

Newsletter

ALL NEWS & STORIES

TB Preventive Treatment for People with HIV Shown Effective in Real-World Settings

Photo credit – RSPH News August 17, 2026

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

A huge congratulations to **Sarita Shah, MD, MPH**, collaborators at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Global HIV and Tuberculosis, Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH) and the full PROTECT study team on their publication in *The Lancet HIV* titled '[Programmatic effectiveness of tuberculosis preventive treatment for people with HIV in six high-tuberculosis-burden countries \(PROTECT\): a prospective cohort study and meta-analysis](#)'. In six countries with high TB and HIV rates (Haiti, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe), provision of TPT, mainly with 6 months of isoniazid, was found to lower the occurrence of TB and deaths. This was true across a wide range of real-world settings, health conditions, and risk groups. The pooled hazard ratio for mortality was 0.55 (0.51–0.58) with significant variation across countries ($I^2=96\%$, 95% CI 93–97). Furthermore, TPT worked best when started early in HIV care. Advancements in HIV detection, treatment, and care should go hand in hand with TPT as a vital aspect of HIV

programs. Read more in [RSPH News](#) and attend the Inter-TRACSeminar on Wednesday September 30, 12-1 pm (see Upcoming Events section below)!

Welcome

The Emory/Georgia TRAC welcomes new Faculty members, **Moises Huaman, MD, MSc**, and **Emily Evans, MD, MSc**, who are joining Emory School of Medicine's Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease, and **Collin Dubick, MD** who is joining Emory School of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics, Division of Infectious Diseases. We also welcome all new students and trainees, including RSPH Epidemiology PhD students **Neha Mokashi, MSPH** and **Akshay Deverakonda, MSPH** and **Hadiya Johnson** in Emory GDBBS's Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis PhD program.



Moises Huaman, MD, MSc



Emily Evans, MD, MSc



Collin Dubick, MD



Neha Mokashi, MSPH



Akshay Deverakonda, MSPH



Hadiya Johnson

TRAColades



A huge congrats to **Rachel Kinsella, PhD** for being selected as one of two finalists by the **Society for Leukocyte Biology** for their **2026 Excellence in Leukocyte Biology Award**. The award recognizes excellence in research. Dr. Kinsella will present in-person in Columbus, Ohio September 14-17, 2026 where society members will vote.

A huge congrats to **Jyothi Rengarajan, PhD** (Principal Investigator) and **Cheryl Day, PhD** (Co-Investigator) on their NIH R21 titled “**Immunometabolism of myeloid suppressor cell responses to M. tuberculosis in persons with HIV (PWH)**”. The study will leverage bio-banked samples available through the Emory Center for AIDS research (**CFAR**) and archived samples, including from people with active and latent TB, with and without HIV. Drs. Rengarajan and Day will employ multi-omic and immunologic approaches to derive an integrated myeloid-derived suppressor cell (MDSC) biosignature associated with their suppressive functions and evaluate MDSC signature and frequencies in antiretroviral therapy (ART)-naïve PWH, PWH on ART and people without HIV. They will also test whether expansion of monocytic-MDSCs in PWH on ART contributes to ineffective immunity against Mtb-infection and promotes immunometabolic dysregulation.



Congratulations to **Charlotte Doran, MSc**, on receipt of the **Anoopa Sharma Award** at Emory RSPH's Epidemiology PhD Program's bi-annual Research in Progress Day. Charlotte also presented ‘*Estimating indirect effects of vaccination against tuberculosis among children in Mozambique*’. Charlotte, working with Kristin Nelson as her primary mentor, and her research focuses on evaluating TB vaccine implementation strategies using data from the GlobalMix and CONTEXT studies, and the South African census.

Kudos to **Ganesh Nalam, MS**, Bioinformatics Analyst in Ashish Sharma's lab in the Pathology Advanced Translational Research Unit within Emory's Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. Ganesh attended the 4th annual **Healthcare AI, Innovation and Translational Informatics Lab Datathon** (July 25 - August 2, 2026) and with ‘Team ORION’ took home 2nd place!

The Healthcare AI Datathon is nine days of radiology-AI research with a mission of making deployed models more trustworthy.



