



To: Presidents/Executive Directors/General Secretaries of ICN member Associations

c.c. ICN Board of Directors

From: David C. Benton, Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 2009

Subject: ICN • Lilly Award for Nursing Excellence in TB/MDR-TB

The ICN/Lilly Award for Nursing Excellence in TB/MDR-TB, launched on World TB Day 2007, is one aspect of the ICN's TB project, which is part of Lilly MDR-TB Partnership.

This annual award recognises nursing expertise and aims to motivate and encourage nurses working with those affected by TB and MDR-TB in countries included in the TB project. It showcases the contribution made by nurses to TB prevention, care and treatment and offers the recipients an educational grant to continue their professional development along with a specially designed medal. The grant is conditional on a specific plan regarding how the funds will be used to develop the competence and/or managerial skills of the award recipient. Recipients are selected by their NNA for their outstanding achievement in TB prevention, care and treatment.

The 2009 TB award recipients are:

Kenya – Catherine W. Koskei: The Nursing Officer in charge of the Ambulatory MDR-TB Clinic at Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi, Catherine was instrumental in the setting up of the clinic and is dedicated to offering the best possible care to the patients who use its services. She has been an active trainer, since attending an ICN TOT course in 2007, and has participated in a wide variety of training and health education events for staff of the hospital as well as for patients and their families.

Lesotho – Maria Moalosi, Paulina Mokoroane and Thato Liname : This team of nurses from Ntsekhe Hospital, Mhales Hoek, led by Thato Liname, the District TB Co-ordinator, work tirelessly together to run TB clinics at 11 different health facilities: identifying people who might be suffering with TB or MDR-TB, supporting patients on treatment at clinics as well as in the home, screening contacts and offering health education on TB, MDR-TB and HIV/AIDS.

Malawi – Maria Banda : Having spent 15 years committed to the care of patients with TB in hospital and in the community, Maria is now a Zone TB Officer for the Ministry of Health. She has been a core trainer in Malawi since she attended an ICN TOT course in 2007 and is a strong advocate for the role of the nurse and health care worker safety within the Malawi National TB Control Programme.

Philippines – Lorna L. Garde : A Provincial TB Nurse Co-ordinator, Lorna is very active in the planning and implementation of the different TB programmes of the Provincial Health Office in Negros Occidental. This Province has been awarded the status of High Performer in Case Detection and Cure Rate at Regional and National levels for three years running (2006-8)

Russia – Alexandra Innokentievna Obutova : As Deputy Chief Doctor, Alexandra has reached one of the highest positions for nurses in the Yakutia Centre for the Scientific Research and Practical Management of Tuberculosis. Among many other activities she has been a key trainer for nurses in the care of patients with TB as well as TB infection control. She is an active leader, organising conferences and professional contests to motivate her staff nurses and has been a key consultant on the construction of a new TB Dispensary for Children.

South Africa – Jerssy Phepheng : Jerssy has shown outstanding leadership in her post as the Manager of the MDR-TB Unit at Klerksdorp Hospital. A participant in the ICN TOT course in South Africa in 2008, she ensures that staff, patients and their families are educated about TB and MDR-TB and has extended her passion for TB to offer training at other hospitals in the District as well as in the community. Jerssy's managers see her as an example to all nurses in Klerksdorp and beyond.

Swaziland – Khetsiwe Dlamini : A hard-working TB Nurse and Counsellor in the TB Unit of Mbabane Government Hospital, Khetsiwe is dedicated to providing the best possible care to patients with TB and M/XDR-TB. She regularly visits wards around the hospital to identify patients who may have TB and ensure the correct tests are done promptly. Having attended an ICN TOT course in Swaziland in 2008, she is an active trainer and health educator for nurses, allied health workers and the general public.

Uganda - Margaret Clare Obaya Drajoru : Nurse-in-Charge of the TB Unit in Mulago Hospital in Kampala for many years, Clare provides strong leadership and supervision for nurses and allied health workers. She is actively involved in the training and education of nursing, medical and paramedical students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She also trains auxiliary health workers and provides health education in the community. Clare is motivated and hard working and open to new challenges, for instance, being involved in research on TB and MDR-TB.

Zambia - Musonda Nkuwa Merina : Second-in-Charge in the female medical ward in St Francis Hospital, Katete, Merina has worked hand-in-hand with the TB focal person in all aspects of the prevention and care of patients with TB. Although based in the hospital Merina is actively involved in the community, offering health education with the help of drama groups and encouraging community participation in TB care and social support.

We wish to thank all the NNAs involved for their excellent participation in the nomination and selection process of the Award recipients and look forward to continue working with you to improve nursing capacity in TB/MDR-TB.

In 2009 the ICN TB/MDR-TB Project will be operating in Africa, Europe, Asia and South America. 575 nurses from 10 different countries with a high burden of TB and MDR-TB have been trained as trainers so far and they in turn have offered training to over 7000 additional nurses and health care workers. By the end of the project it is estimated that over 1000 local nurse trainers and 15 000 nurses will be trained in TB and MDR-TB care, providing a critical mass of knowledgeable nurses to fight the disease in high burden countries. For further information on the project please visit the ICN TB/MDR-TB Resource Centre at: www.icn.ch/tb/.

ICN would like to thank Lilly for it's ongoing commitment and funding for the project.