you are familiar with us. I'll

20 talk a bit about our approaches to research, talk about

21 specific considerations on the role of individual

22 drugs, where there's a couple of examples from our

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1 work, and end with some comments on our work with other

2 networks as well.

3 As you know, we were initially funded in the

4 early '90s, reorganized and are housed in the Division

5 of TB Elimination. And we've enrolled about 16,000

6 patients in trials since '95. We are focused on

7 regimens and research that is programmatically

8 relevant, and we take that particular piece seriously,

9 so there are elements of the areas we're talking about

10 today that are not particularly applicable for our

11 group. We began as a domestic consortium but have

12 become international, as you are aware. And over the

13 past 20 years we've conducted a number of studies in

14 various domains including several Phase 3 studies,

15 diagnostic studies, a number of mostly Phase 2b

16 studies. We placed a large emphasis on pharmacokinetic

17 work.

We have been collaborating with others in our

19 studies for 15 years or more now, and in particular

20 have collaborated a good deal with the ACTG.

These are studies we've engaged in over the

22 past eight years, and our current group of studies are

- 1 shown here, an observational platform study that's
- 2 ongoing, a study of dose optimization for levofloxacin
- 3 in treatment of MDR, which is a collaboration,
- 4 actually, with NIH. And our current Study 31, which is
- 5 a collaboration with ACTG. We are hopeful to move
- 6 forward with a study of a new pediatric formulation for
- 7 rifapentine, and for a six-week LTBI regimen late this
- 8 year or early next year.
- 9 As you know, we're organized like other
- 10 consortia. We have a number of working groups and a
- 11 core science group which bring forward concepts for
- 12 consideration by the group, and then adoption as full
- 13 protocols to move forward.
- We've undergone a couple of efforts to review
- 15 our programs. In 2007, a decade ago, we had a formal
- 16 external review, which -- whose members encouraged us
- 17 to continue in the path of doing targeted Phase 2
- 18 trials, leading the way to Phase 3 trials, and to
- 19 continue our efforts to collaborate with multiple
- 20 partners. A retreat in 2012 emphasized the importance
- 21 of treatment shortening in drug-sensitive TB, as well
- 22 as treatment shortening in treatment of LTBI. We have

- As you know, considerations about the role of
- 2 individual drugs were based early on the population
- 3 hypothesis put forward by Professor Mitchison and
- 4 colleagues at the MRC initially. And he and they
- 5 proposed specific roles for the activity of anti-TB
- 6 drugs, focusing on bactericidal activity, sterilizing
- 7 activity, and drugs which were important in the
- 8 prevention of acquired drug resistance. And we have,
- 9 in the work that we and others continue to do, we have
- 10 more or less continued to focus on these important
- 11 elements.
- However, in recent years we've begun to
- 13 realize that it is considerably more complex than we
- 14 had initially thought. The work of Veronique Dartois
- 15 and others have emphasized that individual drugs might
- 16 penetrate, as Chuck and others have mentioned today,
- 17 into different compartments at different rates to
- 18 different degrees over different time frames and by
- 19 entry into different compartment components, all of
- 20 which makes it very increasingly difficult to predict
- 21 what will be the impact of individual agents or
- 22 regimens.

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- 1 continued with interest in a variety of these other
- 2 domains, including drug-resistant TB, but our capacity
- 3 in this latter domain is a bit limited at the present
- 4 time.
- 5 As I said, our studies are programmatically
- 6 relevant. They're expected to drive guidelines, to
- 7 have domestic as well as international relevance, and
- 8 to help establish clinical excellence in program
- 9 settings. Our core science chairs have repeatedly
- 10 emphasized the importance -- I had this conversation
- 11 with Payam in the past month -- the importance of a
- 12 robust Phase 2 engine to identify promising regimens.
- 13 Our Phase 2 working group called CRUSH TB addresses
- 14 this need, and we have worked with MRC statisticians
- 15 and others who emphasize the importance of Phase 2 now
- 16 with their proposal, as you know, Patrick's here, for
- 17 novel Phase 2c approaches.
- We pay very close attention to murine results.
- 19 Every TBTC meeting now, at least for the past decade,
- 20 has invited a report from the murine TBTC at Hopkins.
- 21 And so we consider this an important part of our
- 22 efforts.

- 1 I want to provide briefly two examples from
- 2 work we've bene involved with in the effort to sort
- 3 some of this out. Over the past 20 years we have
- 4 worked intermittently but largely with, in particular,
- 5 with rifapentine, a long-acting rifamycin, as you know,
- 6 with -- shown here in the yellow, to illustrate its PK
- 7 curve difference from rifampin, shown in the bluish-
- 8 green.
- 9 In Study 22, we found that relapse rates
- 10 varied substantially in patient subgroups, in patients
- 11 with both cavitation and positive sputum culture at two
- 12 months. Rates of relapse were 22% in the rifapentine
- 13 arm and 21% in the rifampin arm, and with neither the
- 14 rates were about 1.9% and 1.7%, a substantial
- 15 difference that influenced our 2003 guidelines
- 16 domestically.
- 17 TBTC investigators 17 years ago, reasoned that
- 18 the group of patients who were cured with a
- 19 continuation phase of once-weekly INH/rifapentine were
- 20 paucibacillary, and thus similar to persons with LTBI.
- 21 Murine data available at the time supported this logic.
- 22 It was thought that LTBI patients were likely to have

- 1 even lower bacillary loads and that increasing the dose
- 2 of rifapentine from 600 to 900 would further strengthen
- 3 the combination against LTBI.
- 4 British experience in the Uganda Preventive
- 5 Therapy Trial with three months of isoniazid and
- 6 rifampin suggested that the three-month, once-weekly
- 7 LTBI regimen was reasonable. And, as you all know,
- 8 that expectation was borne out and the results were
- 9 published in 2011, showing noninferiority and really
- 10 suggesting superiority of the 3HP once-weekly regimen.
- 11 But, of course, nothing was as simple as it seemed, and
- 12 one of the problems we encountered was this flu-like
- -- --- F
- 13 and other systemic drug reactions among persons --
- 14 about 4% or 5% of persons receiving this regimen.
- 15 I was particularly concerned about this as we
- 16 issued guidelines for use of 3HP and wanted to be sure
- 17 that we had published, also, information about what to
- 18 expect and how it might be dealt with in this regard.
- 19 And I was one of those who was not very convinced that
- 20 there was much potential for INH to be playing a role
- 21 in this set of reactions since we knew that rifampin
- 22 had been associated with a similar problem when used

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- 1 efforts to study the interaction between dolutegravir 2 and weekly isoniazid/rifapentine. That study was
- 3 stopped after four patients had been enrolled because
- 5 stopped after rour patients had been emoned becat
- 4 two of the patients had marked hypersensitivity
- 5 reactions. And so, I thought, well, we're seeing this
- 6 again.
- 7 And then at the ACTG network meeting we were
- 8 informed that there is now evidence at least for a
- 9 possible for INH in this reaction -- in this study.
- 10 Because there was a closed meeting I can't say more
- 11 about that, but I'm sure it will be published --
- 12 presented soon. But it was a reminder to not to leap
- 13 to conclusions as we try to think about the roles of
- 14 individual drugs and regimens, and that the complexity
- 15 of the roles of these drugs is not well appreciated.
- 16 The next part of my talk I could begin by
- 17 quoting Jeremiah, "Oh, foolish people without
- 18 understanding, who have eyes and see not." I think
- 19 this has to do with the four-month regimens. I think
- 20 that the use of two-month culture as a surrogate began
- 21 with this publication from Professor Mitchison and
- 22 Professor Nunn, I think -- or, this was a letter just

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- 1 intermittently previously. However, that publication
- 2 on hypersensitivity included this note: Given the
- 3 similarity of published reports of flu-like syndrome
- 4 associated with rifampin and the reactions seen in this
- 5 study, one night think rifapentine the more likely
- 6 cause of these symptoms than isoniazid. However,
- 7 rifapentine was better tolerated than isoniazid on
- 8 rechallenge, about tenfold better. In a recent
- 9 multicenter randomized clinical trial of intermittent
- 10 continuation phase therapy, participants received 900
- 11 mg of rifapentine twice weekly or 1200 once weekly,
- 12 both in combination with moxifloxacin, and there were
- 13 no reports of possible hypersensitivity or flu-like
- 14 syndrome. But it is possible that the lack of flu-like
- 15 syndrome was due to the regimens or the populations
- 16 being studied.
- 17 Kelly Dooley pursued a couple of
- 18 pharmacokinetic studies in healthy volunteers using
- 19 intermittent rifapentine regimens in both and ran into
- 20 problems with participant reactions. Earlier this year
- 21 at CROI, Christina Brooks, Alice Pallen and colleagues
- 22 from the NIH, presented a poster on their initial

- 1 from Professor Mitchison, I think. "In conclusion,
- 2 there is good evidence that culture conversion at about
- 3 two months is a reliable measure of the sterilizing
- 4 activity of drugs and can be used, for instance, in the
- 5 development of new rifamycins as an indicator of
- 6 efficacy long before the ultimate relapse rates are
- 7 known." I note that he limited that to new rifamycins.
- 8 When we looked at culture conversion rates as
- 9 we were preparing to think about treatment shortening
- 10 and looking at Phase 2, we initiated this assessment --
- 11 Bill Burman led that effort -- to look at how much
- 12 treatment -- how much improvement in two-month culture
- 13 conversion meant something. And at the time we thought
- 14 that, well, there was a 13% increase overall in two-
- 15 month conversion when PZA was added to regimens. And
- 16 that was enough to shorten for three months, so we
- 17 thought a similar shortening might play a role in
- 18 shortening the current regimen by another 30%.
- 19 Sometime not long after that and as we were already
- 20 well into our Phase 2 work, Bob Wallace had published
- 21 his meta-regression model suggesting that it was going
- 22 to -- that the culture conversion rates were going to

- 1 have to be substantially better to achieve a four-month
- 2 regimen. As you know, several sets -- four different
- 3 trials were undertaken, two single site trials, which
- 4 showed about a 17%, 18% increase in two-month culture
- 5 conversion, and our two studies that showed very slight
- 6 or no increase in culture conversion at two months,
- 7 when moxi was substituted into the standard regimen.
- 8 And, of course, then the three large studies were
- 9 undertaken subsequently, which did not achieve a four-
- 10 month treatment-shortening outcome.
- 11 I was interested that Jean-Philippe Lanoix and
- 12 Dick Chaisson and Eric had published a very nice piece
- 13 discussing that finding, and what we had perhaps
- 14 misunderstood in the efforts to look at moxi in this
- 15 way in CID in 2016. And they went about this by
- 16 dissecting out the different models that were used
- 17 according to the different infection models and the
- 18 different species that were used to predict this. And
- 19 very consistently showed that if you look individually
- 20 at each of these, they don't suggest that four months
- 21 was going to be achievable. They go on to say that we
- 22 share the views that further development and validation
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- 1 of more pathologically similar yet reproducible animal
- 2 models is warranted. We also agree that more
- 3 predictive biomarkers for Phase 2 trials should be
- 4 sought. However, the analyses of murine model data
- 5 presented here and the predictions from the model of
- 6 Wallis et al., suggest that the principal failure in
- 7 the development of these regimens was not misplaced
- 8 confidence in murine models and trials based on sputum
- 9 culture-based surrogate endpoints, but rather an overly
- 10 optimistic translation of the output of these studies
- 11 into expectations of a two-month treatment-shortening
- 12 effect.
- Gerry Davies' group have published in the past
- 14 couple of years a couple of meta-analysis basically
- 15 making some similar points about the importance of
- 16 looking at the Phase 2a and 2b data. The striking
- 17 feature of the available dataset that they looked at is
- 18 the variability of pooled estimates of effect for all
- 19 the endpoints examined. Our review shows that the
- 20 existing evidence base supporting phase 2 methodology
- 21 in tuberculosis is highly incomplete, and that it's
- 22 desirable that a broader range of drugs and

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- 2 greater range of phase 2 endpoints.
- We attempted to do some of this with our Phase
- 4 2 work on rifapentine, our Studies 29 and 29X. We

