



Call for Symposium Proposals

Theme:

One Health approaches: Evidence-based strategies for tuberculosis control

The Union World Conference on Lung Health 2026 invites symposium proposals that advance evidence-based, genuinely integrated One Health approaches to the prevention, surveillance, and control of human tuberculosis (TB) and zoonotic TB. Proposals should be grounded in empirical research or evaluated implementation experience and show how coordination across human, animal, and environmental health sectors can improve TB outcomes and inform policy and practice, including through critical assessment of environmental or airborne detection methods where relevant.

Background

Despite advances in human TB control, transmission persists at the human-animal-environment interface through occupational exposure, shared environments, food systems, and contact with livestock and wildlife reservoirs. These risks are shaped by where people live and work, including urban and peri-urban settings characterised by mobility, informal food systems, and close human-animal-environment interactions. Advances in surveillance, including occupational monitoring, environmental sampling, and molecular epidemiology, are improving the detection of exposure environments and cross-sectoral transmission pathways. However, translation of this evidence into coordinated One Health TB control strategies remains uneven.

This call prioritises symposia that use robust data and real-world experience to demonstrate how One Health approaches can be operationalised to strengthen TB and zoonotic TB prevention, surveillance, and response. We particularly encourage proposals from implementation practitioners and programme managers with evaluated field-based experience.



Why One Health TB control at the Union Conference 2026?

Building on the conference's commitment to equity, evidence-based TB control, and cross-sector collaboration, this call seeks to:

1. Convene researchers, practitioners, and programme leaders from public, environmental, occupational, and animal health sectors to address TB and zoonotic TB across shared systems.
2. Highlight data-driven One Health approaches that demonstrate how integrated surveillance, prevention, and response can be implemented in real-world TB control settings.
3. Foster critical discussion on how established tools, including occupational surveillance and molecular epidemiology, alongside complementary environmental approaches, can be integrated into TB programmes in policy-relevant ways.
4. Strengthen the translation of evidence into action by showcasing evaluated field experiences that inform coordination and decision-making across sectors and regions.

Symposium focus areas

We welcome proposals addressing (but not limited to):

1. **Occupational and environmental exposure pathways:** Evidence on TB and zoonotic TB risk among high-risk occupational groups and through environmental exposure pathways at the human-animal interface.
2. **Urban and peri-urban transmission dynamics:** Evidence on TB transmission, exposure, and intervention strategies in urban and peri-urban settings shaped by mobility, informal food systems, and overlapping human, animal, and environmental interfaces.
3. **Environmental detection methods and surveillance integration:** Critical assessment of environmental sampling approaches and their integration into TB and zoonotic TB surveillance, outbreak investigation, and risk assessment.
4. **Cross-species transmission and molecular epidemiology:** Genomic and molecular epidemiology, integrated with epidemiological and field data, to generate empirical evidence of cross-species transmission and inform One Health TB control.



Proposal guidelines

Each symposium will run for 90 minutes, comprising 3–4 presentations (15 minutes each) plus discussion time, consistent with the standard conference format.

- Each symposium should be 90 minutes, with 3-4 presentations (15 minutes each) and ample time for discussion. Proposals must include:
- Symposium title: A clear, compelling title reflecting the empirical focus and One Health relevance of the session.
- Rationale and objectives: A concise statement of the problem addressed, its timeliness, and the symposium's contribution to One Health TB control.
- Suggested speakers and affiliations: Three to four speakers with names, roles, institutions, and countries, ensuring diversity across gender, geography, discipline, sector, and career stage; civil society and survivor perspectives are encouraged where relevant.
- Format and flow: A description of how presentations are linked and how discussion time will be used to synthesise evidence and draw practical implications.
- Expected outcomes: Clear, actionable takeaways and contributions to advancing integrated One Health approaches to TB control.

Expected outcomes

1. Evidence-based examples of integrated One Health approaches that strengthen TB and zoonotic TB prevention, surveillance, and response across sectors.
2. Clearer understanding of who is at risk and where exposure occurs, informed by data from occupational, environmental, urban, and peri-urban settings.
3. Practical insight into the advantages, limitations, and appropriate interpretation of environmental, surveillance, and molecular tools for TB control.
4. Actionable, policy-relevant lessons to improve coordination between TB programs, veterinary and environmental health authorities, and occupational health systems.