

# CONNECTIONS

A Bimonthly e-Newsletter



## Director's Update

March-April 2014



**Dr. Jonathan Mermin**

Director NCHHSTP

Greetings! After a tumultuous budget process in 2013, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act was signed into law on January 17, 2014. The law appropriated approximately \$1.073 billion for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STI, and TB prevention for this year. While this is lower than our FY 2012 budget, it does restore some of the reductions resulting from the FY 2013 sequester. In addition, the FY 2015 President's Budget request was provided to Congress on March 3, 2014. A total of \$1.128 billion is requested for our focus diseases, which includes an increase of \$7 million for HIV prevention above the FY 2014 appropriations. Approximately \$4 million of the increase would be used to improve HIV surveillance, testing, and other prevention interventions to most efficiently target prevention and treatment programs. The remaining \$3 million is Public Health Service Evaluation Funds that would be used to assess and enhance HIV school health efforts. The request maintains level funding for viral hepatitis, STD, and TB prevention programs. For more information, please visit the [CDC Budget Information webpage](#).

## World TB Day

Each year, [World TB Day](#) is recognized on March 24 as a day to raise awareness about TB-related problems and solutions and to support worldwide TB-control efforts. This year's theme—"Find TB. Treat TB. Working together to eliminate TB."—highlights that TB is still a life-threatening problem in the United States, despite the declining number of TB cases. A variety of [online resources](#) (in English and Spanish) are available to educate, raise awareness, and assist you in developing your own World TB Day messages and materials. Also, CDC will host a [Public Health Grand Rounds](#) on multidrug-resistant tuberculosis on Tuesday, March 18, 1:00 p.m. EST, and TB-related articles will be released in CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* and *Emerging Infectious Diseases* journal on or around World TB Day. Both the Grand Rounds and these soon-to-be-released publications will help you stay abreast of the latest on TB control efforts.



## April is STD Awareness Month

April marks our annual observance of STD Awareness Month. Individuals, health care providers, and community-based organizations are encouraged to bring a renewed enthusiasm and focus to their STD awareness and prevention efforts throughout the month. People who have STDs are more likely to get or spread HIV compared to people who do not. So while there are numerous advantages to preventing STDs, the reduced risk of HIV infection is also a reason we need to encourage testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, and other STDs. [CDC's website](#) offers many resources to help raise awareness and promote prevention, testing, and treatment of STDs, including the recently revised [Fact Sheets](#) available for download. As well, CDC has an active and engaging STD-focused Twitter account. Follow [@CDCSTD](#) to get the latest news in STD prevention.

## New from CDC

[2012 STD Surveillance Report Released](#)

[2013 Prevention Status Reports Released](#)

## Upcoming Events

**March 18, 2014**

[CDC Grand Rounds: Multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis](#)

**March 20, 2014**

[National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)

**March 24, 2014**

[World TB Day](#)

**April 2014**

[STD Awareness Month](#)

## On the Web

[Hepatitis C Virus Guidelines Website](#)