1 combinations be more consistently studied across a

- 5 discussed and decided to go first with a simpler model
- 6 of relatively lower dose of rifapentine, no food, no
- 7 weekend doses, and we failed completely to achieve an
- 8 improvement in culture conversion. And so, we
- 9 essentially pivoted without having to resubmit --
- 10 without having to completely redesign our protocol
- 11 added a dose-ranging element and continued forward with
- 12 the same protocol to look at higher doses with weekend
- 13 dosing and food and, indeed, found much higher rates of
- 14 two-month conversion, which encouraged us to move
- 15 forward with a Phase 3 trial. I show here the, as
- 16 Chuck pointed out earlier, the issue is exposure and
- 17 not dose, so that you see that in the red box the
- 18 groups who had higher exposures achieved very high
- 19 culture conversion rates on both solid and liquid
- 20 culture, exceeding the rates in the liquid culture in
- 21 the standard regimen by 24% to 34%. So, we're now
- 22 doing this Phase 3 looking at four months of a high-
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- 1 dose rifapentine-based regimen.
- We're also aware that working with Rada Savic
- 3 and others that there are pharmacokinetic,
- 4 pharmacodynamic data from our Phase 2 trials that raise
- 5 that same -- the question once again: Will we be able
- 6 to achieve culture conversion in the most severe
- 7 patients? And suggesting that indeed we should be
- 8 giving continued consideration to some modification of
- 9 regimens in the face of baseline predictors of
- 10 severity.
- 11 The Nix TB trial of the TB Alliance was -- of
- 12 course has captured all our attention with very high
- 13 two-month conversion rates in a previously almost
- 14 untreatable disease, and high rates of relapse-free
- 15 cure. I was led to look back at the mouse data
- 16 supporting this regimen and wondering about the role in
- 17 particular of linezolid, and I show here the -- one of
- 18 the murine studies looking at three-month and four-
- 19 month culture conversion in the regimens of
- 20 bedaquiline, pretomanid with or without linezolid. And
- 21 you see this very marked difference in culture
- 22 conversion at three months, suggesting that linezolid

- 1 really is playing a very important role in this
- 2 regimen. Now, it begs the question of the role of the
- 3 other two drugs, because we don't really have the data
- 4 in this study to dissect that piece out, but it is
- 5 strongly suggestive of a critical role of linezolid.
- 6 And it's part of my point, that we really need to
- 7 seriously look at the data that we have already.
- 8 A similar point made here in the Phase 2 that
- 9 was presented by Rod Dawson, the bedaquiline,
- 10 pretomanid, moxi and PZA study that was presented also
- 11 at CROI as a poster. And I just note this really
- 12 important difference, which we've seen in the mouse
- 13 studies, also. When PZA is active as in the case of
- 14 PZA-sensitive patients versus when PZA is not active in
- 15 the PZA-resistant patients, and so the very important
- 16 role that PZA is playing in conjunction with
- 17 bedaquiline.
- So, a few comments about other networks. As
- 19 you know, we've been partnering with ACTG on this very
- 20 large trial now. Dick Chaisson shared a couple of
- 21 slides on their activities. A very similar set of
- 22 priorities to those that TBTC have and that make us
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- 1 good partners from a philosophical point of view. They
- 2 have a very impressive and very large set of trials
- 3 already completed or active in a very short period of
- 4 time.
- 5 This is a quote from Dick's slide, which he
- 6 presented to his external review group earlier this
- 7 year. "Partnerships are essential for conducting TB
- 8 clinical trials." I can remember 15 years ago, when it
- 9 was very difficult for us to find partners, because
- 10 everybody felt they would be able to do it when they
- 11 needed it without looking for additional partners. We
- 12 have a lot of work going on now. The clinical trials
- 13 landscape is very different from what it was 15 years
- 14 ago, and a number of fascinating efforts underway.
- 15 In conclusion, I just emphasize that we need
- 16 more and more consistent work in preclinical and in
- 17 Phase 1 and 2 evaluations of new agents and regimens.
- 18 And we need to pay attention to those results very
- 19 carefully. We need more strategically linked Phase 2b,
- 20 Phase 2c, Phase 3 efforts begun with a successful end
- 21 in mind and substantially simplifying the
- 22 administrative environment of major development

- 1 efforts. A need for continued and increased
- 2 collaborations among the major trial funders and
- 3 networks. A useful step toward this goal might be the
- 4 consideration for creation of an annual or biannual
- 5 research conference focused in this area. And then
- 6 continued efforts by regulatory authorities, such as
- 7 FDA and international bodies to educate their
- 8 interested communities and improve the development
- 9 path. Workshops such as this are a promising step.
- 10 Thank you.
- 11 DR. NAMBIAR: Thank you, Dr. Vernon. Our next
- 12 speaker is Jeffrey Starke. Dr. Starke is a professor
- 13 of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, and has
- 14 been the director of the Children's TB Clinic for over
- 15 three decades. Dr. Starke will be talking to us about
- 16 trial design considerations in the pediatric
- 17 populations. Thank you.
- DR. STARKE: Thank you very much. It's a
- 19 pleasure to be here, and I really want to thank the FDA
- 20 and Sunita and the organizers and everybody for having
- 21 me here to talk about this subject. I am a member of
- 22 the Data Safety Monitoring Board for the PK studies of
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- 1 delamanid for my disclosure. And I want to thank Tony
- 2 Garcia-Prats in South Africa, and some folks in the TB
- 3 Alliance for some help in preparing this talk.
- 4 I have a feeling this talk is going to be
- 5 really different from other talks that you've heard so
- 6 far today. Ironically, just before Andy's talk I got a
- 7 phone call about a child that I'm helping out with
- 8 multidrug-resistant TB meningitis in Texas. And what I
- 9 came to realize is that we are completely making up how
- 10 we are treating, and to be perfectly blunt, that child
- 11 is benefiting from basically nothing that has been
- 12 talked about so far here today. And unfortunately,
- 13 that's part of our current state-of-the-art. Some of
- 14 it unavoidable, some of it avoidable.
- 15 So, how does childhood TB differ from adult
- 16 TB? It's a fundamentally different disease. It
- 17 develops much more rapidly after infection,
- 18 particularly in children less than two years of age.
- 19 It is a paucibacillary form, probably not as
- 20 paucibacillary as TB infection, but still
- 21 paucibacillary in the vast majority of children. And
- 22 only 30% of cases can be confirmed microbiologically.

- 1 There is a diagnostic tetrad that really involves
- 2 symptoms, radiology or physical examination, tests of
- 3 infection and epidemiology. And there are standardized
- 4 research definitions which are hopefully used now in
- 5 clinical trials for those 70% of kids that can't be
- 6 confirmed microbiologically, but clearly that's a huge
- 7 limiting factor in doing drug and efficacy studies.
- 8 I haven't heard really anybody talk about
- 9 extrapulmonary disease, and there's a greatly increased
- 10 propensity for extrathoracic disease in children, up to
- 11 30% of children get extrapulmonary disease, especially
- 12 meningeal and miliary TB. Relapse and failure are
- 13 obviously very difficult to define because we usually
- 14 can't define them microbiologically.
- 15 Children tolerate drugs better than adults do
- 16 in general, so that's a very good thing. And fewer
- 17 children have other significant medical problems,
- 18 hepatic, renal and cardiac, and so forth, that can
- 19 affect both pharmacokinetics and the ability to
- 20 tolerate the drugs.
- 21 The two target groups for pediatrics really
- 22 are kids less than two and adolescents, and you can see

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- $1\,$  this is based on the pre-chemotherapy era of up to 50%
- 2 of children less than a year of age who get TB
- 3 infection will go on to develop TB disease. And up to
- 4 25% of them will develop serious forms of disease,
- 5 particularly meningitis and miliary disease. One to
- 6 two years of age, 25% will develop disease, and then it
- 7 goes down, the so-called favored age of children in
- 8 elementary school. We don't know why that is, but it's
- 9 been observed in virtually every human population. And
- 10 then we start to see more cases in adolescent
- 11 population as well. So, the adolescents and the very
- 12 young kids are the two biggest groups.
- The global burden of TB prior to 2012, there
- 14 were no global estimates of tuberculosis in children
- 15 given by WHO, because there was no methodology to
- 16 develop those estimates. Now there have been several
- 17 modeling studies, and it's estimated there are a
- 18 million cases of children, about 10% of the total
- 19 burden, but only a little over a third of those cases
- 20 are actually notified. We heard earlier, I think, 23%
- 21 of cases not reported in adults; well, over 60% of the
- 22 cases in children probably are never notified.

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- 1 The estimated mortality of 210,000, that would
- 2 be 21%. That's the actual measured mortality of
- 3 children from tuberculosis in the pre-chemotherapy era.
- 4 I'm going to let that one sink in a little bit. And,
- 5 of course, that's because we're not finding these kids,
- 6 diagnosing them and properly treating them.
- 7 The global burden of MDR-TB in children,
- 8 again, estimated 25,000 to 32,000 cases a year, but a
- 9 very small minority are identified and certainly are
- 10 not getting properly treated. And, of course, HIV
- 11 association with TB, even with ART, these kids still
- 12 tend to have worse outcomes.
- 13 LTBI, just to mention briefly, tens of
- 14 millions of children obviously with tuberculosis
- 15 infection, at least 2 million probably infected with
- 16 MDR-TB. Those are our cases of the future. And the
- 17 estimated child household contacts less than 5 eligible
- 18 for treatment globally is in the millions, yet this is
- 19 not being done at all in most of the high burden
- 20 countries.
- 21 Current TB regimens for children are pretty
- 22 much the same as they are in adults, and I'll be coming

- 1 back to that point several times, so I'm not going to
- 2 spend a lot of time on this particular slide.
- What are some of the current knowledge gaps in
- 4 the treatment of childhood TB right now? Well, PK and
- 5 adverse effect profiles for existing drugs, I have a
- 6 kid right now with a very difficult-to-treat infection
- 7 and I was considering putting him on clofazimine or
- 8 bedaquiline, and it involves the CNS. I could find
- 9 virtually nothing on clofazimine levels in the CSF, and
- 10 he's 5 years old, I have no idea what dose of
- 11 bedaquiline I would use in him. Even though that drug
- 12 has been licensed for years, there is zero
- 13 pharmacokinetic data for 5-year-olds on that particular
- 14 drug. Very frustrating.
- 15 The optimal duration in follow-up of TB
- 16 regimens for drug-susceptible and drug-resistant TB, we
- 17 have limited data. Adequate drug combinations in
- 18 relevant doses for many of the forms of extrapulmonary
- 19 TB that have been for the most part unstudied. Optimal
- 20 duration in combination of drugs for TB treatment in
- 21 children living with HIV, we're starting to get some
- 22 data, but we're behind in optimal drug combinations and

- 1 durations for MDR-TB in children, especially those with
- 2 so-called minimal disease. We know that regimens that
- 3 work in adults tend to work in children, but that
- 4 doesn't help us define actually if we need less drug or
- 5 fewer drugs, or for a shorter period of time in these
- 6 children with paucibacillary disease.
- 7 So, there are some real barriers to the
- 8 inclusion of children in TB studies. Obviously, this
- 9 difficulty of microbiologic confirmation of disease
- 10 failure and relapse is a huge barrier, huge problem.
- 11 There is difficulty in performing PK sampling in
- 12 children, especially infants and toddlers, who are big
- 13 targets. And especially very important, the
- 14 developmental pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of
- 15 young children, particularly in the very youngest age
- 16 groups, is very, very important.
- 17 There is really complacency about the
- 18 effectiveness of existing regimens. Well, they work,
- 19 so what do we really need to do?
- Trial design issues, what are the proper
- 21 endpoints? What are the proper sample sizes for
- 22 children, especially when we start to break them down
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- 1 by different age groups?
- 2 Capacity. We lack trial sites around the
- 3 United States, certainly, and around the world for
- 4 actually conducting good studies in children. There
- 5 has been very little capacity building until recently.
- 6 Complicated research oversight and some regulatory
- 7 concerns, which I'll come back to.
- 8 And then we still hear this, that we can't do
- 9 studies in children because it will take funding away
- 10 from adults. I mean, we actually hear this. Reminding
- 11 you that children have more than 10% of the disease but
- 12 get less than 2% of the research funding by current
- 13 measurements.
- 14 Regulatory issues are huge. So, the European
- 15 Union has a regulation that requires an early pediatric
- 16 investigation plan no later than the completion of PK
- 17 studies. The United States, orphan designation, we've
- 18 already heard this. So, let me tell you in practical
- 19 terms what this means. When I'm treating a child, even
- 20 with drug-susceptible TB, I'm taking pills that are
- 21 meant for adults, we crush them, we maybe put them in a
- 22 solution, we give them with food, we combine them

