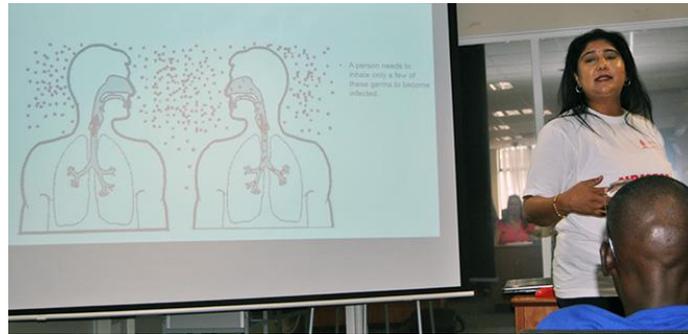


UKZN COMMEMORATES WORLD TB DAY



Dr Kogie Naidoo explains TB transition at NRMSM's World TB Day.

The Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine (NRMSM) commemorated World TB Day with an informative talk by the Head of the Treatment Research Programme at the Centre of the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa ([CAPRISA](#)), Dr Kogie Naidoo.

The talk, organised by the [College of Health Sciences](#) in conjunction with the School, aimed to show support to people who are doing TB research, living with TB and those caring for people with the disease.

Naidoo shared background knowledge about TB. 'TB is usually transmitted from person to person through the air. Early diagnosis is important to reduce sickness and the spread of the disease.'

She explained how to recognise the symptoms. 'We are facing a huge burden of HIV-associated TB. We need to strengthen efforts to reduce TB transmission.'

She said in KZN, 70% of TB patients also had HIV. She advised students and University staff to be aware of the symptoms of TB, encouraging those who were HIV-infected to regularly screen for TB.

Naidoo also highlighted the benefits of integrating ART with TB treatment. 'ART integrated with TB therapy improves survival in co-infected patients.'

Taxi driver, Mr Sbongiseni Goba, who was diagnosed with TB in April last year, said: 'TB is curable, I am living proof. Thanks to Dr Naidoo and CAPRISA I can stand before you and safely say, never ignore the symptoms. I almost died.'

He said he ignored all the symptoms because he never knew what they were. 'Before I was diagnosed with TB, I lost weight, I was weak and I had night sweats.'

Goba said he passed out one day and woke up two days later being treated at Prince Mshiyeni Hospital.

Naidoo is the lead investigator in CAPRISA studies aimed at optimising treatment strategies for TB-HIV co-infected patients, is Principal Investigator (PI) of a programme aimed at strengthening advanced clinical care for patients with HIV, TB and DR TB, and has been the co-Principal Investigator on the PEPfAR funded Durban and Vulindlela CAPRISA AIDS Treatment Programme.

She is currently the PI of the CAPRISA study on TB recurrence in TB-HIV co-infected patients, previously successfully treated for TB.