

**Research Fellow: Dr. Lily Telisinghe**

Good morning. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our project to welcome you all to the official launch of Herisa Rifuba; together let us stop TB.

Correctional facilities provide a unique environment for the spread of TB. Studies done in other Sub-Saharan African countries using active screening for TB has shown TB rates in correctional facilities to be higher than that of the general population. Published data looking at how much TB there is within correctional facilities in South Africa are not available.

Therefore the Aurum Institute in collaboration with the Department of Correctional Services, the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, the National Health Laboratory Services and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine are conducting a research study titled "*A preliminary study of screening for tuberculosis in a South African correctional facility*", within Medium B of the Johannesburg correctional facility. Through this study we want to find out how much TB there is among those within and working in medium B and to look at the best test or combination of tests to look for TB. We hope to start this study in the coming few weeks.

In June, a month long TB awareness campaign was conducted in Medium B to help improve the knowledge and understanding of TB among those within and working in Medium B. Activities run by the Aurum institute in collaboration with the Department of Correctional Services included the provision of TB educational material throughout all of Medium B, training of peer educators on TB by the Aurum Institutes training department through the TB academy that was conducted from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of June and TB campaigns throughout the different sections of Medium B. During the sectional campaigns information was provided on TB through information and education material, TB talks by trained peer educators and Aurum staff and the use of the correctional facilities drama group, choir and poetry group to convey through each form of art important TB messages. These campaigns were taken to each of the different sections of medium B over a two week period. This awareness month has culminated in this the Aurum Institutes and Department of Correctional Services TB awareness campaign: "*Herisa Rifuba*". To all of you that so willingly took part in the month long campaign and were instrumental in making it such a success, Thank you.

At this time I would like to thank everyone present for attending this very important day. I would also like to thank all our collaborators, and in particular the Department of Correctional Services, for all their advice, help and support during the planning of the study and for their continued input.

I would like to end by thanking the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) without whose support and active engagement the Correctional Services Program and all related activities would not be possible

Thank you.