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- 1 together, and I have no idea about the pharmacokinetics
- 2 under those conditions, and I have no idea about the
- 3 safety profiles, especially when we get beyond the
- 4 first line drugs. I would argue that anybody in this
- 5 room treating an adult under those conditions would
- 6 almost consider it unethical, yet it's standard
- 7 operating procedure in pediatrics because of lack of
- 8 information. And that's one of our biggest problems.
- 9 The next two slides I'm just throwing out to
- 10 show you. If I were to show you this slide in 2010, it
- 11 would in essence be empty, but there are -- and this is
- 12 the good news -- many, many trials going on now
- 13 involving children, looking at regimens for both
- 14 prevention of disease and also treatment of disease.
- 15 So, we are making progress in finally getting
- 16 information. Most of these actually are PK studies and
- 17 pharmacodynamic studies. There are not as much
- 18 efficacy studies because of the difficulty of doing
- 19 those studies in children.
- 20 There have been several really nice papers
- 21 that have been published including children in
- 22 tuberculosis trials, at what stage is it appropriate
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- 1 and when should things be done. And this is just an
- 2 algorithm from one of them about when is it reasonable
- 3 to introduce children, asking several questions. Is it
- 4 reasonable to assume that children, when compared with
- 5 adults, have a similar disease progression in response
- 6 to intervention? Yes/no. If it's yes, then is it
- 7 reasonable to assume a similar exposure response with
- 8 the drugs compared to adults? And so forth. I'm not
- 9 going to go through the whole algorithm, but the point
- 10 is, people have thought this out and in general, for
- 11 tuberculosis, the answer to most of these questions is
- 12 yes. Of course, there are some differences in disease
- 13 expression and other things, but in general, especially
- 14 when it comes to dealing with drugs and drug regimens,
- 15 the answer to most of these is yes, which leads to a
- 16 justification of earlier involvement of children in
- 10 Justification of earlier involvement of emidien
- 17 trials.
- So, what are some of the lessons we've learned
- 19 over the years? Well, efficacy, again, difficult to
- 20 study regimens as opposed to individual drugs in
- 21 children because of problems with sample size, cost,
- 22 capacity, lack of microbiologic markers. We realize

- 1 that, but the truth is, almost everybody I know in
- 2 childhood tuberculosis is willing to accept the premise
- 3 that if it works in adults it will work in children.
- 4 And so, efficacy studies are not -- I don't want to say
- 5 they're not important, but they're probably not
- 6 necessary in order for us to accept that certain drugs
- 7 and certain regimens may be extremely useful and
- 8 helpful to use in children. We almost take that off
- 9 the table.
- The aim is to match the PK and area under the
- 11 curve and other pharmacokinetic and -dynamic
- 12 measurements in children with those that are known in
- 13 adults to be both safe and effective, and that's really
- 14 the major goal of many of the pediatric studies.
- 15 We might need efficacy studies for children
- 16 for some forms of extrapulmonary tuberculosis, and also
- 17 when it comes to drugs and regimens for prevention,
- 18 treatment of infection or primary prevention, well,
- 19 then some pediatric efficacy very well may be important
- 20 as well. But remember that some children with milder
- 21 forms of disease may actually require fewer drugs for a
- 22 shorter period of time, so we agree that's what done
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- 1 for adults will be efficacious. It's possible we could
- 2 do less for children and that also would be
- 3 efficacious, but difficult to figure that out and
- 4 certainly not when new regimens are introduced or
- 5 starting to be used.
- 6 The general consensus for us, it's okay to
- 7 enroll children in drug research after the following
- 8 things. There is a full range of nonclinical studies
- 9 in adult animals. Safety, pharmacology, genotoxicity
- 10 studies and appropriate juvenile animal studies do not
- 11 raise any alarms, any signals or cause for concern.
- 12 The animal and human studies have substantiated anti-
- 13 tuberculosis activity, no surprise there. The PK and
- 14 PD data from adults allow for selection of appropriate
- 15 PK targets for children where a safe dose has been
- 16 established, which is around Phase 2a or 2b. I'm
- 17 talking about drug approval phases now of the drug.
- 18 And it would be helpful, of course, if there was some
- 19 data on drug interactions with ARV drugs, since TB in
- 20 children living with HIV is such a huge problem in many
- 21 parts of the world.
- 22 So, when should we actually begin pediatric

- 1 studies? Well, traditionally nothing was done until
- 2 after a drug was licensed, and I'm sorry to say, but
- 3 once a drug is licensed, the motivation is gone. And
- 4 we know this because drug after drug after drug after
- 5 drug after drug, we have no pediatric data for -- or
- 6 limited pediatric data. So, we already have proof-of-
- 7 concept that that simply doesn't work, and as Einstein
- 8 said about insanity, continuing to do the same thing
- 9 and expecting a different result pretty much means
- 10 you're crazy.
- So, the consensus is that a pediatric study
- 12 should begin with safety and basic PK are established
- 13 in adults, which is usually somewhere between Phase 2a
- 14 and Phase 2b studies. We also feel strongly that
- 15 adolescents, and most people are using now 10 years of
- 16 age and older based on their PK and pharmacodynamics,
- 17 should be included in late phase adult studies and
- 18 later on. And you heard a little bit about this
- 19 earlier today about adolescents being included in adult
- 20 studies, and I think the pediatric community would be
- 21 completely behind that concept. And also, begin
- 22 development of pediatric dosage forms much earlier.
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- 1 Not after licensing, but during Phase 2a, so that
- 2 they're actually available at Phase 2 at or around
- 3 Phase 2b so, in fact, the pediatric studies can begin
- 4 immediately. We think this is an extraordinarily
- 5 important concept for new drug development.
- 6 Several papers have been published about
- 7 accelerating clinical drug development. This is one
- 8 for 2015, and I know it's hard to read things that are
- 9 like this. But this just talks about both
- 10 developmental strategy and then some of the challenges
- 11 that were historical, that are current and that are
- 12 proposed. So, if we look at developmental strategy,
- 13 historically there was no specific pediatric
- 14 development. Kids were given adult doses or adjusted
- 15 according to weight, but we know that that's an
- 16 incredibly simplistic way to do things.
- 17 Currently, pediatric development is generally
- 18 initiated once the drug or regimen is approved for
- 19 adults, starting with adolescents and then gradually
- 20 moving to children so-called dosage de-escalation. But
- 21 now what's really being proposed is single-dose PK
- 22 studies begin as soon as successful Phase 2 adult

- 1 studies are complete, and then later maybe multi-dose
- 2 comparisons as well. And you're going to see a little
- 3 bit more of this in a couple of slides coming up as
- 4 well.
- 5 For pharmacokinetics and study design, the
- 6 conservative approach was this step-wise age de-
- 7 escalation. You would do adolescents and then you
- 8 would do junior high type kids and then elementary
- 9 kids, and then finally get down to younger kids. And
- 10 now I would say within the pediatric TB community, age
- 11 de-escalation is pretty much accepted as unnecessary
- 12 for the vast majority of drugs unless there is some
- 13 specific safety concern, especially for a particular
- 14 age child. And what I really want to emphasize is that
- $15\,$  kids less than a year of age and particularly less than
- 16 three months of age have completely different PK and
- 17 pharmacodynamics than really any other population, yet
- 18 we don't even have data for isoniazid and rifampin in
- 19 that particular age group. And so, we really need to
- 20 develop that much easier, and these are just some of
- 21 the suggested age ranges in a consensus panel of
- 22 pediatric TB experts for how it might be useful to
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- 1 break down kids in terms of study, but not in a de-
- 2 escalation but in sort of an all-in approach, in most
- 3 cases.
- 4 Appropriate sample size for PK, there are some
- 5 challenges here. What is the appropriate sample size
- 6 for PK within each age group? How many kids do you
- 7 really need and where do you need to get them from?
- 8 You need them from different trial sites with different
- 9 genetics. And how much variation is there, really,
- 10 that you need to account for in doing these basic
- 11 studies? Probably single-dose sampling in all age
- 12 groups and then move to multi-dose sampling as well.
- 13 Rationalizing sample points, exactly when should blood
- 14 be drawn and trying to reduce the burden, especially in
- 15 the smallest children. Drug concentrations of CSF,
- 16 which in the CSF has been really neglected but is
- 17 really a very important point for pediatrics. So,
- 18 those 210,000 kids that are dying, a lot of them have
- 19 TB meningitis. Use of dosing simulations, which many
- 20 people in this room know way more than I do. And then,
- 21 of course, how to do trial design for children who also
- 22 have HIV infection.

- For dosage formulations, they need to be age-
- 2 specific, they need to be palatable with acceptable
- 3 taste and acceptable all around, and that needs to be
- 4 developed while the drugs are going through the
- 5 approval process.
- Trial capacity, we need much more robust
- 7 network. There is very, very, very little funding to -
- 8 relatively speaking -- for trial networks, like Andy
- 9 talked about, the trial networks that are based mostly
- 10 for adults.
- 11 Incentive for child studies and formulations.
- 12 Again, there are people in this room that know much
- 13 more about this than I do, but extended market
- 14 exclusivity, priority review vouchers and so forth
- 15 really haven't worked for pediatrics. There is the
- 16 concept of advance market commitment that may be
- 17 something interesting to explore. Remember the numbers
- 18 that I showed you, internationally the potential
- 19 markets for childhood TB are huge, especially treating
- 20 tuberculosis infection.
- 21 I think it's important to include pediatric
- 22 experts on data safety monitoring boards and other

- 1 things, and requiring pediatric studies for sources of
- 2 pediatric funding.
- 3 I give this example, and I may rankle some
- 4 people in the room by doing this, but I'll do it
- 5 anyway. Many decades ago it was decided that
- 6 particularly in low resource, high burden countries,
- 7 the thing we were promoting to diagnose TB was sputum 8 smear, microscopy. And the good news, you know, you
- 9 find a lot of cases and you find the most contagious
- 10 cases. But by making that decision, it ensured the
- 11 exclusion of children from international tuberculosis
- 12 control. I'm going to let that one sink in, too,
- 13 because sputum is useless in children, next to useless.
- 14 So, there was no hope of diagnosing TB in children
- 15 using that as the particular standard. And that's why
- 16 it's so important to consider pediatric-related things
- 17 and have pediatric experts at the table when decisions
- 18 are being made about policy, about science, about study
- 19 design. How can we design studies to learn the most
- 20 that we can then apply to children as well?
- 21 This is actually from the TB Alliance in
- 22 showing the traditional at the top, how we go through

- 1 the whole adult development process and then we go into
- 2 the pediatric development process, hopefully, and now
- 3 trying to combine these things and accelerate them. An
- 4 accelerated pediatric drug developmental pathway could
- 5 allow life-saving treatments to reach children sooner
- 6 than they do today.
- And this is just an extension of this, again,
- 8 from the article by Murray, and I won't go through the
- 9 entire thing. But it says many of the elements that
- 10 I've said about when during individual drug development
- 11 Phase 1, 2a, 2b and 3, we should be introducing various
- 12 aspects of pediatric drug development, and it's a nice
- 13 summary slide of all these principles.
- 14 So, the overview of the approach. Create
- 15 regulatory and economic incentives for industry and
- 16 academia to develop and study pediatric formulations of
- 17 old and new drugs; create capacity-building for
- 18 pediatric trials; start development of child-friendly
- 19 pediatric formulations earlier; start pediatric PK
- 20 studies concomitantly with Phase 2b studies in adults;
- 21 establish function within childhood TB community. You
- 22 know, the HIV people have just passed us by incredibly,

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- 1 and they have the pediatric anti-retroviral drug
- 2 optimization group that's been incredibly successful in 2
- 3 getting ART pediatric formulations available and
- 4 distributed throughout the world. So, we need to
- 5 develop some consensus priorities on these key drugs
- 6 and formulations for children in TB, identify the
- 7 research gaps and specific ways of going about trying
- 8 to approach them.
- I'm going to end with a quote, as many people
- 10 often do. This is from Bill Burman's paper a while
- 11 ago. First looking at this, "An overzealous attempt to
- 12 protect some children from the possible harms of
- 13 research perversely causes harm by either denying
- 14 access to treatment or through exposing children to the 4 and implications for future trials, I will address the
- 15 risks of inappropriate dosages of new medications.'
- 16 This is my life. This is what I do every day.
- 17 And in general, the people that want to not include
- 18 children in studies are never the pediatricians,
- 19 because we know that that means that we're then going 9 mention briefly about the work we've been doing at the
- 20 to have to use unstudied, unproven drugs and
- 21 formulations in children once those drugs become
- 22 available. And I certainly believe in the final quote.

