



Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center
Emory/Georgia

Newsletter



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United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB 2023

On September 22, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held the second high-level meeting (HLM) on the fight against tuberculosis. The theme of the meeting was: **“Advancing science, finance and innovation, and their benefits, to urgently end the global tuberculosis epidemic, in particular, by ensuring equitable access to prevention, testing, treatment, and care.”**

The first UN HLM on TB was held in 2018, resulting in a declaration signed by heads of states with commitments to fight global TB. Following this second meeting, the UN Member States formally adopted ambitious targets towards ending TB by 2030, including: providing treatment for 45 million people, providing 45 million people with TB preventive treatment, and increasing global TB funding to \$35 billion. **There is also a commitment to mobilize \$5 billion each year by 2027 for TB research and innovation.**



Emory/Georgia TRAC members were involved with several events during the lead up to UN HLM. Emory doctoral student in Global Health & Development, **Samhita (Sami) Kumar**, joined the Central Park “Walk the Talk” celebrating physical and mental health, and the Stop TB Partnership TB Innovation Summit to discuss mental health as part of TB care. **Dr. Ken Castro** was part of the award committee for the

Stop TB Partnership Kochon Award, which was awarded to Ukraine health authorities for their medical efforts to treat TB during the ongoing war with Russia. **Dr. Sarita Shah** participated in the UN HLM and joined civil society and other TB stakeholders, representing Emory as one of just five academic institutions attending the UNGA session. **Louie Zepeda-Tang**, Founder of TBPeople Philippines and member of the TRAC Community and Public Health Advisory Board, participated in several panels and interviews throughout the week, sharing her experience as an MDR TB survivor and advocating for greater attention to rapid diagnosis and shorter, safer treatment regimens.



Another exciting development from the week was the launch of the WHO TB Vaccine Accelerator Council, with the goal of facilitating “development, testing, authorization, and use of new TB vaccines.” **Dr. Kristin Nelson** led a timely

editorial in the Union journal calling for addressing vaccine hesitancy as part of TB vaccine implementation planning, drawing from lessons learned during COVID-19 and other immunization programs.

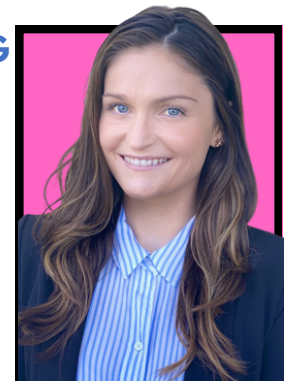
Upcoming Workshops & Presentations

"SPATIAL INSIGHTS INTO TUBERCULOSIS: UNRAVELING INFECTION PATTERNS IN HUMAN TISSUE"

Recent findings from the application of micro-CT scan, RNAscope, and spatial transcriptomics in the analysis of human lung tissue specimens from both active and latent tuberculosis patients

FRIDAY OCTOBER 20, 2023 9AM
RRR 345 AND ZOOM

[Add to Calendar](#)



DR. ANNEKA HUTTON, MD



TRACcolades

TRAC member and Internal Advisory Board member, **Dr. Kogie Naidoo**, has been elected as a Fellow of the **Royal Society in South Africa** for her seminal research over three decades in TB-HIV co-infection and multidrug resistant TB. Recognition as a fellow is a prestigious scientific accolade granted to individuals who have contributed outstanding work in the furtherance of science in South Africa and have conducted their work with exceptional distinction.



In recognition of Researcher Appreciation Day, the Recognitions Committee at Emory School of Medicine sent out a call for nominations for researchers across the school who are advancing the knowledge base in their field. Emory researchers were nominated by their peers and colleagues for their groundbreaking research, development of new technologies, and continued pursuit of novel and innovative ideas. **Four** members of the TRAC were recognized for their work this year; **Dr. Cheryl Day, Dr. Jessica Fairley, Dr. Anant Madabushi and Dr. Rabin Tirouvanziam.**



Two TRAC members were inducted into the **National Academy of Medicine** earlier this month. **Dr. M. Daniele Fallin, PhD**, James W. Curran Dean of Public Health at Emory University and TRAC Internal Advisory Board member, was recognized for her international leadership in discovering the mechanisms underlying neuropsychiatric and developmental disorders. **Dr. Igho Ofotokun, MD, MSc, FIDSA**, Professor of Medicine at Emory University, was also recognized for his efforts to mitigate the burden of chronic HIV and other infections among vulnerable populations and promote women and minorities in the biomedical workforce.

September Publications

Krishnan S, Wu X, Kim S, McIntire K, Naini L, Hughes MD, Dawson R, Mave V, Gaikwad S, Sanchez J, Mendoza-Ticona A, Gonzales P, Comins K, Shenje J, Fontain SN, Omozoarhe A, Mohapi L, Laloo UG, Garcia Ferreira AC, Mugah C, Harrington M, **Shah NS**, Hesselring AC, Churchyard G, Swindells S, Gupta A; 1-Year Incidence of Tuberculosis Infection and Disease Among Household Contacts of Rifampin- and Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis. Clin Infect Dis. 2023 Sep 18;77(6):892-900. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciad301. PMID: 37227925.

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Groenweghe E, Swensson L, Winans KD, Griffin P, **Haddad MB**, Brostrom RJ, Tuckey D, Lam CK, Armitige LY, Seaworth BJ, Corriveau EA. Outbreak of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis - Kansas, 2021-2022. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2023 Sep 1;72(35):957-960. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm7235a4. PMID: 37651293.

Abdelgawad N, **Wasserman S**, Abdelwahab MT, Davis A, Stek C, Wiesner L, Black J, **Meintjes G**, Wilkinson RJ, Denti P. Linezolid population pharmacokinetic model in plasma and cerebrospinal fluid among patients with tuberculosis meningitis. J Infect Dis. 2023 Sep 22;jiad413. doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiad413. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37740554.

Ghebrekristos YT, Beylis N, Centner CM, Venter R, Derendinger B, Tshivhula H, Naidoo S, Alberts R, Prins B, Tokota A, Dolby T, Marx F, **Omar SV**, Warren R, Theron G. Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra on contaminated liquid cultures for tuberculosis and rifampicin-resistance detection: a diagnostic accuracy evaluation. Lancet Microbe. 2023 Oct;4(10):e822-e829. doi: 10.1016/S2666-5247(23)00169-6. Epub 2023 Sep 19. PMID: 37739001.

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Marshall KE, Free RJ, Filardo TD, **Schwartz NG**, Hernandez-Romieu AC, Thacker TC, Lehman KA, Annambhotla P, Dupree PB, Glowicz JB, Scarpita AM, Brubaker SA, Czaja CA, Basavaraju SV. Incomplete tissue product tracing during an investigation of a tissue-derived tuberculosis outbreak. Am J Transplant. 2023 Sep 15:S1600-6135(23)00693-7. doi: 10.1016/j.ajt.2023.09.005. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37717630.

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