

■ **The Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation has received an \$US82.9 million grant** from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support the research and development of new vaccines to prevent tuberculosis (TB).¹ Reportedly the largest ever for TB vaccine development, the grant will increase the amount spent globally on TB vaccine development by more than two-fold each year. A portion of the grant will support human clinical trials of two components of a TB vaccine candidate.² Moreover, research into improved animal models to predict vaccine effectiveness in humans, and early research into next-generation TB vaccines, will be funded by the grant, according to Aeras.

1. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Gates Foundation Commits \$82.9 Million to Develop New Tuberculosis Vaccines. Media Release : 12 Feb 2004. Available from: URL: <http://www.gatesfoundation.org>.

2. TB vaccine phase II clinical studies to be supported by \$83 mil. Gates grant. FDC Reports Blue Sheet - Health Policy - Biomedical Research 47: 4, No. 8, 23 Feb 2004.