- 1 "Children have the same right to benefit from research
- 2 as do adults." Thank you very much.
- 3 DR. NAMBIAR: Thank you very much, Dr. Starke.
- 4 So, I think we will take a maybe 10-, 12-minute break,
- 5 and if we can be back by 3:40, that would be great so
- 6 we can get started exactly at 3:45.
- 7 [Break]
- 8 DR. SPIGELMAN: [Next is Dr. Christian
- 9 Lienhardt], who is the team leader for TB Elimination
- 10 within the global TB program. And Christian is going
- 11 to summarize, to a certain extent, on the lessons
- 12 learned from completed TB trials, and also those
- 13 implications. Christian, thank you.
- 14 DR. LIENHARDT: Thank you very much. You're
- 15 right, Mel, summarize to a certain extent. So, good
- 16 afternoon, everybody. Thank you very much to FDA for
- 17 inviting me to come to this important workshop. I
- 18 really appreciate even more in the sense that when I
- 19 started the work at WHO to look at how to introduce --
- 20 how to make sure that new drugs are being evaluated by
- 21 the World Health Organization and being proposed for
- 22 use in countries, which is really related to the World

- 1 Health Organization.
- I started circulating to the most important,
- 3 stringent regulatory authorities starting with FDA, and
- 4 I must admit that the way I've been received here was
- 5 really extremely welcoming and very warm. And we
- 6 started an extremely good collaboration, which has led
- 7 to the fact that when bedaquiline has been approved by
- 8 the FDA, then at WHO we're ready to immediately embark
- 9 on the evaluation of the product and the recommendation
- 10 we could do for the countries for the use of the drug.
- 11 So, that's, I think, is worth mentioning.
- 12 So, in this talk where I've been asked to
- 13 speak about the lessons learned from completed trials
- 15 various approaches to trial designs for tuberculosis;
- 16 mention a little bit about endpoints, some
- 17 considerations; summarizing all what has been said
- 18 today; touch upon the new trial designs; and then
- 20 World Health Organization on target regimen profiles
- 21 for TB treatment. And relate the lessons learned and
- 22 suggestions for future studies to how we at WHO

- 1 consider that as extremely important for the way we can
- 2 make recommendation for the use of drugs and regimens
- 3 for TB patients.
- 4 So, it's been a very intense day, so I'm going
- 5 to try and summarize the best I can. I tried to --
- 6 inevitably there will be some (inaudible) things which
- 7 have been done, but I try to put all of that in
- 8 prospect. And starting to put in prospects is really
- 9 looking at the history and, as you can see here, taken
- 10 from a publication a couple of years ago, is that the
- 11 notion of development of treatment of tuberculosis has
- 12 always been in constant interaction both with the
- 13 amount of drugs, amount of regimens from the very
- 14 start, in 1946, which was the first randomized clinical
- 15 trial ever looking at streptomycin for the treatment of
- 16 tuberculosis and realizing it was leading to emergence
- 17 of resistance. And since then the history of TB
- 18 treatment has always been combining, trying new drugs
- 19 and finding the right regimens. And I think that's
- 20 important because this is exactly where we are placing
- 21 ourselves.
- So, what are the approaches to trial design?

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- 1 We have seen that today there are several of those, the
- 2 classical path in drug susceptible TB, the accelerated
- 3 approval in MDR-TB, the combination development path,
- 4 then the unified path in drug susceptible in MDR-TB and
- 5 on uncontrolled trials. That's again trying to
- 6 summarize what has been discussed. I'm going to look
- 7 at those quickly and try to draw the main lessons
- 8 learned.
- 9 In terms of classical path, the way we've been
- 10 learning in the TB, drug susceptibility has been the
- 11 three trials which have been carried out to substitute
- 12 EHRZ control regimen, ethambutol or isoniazid with
- 13 either moxifloxacin or gatifloxacin. And these were
- 14 the REMox, OFLOTUB and RIFAQUIN trials.
- 15 They were a noninferiority design and a margin
- 16 of noninferiority was determined by limit of what could
- 17 be expected to be achieved using reduced duration of
- 18 the control regimen. Delta was set at 6%, and I quote
- 19 here Stephen Gillespie in his paper on the result of
- 20 REMox that was expected to reflect consultation with
- 21 clinicians in high burden countries and reanalysis of
- 22 previous trials showing the effect of shortening

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- 1 treatment to four months without substituting a new
- 2 drug. And as we heard earlier, it's all about what we
- 3 can set in terms of control regimen and expectations
- 4 from the new regimens.
- 5 You know about the publication of the three
- 6 trials and it has been shown already about the results,
- 7 that none of them were able to demonstrate
- 8 noninferiority of the regimens with substitution of
- 9 drug for moxifloxacin or gatifloxacin.
- 10 Interestingly, and that brings already to one
- 11 of the first questions. If you look here at the
- 12 results, in most of the arms we had a pretty good
- 13 collection of sputum culture at two months with very
- 14 high rates in all of the various arms, even though some
- 15 of them were doing quite badly in terms of relapse, as
- 16 you can see. And I put on the top here the Study A,
- 17 which interestingly showed that with exactly the same
- 18 regimen for infancy phase either for eight months or
- 19 six months' duration, there were similar conditions at
- 20 two months with different relapse rates at the end of
- 21 treatment. So, bringing already questions about the
- 22 use of the two-month culture conversion as a marker of

- 1 treatment outcome, treatment activity.
- 2 It's important to try and stop on these two
- 3 trials and try to reflect on what has been shown, and
- 4 we have embarked together with CPTR on the meta-
- 5 analysis of the three trials with a total sample size
- 6 of more than 3,000 patients. And that has been the
- 7 place of this so-called TB-ReFLECT, an analysis of
- 8 fluoroquinolone clinical trials to try and see what we
- 9 can learn from the trials and what's the failures of
- 10 treatment they can tell us and how the different arms
- 11 can be informing us about the way patients were
- 12 behaving in terms of bactericidal and sterilization
- 13 activity.
- What can be found from this TB-ReFLECT and
- 15 these are the result which I showed the results shown
- 16 at the Union Conference in Liverpool last year and now
- 17 being presented -- is still being worked on. We showed
- 18 that the failures where in the standard of care and the
- 19 test arms were mostly associated with insufficient drug
- 20 levels and mainly rifampicin. So, that tells us
- 21 already about the importance of adherence to treatment.
- The longer duration of treatment as expected

- 1 was beneficial and the culture-based predictors were
- 2 more efficient to predict outcome at four months than
- 3 two months. But interestingly, what we were looking at
- 4 was the baseline covariates, and we identified a group
- 5 of so-called hart-to-treat patients, which showed a
- 6 higher risk of unfavorable outcome with the following
- 7 covariates being HIV infected, older, underweight, with
- 8 a high initial smear in the sputum and the presence of
- 9 cavity in chest x-ray.
- So, that tells us that there might be some
- 11 difference here within the various groups submitted to
- 12 the trials. Bias different in the groups and the
- 13 concept that maybe one duration or one type of trial
- 14 doesn't fit all. And the one duration for all will
- 15 need reexamination. So, it's interesting and that work
- 16 is still ongoing on that to try and see whether this
- 17 so-called hard-to-treat patients can be identified and
- 18 might need specific treatment, either treatment
- 19 duration or dosage.
- 20 So, that was the classical path to
- 21 substitution of one element of the regimen. The other
- 22 one is accelerated conditional approval on MDR-TB. We

- 1 combo, and that is what is being shown here.
- 2 So, combo in the Phase 2, 14-day EBA study,
- 3 and then being led to the 8-week serial sputum colony
- 4 count, and then if the combo is shown to be
- 5 statistically better than the control, HRZE being
- 6 brought into the Phase 3 trials. So, that's the
- 7 combination development, which has been further
- 8 refined, and you've seen this slide another time today.
- 9 That has been refined to the next stage, which is the
- 10 unified path in drug susceptible and drug resistant
- 11 regimen development, and that's the path taken by TB
- 12 Alliance, so that's today.
- This unified path has been used for the B-PA-
- 14 Z-M combination -- bedaquiline, pretomanid,
- 15 pyrazinamide and moxifloxacin and CO5, who are patients
- 16 with newly diagnosed drug-susceptible or MDR-TB,
- 17 sensitive to moxifloxacin where randomized if they were
- 18 drug susceptible to comparison of bedaquiline,
- 19 pretomanid and pyrazinamide versus EHRZ. And those who
- 20 were MDR-TB were receiving the same combination plus
- 21 moxifloxacin.
- The Phase 2 results, which we showed earlier,

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- 1 spoke about that also today. That has been the path
- 2 followed for approval of bedaquiline, but the FDA and
- 3 similarly by delamanid by EMA a couple of years ago,
- 4 and no need to go back on those. But what is
- 5 interesting is that while the two studies provide
- 6 important information about the safety and efficacy of
- 7 the two new drugs, they do not provide any information
- 8 about the best way these drugs could be used within a
- 9 regimen. And therefore, a series of trials, and just
- 10 here is an example of all the various trials are
- 11 trying, among others, to try and see what is the best
- 12 combination these drugs can be used. So, this is again
- 13 part of the path being used but with the limitation
- 14 that we are speaking here about drugs and not about
- 15 regimens.
- So, because of that, there has been a couple
- 17 of years ago, already the feeling that the development
- 18 pathway should be looking at combination, and that has
- 19 been an approach taken by the TB Alliance, and trying
- 20 to go from the stage of the Phase 2 trials to look
- 21 around the single drugs, being informed either by the
- 22 mouse model, trying to go to EBA studies with the

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1 showed that there was evidence of substantial

- 2 additional benefit from the addition of moxifloxacin,
- 3 and that was an indirect comparison. And the next step
- 4 would be either a Phase 3 using a four-drug MDR regimen
- would be claim at made a using a rout using masteregime
- 5 among this group.
- 6 So, this is the unified path of being
- 7 followed, and all of those paths are bringing the main
- 8 issue about efficacy endpoints. And here I use slides
- 9 made by our colleague, Gerry Davies, from PreDICT-TB,
- 10 which shows very well what all the different aspects in
- 11 terms of what can be detected for considering the
- 12 bacillary load and over time, and what we are looking
- 13 at in terms of efficacy endpoints. And the fact that
- 14 we are always completely condemned by this limit of
- 15 detection and trying to see what we can obtain in the
- 16 various development of the bacteria in response to
- 17 treatment. And looking at either what happens during
- 18 the treatment in terms of culture conversion at two
- 19 months or time to culture conversion, and then presence
- 20 of failure during treatment.
- 21 And then after treatments, all those among who
- 22 might have been shown to have been (inaudible)

- 1 developing on recurrence either at early stage or at
- 2 the late stage with relapse.
- 3 And these efficacy endpoints are all the ones
- 4 which are being collected, and if we look at the Phase
- 5 2 studies and here this is a systematical review done
- 6 by Burnett (ph) and Gerry recently published in CID.
- 7 And looking at 133 trials with Phase 2a and B outcomes,
- 8 it has been shown that EBA days 0 to 2 and eight weeks'
- 9 culture conversion were the most commonly reported
- 10 endpoints. And again, as mentioned by Andrew earlier,
- 11 there was striking heterogeneity in the way that the
- 12 endpoints were being reported along these various
- 13 studies.
- Going back to the fact that we are looking at
- 15 the two months' culture conversion, the effective
- 16 replacing ethambutol with moxi or gatifloxacin with
- 17 first-line therapy was being addressed through various
- 18 trials, and here I show the slides from the early
- 19 OLOTUB trial, the Phase 2. Because what interestingly
- 20 was done here is that the rate of decline of viable
- 21 colony counts was assessed in repeated cultures weekly
- 22 over the entire phase of treatment. So, what was being

