

# European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2013

**Abstract Number:** 445

**Publication Number:** P1608

**Abstract Group:** 10.2. Tuberculosis

**Keyword 1:** Tuberculosis - diagnosis **Keyword 2:** Public health **Keyword 3:** Epidemiology

**Title:** Screening immigrants to Ireland from countries with a high prevalence of tuberculosis would be clinically beneficial and cost effective

Mr. Oscar 1138 Duffy oduffy9@hotmail.com<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Dillon 3782 Annette annette.dillon@hse.ie MD<sup>3</sup> and Dr. Terry 1139 O'Connor toconnor@muh.ie MD<sup>2</sup>.<sup>1</sup> Medicine, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland ;<sup>2</sup> Respiratory Medicine, Mercy University Hospital, Cork, Ireland and<sup>3</sup> Respiratory Medicine, The Chest Clinic, Cork, Ireland .

**Body:** The total amount TB cases in Ireland are increasing due to foreign-born patients residing in Ireland. Many countries use systematic screening programmes to identify and treat such cases but Ireland does not. The aims of this research were to determine whether there is an increase in TB cases in Ireland due to foreign born cases that correlates with the recent rise in immigration; to find out whether foreign-born cases coming from countries where the incidence of TB is greater than 40/100,000 per year have the highest effect on TB rates in Ireland; to examine policies for TB screening in other industrialised countries and to estimate the potential clinical benefit and cost of introducing a screening programme for immigrants from countries with a high incidence of TB. Immigration data and Irish TB epidemiology were collected from the internet. Costs for the diagnoses and management of active and latent TB were obtained from Monthly Index of Medical Specialists (MIMS) handbook and TB specialists in Cork. The theoretical screening model applied to years 2008-2010 inclusive. Our results show that the cost of active case detection (screening) and treatment of subsequent positive cases from 2008-2010 costs €4,082,249. The cost of treating TB by passive case detection was estimated at €2,206,700. Therefore active case detection would have cost an additional €1,875,549 in this 3- year period or €625,183 each year.