

Newsletter

2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY & PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AUTHORITY



we are TB



TB PEOPLE PHILIPPINES



TAG Treatment Action Group



Network Of Tuberculosis Champions Kenya



FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



DPH GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



DeKalb PUBLIC HEALTH



NTCA National Tuberculosis Coalition of America

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The TRAC’s Community and Public Health Advisory Committee (CPHAC) met for its 2nd annual virtual meeting on September 9th. Committee members in attendance included **Kate O’Brien** from [We Are TB](#), a community of TB survivors, people in treatment, and family members committed to eliminating TB, and **Ms. Eloisa 'Louie' Z. Teng**, President of [TB People Philippines](#), an advocacy group of TB survivors whose goal is to help eliminate TB and support people on TB treatment and their families. Also in attendance were **Mike Frick**, U.S. and Global Health Policy Co-Director of [Treatment Action Group](#), an independent, activist, and community-based research and policy think tank committed to racial, gender, and LGBTQ+ equity; social justice; and liberation, fighting to end HIV, TB, and hepatitis C virus, and **Donna Wegener**, Executive Director of the [National Tuberculosis Coalition of America](#). Local Health Department representatives included **Dr. Lynn Paxton**, District Health Director, [Fulton County Board of Health](#), and **Drs. Annie Rouza and Sandra Valenciano**, District Directors from [DeKalb](#)

Public Health. Several actionable next steps were identified, such as incorporating community engagement components into funding opportunities and requesting help where needed from CPHAC members to engage advocacy and community groups in specific countries. The TRAC leadership is thankful for the committee members' time, thoughtful recommendations, and generous offers to help investigators initiate contact with community groups, and for their ideas on how TRAC subject matter experts can help with advocacy and fundraising efforts locally, nationally, and beyond.

PROTECT Study team annual meeting



Drs. Sarita Shah and David Benkeser, TRAC Clinical and Population Science Core co-directors, participated in the 2nd annual workshop for the PROTECT study: *Preventing Occurrence of TB by Expanding Coverage of TB Preventive Treatment (TPT)*, held in Victoria Falls,

Zimbabwe, from June 10-14. PROTECT is evaluating the real-world impact of TPT on TB incidence and mortality by using electronic medical record data and applying novel target trial emulation methods. In addition to Zimbabwe, the study is taking place in Haiti, Kenya, Nigeria, Ukraine, and Uganda. It is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and implemented through the CDC Foundation, CDC Global TB Branch, and implementing partners in countries.

Following on progress during the workshop, **Dr. Talent Maphosa** (right), CDC Zimbabwe's HIV care & treatment lead, visited Emory in August for a 2-day hybrid workshop. Together with **Dr. Julia Ershova** (center), Senior Epidemiologist with the CDC Global TB Branch in Atlanta, the team focused on data cleaning and analysis as the PROTECT study enters the last year of the project.



CREATIVE RESILIENCE: HOW THREE CENTURIES OF PANDEMICS INFLUENCED THE ARTS



In partnership with Emory Woodruff Health Sciences Center and Grady Health System, The Atlanta Opera is presenting a community conversation: “Creative Resilience: How Three Centuries of Pandemics Influenced the Arts,” a panel discussion exploring the impact on performing artists of three pandemics (HIV,

TB and COVID) over three centuries. The Emory event will take place on **Saturday, September 21st from 4 – 5:30 PM** at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. Panelists include TRAC members, **Dr. Carlos del Rio**, Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Infectious Diseases at Emory’s School of Medicine; **Dr. Stefan Goldberg**, Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology at the Rollins School of Public Health; and **Dr. Jodie Guest**, Senior Vice Chair, Department of Epidemiology at Emory. The program will be hosted by Lois Reitzes, Program Host at WABE-FM “City Lights.”

THE ATLANTA OPERA COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
Creative Resilience:
How Three Centuries of Pandemics Influenced the Arts

Dr. Carlos del Rio
 Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Infectious Diseases at Emory University School of Medicine

Eric Paul Leue
 Vice President of HIV Services at Ponce de Leon Center of Grady Hospital

Dr. Stefan Goldberg
 Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University

Dr. Jodie Guest
 Senior Vice Chair, Department of Epidemiology, at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University

Tomer Zvulun
 Carl W. Knobloch, Jr. General & Artistic Director, The Atlanta Opera

Lois Reitzes
 Program Host at WABE-FM

EMORY | WOODRUFF HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER | Grady | THE ATLANTA OPERA

The event is free, but **registration** is required. This event supports performances by The Atlanta Opera of Jonathan Larson’s Broadway rock opera, Rent, and the beloved opera that inspired it, Giacomo Puccini’s La bohème, taking place from September 18 – October 6 at Pullman Yards.

