Empirical TB treatment (i.e. starting TB treatment without bacteriological confirmation) is widely practiced, particularly for HIV-positive people, among whom traditional diagnostic tests have inadequate sensitivity. However, the evidence base to define conditions under which the benefits of empirical treatment outweigh the risks is lacking. Several trials are underway to address this question. In this symposium we will discuss the relevance of empirical treatment, outline studies in progress which address this question and discuss implications for policy and practice.

**Target audience**
Clinicians, researchers, policy-makers and advocates with interests in TB treatment among people with HIV.

**Objectives**
1. To discuss the role of empirical TB treatment for HIV-positive people in the context of new diagnostic tests
2. To report progress with trials investigating the conditions under which empirical TB treatment improves patient outcomes, and highlight methodological and operational challenges
3. To give civil society perspectives on empirical TB treatment trials

**Keywords**
HIV; empirical TB treatment; clinical trials

**Coordinator(s)**
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**Presentations**
- **08:00 - 08:15** Overview: why does empirical TB treatment matter?
- **08:20 - 08:35** Reducing early mortality and early morbidity by empiric tuberculosis treatment regimens: the REMEMBER trial
- **08:40 - 08:55** Prevention of early mortality by presumptive tuberculosis treatment: the PROMPT trial
- **09:00 - 09:15** The STATIS trial
- **09:20 - 09:35** The TB Fast Track trial
- **09:40 - 09:55** Civil society perspectives on empirical TB treatment trials