



Newsletter



IN THIS ISSUE

TRAC RETREAT

**PUBLICATION
HIGHLIGHT**

TRACCOLADES

UPCOMING EVENTS

BULLETIN BOARD

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

TRAC Retreat

Emory/Georgia TRAC held its 3rd annual meeting on October 25, 2024, at Emory University. The goal of this year's meeting was for Core Directors and Early-stage Investigators from Emory and the University of Georgia to reflect on the TRAC's accomplishments over the last year and prioritize programming for the future. The group identified several activities to prioritize moving forward, and others for which demand was lower than anticipated. The retreat ended with a strategic planning session to review the TRAC's unique scientific strengths, emerging topics in TB science, and program areas to focus on in the coming years. We are thankful to all who participated in the retreat for sharing their valuable feedback to guide more sustainable programming and services.

Since this year's annual meeting was a smaller retreat format, we plan to incorporate aspects of our usual annual meeting, such as scientific talks and awards, during 2025 World TB Day programming.

Publication Highlight



Dr. Sara Auld, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine recently published a literature review in the ATS journal titled **“Pathogenesis of Post-Tuberculosis Lung Disease: Defining Knowledge Gaps and Research Priorities at the Second International Post-Tuberculosis Symposium”**. The paper focuses on understanding the pathologic mechanisms of post-TB lung diseases (PTLD). The literature review shares key findings on six

areas with high translational potential associated with PTLD; 1) tissue matrix destruction, matrix metalloproteinase and neutrophil activity; 2) fibroblasts and profibrotic activity in the connective tissue; 3) granuloma fate and cell death pathways which are important to better understand effective healing of the lung; 4) mycobacterial factors, including pathogen burden; 5) experimental animal models that will enhance our understanding of PTLD, and; 6) impact of key clinical risk factors, including HIV, diabetes, smoking, malnutrition, and alcohol.

TRACcolades

Congratulations to **Delante Moore**, a doctoral student at Emory’s Graduate Division of the James T. Laney School (**Biostatistics Program**) on defending his PhD dissertation. His dissertation titled **‘Surveilling Spatially Concentrated Disease Patterns: A Bayesian Approach to Understanding TB in the United States’**, explored an approach that enhances strategic planning and implementation of TB control measures. The first aim examined mapping models in the context of spatially concentrated TB prevalence by utilizing localized methods to evaluate the fit of disease surveillance models, particularly in capturing sharp spatial transitions. The second aim focused on evaluating model adequacy. The final aim focused on the development of an enhanced Bayesian spatially varying coefficient model (BSVCM) integrated with locally adaptive smoothing (LAS).



Upcoming Events

TB HACK DAY & INTRO SESSION

in collaboration with the SEATRAC Data Science Core

Join us for a hands-on workshop and hack day led by Emory University informaticists with virtual presentations from the University of Washington’s Seattle TB Research Advancement Center (SEATRAC)!

INTRO SESSION

**December 6, 11am-12pm
RSPH, RRR 226 & Zoom**

Register [HERE!](#)

HACK DAY

**December 10, 9am-3:30pm
RSPH, CNR 3001 & Zoom
(lunch & snacks provided)**

Goal: Collaborate in small groups to learn and refine analytic approaches to bulk and single cell transcriptional data. Participants will use these skills to gain new insights from published TB transcriptomics datasets.

Who: Novice and experienced coders welcome!

Program: Short talks to introduce datasets, workshops on analysis techniques, and open-ended hack time to plan and execute analyses.



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 are welcome to attend as many sessions as they are able, but those who attend four out of five sessions will receive a certificate. All sessions are led by **Dr. Dawn**

Comeau, Director of Mentor Training for the Emory/Georgia TRAC and Professor at Rollins School of Public Health in the Behavioral, Social and Health Education Sciences (BSHES).

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

Bulletin Board

OPEN FACULTY SEARCH EMORY UNIVERSITY, ROLLINS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ROLLINS
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC
HEALTH

We are pleased to announce a new faculty search that we are initiating at Emory. We are looking to hire a new TB faculty member into the Epidemiology department at the Rollins School of Public Health, in conjunction with the [Emory/Georgia TB Research Advancement Center \(TRAC\)](#). Open to applicants of any rank (Asst Prof, Assoc Prof, Professor). The job posting can be found [here](#).

Applications can be submitted at [this portal](#) and by sending a letter of interest and CV to the search committee c/o Kiara Banks, kiara.latimer.banks@emory.edu.

EMORY'S HERCULES EXPOSOME RESEARCH CENTER



Emory's [HERCULES Exposome Research Center](#) has released the center's call for applications for their \$30,000 pilot program. The exposome is the comprehensive analysis of environmental exposures over a lifetime, including factors such as undernutrition and the social determinants of environmental exposure or risk. International applicants and Faculties in other departments at Georgia Tech are eligible if proposal includes collaboration with an Emory Investigator. **To verify eligibility and determine if a potential research project can be supported by the program, please contact Hilary Barton (hillary.barton@emory.edu).** More information is available [here](#).

KL2 CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR JUNIOR FACULTY



The goal of the Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance (Georgia CTSA) KL2 Program is to support and enhance career development for junior faculty (MD, PhD, MD/PhD, PharmD) committed to a career in clinical and translational research and clinical and translational science. The KL2 program provides innovative personalized didactic and mentored research training. Junior 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](#).