In addition, **Dr. Sarita Shah**, TRAC CPS Core co-director, will participate in a panel discussion on the opening night for La bohème on Wednesday, September 18 at Pullman Yards.

Publication Highlight



Dr. Sara Auld, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Emory School of Medicine, as co-chair of the Pulmonary Infections and TB subcommittee of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) co-authored a paper titled “[Postinfectious Pulmonary Complications: Establishing Research Priorities to Advance the Field: An Official American Thoracic Society Workshop Report](#)”. The workshop aimed to

establish a research agenda to further our understanding of the pathogen and host-mediated mechanisms underlying postinfectious pulmonary complications (PIPCs). PIPCs have long been recognized following TB, but the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of PIPCs following other lower respiratory tract infections. The paper reviews potential mechanisms underlying the transition from acute infection to PIPC and identifies research priorities, including establishing the incidence of PIPCs, defining common mechanisms and identifying therapeutic strategies as key to ultimately reduce morbidity in survivors of pulmonary infections.

TRACcolades

Congrats to Louis Hopkins, Doctoral Candidate in Emory’s [Immunology & Molecular Pathogenesis Program](#) for being awarded the Infectious Disease Across Scales Training Program [Award of Distinction](#). The award of \$2,000 will help with research support for 1 year. Louis is conducting his doctoral research in the lab of TRAC Co-Director **Dr. Jyothi Rengarajan**.



Congratulations Dr. Emily Evans, Emory Infectious Disease Fellow for receiving a [CFAR T32 award](#) for her patient-centered clinical research project “*Predictive Models for Fungal and Mycobacterial Infections in People with Advanced HIV Disease in Vietnam*”. Dr. Evans’ project will include modeling *M. tuberculosis* infection with mentorship from **Dr. Vince Marconi**, Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Emory University School of Medicine.



Welcome to Dr. AJ Warr, who will be joining TRAC Co-Director **Dr. Jyothi Rengarajan's** Lab after completing his first year of Infectious Disease fellowship at Emory. Before coming to Emory, Dr. Warr completed a combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics residency at Baylor College of Medicine and medical school at the University of Washington. It was while in medical school that his love of TB immunology flourished as a Fogarty Fellow in Kenya where his primary research focus was on mycobacterial immunity in HIV-exposed infants. Dr. Warr is excited to get back into research after five long clinical years of training and start work on human immunology projects in the Rengarajan Lab.

Bulletin Board



TRAC Pilot Award Request for Applications



Letter of intent deadline: September 19, 2024

Proposal submission deadline: November 14, 2024

The Emory/Georgia TRAC is excited to announce the **Request for Applications** (RFA) for Round 3 of the pilot grant initiative to support TB-related research by Early-Stage Investigators and investigators new to TB. Additional information regarding eligibility [here](#).

THE UNION MEETING 2024 - PRACTICE PRESENTATION OPPORTUNITY



As in previous years the TRAC is coordinating an opportunity for trainees and faculty to practice their Union presentation at the TB Works in Progress seminar scheduled for **Friday November 1st, 9-10am ET**. Depending on interest and if necessary, we may extend the session.

Please email lisa.sharling@emory.edu by **Monday October 7th** if you are interested in signing up for a 15-minute slot. Presentations can be in-person or via Zoom.

HALTING TUBERCULOSIS (TB) TRANSMISSION



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

R01 research project grant request for funding (RFA) [RFA-AI-24-049](#) was issued to understand the critical drivers of TB transmission at the individual and population levels in high-burden settings; to develop effective methods to measure rates of TB transmission that rely on an increased understanding of the biomedical basis of transmission and related risk factors; and assess potential interventions, including low-cost and low-tech options, to prevent TB transmission and detect infectious TB. Non-domestic (non-U.S.) entities (foreign organizations) are eligible to apply. The deadline is December 4th, 2024. **The RFA can be found [here](#).**



SPECIAL REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS TB DATA SCIENCE ACCELERATOR AWARDS

The Emory/Georgia Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center is excited to announce a special request for applications for **TRAC Accelerator Awards** to fund research using publicly available databases for TB research. The deadline for applications: **December 2, 2024.**

More information and application portal can be found [here](#)!

