

compared with a streamlined regimen of four to five medications, including newer agents like bedaquiline and delamanid, administered over only six months.

A second objective of the BEAT Tuberculosis study aimed to enhance research capacity for DR-TB, within the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, by fostering community engagement and providing training to healthcare personnel in clinical research methodologies for TB treatment.

of Health that provided essential medication and laboratory infrastructure for safety and efficacy

The study began in 2019 and despite the formidable challenges posed by COVID-19, over 400 participants were enrolled across study sites in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Prof Norbert Ndjeka, Chief Director TB Control and Management of the National Department of

died from the disease. With this concerning observation in mind, we acknowledge the BEAT Tuberculosis project as an exemplary and concerted effort to advance TB treatment and research capabilities, poised to bring about transformative changes in RR-TB management worldwide. While the study was originally intended to inform local treatment guidelines, the results are now

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is a key funding partner for the BEAT Tuberculosis initiative. USAID Southern Africa Mission Director, Leslie Marbury, highlights, "In partnership with South Africa's National Department of Health, USAID has improved Tuberculosis patient care worldwide. We celebrate the 400 participants who made this trial possible and brought the world closer to ending Tuberculosis. We also thank all BEAT Tuberculosis stakeholders, including the National Department of Health, the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Health Departments, and local medical facilities, for their dedication and

TB symptoms

The most common symptoms of TB are a cough that lasts more than two weeks, weight loss, drenching night sweats and a fever. If you have any of these, go to your local clinic. You will be

USAID

[USAID](#) leads international development and humanitarian efforts to save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance and help people progress beyond assistance. On behalf of the American people, USAID promotes and demonstrates democratic values abroad, and advances a free, peaceful, and prosperous world. In support of America's foreign policy, USAID leads the US Government's international development and disaster assistance through partnerships and investments that save lives, reduce poverty, and strengthen democratic governance.

CHRU

The Clinical HIV Research Unit ([CHRU](#)) is a division of the Wits Health Consortium. It was established in 2001 and has been focused on the optimization of treatment for HIV and other diseases in resource limited settings. CHRU has completed several large-scale antiretroviral therapy trials. In 2008 CHRU shifted the emphasis in clinical research activities to include the treatment of TB. The first MDR TB trials conducted by CHRU which started in 2008 were the registrational trials for bedaquiline. CHRU then expanded to other centres. In 2015, CHRU took over the management of the MDR TB research site at the King DiniZulu Hospital Complex in Durban, KwaZulu Natal. In 2017/8, CHRU under the leadership of Dr Francesca Conradie established a research site in Nelson Mandela Bay, Eastern Cape where BEAT Tuberculosis was conducted at Isango Lethemba TB Research Unit.

Wits Health Consortium

The [Wits Health Consortium \(Pty\) Limited \(WHC\)](#) is wholly owned by the University of the Witwatersrand. WHC supports operations through which the university - primarily its Faculty of Health Sciences - conducts research, manages donor-funded activities, pursues entrepreneurial innovation in health and supports clinical trials. The key task of WHC is to provide the governance, legal framework, human resource management, financial and grant management to over 100 research entities, including the Clinical HIV Research Unit (CHRU), in various academic

employs over 200 skilled staff.

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