Conference Travel Accelerator Award

We are excited to support one Emory/Georgia TRAC early-stage investigator (PhD student, post-doc, fellow or junior faculty) to attend the *3rd International Post-tuberculosis Symposium* in Cape Town through an Accelerator Travel Award of up to \$4,000. Please note that faculty with independent TB funding (NIH R01 or R01 equivalent) are not eligible to apply. The full request for applications can be found [here](#). Applications must be submitted through the [Application Portal](#) by **November 18, 2024**.



3rd INTERNATIONAL

POST-TUBERCULOSIS

SYMPOSIUM 2025

CHARTING THE COURSE

APRIL 14 - 16 | STIAS INSTITUTE, STELLENBOSCH, CAPE TOWN



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](#)!

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPLEMENTS TO EXISTING NIH GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS



These supplements aim to address unforeseen costs that fall within the scope of the approved award, which were not anticipated when submitting new or renewal applications or grant progress reports for non-competing continuation support. Applications for administrative supplements are considered prior approval requests (as described in [Section 8.1.2.11 of the NIH Grants Policy Statement](#)) and will be routed directly to the Grants Management Officer of the parent award. For more details, please refer to the [RFA here](#).

U.S.-SOUTH AFRICA PROGRAM FOR COLLABORATIVE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH – PHASE 3



R01 research project grant request for funding (RFA) [RFA-AI-24-023](#)

The purpose of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to support research projects under Phase 3 of the U.S.-South Africa Program for Collaborative Biomedical Research. Research areas supported under this program include **HIV/AIDS, HIV/AIDS co-morbidities and co-infections, HIV/AIDS-associated implementation science, and HIV/AIDS-associated data science**. The hallmark of the U.S.-South Africa program is the development of partnerships between South African investigators and U.S. investigators. Through international collaboration, this research will advance scientific discoveries, promote sharing of technologies and approaches, and serve local public health needs and priorities in support of global HIV/AIDS research. The deadline is March 12, 2025. **The NOFO can be found [here](#).**

October Publications

Allwood B, Nightingale R, **Auld S**. HIV-Associated Tuberculosis. *N Engl J Med*. 2024;391(17):1661-2. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMc2411285.

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 Second International Post-Tuberculosis Symposium*. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 2024;210(8):979-93. DOI: 10.1164/rccm.202402-0374SO.

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Colman RE, Seifert M, De la Rossa A, Georghiou SB, Hoogland C, Uplekar S, Laurent S, Rodrigues C, Kambli P, **Tukvadze N**, Maghradze N, **Omar SV**, Joseph L, Suresh A, Rodwell TC. *Evaluating culture-free targeted next-generation sequencing for diagnosing drug-resistant tuberculosis: a multicentre clinical study of two end-to-end commercial workflows*. *Lancet Infect Dis*. 2024. DOI: 10.1016/S1473-3099(24)00586-3.

Goodall RL, Nunn AJ, Meredith SK, **Bayissa A**, Bhatnagar AK, Chiang CY, Conradie F, Gopalan N, Gurumurthy M, Kirenga B, Kiria N, Meressa D, Moodliar R, Ngubane N, Rassool M, Sanders K, Solanki R, Squire SB, Teferi M, Torrea G, Tsogt B, Tudor E, Van Deun A, Rusen ID. *Long-term efficacy and safety of two short standardised regimens for the treatment of rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis (STREAM stage 2): extended follow-up of an open-label, multicentre, randomised, non-inferiority trial*. *Lancet Respir Med*. 2024. DOI: 10.1016/S2213-2600(24)00186-3.

Hermans SM, Akkerman OW, **Meintjes G**, Grobusch MP. *Post-tuberculosis treatment paradoxical reactions*. *Infection*. 2024;52(5):2083-95. DOI: 10.1007/s15010-024-02310-0.

Hoover AT, Woldeamanuel Y, **Wassie L**, Eyob H, Haile Mariam D, **Kempker RR**, **Blumberg HM**, **Comeau DL**, **Bobosha K**. *Recruitment Strategies To Improve Gender Equity in Clinical and Translational Research Training in Ethiopia*. *Am J Trop Med Hyg*. 2024. DOI: 10.4269/ajtmh.24-0120.

Loveday M, **Gandhi NR**, Khan PY, Theron G, Hlangu S, Holloway K, Chotoo S, Singh N, Marais BJ. *Critical assessment of infants born to mothers with drug resistant tuberculosis*. *EClinicalMedicine*. 2024;76:102821. DOI: 10.1016/j.eclinm.2024.102821.

Magha C, Nchang LC, Weldeclassie M, Nkimbeng DA, Tchatat NM, Meriki HD, Deribe K, Nietcho FN, Foyet JV, Fombad FF, Katcho TD, Cho JF, Gebremeskel EI, Waddell SJ, **Bobosha K**, Newport MJ, Hoerauf A, Ritter M, Wanji S. *Comorbidity profiles among sputum-positive tuberculosis patients in Cameroon*. *Front Tuberc*. 2024;2. DOI: 10.3389/ftubr.2024.1433856.

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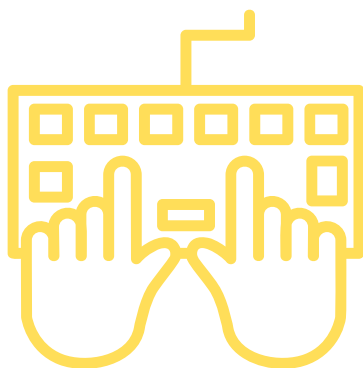
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**Have items to include in
a future newsletter?**

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