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- 1 modeled here was about the rate of decline, where the
- 2 traditional way is shown here in the study by Conde was
- 3 to just repeat over time the culture conversion and
- 4 looking at the evaluation between the test and the
- 5 control arms in terms of proportions of patients
- 6 converting or not.
- 7 So, we discussed at length about the
- 8 viability, the validity of the months to culture
- 9 conversion as the trial level surrogate markers, so
- 10 it's no need to go on further on that. But what it
- 11 tells us is the debate is still some hope and where we
- 12 should consider using longitudinal endpoints as well,
- 13 because they're for the advantage of being independent
- 14 of the sampling at time points. There is an
- 15 unrestricted scale of measurement that are open to
- 16 greater statistical power and well adapted to
- 17 cumulative meta-analysis.
- This has been used in the PanACEA trial, where
- 19 the time to culture conversion were being assessed
- 20 through the various regimens and being shown here for
- 21 the regimen with 35 mg rifampicin as being much higher
- 22 significantly compared to other arms. So, there is an

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- 1 advantage in addition to the time to culture conversion
- 2 at a very specific time point, like two months, of also
- 3 considering the dynamic effect of time to event
- 4 endpoints.
- 5 So, I mentioned about PanACEA, so PanACEA was
- 6 an attempt to integrate to use in tuberculosis, the
- 7 multi-arm Phase 2-3 trials, which were originally
- 8 developed in oncology with planned interim analysis.
- 9 The final analysis is done on the definite endpoint,
- 10 and the usual Phase 3 bacteriological endpoint of
- 11 failure or relapse can be used. An intermediate
- 12 endpoint used to compare each experimental arm with a
- 13 common control at interim analysis, and the arms are
- 14 dropped if there was insufficient evidence of benefit
- 15 using the prespecified critical values. So, the MAMS
- 16 approach was being used in TB because gave further
- 17 ability to screen multiple regimens and drop those
- 18 which are less promising, failing to achieve the
- 19 specified targets.
- So, the feasibility of MAMS has been shown in
- 21 TB with the PanACEA trial. The arms without evidence
- 22 of sufficient efficacy were dropped early, thereby

- 1 reducing the sample size. There was a slight risk of
- 2 dropping an elective regimen; however, the trials were
- 3 shown to be logistically challenging, the culture
- 4 results for reasons described by Payam earlier. The
- 5 culture result was low and not being good predictors,
- 6 so that makes the case for better and real time
- 7 biomarkers that could be used earlier in treatment.
- 8 And the question is, would limited data on relapse
- 9 assist our decision-making process?
- So, all that shows that we need real time
- 11 assessment of efficacy in TB regimen development, and
- 12 the major issue, as mentioned also earlier today, is
- 13 the lack of direct readout of response looking at the
- 14 amount of TB organism being killed. That severely
- 15 limits the measure of treatment effect, and the lack of
- 16 predictive quantitative relationship between the Phase
- 17 2 readouts, organisms killed, and the Phase 3 readout,
- 18 the cure. It is unclear how to translate culture
- 19 conversion outcomes. That has been mentioned as one of
- 20 the main problem in terms of translating Phase 2 to
- 21 Phase 3 results. So, we need new biomarkers for
- 22 conducting measurement of bacterial load in sputum and

- 1 the example has been given amply with the LAM assay
- 2 today.
- 3 Another way to accelerate development is the
- 4 Phase 2c step design in the sense that the culture
- 5 conversion is limited value and the regimen is likely
- 6 to be affecting Phase 3. So, a more informal Phase 2
- 7 study can be done which includes information on long-
- 8 term outcomes, and that is what is proposed with a
- 9 Phase 2c step trial proposed by Patrick Phillips and
- 10 collaborators.
- 11 Additionally, to study the interim duration in
- 12 Phase 2 and to generate richer data prior to more
- 13 informed Phase 3 go and no-go decision-making. And the
- 14 sample size will be similar to Phase 2b study. The
- 15 novel regimens would be given for the intended duration
- 16 of treatment -- three months or four months, and the
- 17 patients being followed for 12 months' post
- 18 randomization. And then the endpoint being measured
- 19 would be a composite failure relapse endpoint.
- The last aspect of the unified path is the
- 21 uncontrolled confirmatory trial. So, we had some
- 22 development recently with the Ebola epidemics and this
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- 1 paper from Lancet mentioned that the trials of new
- 2 treatment for Ebola were being justified on the fact
- 3 that when conventional care means such a high
- 4 probability of death, 70%, it is problematic to insist
- 5 on randomizing patients to it when the interventional
- 6 arm holds out at least the possibility of benefit.
- 7 Ethical arguments are not the same for all levels of
- 8 risk. And it was further mentioned that equipoise is a
- 9 useful principle but it can break down when
- 10 conventional care offers little benefit and mortality
- 11 is extremely high.
- 12 This is somehow the logic being followed here
- 13 with the Nix-TB trial about the fact that there was a
- 14 complete justification in the absence of inefficient
- 15 treatment to undertake the study with a completely new
- 16 regimen.
- 17 The particular consideration to address for
- 18 this uncontrolled confirmatory trials. The first is
- 19 about the arguments being used that are applying for
- 20 XDR, which is being used, but do they apply similarly,
- 21 and that's what Mel mentioned about going forward or
- 22 backward, and here I used the word de-escalation

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- 1 somehow in quotes is can we apply that from XDR then to
- 2 the pre-XDR then to MDR-TB? And that is an important
- 3 question to address up to where can we go? Do we
- 4 consider that this is a situation of a complete new
- 5 regimen and pan-TB type of regimen that we can somehow
- 6 de-escalate on the various groups? Or is that a point
- 7 where we should start to use an historical control and
- 8 start to have properly randomized control trial?
- 9 So, speaking about that, we at WHO developed
- 10 target profiles for TB treatment and the idea was to
- 11 start with the goal in mind. That means that we wanted
- 12 to try and frame the fact that with these targets and
- 13 specifications that the developers should meet for the
- 14 performance of new TB treatment, and it should align
- 15 with the needs of the end users. So, with this in mind
- 16 and thinking about the target audience, the
- 17 pharmaceutical industry, research institutions, product
- 18 development partners, donors, NGOs, CSO, we thought we
- 19 would try and address this potential target profiles
- 20 for treatment regimens. So, here going away from the
- 21 simple aspect of the drugs but to the regimen itself.
- And we placed ourselves in the view that there

- 1 would be a scale-up of expert more widely than what was
- 2 shown this morning, and that's the outcome of testing
- 3 patients who are suspecting to have tuberculosis will
- 4 be through Xpert being labeled as either being Xpert-
- 5 positive or not, so rifampicin-susceptible or
- 6 rifampicin-resistant. And we place ourselves in this
- 7 paradigm and developed target regimen profiles for
- 8 rifampicin-susceptible or rifampicin-resistant. And
- 9 then we took one further step of the pan-TB regimen
- 10 that could be given to patients in the situation where
- 11 there is no diagnostics available.
- So, all the three target regimen profiles are
- 13 being described in this book and they are described in
- 14 such a way that we show for each of them the clinical
- 15 indications of the treatment, whether rifampicin-
- 16 resistant or forms of TB and pan-TB regimen. We list
- 17 the critical endpoints to be obtained and the way they
- 18 should be measured. For instance, nonrelapsing cure at
- 19 two, four, six or nine months after starting treatment.
- 20 We describe the target populations, like children,
- 21 adults, persons living with HIV. And we give
- 22 identifications about the treatment characteristics,

- 1 like expected duration, frequency route of
- 2 administration and the formulation. And for each of
- 3 those we give other priority or desirable attributes,
- 4 and the way we place that is to say that some of the
- 5 attributes should be considered absolutely
- 6 indispensable and with a go/no-go decision to what's
- 7 the development of a regimen, whereas, some other
- 8 attributes would be considered as desirable. That
- 9 means being in the place for a decision on the type of
- 10 -- how to say -- sorry, I don't find the words in
- 11 English now -- when you try and see what is the
- 12 respective advantage. So, that is what I can say,
- 13 sorry about that.
- So, what about lessons learned? So, if I try
- 15 to group the various aspects, which I went through very
- 16 rapidly in this conversation and taking into
- 17 consideration what has been discussed today, in terms
- 18 of the lessons learned from the various completed
- 19 trials, there are a series of implications for the
- 20 treatment to be used, to be tested, as well as for the
- 21 design.
- For the treatment implication, first of all

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- 1 and what quite strikingly, the most impactful
- 2 intervention is to ensuring adequate dosing and
- 3 adherence to treatment. This is the baseline situation
- 4 that we ought all of us to ensure.
- 5 Looking at the reflect TB output, the
- 6 importance of rifamycins as the backbone of shortened
- 7 therapy was reemphasized and underscoring the role of
- 8 the high dose. And we heard from Payam and Andrew
- 9 about the various studies TBTC is doing on that.
- The patients with high bacterial burdens and
- 11 experiencing slow decline in bacterial burdens over the
- 12 initial four to eight weeks of treatment constitute a
- 12 mittal four to eight weeks of treatment constitute a
- 13 subset most likely to relapse. And there is evidence14 that different patient groups may require different
- 15 treatment duration. The so-called hard-to-treat
- 16 patients should be or may be considered as a specific
- 17 population for longer treatment duration and/or higher
- 18 dose.
- 19 And these are implications for Phase 2-3
- 20 trials, because it raised a point of knowing whether we
- 21 need to consider initial patient stratification when we
- 22 decide to go on to treatment, and that is important to

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- 1 consider at the time and at the level of the trial.
- 2 Spot on to ensure appropriate representation
- 3 of this population to allow robust subgroup analysis.
- 4 And then it doesn't prevent us to go for a short for
- 5 future regimens, pan-TB regimen and the approach
- 6 between something which is much more individualized,
- 7 doesn't prevent for looking for pan-TB regimen that can
- 8 be used in certain conditions.
- 9 In terms of design for future regimens, we
- 10 have seen that an increasing number of potential
- 11 regimens are being assessed and they need to be able to
- 12 be reviewed at the same time, so there is an increasing
- 13 wealth of various regimens to be tested and it will
- 14 more likely increase in the future.
- 15 Alternative adaptive designs enable more rapid
- 16 differentiation between multiple candidate regimens,
- 17 but we are aware that there are still logistical
- 18 constraints that have to be addressed.
- 19 And we are aware about the culture conversion
- 20 with limited value for predicting long-term outcome and
- 21 the high need of quantitative assays of bacterial
- 22 burden over time. They need new treatment response

- 1 biomarkers.
- 2 The uncontrolled studies may have a place,
- 3 like shown with Nix-TB early in development, and then
- 4 the question is being posed about what I call the de-
- 5 escalation or expansion from the specific groups, like
- 6 the XDR-TB to a group, what Mel mentioned, about going
- 7 forward or back forward. And the choice of the
- 8 noninferiority margin needs careful consideration, as
- 9 does the need of bio-creep.
- In terms of PK/PD, we had a series of
- 11 important discussions today, but the PK/PD analyses are
- 12 critical. Using drug exposure to understand
- 13 intermediate endpoints in addition to dose selection is
- 14 key, and it is important to examine the relation
- 15 between dose and treatment duration for the efficacy
- 16 endpoints. So, PK/PD data should be incorporated to
- 17 build integrative PK/PD models that could reveal
- 18 further opportunities for regimen optimization,
- 19 including drug-drug interaction and safety, and improve
- 20 trial designs.
- 21 Lastly, an important point is about data,
- 22 trial data collection. There is a need of consistency

