

# TRAC Center Newsletter

Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center  
Emory/Georgia



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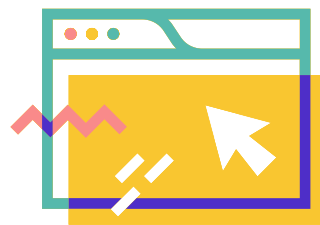
## Welcome!

It's the one year anniversary of the Emory/Georgia TRAC funding announcement, so what better time than now to launch our first monthly newsletter?

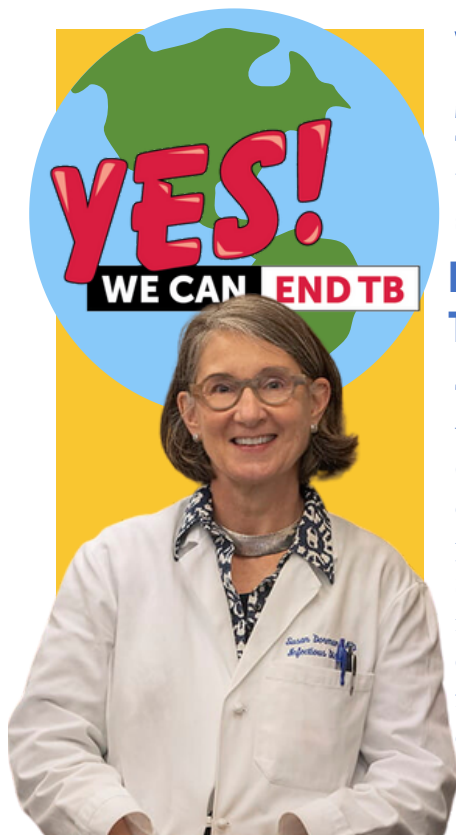
We've accomplished a number of exciting things over the last year including hiring 3 full time TRAC staff members, accepting applications for our very first Pilot Grants, and hosting presentations ranging in topics from Cervidea TB to TB and nutrition. We hope you enjoy this monthly newsletter and use it to stay informed on all things TB in Georgia and beyond.

- Laurel Bristow, MSc TRAC Program Manager

## New Website



[TB.Emory.edu](https://tb.emory.edu) has been revamped as the TRAC website for Emory/Georgia. The new site will be updated regularly with TRAC news and events, available services, funding opportunities and more.



## World TB Day Events

**March 20-24, 2023**

The TRAC is excited to host Dr. Susan Dorman of Medical University of South Carolina as the 2023 World TB Day keynote speaker where she will present:

### Phthisis 2023: Reasons for Optimism about TB Control

on Thursday, March 23 at 9am - Register [HERE](#)

The TRAC will be hosting a number of events throughout the week including a photo exhibit courtesy of the CDC's Division of Global HIV/TB, a special session of Emory's ID Seminar focusing on all stages of TB vaccine development, a collaborative presentation between the Emory/GA and Seattle TRAC giving updates on current research, and much more. A full schedule of events, along with calendar invites, can be found at [tb.emory.edu/events](http://tb.emory.edu/events) or the via QR code.



## Spotlight: New grants

Dr. Russell Kempker, MD, MSc (Co-Director of the TRAC Developmental Core) was awarded his first R01 (1R01AI173946-01) for a project proposal entitled, "Cavity and Granuloma Oriented Inflammation and Tissue Pharmacokinetics in Pulmonary TB (COOK TB)." This \$2.5 million grant will utilize cutting edge methods to study the spatial distribution of TB drugs and the host immune response in resected human TB lungs. The long-term goal is to provide data that will help develop host directed therapy to limit lung damage, and aid in the design of optimal drug combinations to improve treatment outcomes. Dr. Kempker (MPI) will be leading this project with Dr. Brendan Prideaux (MPI, UTMB at Galveston) and an all-star collaborating multidisciplinary team including TRAC members Drs. Rafick Sekaly, Jeff Collins, and Ashish Sharma of Emory University and longtime collaborator Dr. Sergo Vashakidze of the National Center for TB and Lung Diseases in Tbilisi Georgia.



