

Newsletter



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A huge thank you to the Emory/Georgia TRAC Core Directors and writing team, the TRAC community, and the departmental and central offices at Emory, and the University of Georgia (UGA) for their contributions to the TRAC renewal application (submitted July 10!). The metrics we reported in this application, including significant increases in TB grant funding, new-to-TB investigators and collaborative projects, demonstrate the dedication and resilience of TRAC members and the collaborative and supportive environment we have built together over the last 4 years. We should be especially proud, considering this took place in the face of administrative challenges and uncertainty regarding TB and global health funding.

Special thanks to Angie Campbell, Robin Hite, Amber Hardee, Kiara Banks, Janet Gross, Kristin Nelson, Matthew Magee, Sara Auld, Michael Marll, Anisha Rajaratnam, Charlotte Doran, Caroline Johnston, and Meaghan Peterson at Emory, Christian Heindel and Guozheng Yang at UGA, and Aniruddh Sarkar at Georgia

Tech for assistance in preparing and submitting the application.

TRAC Pilot & Accelerator Award Highlights



Congratulations to **Prashant Bajpai, PhD**, on receiving a \$70,000 Emory National Biomedical Research Center (formerly Emory National Primate Research Center) Pilot Research grant for the project titled “**Deep Spatial Profiling of Granuloma Architecture and Immuno-Metabolic States in SIV-Induced Tuberculosis Reactivation**”. Dr. Bajpai’s **Data Science TRAC Accelerator award** supported training in Dr. Peter Sorger’s lab at Harvard

University in tissue cyclic immunofluorescence (t-CyCIF). t-CyCIF is a highly multiplexed imaging technique that enables the labeling and visualization of more than 30 protein markers within a single tissue section. In collaboration with Dr. Sorger, Dr. Bajpai will use t-CyCIF to profile archived nonhuman primate lung tissues.

Kudos to **Emily Evans, MD**, for her abstract presentation at the Asia Pacific AIDS Co-morbidities Conference, June 18–20, 2026, in Chiba/Tokyo, Japan. Her poster included findings from her recently awarded **TRAC pilot grant** titled “**Clinical and pharmacological outcomes in talaromycosis-tuberculosis co-infection among people with advanced HIV disease.**”



TRAColades



A huge congrats to **Neel Gandhi, MD**, for being named by the **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)** as a fellow for the **Class of 2025**. The AAAS, publisher of the Science family of journals, announced the new class on March 26th, 2026. AAAS selects Fellows for their outstanding efforts in the advancement of science based on research, teaching, administration and technology, as well as communicating and interpreting science

to the public. Becoming an AAAS Fellow is considered a lifetime honor. In addition to advancing research, Fellows play a crucial role in shaping public policy and influencing national and global perspectives on critical issues.



Congratulations to **Rachel Kinsella, PhD**, on her pilot grant from Emory's University Research Committee (URC) funding program to support her project titled "**Immunothrombotic Mechanisms of Vascular Damage and Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Tuberculosis.**" The URC promotes rigorous and innovative scholarship in all academic disciplines to benefit the Emory community and beyond. URC pilot awards are generally up to a \$30,000 for single PI projects.

A huge congrats to **Sara Auld, MD, MSc**, for recognition from the **American Thoracic Society's Assembly on Pulmonary Infections & Tuberculosis** through their Mid Career Award. The award recognizes Dr. Auld's clinical and translational research on the intersections between TB, HIV, and lung health and her work on "post-tuberculosis lung disease". She has made major contributions to developing a case definition for post-TB lung disease, with the goal of bringing rigor and consistency to research worldwide. She has also served in a leadership role for the biennial International Post-TB Symposia which provides a critical venue for global advocacy around post-TB sequelae. In addition to her research, the award recognizes Dr. Auld's clinical work in the medical ICU and pulmonary consult services, and her service as a dedicated mentor to students and trainees.



Kudos to **Matthew Magee, PhD, MPH**, on receipt of the 2026 Robert Koch TB Researcher Award from the National Tuberculosis Coalition of America. The award recognizes an outstanding contribution with a clinical, epidemiological, or academic focus by a tuberculosis researcher or tuberculosis research organization working to eliminate tuberculosis.

Congrats to **Hadiya Johnson** Lead Research Specialist in the lab of **Ashish Sharma, PhD**, on two counts: **1)** for winning the Chair's Pick Top Poster Award at Emory's Pathology Research Day (February 27th, 2026) for her work on spatial profiling of TB granulomas and, **2)** being accepted into Emory GDBBS's Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis PhD program!