- 1 in collecting clinical data across the trials, and this
- 2 is needed to expedite integrated learning and the
- 3 capacity to be comparing between trials and to merge
- 4 data for further meta-analysis for systematic review.
- 5 So, the definition of Phase 3 clinical trial
- 6 endpoints should be set at minimum with recurrence and
- 7 relapse. There is a need -- sorry, I missed that.
- 8 There is a need for global platform independent data
- 9 standards that enable data exchange and information
- 10 system, and that's the example given earlier about the
- 11 capacity to use, for instance, the C-DISC system.
- So, we discussed at length about what should
- 13 be efficacy, but we shouldn't lose mind that safety
- 14 data are key as well.
- So, in order to finalize this type of quick
- 16 summary of lessons learned, I want to place myself now
- 17 with the WHO hat and the fact that what we are doing is
- 18 to issue guidelines on new TB treatments. And we've
- 19 been using, as can be seen here, the -- we've been
- 20 evaluating the new drugs and new regimens, bedaquiline
- 21 and delamanid, and the new shortened regimen treatment
- 22 for MDR-TB. So, we are using all this type of analysis

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- 1 and data in order to be able to do guidelines for the
- 2 countries.
- 3 And our guidelines are based on best available
- 4 evidence. We use the GRADE approach for evidence
- 5 assessments across a series of questions and outcomes.
- 6 And there are set criteria for moving from evidence to
- 7 recommendations.
- 8 Our main aspect is what is the best available
- 9 evidence that can be brought about that ultimately
- 10 would be benefiting patients? So, we need for clearly
- 11 and rationally justified approach about the choice of
- 12 drug combination, design, conduct, endpoints and
- 13 analyses. We need to have data that we can evaluate,
- 14 and for that, following the development of the target
- 15 regimen profile, we intend to develop information to
- 16 regimen developers that will describe the data that
- 17 would like to be seen so that we can review evidence
- 18 for policymaking.
- What is important again is to look at -- to be
- 20 sure that from the time that development of new regimen
- 21 is being made the appropriate data are being collected,
- 22 and that when we receive all the data for application,

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- 1 then we are satisfied that we have the best available
- 2 evidence. For that we need to have a very strong
- 3 dialogue between developers, but also between
- 4 regulators and policymakers. And, of course, down the
- 5 line we need to make sure that once regimens are being
- 6 proposed there is full access to the novel products
- 7 that are arising from research.
- 8 So, with this in mind I would like to thank
- 9 the Task Force on New TB Drug Policy Development that
- 10 has been putting together the target regimen profile
- 11 mentioned, and all the colleagues mentioned here who
- 12 have been helping me in putting together this
- 13 presentation, and helping me looking at all the various
- 14 lessons learned from the various trials. So, with that
- 15 I thank you very much for your attention.
- 16 DR. SPIGELMAN: Any questions specifically for
- 17 Christian before we go into the general question
- 18 session? No, okay, great. So, we have, I guess, close
- 19 to a half hour or so for panel discussion or for any
- 20 questions from anybody in the room, and I guess we
- 21 probably could open it up, because clearly a lot of the
- 22 topics discussed this morning overlap, to a certain

- 1 extent, with the topics this afternoon, too. So, let
- 2 me first see if there are any questions from either the
- 3 panel or from the floor, or topics that you want to
- 4 clarify.
- 5 DR. COX: So, Mel, let me just try and expand
- 6 a little bit on what you covered in our talk and invite
- 7 you to comment on it, too. So, and this overlaps, too,
- 8 with Cathy's talk. It sounds like really the goal of
- 9 what it is that you're trying to do with regimen
- 10 development is trying to move forward by leaps and
- 11 bounds rather than by smaller steps, if I'm
- 12 understanding things correctly. And you're trying to
- 13 do it in the most informed way by trying to use the
- 14 preclinical information as much as possible, whether it
- 15 be hollow fiber, animal models, you know, recognizing
- 16 that it doesn't give you the absolute answer, but it
- 17 allows you to make rational choices that you can then
- 18 move forward and test in clinical trials. With the
- 19 hope being that it's not just sort of changing one of
- 20 the components of a multidrug regimen, but it's
- 21 actually to try and use maybe three drugs that haven't
- 22 been combined before, in something totally new.

- 1 And, if you don't mind, too, I remember a
- 2 comment that you made once that I felt was very
- 3 interesting and I think it underlies what it is that
- 4 the goal is here, which is if in fact you can -- you
- 5 know, we think of the terms drug-resistant TB, drug-
- 6 susceptible TB, and in essence if you can come in with
- 7 a wholly new regimen, those terms may in essence become
- 8 somewhat arcane, because new treatment options are
- 9 available and new mechanisms of action. So, did I get
- 10 that, right? I mean, and please do correct me, because
- 11 I think that is one of the newer aspects, I think, that
- 12 is being brought in the TB drug development through the
- 13 work of a number of folks, including yourself, and it
- 14 seems to be one of the ways to get to new regimens and
- 15 sort of make bigger steps forward more quickly. And
- 16 not without some degree of risk, but also to be able to
- 17 change things.
- 18 DR. SPIGELMAN: Yeah. So, I think it's a
- 19 little bit of a cross between what you said in terms of
- 20 at least the first topic. I think most progress that's
- 21 ever been made in terms of product development is
- 22 incremental. You know, the real major, major leaps

- 1 450 500
- DR. STARKE: Do you mind if I point out that
- 2 that formulation is not available in the United States?
- 3 DR. SPIGELMAN: Yeah, I was going to get to
- 4 that, Jeff. So, I wouldn't call that an unbelievably,
- 5 you know, sort of tremendous advance, but in the first
- 6 year this was taken up by well over, I believe, 50 --
- 7 or the amount of sales, so-to-speak, or distribution
- 8 was over 50% of the documented population of pediatric
- 9 TB in children.
- 10 So, I think it's really identifying the
- 11 combination of what's feasible and what's doable and
- 12 what's going to actually work. Now, clearly, if in
- 13 that process, you can totally revolutionize TB therapy,
- 14 sure, if we can get to the point that we do away with
- 15 all the old drugs and put in only new drugs that are
- 16 great. But I think the skeptics are accurate who have
- 17 said, look, the chances of getting three new drugs not
- 18 only from an efficacy perspective but from a toxicity
- 19 perspective, because obviously, that's probably as big
- 20 a challenge as the efficacy piece of it. Those are
- 21 pretty high bars to really cross. And we really should
- 22 certainly be prepared to undertake those but not be

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- 1 are, relatively speaking, few and far between,
- 2 historically speaking. But, on the other hand, a
- 3 program or a development plan that's not going to be
- 4 adopted and adopted wholeheartedly by those for whom it
- 5 is intended to be used is probably not worth doing.
- 6 So, it really is walking that fine line between doing
- 7 the program that has enough net advantages so that the
- 8 adoption will be rapid and will be significantly
- 9 desirable by those for whom it's intended, but yet it
- 10 does not have to be so totally revolutionary.
- 11 And one of the primary examples that I can
- 12 give is that over the last three years or so we were
- 13 involved in reformulating first-line pediatric drugs,
- 14 which really is not an unbelievable revolution. It's
- 15 simply taking -- it was taking three-year-old
- 16 guidelines from the WHO and getting known technology
- 17 and enticing manufacturers to actually do the proper
- 18 formulation, which is not mind-boggling science, to get
- 19 a pediatric formulation. That really is appropriate,
- 20 and what Jeff was talking about and, you know, not to
- 21 be crushing pills for kids, and not knowing what the
- 22 absorption is like, etc., etc.

- 1 naive in the sense that it's not going to be an easy
- 2 thing to do. So, that's the answer in terms of
- 3 threading that needle between significant meaningful
- 4 change, but it doesn't have to be totally
- 5 revolutionary.
- 6 DR. COX: Interesting. It almost sounds like
- 7 advice, to some extent, for a financial portfolio,
- 8 which is you want to balance your risk, to some extent.
- 9 DR. SPIGELMAN: Well, frankly, and we also
- 10 have to balance the ability to attract the funding to
- 11 do the work, which is not an inconsequential, you know,
- 12 I think barrier. Because if we could do everything
- 13 that we would like to do -- and this is just the TB
- 14 Alliance. I mean, it's the same for -- you know,
- 15 Charles said it, too. Within a company that's even
- 16 dedicated to TB, they are not going to get the
- 17 resources to do everything that probably the TB team
- 18 would like to do. I think that's probably a fair
- 19 assumption whether it's Sanofi or anybody else. So, it
- 20 clearly has to be balanced from that other side of the
- 21 perspective of where will the funding come from to do
- 22 the work? And I think that is really one of the major

- 1 -- this goes into a different point -- but I think one
- 2 of the major problems we have in TB is we simply don't
- 3 have the resources to take enough risk to do enough TB
- 4 -- to do enough, even, Phase 3 trials to give the
- 5 feedback to understand what are really the accurate
- 6 predictors of Phase 2 or of earlier development. And,
- 7 frankly, I mean, if I look at something like LAM, which
- 8 is great. It has great potential.
- 9 So, what are we -- what's the best we can do
- 10 right now? We're looking at it against the, quote,
- 11 gold standard of sputum conversion and of sputum
- 12 bacteriology, which we know, frankly, without opening
- 13 that debate right away, is not necessarily a great
- 14 predictor, but that's the gold -- that's the best we
- 15 have to measure LAM against. As opposed to having had
- 16 enough Phase 3 experience and even biobanks, etc.,
- 17 etc., to use them as a predictor, not of an
- 18 intermediate endpoint, but of a final endpoint. So,
- 19 that's another area that really is, in my opinion,
- 20 unbelievably short-changed, because we don't have
- 21 enough of those trials.
- REMox, on the one hand, and OFLOTUB, RIFAQUIN,

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- 1 etc., were "failed" trials. They weren't failed
- 2 trials; those trials have delivered an unbelievable
- 3 fund of knowledge that now informs so much of what we
- 4 do moving forward.
- 5 DR. COX: We often do find that the trials
- 6 that fail are the ones that oftentimes can teach us
- 7 very much, and we found that in a number of different
- 8 therapeutic areas. So, yes.
- 9 DR. HUGHES: Yeah, so I'd just like to build
- 10 on that comment about revolutionary change. Because I
- 11 think the one example that Charles mentioned briefly
- 12 but we are closely involved with, with Novartis, we're
- 13 responsible for clofazimine, which has been mentioned a
- 14 number of times here, is a very odd case. Because it's
- 15 really been reserved for leprosy, but obviously, it is
- 16 getting a lot more use in this area. But a group of
- 17 dedicated, genius, breakthrough clinicians in
- 18 Bangladesh really took a revolutionary approach to take
- 19 an entirely new regimen of seven drugs that they had in
- 20 the cupboard, all of which had some rationale of why
- $21\,$  you would use them, and changed the MDR-TB paradigm
- 22 from 24 months to 9 to 12, roughly. So, glad to hear

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- 1 Dr. Higgins talk about the importance of looking at
- 2 breakthrough regimens versus standard of care as well.
- 3 I think it's very important that we look at that.
- 4 Now, how you tease apart the contribution of
- 5 one of those drugs within seven becomes really quite a
- 6 challenge, right? So, I think the nonclinical data
- 7 does become even more important in that case, so I
- 8 think that is something that we have to always bear in
- 9 mind. It's not just the EBA study but the nonclinical
- 10 data, if you can come up with that, is critical.
- 11 So, I think for question 1 there, I think that
- 12 is -- it's going to be extremely difficult when we get
- 13 into more of these complex regimens and, frankly, I
- 14 think if you have a regimen that is clearly as good as
- 15 but much shorter or more convenient or safer, that that
- 16 should become a way to treat people with this disease.
- 17 The other comment I was going to make is
- 18 related to the other question 1 or question 4,
- 19 depending on how you look at it, which is the current
- 20 trial design challenges. So, what we found, right, was
- 21 we were already to do a very streamlined study, but the
- 22 amount of time it takes to align with health

