

# Rethinking the Epidemiology of Tuberculosis Infection

FEBRUARY 21-22, 2007

SHERATON VANCOUVER WALL CENTRE HOTEL

VANCOUVER, BC CANADA

## The First Global Symposium on Interferon- $\gamma$ Assays

### *First Announcement & Call for Abstracts - Slide & Poster Discussion Session*

Cellestis Inc. is proud to sponsor "Rethinking the Epidemiology of Tuberculosis Infection", the first global symposium on interferon- $\gamma$  assays. The symposium will be held, February 21-22, 2007 at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel in Vancouver BC Canada. The symposium is timed to occur just before and at the same location as the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the North American Region of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (which will be held Feb 22-24, 2007).

The purpose of this symposium is to challenge dogma of TB pathogenesis and epidemiology as well as inform attendees of the breadth of ongoing clinical studies and program evaluations in the field of interferon- $\gamma$  diagnostics and tuberculosis. This symposium will attempt to address some of the fundamental questions about latent tuberculosis infection such as: What do we truly know about the pathogenesis of tuberculosis? How real is latent tuberculosis infection and how big a threat is it? With the availability of better tools, can we redefine what we know about the epidemiology of latent tuberculosis infection?

Each of the eight sections of the symposium will feature for each specific subject area, two or three invited state of the art lectures, and a series of contributed slide or poster discussion presentations

#### **SYMPOSIUM AGENDA**

##### **Day 1: Challenging the 'Dogma'**

- Latency and the risk of active TB (Basic Science): What do we currently know?
- Latency and the risk of active TB (Clinical Aspects): How many infected persons actually develop active disease?
- A re-examination of pertinent epidemiology studies
- Public Health implications of studies with assays that use highly specific TB antigens

##### **Day 2: Application of Interferon- $\gamma$ Assays**

- Health care worker screening with IFN- $\gamma$  assays
- Performance of the IFN- $\gamma$  assays in contact and outbreak investigations
- Studies using IFN- $\gamma$  assays in various settings
- Cost effectiveness and health care effectiveness of IFN- $\gamma$  assays

#### **CONTRIBUTED POSTER SESSIONS**

Researchers, clinicians and students are invited to electronically submit original abstracts to participate in the Contributed Presentation Sessions in conjunction with each subject area and State of the Art lectures. Original slide or poster presentations that may have been given at other recent conferences are also welcome. Deadline for submission is December 1, 2006. The abstracts will be reviewed and ranked by members of an independent academic committee.

Depending on volume of submissions, all highest ranking abstracts will be presented in slide format, or poster discussion format.

Submitters will be notified of the committee's decision before **December 22, 2006**.

##### **Abstract Guidelines**

- Maximum 300 words
- Include full name of presenting author as well as Hospital, Government and University Affiliations
- Include full address, telephone, fax, and email addresses
- Abstract should include presentation title; author(s); institution, aims, methods, results, discussion
- **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 1, 2006**

#### **PLEASE SEND ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS ELECTRONICALLY TO:**

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Questions: 973-972-3270 (Dr Reichman)  
619-543-5550 (Dr Catanzaro)

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