Publication Highlight

Congrats to **Giorgi Kanchelashvili, MPH, PhD**, Epidemiologist with the Health Research Union, in the Country of Georgia, collaborators at the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases and **Jeffrey Collins, MD, MSc**, Director of the Emory/Georgia TRAC Bioinformatics and Integrated System Biology Core. Their paper titled '**Hepatitis B coinfection and awareness among patients with active tuberculosis in Georgia: a cross-sectional study**' was published in BMC Infectious Diseases. They found TB-hepatitis B (HBV) coinfection at levels to suggest that routine HBV screening among TB patients may be beneficial. Low vaccination coverage and limited knowledge also highlighted the importance of integrating HBV education and vaccination into TB programs to improve outcomes.



Upcoming Events

INTER-TRAC SEMINAR STOPPING TB BEFORE IT STARTS IN THE ERA OF ART: REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE FROM 6 COUNTRIES

Wednesday September 30, 12-1 pm

Broadcast to RSPH, CNR Room 3001 & Zoom



Seth Zissette, PhD, is a postdoctoral fellow in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Department of Biostatistics. His research leverages epidemiological and statistical causal inference methods along with real-world data to understand and inform disease treatment and prevention

efforts, particularly by translating clinical trial results to broader programmatic settings. His work includes applications to TB, HIV, and opioid use disorder.

TRAC
Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center
Emory/Georgia

Applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI)/
Machine Learning to Tuberculosis Research
Seminar Series

AI & MEDICAL IMAGING: SCREENING & PATIENT CARE

September 18, 2026, 9-10am
RSPH CNR 3001 & via [Zoom](#)

[Add to calendar](#)



Rohan N. Dhamdhare, PhD Candidate

Streamlining POCUS for Pulmonary TB Screening: A Machine Learning-Derived Reduced-Zone Protocol for High-Burden Settings

Rohan N. Dhamdhare is a PhD candidate in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University and a member of Anant Madabhushi's Lab and the Emory Empathetic AI for Health Institute. His research develops clinically translatable AI methods using medical imaging and physiological data to improve disease screening, risk stratification, and treatment monitoring.



Juyoung Lee, PhD Candidate

Automated Airway Geometry at Treatment Completion: A CT-Derived Marker of 12-Month Lung Function Decline in Post-TB Lung Disease

Juyoung Lee is a PhD student in Computer Science and Informatics at Emory University and a member of Anant Madabhushi's Lab. His research uncovers signals in radiological images that carry prognostic information but are not captured by conventional reads, working across tuberculosis, lung cancer, and kidney cancer. In tuberculosis, he quantifies airway deformation on end-of-treatment CT to identify survivors at risk of post-tuberculosis lung disease.

Join us to learn about the potential of AI to impact your TB research!

TRAC
Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center
Emory/Georgia

HAPPY HOUR



Join us to welcome new faculty & students

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 5-7PM
NEW REALM BREWING CO.

550 SOMERSET TERRACE NORTHEAST, UNIT 101
ATLANTA, GA 30306

[Add to calendar](#)




TRAC Writing Drop-in Session

HOW IT WORKS

- Introductions and statement of goal
- Work with focus (no distractions, just time to get it done)
- Regroup to share progress
- Sessions will be facilitated by Dr. Dawn Comeau (Emory Rollins School of Public Health)

WHEN: Thursday October 8, 9am-12pm
WHERE: RSPH, CNR 3001

Coffee & Breakfast Served!



WHAT YOU MIGHT WORK ON

- Outline a literature review
- Draft or revise a manuscript
- Prepare an IRB protocol
- Draft specific aims
- Polish a presentation
- Any task that you have delayed starting...

Built-in accountability and comradery!

Avoid distractions and move your work forward!

Trainees, early-stage investigators & senior faculty welcome!

