



Newsletter



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Georgia Tech Roadshow

On April 18th a delegation from the Emory/Georgia TRAC visited the Georgia Institute of Technology to kick off the first of many planned "Roadshows." The goal of the meeting was to present the work of the TRAC and the areas in TB research which could benefit from collaborations with the engineering-minded investigators at Georgia Tech. We are looking forward to returning in June for a collaborative presentation from investigators at both institutions to spark new engagement and partnerships. In the coming year, the Roadshows will reach other local institutions such as Georgia State and the Morehouse School of Medicine, as well as our international partners.



Inaugural Pilot Grants Announced

Last week the TRAC awarded the first round of Pilot Grants via the Developmental Core.

Selecting awardees was no easy task, as we had 13 highly competitive and varied applications from 5 countries and 7 institutions. We are excited to be able to fund four applications this round. The selected projects are:

- "[Clinical and immunological consequences of natural routes of infection in a murine model of tuberculosis-malaria co-infections.](#)" - Ashutosh Pathak, UGA, United States
- "[Undernutrition assessment, nutrient intake of TB patients, and feasibility of NACS in outpatient TB clinics in the Philippines](#)" - Glyzelle Lagason, De La Salle Health Science Institute, Philippines
- "[Evaluating social and behavioral drivers of uptake of new adult TB vaccines](#)" - Kristin Nelson, Emory, United States
- "[A Dual Approach to Eliminating Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C \(DARE TB/HCV\) Study](#)" - Mariana Buziashvili, National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, Georgia



Congratulations to our awardees! We look forward to supporting your projects.

Upcoming TB Works In Progress Network Transmission of M. tuberculosis: The Next Iteration

Dr. Chris Whalen, UGA
Friday May 26, 2023 9:00am



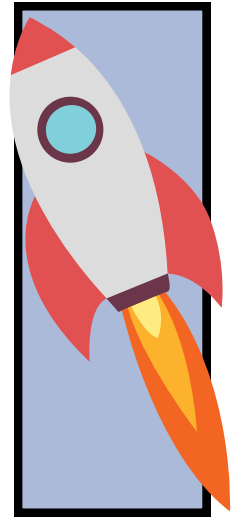
Dr. Whalen is Director of the UGA Global Health Institute, and Co-Director of the Clinical and Population Sciences core of the Emory/Georgia TRAC. His research portfolio includes household contacts studies, social network studies, large population-based cohort studies, and phase II and III randomized clinical trials, all conducted in Africa. He is an expert on study design and causal inference and uses modern quantitative methods for analysis of complex and large datasets. [Zoom Link](#)

TRAC Services Highlight: Accelerator Awards

The goal of accelerator awards is to efficiently provide small amounts of funding to fill key funding gaps for targets needs, and overcome barriers for critical research. The TRAC currently offers three categories of awards

- **Opportunity Awards** up to \$4k to conduct targets and time-sensitive TB research activities, with the expected outcomes of publications and/or grant applications within 12 months
- **Travel Awards** up to \$4k to provide support for a TRAC investigator to travel between Atlanta and international partner sites, for activities directly related to the goal of submitting an NIH grant proposal within 12 months.
- **Xpert Review Awards** up to \$1k to pay for reviews by experts outside the TRAC for an NIH R01 proposal

More information about Accelerator Awards as well as how to apply can be found [HERE](#)



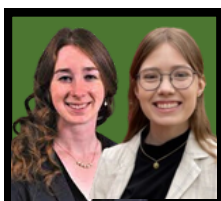
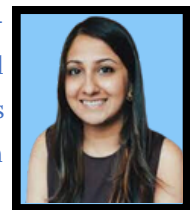
TRACcolades

Huge congratulations to **Angie Campbell** who received the inaugural Rollins School of Public Health Staff Excellence Award in Leadership. Angie was nominated by the research staff and investigators at Emory in recognition of her years of work as the Emory-Einstein TB Research Group Program Director.



It's been a busy time for TRAC Investigator and Critical Care provider **Dr. Sara Auld**. In April Dr. Auld was the co-chair of the Pathogenesis (& Risk Factors) academic group at the Post-TB Symposium and did such an impressive job she's been nominated to be on the Steering Committee for the next symposium in 2025. Additionally, she'll be promoted to Associate Professor at Emory University's School of Medicine in September of this year. Congratulations Dr. Auld!

Emory doctoral student **Samhita Kumar**, MPH, recently attended the UN's High-Level Meeting on TB to be part of the discussion on reducing TB related stigma and improving mental health and wellbeing. Samhita's doctoral work in the Rollins Department of Global Health focuses on the intersection of TB and Mental Health and involves collaborations with the Carter Center.



Congratulations to Master's Students **Kayleigh Nerhood and Alessia Kettlitz** on being named a finalists for the annual Charles C. Shepard Award for scholarly papers by graduating master's students. Kayleigh's paper was on the social contact patterns of people with pre-XDR TB and XDR-TB in KwaZulu-Natal and Alessia has worked with the Emory TB Group for the last 2 years

Have items to include in the next newsletter? Email them to Laurel.Bristow@emory.edu

Bulletin Board



FOA: NIH HAS RELEASED A FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH IN INFECTIOUS DISEASE (R01) FOR INVESTIGATORS OUTSIDE THE US. THE DEADLINE IS AUGUST 2, 2023. ([Learn More](#))

REGISTRATION FOR THE NATIONAL TB CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA GEORGIA IS NOW OPEN. THE 2023 THEME IS PARTNERSHIP, INNOVATION AND EQUITY. ([Learn More](#))



Recent Publications

Baliashvili D, Blumberg HM, Gandhi NR, Averhoff F, Benkeser D, Shadaker S, Gvinjilia, Turdziladze A, Tukvadze N, Chincharauli M, Butsashvili M, Sharvadze L, Tsertsvadze T, Zarkua J, Kempker RR. **[Hepatitis C care cascade among patients with and without tuberculosis: Nationwide observational cohort study in the country of Georgia, 2015–2020.](#)** PLOS Medicine. 2023 May 4. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1004121>

Graciaa DS, Schechter M, Fetalvero KB, Cranmer LM, Kempker RR, Castro KG. **[Updated considerations in the diagnosis and management of tuberculosis infection and disease: integrating the latest evidence-based strategies.](#)** Expert Rev Anti Infect Ther. 2023 May 2. doi: 10.1080/14787210.2023.2207820. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37128947.

Gollnick H, Barber J, Wilkinson RJ, Newton S, Garg A. **[IL-27 inhibits anti- Mycobacterium tuberculosis innate immune activity of primary human macrophages.](#)** Tuberculosis. 2023 Mar 1; 139: 102326. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36863206/>

Houck K, Chakhaia T, Gorvetzian S, Critchley JA, Schechter MC, Magee MJ, **[Diabetes mellitus and tuberculosis treatment outcomes: Interaction assessment between hyperglycemia and human immunodeficiency virus in the state of Georgia, 2015–2020,](#)** Open Forum Infectious Diseases, 2023;, ofad255, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ofid/ofad255>

Pai, M., Dewan, P.K. & Swaminathan, S. **[Transforming tuberculosis diagnosis.](#)** Nat Microbiol 8, 756–759 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41564-023-01365-3>

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