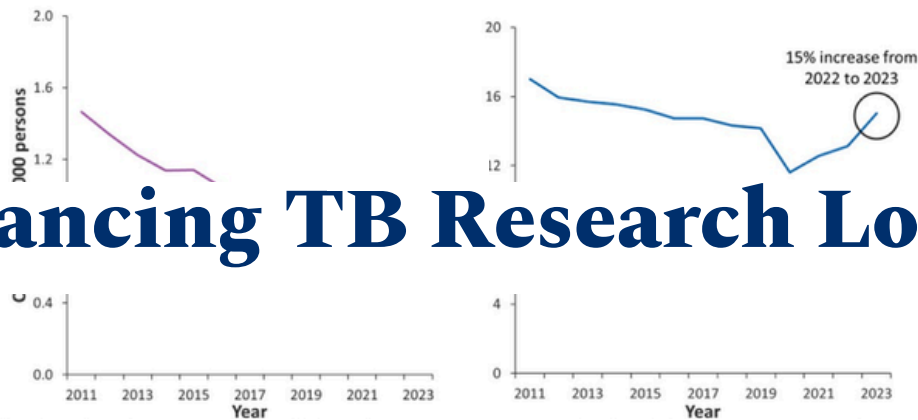


Newsletter



Enhancing TB Research Locally

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RADX TB DIAGNOSTIC
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The End TB Strategy seeks to reduce TB incidence by 90% by 2035¹ and the U.S. Global TB Strategy aims to “eliminate TB” by reducing TB incidence to <1 case per 1 million population.² Neither the U.S. nor the global community is on track to meet these goals. In the U.S. in 2024, there were 10,347 people who developed TB disease, with a high case fatality rate of 6%.³ After years of decline, the trajectory of TB incidence in the U.S. is now increasing. The vast majority (77%) of TB in the U.S. occurs among non-U.S. born persons who have reactivation of latent TB infection;³ therefore, **efforts to eliminate TB in the U.S. require a comprehensive approach to TB research both abroad and in the U.S.**

Emory/Georgia TRAC faculty have collaborated with local health departments for over two decades, including the Fulton and DeKalb County Boards of Health and conducted clinical, epidemiologic, and translational studies of TB infection and disease, including studies among immigrants and refugees, persons experiencing homelessness, and people with HIV.⁴⁻¹⁸

This strong foundation of domestic partnerships has recently expanded with new NIH-funded studies, including with the California Department of Health (DOH; [R01AI194318](#)) on a study titled ‘**Infectiousness and social mixing in asymptomatic TB as a driver of population-level transmission**’ (Principal Investigator [PI]: Sarita Shah), with the New York State DOH Wadsworth Center TB Laboratory through a supplement to the AIDS Clinical Trials Group ([3UM1AI106701-13S1](#); supplement PI: Sarita Shah) and with the Hamilton County DOH in Ohio ([R01AI184529](#)) on a study titled ‘**Tuberculosis infection and risk of diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease: Epigenetic and cardiometabolic trajectories after TB infection**’ (PIs: Matthew Magee, Moises Huaman, and Yan Sun). Aniruddh Sarkar (Georgia Tech) and Marcos Schechter (Emory) recently submitted a collaborative R01 grant application to **develop and validate a multiplex cytokine lateral flow assay for blood-based TB diagnosis** using stored samples from TRAC Dataverse studies and a prospective cohort enrolled from DeKalb BOH.



Dr. Oladele Director of DeKalb County's TB clinic. Photo credit: [Rebecca Grapevine/Healthbeat](#)

We hope to help further foster partnerships with long-time collaborator **Dr. Alawode Oladele**, Director of DeKalb County's TB clinic. He has served as an investigator on multiple clinical and translational studies through the DeKalb County TB program, a major site for cohort enrollment and implementation-focused research.^{4, 9-11, 16} DeKalb has the highest rate of TB of any county in Georgia and, as highlighted in our August 2025 Newsletter, DeKalb recently opened a state-of-the-art TB clinic ([read more in our August 2026 Newsletter](#)). We look forward to working with Dr. Oladele and other health departments to enhancing TB research in the U.S. and locally. **See Appendix for References.**

New RADx Tech ITAP Opportunity for Tuberculosis Diagnostics

We are excited to report that Emory will serve as a validation support center for the **Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) Independent Test Assessment Program (ITAP)** through a new NIH National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) contract. Emory investigators responded to a recent Request for Applications and proposed 6 focus areas, including, TB diagnostics, HIV diagnostics, midlife-related diagnostics, pediatric diagnostics, HCV diagnostics, and neuro diagnostics. All focus areas were funded with **Drs. Marcos Schechter and Greg Damhorst** as the TB leads.