[Add to calendar](#)




SYSTEMS BIOLOGY VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON OFFICE HOURS



3rd Thursday of the month Aug-Oct & Dec

10 am - 11 am ET, CNR 2001 & Zoom



Jeffrey Collins, MD, MS



Xin Hu, PhD



Boris Minasenko, 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

NIH Expands Opportunities for International Research Collaborations

NIH has introduced a new Parent PF5 Leveraging Model that allows applicants proposing foreign collaborations to certain participating NOFOs to use the Collaborative International Research Project (PF5) Parent Announcement structure while following the requirements of the specialized funding opportunity. Key benefits include:

- Streamlines application preparation for projects involving international collaborators
- Provides a common application structure through the PF5 Parent Announcement
- Expands access to participating NIH Institute and Center funding opportunities
- Supports broader global research partnerships

Learn more: [Submitting Applications with International Collaborations | Grants & Funding](#)

Participating opportunities: [Specialized NOFOs Participating in the Collaborative International Research Project \(PF5\) | Grants & Funding](#)

NIH Seeks Ideas for Future NIH-wide Research Initiatives

NIH is requesting community input on major scientific challenges that could shape future Common Fund investments. NIH is interested in:

- Emerging research opportunities
- New tools, resources, or technologies
- Barriers faced by research teams
- Cross-cutting priorities with broad health impact

Ideas should be ambitious, broadly applicable, and achievable within 5-10 years.

Response deadline: September 19, 2026

Submit ideas: [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#).

NIH Publication Funding Acknowledgment Requirements - NEW!

NIH has clarified expectations for acknowledging federal funding in publications arising from federally funded research. In addition to citing the relevant grant number(s), publications should include the percentage and dollar amount of project costs supported by federal funds, the percentage and dollar amount supported by non-governmental sources, and the standard NIH disclaimer.

Learn more: [NIH Webpage regarding acknowledgment](#) and [Emory RCRA website](#).

NIH Requests Feedback on Proposed Changes to Peer Review Reporting Outcomes

NIH is seeking public input on proposed changes to how peer review outcomes are reported to applicants. Under the proposal, NIH would no longer release final overall impact scores or percentiles. Instead, applications would be grouped into three categories:

- Most Competitive (top 25%)
- Competitive (26-50%)
- Not Discussed

Applicants would continue to receive written critiques, criterion scores, and discussion feedback, but the final numerical overall impact score would no longer be shared with investigators, institutions, program staff, or advisory councils.

Community input will help inform NIH's future approach to reporting peer review outcomes. **Comments due:** October 13, 2026

Learn more and submit feedback: [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#).

NIH Seeks Input on Funding Approaches to Support Future Clinical Trial Investigators

NIH is requesting feedback on potential funding strategies to strengthen the pipeline of future clinical trial investigators. NIH is interested in input on:

- Training and career development needs
- Barriers to entering and remaining in clinical trial research
- Innovative funding approaches
- Opportunities to enhance workforce diversity and sustainability

Learn more and submit feedback: [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#).

NIH Highlights Reporting Channels for Peer Review Concerns

NIH has reaffirmed its commitment to integrity, fairness, and transparency in peer review and has outlined key reporting pathways for the research community.

NIH encourages stakeholders to report concerns related to:

- Potential bias or unfair review practices
- Confidentiality breaches
- Inappropriate reviewer conduct
- Other issues that may affect review integrity

Learn more: [Our Continued Commitment to Integrity and Fairness in Peer Review: Key NIH Reporting Channels to Know](#)

NIH Updates Career Development (K) Award Programs

NIH has announced updates to its Career Development (K) Award programs aimed at simplifying funding opportunities, reducing administrative burden, and improving consistency across career development awards. These changes will apply to applications with due dates on or after October 12, 2027. Key updates include:

- Consolidation of individual K award funding opportunities into a streamlined set of parent programs
- Elimination of the requirement for Data Management and Sharing Plans
- Clarification of allowable uses of K award funds for clinical trial research activities
- Improved alignment of policies across NIH career development programs

Learn more: [Notice of NIH Updates to Career Development \(K\) Award Programs](#)



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

July & August Publications

Singh A, Azamat S, Modanwal G, Mutha P, Fu P, **Gandhi NR, Dhamdhare R**, Lebowitz M, Al-Kindi S, Aggarwal A, Xie YL, **Madabhushi A**. [CardioMorph Atlas: a statistical approach to evaluate association between pulmonary tuberculosis and cardiac morphology from chest X-rays](#). EBioMedicine. 2026;130:106385. DOI: 10.1016/j.ebiom.2026.106385.

Nightingale R, **Auld SC**. [Beyond cure: why survivors of extrapulmonary tuberculosis belong in the post-TB lung health conversation](#). Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2026;212(8):1695-6. DOI: 10.1093/ajrccm/aamag114.

