

## **EDUCATION / KNOWLEDGE BROKERAGE**

### ***XDR-TB meetings between the CBTBR, DOH, and NHLS***

Collaborative meetings between CBTBR, DOH and NHLS on XDR-TB and other matters, initiated at the end of 2007, took place on 24 April and 27 May. The aim of these meetings are to bring together a small group of different disciplines/partners in an attempt to get a better understanding of the XDR-TB problem and how we as a group can play a role to manage/control the XDR-TB problem in the Western Cape.

The last meeting was attended by the Head of SA TB Control Programme, Dr Lindiwe Mvusi. She indicated that she would inform the Minister of Health about the latest findings on XDR-TB by the CBTBR. These findings are: *1) XDR-TB is currently driven by acquisition of additional second-line drug resistance in strains that are already MDR; 2) There is a large pool of pre-XDR-TB strains which may over time develop into XDR-TB and this may ultimately spread from person to person; 3) Currently, NHLS which is part of the TB Control Programme, only tests for kanamycin resistance in MDR-TB patients to classify them as XDR-TB; however, there are many MDR isolates resistant the second-line drug, capreomycin, which implies that these strains are also XDR-TB. This has huge implications for the TB Control Programme.*

According to Prof Tommie Victor, regular feedback meetings will continue to take place between the different groups involved.