



**News Release | October 23, 2015**

**MILLIONS FOR NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASE RESEARCH  
ANNOUNCED AT KEY MEETING OF RESEARCHERS AND  
FUNDERS**

**effect:hope and Leprosy.ie (The Leprosy Mission Ireland) launch R2STOP initiative to close  
knowledge gaps in NTD transmission**

PHILADELPHIA, PA — A new research funding initiative aimed at closing gaps in the understanding of transmission of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) launched today at the annual COR-NTD meeting. R2STOP (Research to Stop Transmission of Neglected Tropical Diseases) will grant up to \$1 million per year, for at least three years, for research that targets questions of transmission in leprosy. In the future, R2STOP could support research that will contribute to the achievement of eradication and elimination of other NTDs.

The R2STOP initiative is co-sponsored by Toronto-based international development organization, effect:hope and Leprosy.ie (The Leprosy Mission Ireland). The initiative is designed to accelerate ongoing efforts to eliminate leprosy and reach 'zero transmission' of the disease by 2020 as set forth in the London Declaration, and WHO roadmap, on NTDs.

R2STOP will award grants of \$10,000 to \$100,000 USD annually for a maximum of three years. The initial funding priorities are investigations of: 1) Human-to-human transmission of *M. leprae*; 2) Non-human reservoirs of *M. leprae*; 3) Host-pathogen interactions and 4) Transmission networks. R2STOP will disburse funds through a call for proposals process which is available at [www.r2stop.org](http://www.r2stop.org) and closes on January 31, 2016.

**Contacts:**

Deborah Mensah-Awere, Program Officer, Research & Learning, effect:hope

Email: [info@r2stop.org](mailto:info@r2stop.org)

Phone: (647) 502-6220

Tom Gillis: Chair, Transmission Research Committee

Email: [tgillis@effecthope.org](mailto:tgillis@effecthope.org)