Upcoming Events

SMALL GROUP TRAINING SESSION ON METABOLOMICS ANALYSIS



Thursday September 19 2024, 9-11am

CNR Room 1045 and [Zoom \[Flyer\]](#)



Xin Hu, PhD

The goal of this training session will be to practice applying computational tools to your own metabolomics data. For those who don't yet have data to work with, we will provide a publicly available dataset.



Jeffrey Collins, MD, MSCR

INFECTIOUS DISEASES SEMINAR: NTCA GUIDELINES FOR RESPIRATORY ISOLATION AND RESTRICTIONS TO REDUCE TRANSMISSION OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS



Thursday September 19 2024, 8-9am
Zoom [Flyer]

Maunank Shah, MD, PhD, is Professor of Infectious Diseases at Johns Hopkins (JH) School of Medicine, Director of the Clinical Core for the JH TB Research Advancement Center, and Medical Director for the Baltimore City Tuberculosis Program. Dr. Shah's research involves evaluating and implementing novel HIV and TB intervention strategies in resource constrained settings. He is the immediate past-president of the National Society of TB Clinicians, and chaired the NTCA guidelines for usage of respiratory isolation in community settings for persons with TB. His research interests include evaluating the use of mobile health (mHealth) technologies to optimize adherence to TB therapy. His inventions include an electronic DOT (directly observed therapy) platform to allow HIPAA compliant, patient-centered video-based asynchronous DOT and improved case management for patients with TB, which is now in use in over 700 public health TB programs in the US.



TB WORKS IN PROGRESS SEMINAR: FINDINGS FROM CHAMPS: IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATIONS OF CAUSES OF CHILD DEATHS IN HIGH-MORTALITY SETTINGS



Friday September 20 2024, 9-10am
CNR Room 2001 and Zoom [Flyer]



Cynthia Whitney, MD, MPH, Professor, Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, has served as the Principal Investigator and Executive Director of the Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) program since 2020, leading efforts to accurately identify causes of child mortality across seven countries using advanced diagnostic techniques. She previously served as Chief of the Respiratory Diseases Branch at the CDC, where she specialized in pneumococcal disease, pneumonia, and vaccine policy.



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**
College of Public Health

Global Health Seminar Fall Series
*Targeted Mass Tuberculosis Screening
in Global Settings: Experiences from
China and Brazil*



Thursday September 26 2024, 4-5pm
**HYBRID EVENT: University of Georgia, Wright
Hall Room 150, 100 Foster Road, Athens, GA,
30602 | [Zoom](#)**

Dr. Leo Martinez is a global infectious disease epidemiologist who uses epidemiological and quantitative approaches to study vulnerable populations at high-risk of TB. He studies early-life risk factors for pediatric TB in high-burden settings, TB transmission dynamics in high-risk populations (e.g., prisoners, persons living with HIV or diabetes), and the relationship between TB and non-communicable diseases. Dr. Martinez is currently an assistant professor at Boston University. He received his PhD in Epidemiology at the University of Georgia’s College of Public Health.



INFLUENTIAL MENTORING WORKSHOP SERIES
All sessions are Thursdays
9am - 10am ET



➔ REGISTER NOW



The TRAC Influential Mentors series comprises five virtual sessions that focus on recent scholarship on mentorship, tools for mentors and mentees to strengthen relationships, mentoring across cultures, and building mentoring programs. This series is tailored for TB research mentors and mentees from various backgrounds and ranks. Participants who attend four out of five sessions will receive a certificate, however registered participants may attend select sessions. The sessions are led by **Dr. Dawn Comeau**, Director of Mentor Training at Emory’s TRAC and Professor at Rollins School of Public Health.

July 25	<i>Foundations of Mentoring</i>
August 15	<i>Setting Expectations between Mentors and Mentees</i>
September 26	<i>Cross-cultural Mentoring</i>
October 24	<i>Mentoring Best Practices: A Panel Discussion with Experienced Mentors and Mentees</i>
November 21	<i>Building Mentoring Capacity at institutions</i>

August Publications

Auld SC, Barczak AK, Bishai W, Coussens AK, Dewi IMW, Mitini-Nkhoma SC, Muefong C, Naidoo T, Pooran A, Stek C, Steyn AJC, Tezera L, Walker NF. *Pathogenesis of Post-Tuberculosis Lung Disease: Defining Knowledge Gaps and Research Priorities at the 2(nd) International Post-Tuberculosis Symposium*. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2024. DOI: 10.1164/rccm.202402-0374SO.