A new call was just released seeking developers of near-patient and/or lab-based molecular diagnostics for *M. tuberculosis* complex, with the goal of accelerating promising technologies toward validation, regulatory submission, and commercialization.

Learn more about the opportunity, eligibility, and evaluation criteria [here!](#)



Thank you to everyone who attended Happy Hour on September 23rd!

It was great to see everyone and welcome new faculty members **Drs. Moises Huaman and Khai Tram**, along with new students. We look forward to the next opportunity to enjoy some downtime with colleagues. Sorry to those not captured in the group picture!

TBTC Study 31 deposited in DataVerse

Data from the CDC's TB Trials Consortium (TBTC) Study 31 (aka AIDS Clinical Trials Group Study A5349) have been made publicly available and can be accessed through the [TRAC DataVerse](#). This groundbreaking study found the efficacy of a **4-month rifapentine-based regimen containing moxifloxacin** to be noninferior to the standard 6-month regimen for treatment of drug-susceptible TB (ClinicalTrials.gov number, [NCT02410772](#)) and was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 2021: '[Four-Month Rifapentine Regimens with or without Moxifloxacin for Tuberculosis](#)'



Emory-Georgia TRAC Dataverse

Emory Research Impact in Progress podcast: Making HIV Research More Impactful



Dr. Kimberly Eck welcomes **Tanisha Sullivan**, a 25-year Emory veteran who coordinates the Emory HIV Clinical Trials Unit. Sullivan highlights Emory's role as a leading enrollment site in global research networks like HPTN, ACTG, and HVTN, including the landmark HPTN 083 study that proved long-acting injectable PrEP is more effective than daily oral pills.

Welcome



The Emory/Georgia TRAC welcomes new Faculty member **Khai Tram, MD, MSc**, who joined the Epidemiology Department of Emory's Rollins School of Public Health in September as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Tram joins Emory from the University of Washington where he completed his fellowship training in Infectious Diseases and an MS degree in Epidemiology. His research is centered on human mobility and infectious diseases, and the intersection of geospatial analysis,

mathematical modeling and TB and HIV epidemiology.

TRAColades

Congratulations to **Sara Auld, MD, MSc** on her NIH National Heart Lung and Blood Institute K24 award titled “**Mentoring in patient-oriented translational research in TB, HIV, and lung health**”. The purpose of the Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research (K24) is to provide support to mid-career health-professional doctorates for protected time to devote to patient-oriented research and to act as research mentors for junior clinical investigators, such as clinical residents and/or junior clinical faculty.



A huge congrats to **Anne Spaulding, MD**, on her NIH Fogarty International Center R21 award titled “**Strengthening HIV-associated Non-Communicable Disease Research Capacity to Improve the Health of People Living in Mozambican Prisons**”. This study will leverage years of collaboration between Emory, Servicio Nacional Penitenciario or SERNAP, and the non-governmental organization Health through Walls.

Publication Highlights



Congrats to first author **Tamta Korinteli, MD**, last author **Davit Baliashvili, PhD, MPH**, and several fellow Emory-Georgia TB Research Training Program graduates along with Emory collaborators on their recent paper titled “**Incidence of and Risk Factors for Tuberculosis Among Patients Treated for Hepatitis C: a Population-based Cohort Study**”. The study found that individuals successfully treated for hepatitis C experienced high incidence of TB disease. They also found that individuals with diabetes had a 53% higher incidence of TB compared to those without diabetes, and underweight individuals (BMI < 18.5) had a higher incidence of TB compared with those of normal weight. They concluded that hepatitis C care programs may reduce TB risk by including diabetes screening and nutritional assessment.