Kudos to doctoral student **Kaira Thevenin** on winning the Graduate Student Award at the Emory National Biomedical Research Center Research Day Symposium for her poster titled ***“Investigating the Role of Type I Interferon Signaling in Calcium Mobilization and PAD4 Activity during Mycobacterium tuberculosis Infection.”*** Kaira also presented her work at the Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences (GDBBS) Research

Symposium. Kaira is in the Immunology & Molecular Pathogenesis PhD program and is mentored by **Rachel Kinsella, PhD**.

Publication Highlights



Congrats to Emory University and University of Georgia alumni **Aryn Malik, PhD, MPH, MBBS**, and **Leonardo Martinez PhD**, on their recent paper in The Lancet Regional Health titled ***“Hepatitis C and risk of tuberculosis amongst United States veterans: a national cohort study.”*** The study of a large national cohort of United States veterans suggests people with hepatitis C (HCV) are at increased risk of TB, and risk is decreased among those successfully treated for HCV. The study supports the need for comprehensive TB screening in individuals with HCV and the provision of early treatment for HCV.



Congrats to **Jeffrey Collins, MD, MPH, MSc** and the many TRAC collaborators on their paper in the EbioMedicine journal titled ***“Infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis depletes host fatty acids in humans and non-human primates.”*** The study concludes that the host metabolic response to infection with Mtb is characterised by the systemic depletion of host lipids, which is exacerbated in persons with pulmonary TB, and that interventions that supplement host lipids should be tested to determine their impact on TB outcomes.





Congrats to **Collin Dubick, MD, MSc**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Emory School of Medicine, and mentors Marcos Schechter, MD, and Andi Shane, MD, MPH on their paper titled “**Where Did this Come From: Lumbar Puncture for All Infants with Suspected Tuberculosis Disease?**” The study evaluated the evidence, rationale, and diagnostic yield of cerebral spinal fluid (CSF)

analysis for infants with TB disease. The diagnostic utility of lumbar puncture (LP) and CSF analysis for infants without miliary TB or symptoms of TB meningitis (TBM) is not obvious. Although the practice may minimize the risk of underdiagnosing TBM, the study found that it is challenging to predict that infants with asymptomatic TB disease, for example, will benefit. Larger studies could provide a better estimate of the number of infants with suspected TB needed to test by LP with CSF analysis. The study concluded that while a stratified approach to the central nervous system evaluation of infants with TB seems judicious, more research is needed to make an informed recommendation.

Congrats to **Thomas Manning, PhD**, Department of Chemistry, Valdosta State University on his paper in the Indian Journal of Tuberculosis titled “**The unusual anti-cancer activity of the Cu(II)-bedaquiline complex.**” The BPaL regimen for highly drug-resistant TB includes bedaquiline (B), pretomanid (Pa), and linezolid (L). Dr. Manning’s earlier studies with the copper (Cu)-capreomycin complex showed it had a 250-fold improved efficacy against resistant Mtb than capreomycin alone. If previous Cu-capreomycin results suggest a possible precedent, then Cu-bedaquiline may also have a higher efficacy than bedaquiline against drug resistant strains of Mtb, as Cu-bedaquiline did against lung cancer cell lines.



Kudos and congrats to **Ashish Sharma, PhD**, on his co-last author paper in Nature Medicine titled “**Innate antiviral and immune functions associated with the HIV reservoir decay after anti-PD-1 therapy.**” The study defines immune pathways that help identify persons living with HIV who are most likely to experience reservoir decay with anti-PD-1 therapy and suggests that sustained

interferon-stimulated gene activation may contribute to reservoir reduction and prevention of viral rebound upon antiretroviral therapy interruption.

Upcoming Events

TB WORKS IN PROGRESS SEMINAR: DEEP SPATIAL PROFILING OF GRANULOMA ARCHITECTURE AND IMMUNO-METABOLIC STATES IN TUBERCULOSIS

Friday August 21, 9-10am

RSPH, CNR Room 3001 and Zoom



Prashant Bajpai, PhD, is a postdoctoral researcher at the Emory Vaccine Center, working under the supervision of Dr. Jyothi Rengarajan. He completed his PhD at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Institute in Delhi, India. The primary focus of Dr. Rengarajan's lab is to understand the mechanisms underlying tuberculosis and HIV pathogenesis. Dr. Bajpai contributes to multiple projects that leverage systems immunology and computational biology approaches. His primary research focuses on investigating immuno-metabolic events, granuloma dynamics, and spatial architecture in mouse and non-human primate models of tuberculosis.