Chakhaia T, **Blumberg HM**, **Kempker RR**, Luo R, Dzidzikashvili N, Chincharauli M, **Tukvadze N**, **Avaliani Z**, Stauber C, **Magee MJ**. *Lack of weight gain and increased mortality during and after treatment among adults with drug-resistant tuberculosis in Georgia, 2009-2020*. medRxiv. 2024. DOI: 10.1101/2024.08.05.24311499.

Cirillo D, Anthony R, Gagneux S, Horsburgh CR, Jr., Hasan R, Darboe S, Laniado-Laborin R, Probandari A, **Tukvadze N**, Arcêncio RA, Bimba JS, Brighenti S, Chesov D, Chiang CY, Kalmambetova G, Knight G, Konstantynovska O, Kruse A, Lange C, Mayanja-Kizza H, McBryde E, Min J, Sanchez-Montalva A, Sulis G, Tsogt B, Van Der Walt M, Yeboah-Manu D, Hauser J. *A successful UN High-Level Meeting on antimicrobial resistance must build on the 2023 UN High-Level Meeting on tuberculosis*. Lancet Glob Health. 2024;12(8):e1225-e6. DOI: 10.1016/s2214-109x(24)00229-8.

Kadota JL, Musinguzi A, Aschmann HE, Akello L, Welishe F, Nakimuli J, Berger CA, **Kiwanuka N**, Phillips PP, Katamba A, Dowdy DW, Cattamanchi A, Semitala FC. *Adverse events reported during weekly isoniazid-rifapentine (3HP) tuberculosis preventive treatment among people living with HIV in Uganda*. medRxiv. 2024. DOI: 10.1101/2024.08.08.24311632.

Menzies NA, Swartwood NA, Cohen T, Marks SM, Maloney SA, Chappelle C, Miller JW, Beeler Asay GR, **Date AA**, Horsburgh CR, Salomon JA. *The long-term effects of domestic and international tuberculosis service improvements on tuberculosis trends within the USA: a mathematical modelling study*. Lancet Public Health. 2024;9(8):e573-e82. DOI: 10.1016/s2468-2667(24)00150-6.

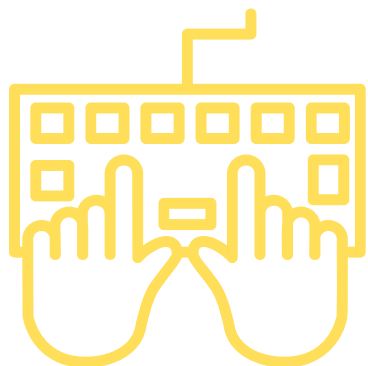
Mkhize B, Court R, Castel S, Joubert A, van der Merwe M, **Maartens G**, Conradie F, Wiesner L. *Validation and application of an online extraction and liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry assay for the analysis of delamanid and its DM-6705 metabolite in human breast milk*. J Pharm Biomed Anal. 2024;246:116225. DOI: 10.1016/j.jpba.2024.116225.

Omar SV, Louw G, Ismail F, Liu X, Ngcamu D, Gwala T, van der Meulen M, Joseph L. *Performance evaluation of the Xpert MTB/XDR test for the detection of drug resistance to Mycobacterium tuberculosis among people diagnosed with tuberculosis in South Africa*. J Clin Microbiol. 2024;62(8):e0022924. DOI: 10.1128/jcm.00229-24.

Qumbelo Y, Kachingwe E, **Omar SV**. *Extended clinical sample incubation in the cepheid Xpert MTB/XDR test sample reagent: Enhancing flexibility and workflows in high-volume laboratories*. Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis. 2024;110(4):116504. DOI: 10.1016/j.diagmicrobio.2024.116504.s2666-5247(24)00053-3.

Regan M, Barham T, Li Y, Swartwood NA, Beeler Asay GR, Cohen T, Horsburgh CR, Jr., Khan A, Marks SM, Myles RL, Salomon JA, Self JL, **Winston CA**, Menzies NA. Risk factors underlying racial and ethnic disparities in tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment outcomes, 2011-19: a multiple mediation analysis of national surveillance data. *Lancet Public Health*. 2024;9(8):e564-e72. DOI: 10.1016/S2468-2667(24)00151-8.

Roberts LW, Malone KM, Hunt M, Joseph L, Wintringer P, Knaggs J, Crook D, Farhat MR, Iqbal Z, **Omar SV**. MmpR5 protein truncation and bedaquiline resistance in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolates from South Africa: a genomic analysis. *Lancet Microbe*. 2024;5(8):100847. DOI: 10.1016/S2666-5247(24)00053-3.



**Have items to include in
a future newsletter?**

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