- 1 authorities and then to get the approval of different
- 2 sites to get your contract set up, by the time all that
- 3 was done versus the standard of care, the field had
- 4 moved, right? And so, what we found was standard of
- 5 care was no longer achieving -- was no longer 24 months
- 6 achieving 50% success rates, particularly in the sites
- 7 you need to go to generate the data with good clinical
- 8 practice to change -- you know, to inform the field.
- 9 And there they were getting rates of 75%, 80%, 85%.
- 10 They were already starting to use shortened regimen.
- 11 Our own drug was the standard of care when we went in
- 12 to say, so it becomes very, very difficult. And,
- 13 again, it's a special case, but I think it's a special
- 14 case, but I think it's actually informative, because
- 15 many older drugs are used in TB field and the pace at
- 16 which the world moves is important to bear in mind.
- 17 DR. STARKE: So, I've often thought there is a
- 18 lot more analogy between TB and cancer than there is TB
- 19 and many other infectious diseases. You know, they
- 20 talk about logs of cells, we talk about logs of bugs;
- 21 they have induction and consolidation therapy, we have
- 22 initial and continuation. They're all about regimens,

- 1 also. For instance, in pediatric cancer they've done
- 2 incredible things by making sure that all patients are
- 3 involved in trials. So, my question is, what can we
- 4 learn from oncology in terms of studying drugs --
- 5 studying regimens as opposed to drugs? Because that's
- 6 largely what they do. It's a question.
- 7 DR. COX: I think the folks that are trying to
- 8 do it in the TB field are teaching us, I mean, to be
- 9 honest with you. I mean, is there more we can learn
- 10 from oncology? It's possible. You know, I'm impressed
- 11 with what folks have been able to do in the TB area
- 12 with the, frankly, quite limited resources available in
- 13 this area relative to what's available in oncology.
- 14 But maybe there are additional lessons that could be
- 15 learned from oncology and how they approach things.
- 16 So, I don't know if others have additional thoughts on
- 17 that.
- DR. SPIGELMAN: Yeah, Jeff, I think one of the
- 19 problems that we have in TB is that we have the history
- 20 that really limits us. Most of the combination work
- 21 that, at least I see going on in oncology, is based on
- 22 pretty much all new compounds and it starts from
  - Page 315
- 1 scratch. You don't start out in oncology with the
- 2 standard being a seven-drug regimen that you're looking
- 3 to tease apart. It kind of grew up, the combination
- 4 programs that you're seeing now in the modern era,
- 5 almost like HIV grew up with one drug and then the
- 6 second was added and the third was added. And it was
- 7 in a much more rational or semi-rational, orderly
- 8 process. We're kind of stuck in that we've got poor
- 9 grade of evidence that defines standard four-drug,
- 10 five-drug regimens that we somehow now have to tease
- 11 apart and improve upon, which is a huge, bigger burden
- 12 than is there in oncology.
- 13 If we could learn a lesson and wave a magic
- 14 wand, though, then what I would say is make TB regimens
- 15 be payable to the tune of \$100,000 or \$300,000 per
- 16 patient and then we'll see a lot more rapid progress in
- 17 terms of the work being done. But without being
- 18 facetious, that lack of commercial attractiveness in TB
- 19 makes, frankly, a lot of what goes on in oncology just
- 20 nonrelevant to what we're stuck with in TB.
- DR. STARKE: I think I was trying to ask sort
- 22 of a more basic question. We were talking about how do

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- 1 you determine the contribution of a specific drug to a
- 2 regimen, and that's what I was wondering if they had
- 3 some principles that would help. But the way you're
- 4 describing it almost is where cancer was maybe several
- 5 decades ago. Although, I've got to say, in pediatric
- 6 cancer they're still using a lot of the traditional
- 7 drugs, and so it's not quite just all about new,
- 8 totally new drugs and totally new regimens.
- 9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible microphone
- 10 inaccessible.)
- DR. COX: Do you want to respond to that?
- DR. PHILLIPS: Can I make some comments on --
- 13 DR. COX: Yeah.
- DR. PHILLIPS: -- the analogies with cancer?
- 15 I think, first of all, I'll come back to that point.
- 16 First of all, I think we have a lot to learn from
- 17 happenings in oncology. I'm a statistician. Most
- 18 statistical methodology is done in oncology and we sort
- 19 of pick out sort of the dregs from there. So, the
- 20 MAMS, which has been talked about, that came from
- 21 oncology, and I think many adaptive designs that have
- 22 been proposed that we've discussed have been done in
  - Page 317
- 1 oncology. So, we have lots to learn there, and I think
- 2 the more we read that sort of literature the better.
- 3 In terms of the comment that was made about
- 4 getting data from routine practice, I think one
- 5 difference in TB trials from cancer trials is the
- 6 endpoints. So, Mel talked about doing large, simple
- 7 trials, which I guess are easier to do in settings
- 8 where the endpoint is something like mortality, which
- 9 it's a hard endpoint, which is relatively easy to
- 10 collect that data.
- The challenges in TB are patients need to be
- 12 followed up after the end of treatment. Most of the
- 13 programmatic endpoints that you've heard presented
- 14 today are about end-of-treatment cure. There is very
- 15 little programmatic data about post-treatment, whereas,
- 16 in trials we need that follow-up, because it's about
- 17 relapse. So, you need patients to remain in follow-up,
- 18 which is why it's more challenging just to get routine
- 19 data to answer some of the questions we've talked about
- 20 here. And so, I think that's one of the issues. And I
- 21 think that's also why large, simple trials are more
- 22 challenging in TB. Or I think it's worth thinking

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- 1 about how they could be done, but follow-up is so
- 2 critical in trials that a simple trial would still need
- 3 to involve very careful follow-up schedules. Even if
- 4 not many sputum samples are taken for culture, follow-
- 5 up would be critical.
- 6 DR. COX: And maybe I'll just add, too. Folks
- 7 may recall, too, Rick Pazdur and I, from the head of
- 8 our oncology office, and I did a panel at CBTR on this
- 9 very topic. And I can tell you one of the things that
- 10 came up -- and this doesn't mean you can't learn from
- 11 the area of oncology -- was really the number of
- 12 differences that exist between oncology and TB, and why
- 13 the two fields are different and why it may be
- 14 challenging to essentially directly translate things
- 15 over. That doesn't mean you can't learn, but there are
- 16 differences. It does make it challenging.
- DR. MITNICK: Can you hear me now? So, a
- 18 couple of comments. This has been a really interesting
- 19 discussion. My name is Carole Mitnick. I work at
- 20 Harvard Medical School and work with the
- 21 nongovernmental organization, Partners in Health. On
- 22 the clofazimine issue, I just wanted to point out that

1 So, I think we do need to continue to be aspirational,

- 2 and we do need to not be settling as we have for so
- 3 many decades. And that's part of the reason that we
- 4 still have more than 10 million new cases of TB every
- 5 year and more than half a million of new cases of MDR6 every year.
- 7 So, one of my questions is in the paradigm of
- 8 the pan-TB regimen, I mean, it sounds to me a lot like
- 9 where we came from, where the four-drug regimen was
- 10 supposed to be for everybody. The World Health
- 11 Organization and other entities discouraged any sort of
- 12 differentiation in treatment, and now we have at least
- 13 a half-million cases of MDR every year. So, what is
- 14 the role in evaluating a pan-TB regimen for modeling or
- 15 other activities that would try to predict how long
- 16 such a regimen would be useful, and what the
- 17 implications would be of having a single regimen that's
- 18 for what we today call drug-susceptible TB and MDR-TB.
- 19 It is based on the same nucleus of drugs that is now
- 20 used for a salvage regimen in the same development
- 21 portfolio. So, I'm curious about how that fits into
- 22 evaluation of the pan-susceptible TB regimen.

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- 1 that new regimen is a standard of care for a subset of
- 2 MDR patients, that is, MDR-TB patients who have not
- 3 been previously treated with second-line drugs and
- 4 whose isolates are not resistant to the drugs in that 5 regimen. So, there are still opportunities to learn
- 6 about the role of clofazimine in MDR-TB treatment, and
- 7 also there are still obviously open questions about the
- 8 optimal dose of clofazimine. So, looking in other
- 9 populations is another possibility. It's not all lots
- 10 with the adoption of the shortened regimen in that
- 11 subset of MDR patients. That's one point.
- 12 A second point is just in thinking about the
- 13 model of scarcity. I mean, I have now been doing TB
- 14 work for, like, 20 years. I can't believe I can say
- 15 that. And it's true, I mean, we have always worked
- 16 within a model of scarcity. But we also have
- 17 innovated, and I think we shoot ourselves in the foot
- 18 by continuation to say, oh, we have to be cautious, we
- 19 have to limit our failures, because there aren't enough
- 20 resources. So, Mel, you describe three trials that
- 21 have been considered by some as failures, by others not
- 22 as failures, and there is still more money for trials.

DR. SPIGELMAN: So, I think there are two

- 2 separate kind of questions on the table. One I think
- 3 is really the more generic question, it doesn't matter
- 4 whether a regimen is approved for DS, MDR-TB, pan-TB
- 5 etc. There has to be, I think, greater planning for
- 6 how to protect that regimen for as long as possible
- 7 within reason. And I'm not sure we've devoted as much
- 8 attention to that type of sort of oversight of how the
- 9 drugs are being used. And obviously, that's now a big
- 10 deal in the whole AMR field, you know, so-called
- 11 stewardship of antibiotics and all that.
- 12 And so, I think that that question is
- 13 independent of whether a new drug or a new regimen is
- 14 more limited or very broadly applicable is there has to
- 15 be sort of more planning for stewardship, so-to-speak,
- 16 of new therapeutics so that none of them will last
- 17 forever, but they'll last longer than they otherwise
- 18 last for.
- 19 The other point, at least for me is, what's
- 20 the real attractiveness of a pan-regimen? The
- 21 attractiveness to a great extent is that, I think, even
- 22 if we come up with a really, really great regimen for

- 1 something like MDR-TB, there still are a huge amount of
- 2 structural problems in the way TB is treated
- 3 realistically in the countries that are most affected.
- 4 And 500,000 on the one hand is a huge number; 500,000
- 5 scattered across a whole bunch of countries and
- 6 resource-poor environments, etc., etc., still presents
- 7 a really big challenge to get on top of it. As opposed
- 8 to if we could present a common regimen that would
- 9 encompass both what are presently called drug-sensitive
- 10 and MDR-TB patients, and lump those together into a
- 11 common treatment paradigm that countries could adopt
- 12 that would be much easier to give. And that would have
- 13 tremendous ramifications in terms of the cost structure
- 14 of the health delivery system; have tremendous
- 15 ramifications in terms of the cost structure of the
- 16 drugs by virtue of the volumes. And so, I see it as
- 17 just a practical way to get on top of the problem of TB
- 18 in a much, much quicker format than if we continue to -
- 19 or if we attack DS totally separately from MDR-TB.
- 20 That's just a practical issue, in my mind, of how
- 21 quickly can we solve the problem of MDR-TB. So, I
- 22 think it's sort of a combination of all of those as to

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- 1 large, simple trial and, depending upon what the
- 2 problem is, if it's the appropriate design for what it
- 3 is that you're trying to study.
- 4 There have been safety trials in certain areas
- 5 where people looking at cardiovascular outcomes as an
- 6 adverse effects, you know, those sorts of things are
- 7 done. And so, if the large, simple trial is in fact
- 8 the appropriate trial design for what it is that you're
- 9 trying to study, then it would be a perfectly fine way
- 10 to evaluate that issue.
- 11 DR. VERNON: Thank you.
- 12 DR. COX: Go ahead.
- 13 DR. NAHID: I just wanted to raise a point of
- 14 friction that I would love the panel to comment on, and
- 15 that's the role the regulatory bodies take versus the
- 16 role that guideline makers take. And having recently
- 17 led a couple of guidelines for TB drugs and TB
- 18 treatment, and being involved in others, some at WHO,
- 19 it's occurred to me that is there a way to jump that
- 20 bridge, to bring that gap to be a smaller gap? Because
- 21 the regulatory bodies want to know what the individual
- 22 components do. The guidelines committees and, frankly,

