

# MED PULSE

## ELIMINATION OF TB

New York, September 2018

Political leaders and tuberculosis (TB) experts met for the first UN High-Level Meeting on TB to reaffirm declarations to diagnose and treat 40 million people by 2022, and provide 30 million with preventative treatment. The aim is to end TB globally by 2030. However, with fewer than 20 heads of state present, and a funding gap of \$3.5 billion per year, it remains to be seen whether the declarations will be actualized.<sup>1</sup>

## BAN OF CHLORPYRIFOS

United States, August 2018

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was ordered by the Court of Appeals to "revoke allowable limits" of chlorpyrifos, a harmful pesticide linked to neurological disorders in children. Chlorpyrifos was identified as a human health risk in 2015 due to its actions in inhibiting acetylcholinesterase, an enzyme essential for neurological signaling pathways. In light of the recent court order, lobbyists are hopeful for a full ban on the use of this harmful insecticide in the very near future.<sup>2</sup>

## LASSA FEVER CRISIS

Nigeria, April 2018

Lassa fever is a viral hemorrhagic fever that has seen 413 confirmed cases in the first quarter of 2018, resulting in 114 deaths in 21 West African states. A national Emergency Operations Center was activated by the Nigeria Center for Disease Control to coordinate preventative efforts with the World Health Organization. Although the incidence of Lassa fever has declined, the infection of 27 health workers with the virus highlights the need to strengthen control practices in emergency health care settings.<sup>3</sup>

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