# TRACcolades



Congratulations to TRAC co-Director **Dr. Neel Gandhi** on his recent election to the American Society for Clinical Investigation. Dr. Gandhi is being recognized for his accomplishments as physician-scientists and impact in translating science from the lab to clinical practice.

Congratulations to TRAC Developmental Core Director of Mentor Training **Dr. Dawn Comeau** who was recently awarded the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) Teaching Excellence Award, which recognizes public health leaders for their service and achievements in teaching, research, practice, and student services.



Rollins Epi PhD alum **Dr. Davit Baliashvili** was recently published in the January issue of Clinical Infectious Disease for the paper resulting from the 2nd aim of his dissertation "Association of Treated and Untreated Chronic Hepatitis C With the Incidence of Active Tuberculosis Disease: A Population-Based Cohort Study" ([doi: 10.1093/cid/ciac786](https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciac786)).

## Upcoming Presentations

**Wednesday March 29th 9am Special Session: Visit from International partners** [Add to calendar](#)



The TRAC will be hosting a special session with collaborators Dr. Maia Kipiani and Dr. Nestani Tukvadze from the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (NCTLD) in Tbilisi, Georgia, and Dr. Liya Wassie of the Aemauer Hansen Research Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, while they are visiting Emory University.

**Friday April 21st 9am TB-WIP Presentation on the National TB Program of Kyrgyzstan** [Add to calendar](#)

A delegation from Kyrgyzstan will present on the country's TB program as well as opportunities for new partnerships.



The TB-Works in Progress (WIP) series happens the 3rd Friday of every month from 9-10am and showcases new and developing TB research projects from TRAC members and collaborators. The series can be added to your calendar [here](#)

Have items to include in the next newsletter? Email them to [Laurel.Bristow@emory.edu](mailto:Laurel.Bristow@emory.edu)

# Bulletin Board

**STOP TB PARTNERSHIP, USAID AND THE GLOBAL FUND NEGOTIATE LANDMARK DEAL BRINGING DOWN THE PRICE OF A RAPID MOLECULAR TEST FOR TB (TRUENAT) AT US\$ 7.90 PER TEST ([read more here](#))**



**SeaTRAC call for nominations for the Early Career Scientist Award to recognize efforts of ESI who have made significant contributions along the entire spectrum of TB research ([learn more](#))**

**Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) announces \$370million in funding for advancing impactful medical research in congressionally directed topic areas, including TB ([learn more](#))**

## Recent Publications

Kornfeld H, Procter-Gray E, Kumpatla S, Kane K, Li W, **Magee MJ**, Babu S, Viswanathan V. **Longitudinal trends in glycated hemoglobin during and after tuberculosis treatment.** Diabetes Res Clin Pract. 2023 Feb;196:110242. doi: 10.1016/j.diabres.2023.110242. Epub 2023 Jan 7. PMID: 36627027.

Baik Y, Maenetje P, Schramm D, Tiemessen C, Ncube I, Churchyard G, Wallis R, Vangu MD, Kornfeld H, Li Y, **Auld SC**, Bisson GP. **Lung function and collagen 1a levels are associated with changes in 6 min walk test distance during treatment of TB among HIV-infected adults: a prospective cohort study.** BMC Pulm Med. 2023 Feb 3;23(1):53. doi: 10.1186/s12890-023-02325-7. PMID: 36737697; PMCID: PMC9896708.

Sadowski C, Belknap R, **Holland DP**, Moro RN, Chen MP, Wright A, Millet JP, Cayla JA, Scott NA, Borisov A, **Gandhi NR**. **Symptoms and Systemic Drug Reactions in Persons Receiving Weekly Rifapentine Plus Isoniazid (3HP) Treatment for Latent Tuberculosis Infection.** Clin Infect Dis. 2023 Feb 23:ciad083. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciad083. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36815322.

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