SYSTEMS BIOLOGY VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON OFFICE HOURS



3rd Thursday of the month Aug-Oct & Dec

10am - 11am ET, CNR 2001 & Zoom



Jeffrey Collins, MD, MS



Xin Hu, PhD



Boris Minassenko, MS



Ashish Sharma, PhD

Drop in to receive one-on-one support from informaticists with 'omics' study design and data analysis for tuberculosis research - including bulk and single cell transcriptomics, metabolomics and lipidomics.

**THU
20**

AUGUST

**THU
17**

SEPTEMBER

**THU
15**

OCTOBER

**THU
17**

DECEMBER

For more information please contact: jeffrey.michael.collins@emory.edu

Bulletin Board



Job Posting - Clinical Trial Manager

The Department of Infectious Disease and Tropical Medicine at Heidelberg University Hospital has a clinical and research mandate, embedded within a research-active university campus that includes the Heidelberg Institute for Global Health. Our research group (www.denkglobaldx.org) brings together an interdisciplinary

team working across diagnostic innovation, clinical and implementation research, mathematical modelling, data science, and health-economic evaluation. We collaborate with leading academic institutions (including Harvard, UCSF, Johns Hopkins), global research networks (R2D2, Smart4TB), organisations such as WHO, and industry partners. We are seeking a motivated Clinical Trial Manager (CTM, 100%) to lead, manage and coordinate the conduct and reporting of multicentric studies across Africa and Asia, within the R2D2 TB diagnostic research network in accordance with ICH-GCP and applicable regulations. See full job posting [here](#).



Job Posting - Clinical Trial Postdoctoral Fellow (fully funded, 1 year term with possibility to renew)

Dr. Jonathan Campbell is seeking someone with a PhD in epidemiology, health economics, biostatistics, or a related field and ideally experience in tuberculosis to join his group in the **Department of Global and Public Health at McGill University** to work on CIHR-

funded research in tuberculosis prevention and post-tuberculosis lung disease. The position will work on:

- Modeling TB preventive treatment and analyzing health administrative data to better understand opportunities to deliver preventive treatment
- Post-TB lung disease – a growing but understudied consequence of TB, including analysis of cohort data, health administrative data, and an individual participant dataset

Looking for :

- A PhD (or near completion) in epidemiology, health economics, biostatistics, or a related field
- Strong quantitative and programming skills (R preferred)
- An interest in TB, respiratory health, or global health
- Prior TB experience is a very strong asset

See full job posting [here](#).



NIH Notices and Updates



- [Updated NIH Policy on Foreign Subawards](#), NOT-OD-25-104, May 1, 2025
- [New Application Structure for NIH-Funded International Collaborations](#), NOT-OD-25-155, September 12, 2025
- [Updated NIH Processes for No-Cost Extensions](#), NOT-OD-25-110, May 7, 2025
- [Update: No-Cost Extension Functionality in eRA](#), NOT-OD-25-142, August 7, 2025
- [Early-Stage Investigator \(ESI\) Eligibility Extension and Reinstatement](#). See [FAQs](#)
- [Supporting Fairness and Originality in NIH Research Applications](#), NOT-OF-25-132, July 15, 2025 - NIH will only accept six new, renewal or revision applications from a PD/PI for all council rounds in a calendar year. See updated [FAQs](#).
- [NIH Will Stop Posting Notices of Funding Opportunities in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts in FY2026](#), NOT-OD-25-143, August 14, 2025
- [NIH Director Statement: Advancing NIH's Mission Through a Unified Strategy - NIH Priorities](#), August 15, 2025
- [NIH's Implementation of Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending \(Other\) Support for Due Dates on or after January 25, 2026](#), December 2, 2025

April - June Publications

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Dembu HS, **Price PJ**, Sales J, **Wassie L**. [Ethical Challenges of Obtaining Informed Consent: Qualitative Research on the Perspectives of Tuberculosis Patients Participating in Human Genomic Research in Ethiopia](#). Dev World Bioeth. 2026. DOI: 10.1111/dewb.70030.

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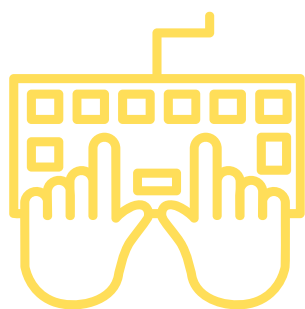
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Have items to include in a future
newsletter?

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