Dubick C, Kempker RR, Schechter MC. [The Potential Impact of Shortened Treatment for Nonsevere Pediatric Tuberculosis in the State of Georgia](#). J Pediatric Infect Dis Soc. 2026;15(8). DOI: 10.1093/jpids/piag063.

Sekandi JN, Bwambale K, Indiralarasati A, Kalembe DK, Patel K, Nakkonde D, **Zalwango S**. [Characterizing Tuberculosis Medication Side Effects Using Video Directly Observed Therapy Monitoring in Uganda: Opportunities for Digital Pharmacovigilance](#). Res Sq. 2026. DOI: 10.21203/rs.3.rs-10595035/v1.

Adane K, **Kempker RR, Bobosha K**, Meaza A, **Blumberg HM**. [Tongue swab Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra for tuberculosis diagnosis in Ethiopian prisons](#). Microbiol Spectr. 2026:e0084026. DOI: 10.1128/spectrum.00840-26.

Adane K, **Kempker RR**, **Bobosha K**, Meaza A, **Blumberg HM**. Tongue swab Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra for tuberculosis diagnosis in Ethiopian prisons. Microbiol Spectr. 2026:e0084026. DOI: 10.1128/spectrum.00840-26.

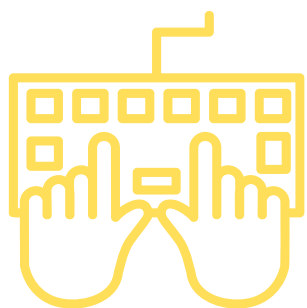
Shah NS, Mishara F, Zissette S, Mesidor RN, Ssevvume S, Riabokon S, Mushangwe B, Motoku J, Balogun S, Kashmiri N, Bello M, Augustin GM, Lukoye D, Barzilay EJ, Maphosa T, Weyenga H, Oladipo A, Ferroussier-Davis O, Silva JD, Ershova J, Ajiboye AS, Gleason BL, Valles JS, Jean-Charles K, Achia T, **Benkeser D**, Charles M. Programmatic effectiveness of tuberculosis preventive treatment for people with HIV in six high-tuberculosis-burden countries (PROTECT): a prospective cohort study and meta-analysis. Lancet HIV. 2026. DOI: 10.1016/s2352-3018(26)00140-2.

Madzgharashvili T, Lomtadze N, Chincharauli M, **Kipiani M**, **Tukvadze N**, Avaliani Z, **Blumberg HM**, **Kempker RR**, Imnadze P, Salindri AD, **Schechter MC**. Effectiveness of Bedaquiline-, Delamanid- and Linezolid-Containing Regimens in Improving Treatment Outcomes Among Pediatric and Adolescents With Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis in the Country of Georgia. Pediatr Infect Dis J. 2026. DOI: 10.1097/inf.0000000000005366.

Bisson GP, Allwood B, Byrne A, Günther G, Khosa C, Navuluri N, Nightingale R, Schoeman I, van der Zalm MM, Meghji J, **Auld S**. Post-tuberculosis lung disease: a case definition for use in research studies. Lancet Infect Dis. 2026;26(7):e315-e25. DOI: 10.1016/s1473-3099(25)00548-1.

Ekwebelem LC, Bury MR, Prophete EJ, Duverger K, Bircher PM, **Spaulding AC**. Measuring depression, and its association with substance use, during an adherence study of patients treated for tuberculosis in Haitian prisons. Int J Prison Health (2024). 2026:1-18. DOI: 10.1108/ijoph-09-2023-0062.

Gandhi NR, Naidoo K, Lutchminarain K, Omar SV, Yoshii H, Willis F, Boodhram R, Gwala T, **Campbell A**, Coe MM, Evans AN, Tang L, Chitwood MH, Hlathi SR, Mbatha PN, Joseph L, Van Der Meulen H, Mlisana K, **Jenness SM**, Lurie MN, Kreiswirth BN, Warren JL, **Nelson KN**, **Auld SC**, **Brust JCM**, Cohen T, Mathema B, **Shah NS**. Role of casual contact in drug-resistant tuberculosis transmission: a molecular epidemiology study. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2026;212(7):1585-95. DOI: 10.1093/ajrccm/aamag140.



Have items to include in a future
newsletter?

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