

**TITLE:** International Student TB Screening in a University Setting

**AUTHOR(S):** James R. Koski, MD, MPH

**PRESENTER(S):** James R. Koski, MD, MPH

**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Policy makers, Program developers

**ABSTRACT:** Background. For three decades, Oregon State University Student Health Services has performed TB screening on newly enrolled international students from TB burdened countries (20 cases/100,000). Between years of 2010-2016, Oregon State University student health services identified a total of 10 cases of active TB disease and an average of 30 latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) cases/year. Despite mandatory counseling regarding LTBI treatment, initiation rates (IR) have consistently been about 30 %.Methods. In the academic year 2016-2017, we implemented new changes in our counseling and tracking process with hopes of increasing the LTBI treatment initiation and completion rates (CR). Results. In comparison to the academic year 2015-2016, the new counseling/tracking process implemented in 2016-2017 resulted in a significant improvement in IR from 35.2 % to 71.1 % (fisher's exact test,  $p = 0.0013$ ), and a non-significant change in CR 84.2 % to 88.9 % (fisher's exact test,  $p = 0.6796$ ). The improvement in IR resulted from a reduction in students who were lost to follow-up [38.9 % to 7.9 %, (fisher's exact test,  $p = 0.0007$ ). Implications. The international student population from TB burdened countries represent an important subset of active TB disease and latent TB infection in the United States.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** 1)Describe the need for routine tuberculosis (TB) screening of international students from TB burdened countries.2)Design a screening, counseling, and tracking process to increase the initiation rates for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) treatment.

---