Congrats to **Jessica Rothman, PhD, MS**, and her mentor **Kristin Nelson, PhD**, on their recent publication titled '**Targeted tuberculosis vaccination strategies in the United States: A modeling study**' in the journal Vaccine. The study found that targeted vaccination of adults at high risk of progression from Mtb infection to TB disease could reduce U.S. TB incidence substantially. Strategies that include non-U.S.-born persons and persons living with HIV are most efficient and impactful. U.S. TB cases could be halved with a vaccine with $\geq 70\%$ efficacy and 50% per year uptake. Since graduating with her PhD in Epidemiology, Dr. Rothman has joined Flatiron Health as an Associate Research Scientist.



Emory/Georgia TRAC Fall Research Symposium



Wednesday October 28th, 9 am - 1 pm
Rollins School of Public Health
Lawrence P. and Ann Estes Klamon Room
(CNR 8030) & Zoom

Upcoming Events

VISITING PROFESSOR SEMINAR

CURED, BUT NOT HEALED:

EPIGENETIC TRADE-OFFS, IMMUNE AGING, AND THE NEED FOR ENDOTYPE-SPECIFIC THERAPIES IN TB



Friday October 16, 9-10 am
RSPH, CNR Room 3001 & Zoom

Andrew DiNardo, MD, PhD, is a physician-scientist and Associate Professor at Baylor College of Medicine. He studies the metabolic and epigenetic regulation of host immunity during and after infections. This work has identified that tuberculosis induces epigenetic perturbations that persist

despite successful antibiotics. The studies have demonstrated that TB survivors have 12 years of premature epigenetic aging, with the post-TB DNA methylation changes being driven by TCA metabolites. Building off work in his PhD studies at Radboud University, he is focused on translating endotype classifiers into actionable, host directed therapies.

SPECIAL TB WORKS IN PROGRESS UNION MEETING PRACTICE TALKS

A series of short presentations by Emory/Georgia TRAC trainees and faculty as a practice for their presentations at the The Union World Conference on Lung Health 2026 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Please attend to provide feedback and engage with the speakers.

9 - 10:15am EST
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2026
RSPH, CNR 3001 & VIA ZOOM

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Time (EST)	WIP format	Presenter	Presentation Title
9:00 AM	Zoom	Fregenet Tsefaye	Longitudinal dynamics of Mtb-specific and total CD4 ⁺ T-cell responses across pregnancy and postpartum in women with TB infection in Ethiopia
9:12 AM	Zoom	Bethlehem Solomon Woldemariam	Gender-based barriers to accessing tuberculosis care services in Ethiopia: A qualitative study
9:25 AM	TBD	Hadiya Johnson	Spatial profiling of tuberculosis lung tissue reveals limited penetration of pro-inflammatory immune-metabolic responses in the granuloma core
9:35 AM	In-person	Daniel Flanagan	Characterising M. tuberculosis gene mutations associated with pretomanid resistance in South Africa
9:50 AM	In-person	Charlotte Doran	Modeling indirect effects of vaccination of adolescents/adults against tuberculosis among children <15 years in Mozambique
10:00 AM	Zoom	Zaynab Mousavian	Immune and metabolic dysregulation in TB-stress hyperglycemia is associated with impaired lung function

TRAC
Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center
Emory/Georgia

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 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 15 **OCTOBER**

THU 17 **DECEMBER**

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

Bulletin Board



TRAC Bridge Award Request for Applications



Applications accepted on a rolling basis October 19 – October 30, 2026

The expected outcomes of the TRAC Bridge Award are to provide support to help mitigate the effects of federal funding cuts on TB investigators through helping investigators complete and publish partially completed aims and sub-aims, pivot to new areas of TB-related research, develop new collaborations, and generate preliminary data for future grant applications. Please review the full request for applications [here](#).
For questions regarding the Bridge Award initiative please contact trac@emory.edu



TRAC Accelerator Awards
Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center
Emory/Georgia

MORE INFO HERE

- Fill funding gaps to overcome barriers for critical TB research
- Up to \$5,000
- Applications accepted on a rolling basis **October 19 – October 30, 2026**
- Fast funding decisions!

The Accelerator Award initiative no longer has an open rolling deadline. For the current year, for proposals to be completed by February 28, 2027, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis between **October 19 and October 30, 2026**. Please see the updated [Request for Applications](#) and the TRAC [‘Find Funding’](#) website to

review the updated funding preferences and eligibility criteria. We regret that due to changes to NIH policy regarding international subawards that investigators at our international partners are not eligible to apply to this call for applications.

For questions regarding the Accelerator Award initiative please contact trac@emory.edu.

