

Press Release

‘Voices from TB’, a compilation of Patient stories on MDR-TB launched

The book supported by Lilly MDR-TB Partnership tells the stories of Tuberculosis survivors in India

New Delhi, September 6, 2016: Lilly MDR-TB partnership is pleased to announce the release of a first-of-its-kind compilation of patient stories with insights on the disease burden and health implications of TB in India. The book is authored by Mr. Chapal Mehra, a well-known TB activist and provides a platform for people to share the stories of their struggle against the disease.

For many years, tuberculosis, and more recently MDR-TB, have imposed a significant physical, emotional and economic burden on patients, their families and the society. As we design policies to prevent and treat the disease, it becomes crucial to understand the needs, challenges and experiences of TB patients in the country.

The patient case book describes the grit and determination that the battle against TB requires of patients, particularly those who suffer from MDR-TB. Written from the perspective of a patient, the book seeks to break common stereotypes and misconceptions surrounding the disease. These stories successfully capture the sense of struggle and triumph underlying every survivor’s story in their battle against the disease. Lilly was proud to be of support during this venture, as this echoes the company’s initiatives in the TB space in India.

Speaking about the book, Mr. Chapal Mehra said, *“I am grateful that my humble attempt to throw more light on the struggles of TB patients will have the chance to reach more people. It is my hope that this book will empower more TB patients to speak out, have their voices heard and increase awareness that TB is a curable disease.”*

The most commonly shared patient experience is the need for guidance and support to adhere to the full treatment protocol. The lack of a supportive environment as well as other physical and economic challenges often force patients to abandon treatment. This leads to patients developing drug resistant TB. Other issues that contribute to developing MDR-TB are delayed diagnosis and treatment, severe side-effects and societal stigma.

Mr. Anant Garg, Director of Corporate Affairs, Pricing, Reimbursement & Access, Eli Lilly said, *“We realized that there are not many platforms where people who have gone through this difficult journey can share personal insights and articulate the real challenges and issues that they face. This book is our little attempt in that direction and will hopefully help all the stakeholders relate better to those who have been impacted, and reflect on how to contribute in our own capacity to make life better for them.”*

The book covers the multiple social, economic and cultural determinants that come into play in tackling TB and illustrate how awareness, empowerment, family support and social stigma are possibly the most decisive factors in determining a TB patient’s ability to fight this disease. The book will be distributed among state TB officials, civil society organizations and partners working in the space of tuberculosis.

About Lilly India - Eli Lilly and Company (India) Pvt. Ltd. (Lilly), headquartered in Gurgaon, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Eli Lilly and Company, a global biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Indianapolis, USA. Since its inception in India in 1993, Eli Lilly and Company (India) Pvt. Ltd. has been committed to developing and marketing pharmaceutical products to treat diabetes, lung cancer, osteoporosis and growth-hormone deficiency. To learn more about us visit <https://www.lillyindia.co.in>

About Lilly MDR-TB Partnership – The Lilly MDR-TB Partnership was created in 2003 to confront a disease so daunting that no single organization could fight it alone. This public/private initiative offers education, training, and improved care to people worldwide who have fallen victim to deadly multidrug-resistant TB. Lilly MDR-TB partnership seeks to increase the access and availability of MDR-TB treatments, while also improving education for healthcare professionals and raising awareness amongst communities most at risk. In India, the MDR-TB Partnership works with organizations to increase awareness, train healthcare providers and improve access to treatments.

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