

## **Network of the Country Tuberculosis Portals**

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Tuberculosis (TB) is a major global public health. The recent escalation of the occurrence of the disease has been complicated due to the appearance and development of multi-resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB) or extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR TB), as well as HIV/TB co-infection. The needs for fast, precise diagnostics of resistant TB and new efficient anti-TB drugs are calling for integral approach and multi-center, multi-country collaborations.

The ability for the worldwide community of TB researchers to understand the nature of the TB disease will be greatly improved by using a common database containing anonymized medical images, treatment information, lab work, clinical data, and bacterial genomes. Value of such database would be further increased if it contained unique patient cohorts, molecular information on coexistence of multiple *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strains, and tools for genomic and bioimaging analysis.

The scope of the Network of the Country Tuberculosis Portals initiative is to maintain the network of open-access tuberculosis centers that use common database architectures, user interfaces, programmatic solutions, medical and scientific nomenclature. This unified approach can facilitate adherence to the treatment protocols, serve as a consistent repository of records and present a rich source for tuberculosis-related data mining and epidemiological studies.