4th International Post-Tuberculosis Symposium (iPTBS) 2027 - Official Launch!

The International Post-Tuberculosis Symposium Steering Committee have announced the opening of the [online registration](#) and [abstract submission portals](#), together with the official launch of the [2027 Symposium website](#). The symposium will be held at the Hoam Faculty House (Samsung Convention Center), **Seoul National University, South Korea, 12-15 April 2027**. Visit the symposium website for full event details.

**K12 CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL
RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM**

The goal of the Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance (Georgia CTSA) K12 Program is to enhance career development for junior faculty committed to a career in clinical and translational research. The K12 program provides innovative personalized didactic and mentored research training. Early-career faculty from a wide variety of disciplines at the Georgia CTSA partner institutions - **Emory University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Tech, and the University of Georgia** - are eligible to apply. More info [here](#) and full announcement [here](#).

A two-part Application Workshop will be held on October 8 AND October 15 from 9:30 to 11:30 am in-person and via Zoom. Those who attend BOTH sessions live will be eligible for up to 5 hours of individual grant writing consultation with Dr. Janet Gross. To register for the workshops, visit <https://form.jotform.com/242476360042148>



NIH Notices and Updates



- **NIH Expands Opportunities for International Research Collaborations**
 - Learn more: Submitting Applications with International Collaborations | Grants & Funding
 - Participating opportunities: Specialized NOFOs Participating in the Collaborative International Research Project (PF5) | Grants & Funding
- **NIH Publication Funding Acknowledgment Requirements**
 - Emory RCRA website.
- **Notice of NIH Updates to Career Development (K) Award Programs**, NOT-OD-26-098, August 12, 2026
- **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

September Publications

Bwambale K, Amutuheire D, Nakkonde D, Kaggwa P, Buregyeya E, **Zalwango S**, Nabukeera S, Isunju JB, **Sekandi JN**. **Time to first and recurrent missed video directly observed therapy sessions and associated factors among people with Tuberculosis in Kampala, Uganda.** Front Digit Health. 2026;8:1815509. DOI: 10.3389/fdgth.2026.1815509.

Rico-Bolívar DL, Díaz-Brochero C, Hattemer R, Bejarano-Mora CA, Bejarano-Mora L, **Huaman MA**, Valderrama-Beltrán SL. **Causes of hospitalization among people living with HIV in a tertiary-care hospital in Bogotá, Colombia, 2018-2024.** PLoS One. 2026;21(9):e0357788. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0357788.

Rothman JE, Castro KG, Lopman BA, Gandhi NR, Nelson KN. Targeted tuberculosis vaccination strategies in the United States: A modeling study. *Vaccine*. 2026;92:129174. DOI: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2026.129174.

Korinteli T, **Tukvadze N**, Chincharauli M, Avaliani Z, **Kipiani M**, Getia V, **Magee MJ**, Blumberg HM, **Baliashvili D.** Incidence of and Risk Factors for Tuberculosis Among Patients Treated for Hepatitis C: a Population-based Cohort Study. *Open Forum Infect Dis*. 2026;13(9):ofag497. DOI: 10.1093/ofid/ofag497.

Meehan SA, Hesseling AC, Viljoen L, **Cranmer LM**, Verkuijl S, Viney K, Maktabi M, Isaacs M, Hirsch-Moverman Y. Inclusion of pregnant and lactating women in TB treatment and vaccine trials. *IJTL D Open*. 2026;3(9):574–9. DOI: 10.5588/ijtdopen.26.0107.

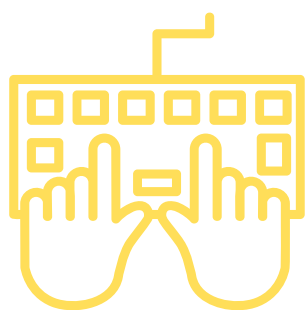
Kang YJ, Wang N, Malik A, Lu P, **Grossman A**, Njuguna I, Maleche-Obimbo E, LaCourse SM, Slyker J, Wamalwa D, John-Stewart GC, Wang C, **Cranmer LM**, Lu LL. An Fc receptor and IgA functional signature identifies TB disease in children living with HIV. *J Pediatric Infect Dis Soc*. 2026. DOI: 10.1093/jpids/piag101.

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*Have items to include in a future
newsletter?*

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