

## NETWORKING

### ***Techniques training at the Salvador Zubirán National Nutrition Institute, Mexico City, Mexico***

A collaboration between Professors Paul van Helden, Rob Warren and Tommie Victor of the CBTBR and Dr Rogelio Hernández Pando of the Salvador Zubirán National Nutrition Institute (INNSZ) in Mexico City, Mexico, has been established. The INNSZ has an excellent research facility for studying tuberculosis infections in a murine model and the research group led by Dr Hernández Pando has published numerous articles on the subject. The CBTBR and INNSZ are collaborating under the umbrella of the TB in the 21st Century Research Group to determine the virulence of Beijing strains found in the Cape Town area. The INNSZ are also experts in in situ techniques to detect mycobacteria, including in situ PCR and in situ hybridisation. A PhD student from the CBTBR, Kim Hoek, visited the INNSZ for 5 weeks in February to learn these in situ techniques from Drs Diana Aguilar and Héctor Orozco under the guidance of Dr Hernández Pando. These techniques will now be used to study host pathogen interactions in mycobacterial infections. Because of the success of this collaboration, these techniques have been established in the CBTBR and the knowledge can now be passed on to other researchers in South Africa.

In Photo: Kim (first from right) and her trainer Diana Aguilar (second from right).

