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In the present decade Mycobacterium tuberculosis will cause over 80 million infections and 30 million deaths. Yet, in the 1980s, this scourge of centuries past showed every indication of coming under control with improvements in nutrition and living conditions, together with a concerted attack from powerful antituberculosis agents. The public health community was all the more surprised when tuberculosis rates began to increase worldwide. What is that essential combination of scientific, therapeutic, and public health strategies to tackle prevention and treatment of tuberculosis on a global scale? Setting the agenda for the next decade is a matter of urgency that will be discussed at The Lancet’s 1995 conference. The new direction that we seek will only come about with fresh ideas and genuine debate. Consider for a moment a few of the issues that we hope to highlight, and how your research might play a part.

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