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- 1 what some of the benefits are of a pan-TB regimen.
- 2 DR. VERNON: I wanted to ask a question about
- 3 a topic that you raised, Mel, which is large,
- 4 simplified trials. Payam Nahid and I and others have
- 5 been discussing for a while now the potential to use a
- 6 simple, a large, simple trial design to improve our
- 7 management of INH-resistant TB by doing the trial in
- 8 resource-rich settings, where simple doesn't mean
- 9 lacking many of the kinds of data and tools that we
- 10 would otherwise have in a trial. The potential for
- 11 such designs to help us with bringing new agents or
- 12 older agents that lack a current approval in the US,
- 13 for example, is interesting to us. I wondered if FDA
- 14 has any examples of having used a large, simple trial
- 15 design as the basis for approvals?
- DR. COX: So, I'm sure there are. I mean, I
- 17 think of the essence of a large, simple trial is it's
- 18 usually big, and you're not going to collect a whole
- 19 lot, but you're going to get an outcome that's
- 20 important to you. And if it's something that occurs
- 21 relatively infrequently, then maybe you need a bigger
- 22 trial. So, there is no reason you couldn't use a

- 1 the people out there want to know how to use the drug.
- 2 Is that an argument for exclusively or intensively
- 3 pursuing regimen development approaches to approvals --
- 4 regimen approvals and maybe large, simplified trials
- 5 would be another, I guess, approach. But what's the
- 6 panel's thoughts about that, because it's really
- 7 challenging to make that leap?
- 8 DR. COX: So, I will try and make a few
- 9 comments. It's a very good question, and we do see
- 10 times when, in essence, drug labels get sort of out of
- 11 date. You know, the dosing regimen that's in treatment
- 12 guidelines is different, sometimes the uses are
- 13 different. And so, if you think about what are some of
- 14 the factors that can contribute to that? Well, if it's
- 15 an area where the pharmaceutical company is involved
- 16 in, say, the initial development of the drug for
- 17 whatever indications, an then development is happening
- 18 by groups other than those that actually own the new
- 19 drug application, that actually own the drug here with
- 20 us, sometimes there can become a disconnect. I'm not
- 21 trying to say that that research isn't important; it
- 22 can be extremely important in some areas. But you can

- 1 sometimes over time get this disconnect as drugs age
- 2 and they become generics. There can also be a
- 3 disconnect, too, with further study. It's not good for
- 4 anybody when the drug label starts to get separated
- 5 from the treatment guidelines. So, to the extent that
- 6 those that are actually out there doing trials, can
- 7 continue to engage with the pharmaceutical companies,
- 8 and we can also engage with both of those parties, we
- 9 have to do it through the pharmaceutical company, it
- 10 can help to decrease that degree of separation. So,
- 11 that's sort of one aspect of it.
- The other is that sometimes there are
- 13 situations where the level of information that's
- 14 available out there is quite limited and maybe not
- 15 ideal. You know, low-quality evidence. Clinicians
- 16 oftentimes are faced with that and have to make
- 17 decisions. Those writing treatment guidelines may also
- 18 try and help out in that scenario. So, there may be
- 19 information that is really of low quality that may be
- 20 hard for a regulator to look at and say that it meets
- 21 sort of the standard that we would be looking for in
- 22 order to give an indication. But clinicians may have
  - Page 327
- 1 to make decisions, treatment guidelines folks may, too,
- 2 and that's sometimes another area where you can get a
- 3 gap.
- 4 So, that argues for trying to do good trials,
- 5 trying to get to good studies before the -- you know,
- 6 to support the standard of care that's present. If the
- 7 standard of care becomes sort of non-evidence-based but
- 8 more just based upon poor quality information because
- 9 that's all that's available and it's a very difficult
- 10 situation and people have to make choices and be
- 11 advised, that's another reason that things can get
- 12 separated. I'm sure there is more than that, but it is
- 13 best if the guidelines, the standard of care and what's
- 14 in the drug label, to the extent that those things can
- 15 avoid being separated to a great deal, that's usually
- 16 best for everybody.
- 17 DR. HUGHES: Just to follow up on that
- 18 excellent point there. Perhaps it is something to
- 19 explore as a community, that circling back between the
- 20 regulatory bodies and the guidelines makers. I mean,
- 21 these are people who are using great principles, the
- 22 WHO, the CDC. These are entities that are taking a

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- 1 very, frankly, stringent look at the data, to use that
- 2 word. And whether there should be a mechanism by which
- 3 these groups talk to each other and circle back so that
- 4 gap gets closed and usage of the drugs are done
- 5 appropriately, there is not -- we're not leading
- 6 providers out in the lurch, because we're telling them
- 7 to use a drug in a way that it doesn't have an
- 8 indication for, for example.
- 9 DR. COX: Right. I mean, that would be the
- 10 ideal, to keep that degree of separation as infrequent
- 11 as possible. It is certainly something where I think
- 12 the community can work together. You know, the
- 13 aspiration here would be quality trials that would be
- 14 available to both those writing treatment guidelines
- 15 and to those that have new drug applications, so that
- 16 things can remain congruent. So, it is certainly an
- 17 aspiration that is laudable and one we should try for.
- 18 Whether it's attainable is another question, though,
- 19 because there still are going to be areas where, quite
- 20 frankly, treatment guideline folks and clinicians are
- 21 going to be trying to make decisions and trying to
- 22 provide recommendations when the level of evidence is
  - Page 329
- 1 just limited. But there are valued treatment
- 2 guidelines, no question. They do help clinicians.
- 3 MS. LESSEM: Thanks. I just wanted to go back
- 4 to an earlier point, Mel, that you had made about
- 5 stewardship, because I think we need to be really clear
- 6 with what we're talking about. The new drugs that we
- 7 have seen come out for TB are so overly stewarded that
- 8 nobody is getting them. And they're actually being
- 9 "reserved" in an attempt to protect the drug, that
- 10 we're not thinking about protecting patients. And, in
- 11 fact, we're not even protecting the drug, because only
- 12 severely resistant cases are getting them, which in
- 13 some ways is priming the market for more resistance
- 14 than if we just use them a little bit more liberally
- 15 earlier on in treatment. So, I don't think that we've
- 15 carner on in treatment. 50, I don't tillik tilat we ve
- 16 seen -- I think we haven't necessarily seen great
- 17 responsible practices towards using TB drugs
- 18 historically, but I think with the new drugs,
- 19 stewardship has gone so far in the other direction, we
- 20 have fewer than 5% of patients who need them, by
- 21 conservative estimates, actually accessing the drugs.
- 22 So, I just wanted to set the record straight on that.

- 1 I certainly think countries need to have proper systems
- 2 in place for diagnosing TB, for being able to see what
- 3 people are susceptible to, and give them appropriate
- 4 regimens. But I think stewardship as a blanket term
- 5 has been thrown around really to the detriment of
- 6 patients and to the longevity of these drugs. Thanks.
- 7 DR. NAMBIAR: I would like to add something to
- 8 Payam's earlier point about the connection between
- 9 regulators and policymakers, especially when it comes
- 10 to issues that Dr. Peloquin explained in his study,
- 11 that is population PK an variability of drug exposure
- 12 profiles. Because drugs get approved based on a
- 13 specific dose, but once they're used in the field, the
- 14 exposure profile is very, quite dramatically might
- 15 affect how the effectiveness -- how effective they are
- 16 in combination with other chemical entities. So, to
- 17 what point could one consider basing recommendations
- 18 for use or even the drug approvals on exposure profiles
- 19 rather than drug doses, and have specific targets that
- 20 are based on solid population PK rather than dose
- 21 ranges in kilograms.
- DR. COX: Right. So, this is done, and the

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- 1 way to do it is to design the trial that actually
- 2 evaluates the drug in such a way so that your dosing is
- 3 guided by exposure. So, it is doable, and it's just a
- 4 matter of what is done in the clinical trials that, in
- 5 essence, for the basis for approval? Are there
- 6 opportunities if the initial approval was based on a
- 7 dosing regimen that was a fixed dosing regimen not
- 8 guided by therapeutic drug monitoring, or not guided by
- 9 exposure. Certainly, if there is additional data,
- 10 additional studies that are done subsequently, that
- 11 could be used to inform the dosing future. So, it's
- 12 all doable, it's just a question of, in essence,
- 13 whether it's been done.
- 14 DR. HUGHES: David Hughes again. I wanted to
- 15 come back a little bit to Dr. Mitnick's point in that I
- 16 did not mean to imply that our journey is over or the
- 17 party is done. Actually, we are in active discussion
- 18 with two stringent health authorities, one of them
- 19 represented here today, as well as we have recently had
- 20 recognition and ability to import into three countries
- 21 of high need. And so, we're continuing to work
- 22 actually feverishly to meet the demand and to inform

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- 1 that, but at the same time we're looking to get the
- 2 data.
- 3 So, another appeal is both to look more at
- 4 real world evidence that is generated through single
- 5 arm or observational studies, but just broad
- 6 programmatic research to be able to have that in the
- 7 equation. And also, the broader discussions today
- 8 about collecting data, better data from the
- 9 programmatic implementation.
- 10 I'm looking at the WHO, who is a very powerful
- 11 advisory and counselor to some of the countries both on
- 12 efficacy and safety data, so that we can then move the
- 13 field forward collectively. Because we're sort of
- 14 feeling the pain of that weakness in the data
- 15 collection currently.
- 16 DR. GEITER: Yeah, I was just -- you already
- 17 brought up the CPTR discussion you had with Dr. Pazdur
- 18 and comparison with oncology. And one of the things
- 19 that struck me was that he was talking about in
- 20 oncology they can go for an early endpoint for
- 21 reduction in tumor size. And if they shrink tumors,
- 22 they have a drug preliminarily. They then later need

- 1 to show increased survival. And so, they've got a very
- 2 hard endpoint there. We can talk about is it two
- 3 months or three months, or is it the rate of decline or
- 4 time to sputum culture conversion, but we do have a
- 5 microbiologic endpoint that seems to likely predict a
- 6 favorable outcome. But then at the end we're still
- 7 tied to a microbiologic endpoint. We really don't have
- 8 a hard endpoint in TB. It's cure, and what is a cure?
- 9 Well, cure is, at least in the guidelines, that it's a
- 10 certain period of relapse-free survival following
- 11 sputum culture conversion, but that is still based upon
- 12 a microbiologic endpoint. So, we're a little bit
- 13 challenged in that way.
- 14 It would be nice if we had something else. It
- 15 was very interesting to see, I think, measurement of
- 16 mRNA levels that you have a negative microbiologic
- 17 outcome but you still have messenger RNA hanging
- 18 around. So, there are obviously some TB bacilli doing
- 19 something, and if we could develop that into a harder
- 20 endpoint. And I would just, you know, speaking up for
- 21 sputum tests, it's what we got and it works pretty
- 22 well. I mean, in terms of -- you know, if we're going

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1 to go with a microbiologic endpoint, it does pretty	1 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC
2 well. And that if we could get more rapid results that	2 I, MICHAEL FARKAS, the officer before whom the
3 are equally sensitive and specific, like with the LAM	3 foregoing proceeding was taken, do hereby certify that
4 assay or any of the other things that have been	4 the proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter
5 provided, I think that as long as we're tied to a	5 reduced to typewriting under my direction; that said
6 microbiologic endpoint, I think that can contribute a	6 proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best
7 great, great deal to the design of trials and the	7 of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither
8 evaluation of regimens going forward in the future.	8 counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the
9 DR. SPIGELMAN: And now let's turn it over to	9 parties to the action in which this was taken; and,
10 Ed to final	10 further, that I am not a relative or employee of any
DR. COX: Yeah, so we're at the five o'clock	11 counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor
12 hour, so I know folks are planning to head out and	12 financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of
13 catch planes and all that, so I'll keep it very short.	13 this action.
14 But I wanted to thank everybody for joining us here	14
15 today. I found it very useful; I hope you did, too.	15
16 And I remain impressed with the degree of	16 min ah
17 accomplishment, the progress that has been made in this	17 MICHAEL FARKAS
18 area, you know, recognizing that it is not the most	Notary Public in and for the
19 resourced area of therapeutics development. But	19 State of Maryland
20 because of the thoughtfulness and commitment of the	20
21 folks in this room, on the webcast, who have been	21
22 involved in this area who are not here today, I think	22
Page 335	Page 337
Page 335  1 there has been tremendous progress, and I think that's	Page 337  1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER
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