

## Mycobacterial and Helminth Co-infections

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Intestinal helminth and blood borne helminth infections are widely distributed in the tropical world. Although these diseases do not kill they are associated with significant morbidity including malabsorption, poor cognitive performance and stunting of growth in children. Tuberculosis continues to be a major health problem in several developing countries despite effective tools for diagnosis and chemotherapy being available. Significant mortality and both clinical and social morbidity is associated with this disease. There has been increasing interest in the role of mycobacterial and helminth co-infections on immune responses in areas where the prevalence of both infections is high. The response of individuals with soil transmitted and blood borne helminths to vaccines is also a subject of increasing interest. The results of studies done in an international collaborative study in this area will be presented and discussed.