

NETWORKING

CBTBR researchers participate in Canadian/South African Research Program Planning Meeting held in Cape Town from January 31 to February 2, 2007

A three day meeting was held to initiate discussions for a collaborative research program between investigators in Cape Town and Vancouver (Canada), all of whom are eager to better understand factors which enhance susceptibility to *M. tuberculosis* infection in children. The immediate goal is to improve the health of children in the immediate study area and then to extrapolate the findings to a broader population throughout the developing and developed world. All seven of the collaborators finished the meeting with an extraordinarily high level of enthusiasm for the proposed research project. It was agreed that all would work together to make this vision a reality, with the project driven from South Africa under the stewardship of David Speert and the 2-3 junior clinician-scientists who will ultimately drive the research initiative. The site will be at a place in South Africa which is deemed appropriate by the investigators. Participants at the meeting included Tobias Kollmann, David Scheifele and David Speert from the University of British Columbia, B.C.'s Children's Hospital, Centre for Understanding and Preventing Infection in Children, BC Research Institute and Vaccine Evaluation Centre; Willem Hanekom and Gregory Hussey from the University of Cape Town and Institute for Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine, Cape Town; Nulda Beyers from the SU Desmond Tutu Centre, and Paul van Helden from the Desmond Tutu Centre and SU node of the CBTBR.