



Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center
Emory/Georgia

Newsletter



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International ESI Mentorship

In July the TRAC held two webinars focused on mentorship and resources for Early Stage Investigators (ESI), which were attended by diverse international audiences. Dr. Janet Gross' K43 Grant Writing Workshop for International ESI was attended by more than 60 participants from seven countries (Uganda, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Georgia, The Philippines, US and South Africa), and Dr. Dawn Comeau's first session of the "Influential Mentoring Workshop" series had participants from five countries (Ethiopia, US, Georgia, the Philippines and South Africa). The next session will be held Thursday August 17th, register [here](#). Recordings of each session are available upon request.

Core Services Highlight: BTS Core



The Basic and Translational Science Core of the TRAC provides laboratory support for TRAC members in a number of ways. Services available include:

- Consultation for design of experimental lab assays
- Laboratory training in biosafety, collection and handling of MTB cultures, MTB infection in animal models, development and execution of lab assays and design of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Generating preliminary data for funding applications
- Storage of human and animal specimens, MTB strains, and a biorepository of samples to facilitate access for secondary analyses and generation of preliminary data.

A complete list of service descriptions can be found on the TRAC website under [resources](#).

Upcoming Workshops & Presentations

Genomic evidence for adaptation to tuberculosis in the Andes before European contact



Sophie K. Joseph is a PhD candidate in the Lindo Ancient DNA Lab in the Emory Department of Anthropology. In this session of the Works in Progress series she will review the evidence for a human immune-system response to TB in ancient Andeans and the clues it gives as to when and how their genomes may have adapted to that exposure. The paper can be found [HERE](#)

Friday August 18, 2023 9:00am

In person in RRR 226 or by [Zoom](#)

TB Portals Program Overview

Alex Rosenthal, M.S., M.B.A., TB Portals Program Director and Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Cyber Infrastructure & Computational Biology (OCICB) at the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases will be presenting on the [TB Portals Program](#). Learn about this global, open-access TB data repository of socioeconomic, geographic, clinical, laboratory, radiologic, and genomic data.

Friday September 15, 2023 9:00am

[Add to calendar](#)



TRACcolades

Congratulations to TRAC members Dr. Marcos Schechter and Dr. Hikari Yoshii for each receiving an **Emory Global Health Institute Seed Grant**.

Dr. Schechter's proposal "*Therapeutic Drug Monitoring for Tuberculosis Treatment in The Country of Georgia,*" is a collaboration with TRAC investigators Nino Lomtadze and Dr. Mari Buziashvilli from Tbilisi, Georgia, and Dr. Charles Peloquin from University of Florida.



Dr. Yoshii's proposal "*Network Analysis of Close Contacts of Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults with Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis, South Africa,*" is a collaboration with TRAC investigators Dr. Sarita Shah and Dr. Kogie Naidoo as Co-Is.

Kudos are also due to **Louis B Hopkins** of the Rengarajan Lab who has been selected to receive the ARCS Foundation Herz Global Health Impact Award for the 2023-2024 academic year.



Lastly, congratulations to **Dr. Jeff Collins and Dr. Marcos Schechter**, who have each been promoted to the position of **Associate Professor of Medicine (Infectious Disease)**.

CDC Division of TB Elimination is hiring



CDC is recruiting for a US-licensed physician to serve as safety monitor for tuberculosis clinical trials! If interested, please contact Carla Jeffries (hhx3@cdc.gov) for more information.

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WEBSITE
TB.EMORY.EDU

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@EMORY_TB_CETNTER

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

July Publications

Upton CM, Wiesner L, Dooley KE, [Maartens G](#). **Cerebrospinal Fluid and Tuberculous Meningitis**. Clin Infect Dis. 2023 Jul 5;77(1):158. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciad186. PMID: 36987607.

[Kempker RR](#), [Kipiani M](#), Peloquin CA. **Reply to Upton et al**. Clin Infect Dis. 2023 Jul 5;77(1):158-159. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciad188. PMID: 36978221.

Stek C, Shey M, Mnika K, Schutz C, Thienemann F, Wilkinson RJ, Lynen L, [Meintjes G](#). **Relationship Between LTA4H Promotor Polymorphism and Tuberculosis-Associated Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome and Its Prevention With Prednisone**. Open Forum Infect Dis. 2023 Jul 17;10(7):ofad379. doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofad379. PMID: 37520416; PMCID: PMC10375423.

Jin Y, [Benkeser D](#), [Kipiani M](#), Maranchick NF, Mikiashvili L, Barbakadze K, Avaliani Z, Alghamdi WA, Alshaer MH, Peloquin CA, [Blumberg HM](#), [Kempker RR](#). **The effect of anti-tuberculosis drug pharmacokinetics on QTc prolongation**. Int J Antimicrob Agents. 2023 Jul 28;106939. doi: 10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2023.106939. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37517627.

Rambaran S, Maseko TG, Lewis L, Hassan-Moosa R, Archary D, Ngcapu S, Garrett N, McKinnon LR, Padayatchi N, [Naidoo K](#), Sivro A. **Blood monocyte and dendritic cell profiles among people living with HIV with Mycobacterium tuberculosis co-infection**. BMC Immunol. 2023 Jul 21;24(1):21. doi: 10.1186/s12865-023-00558-z. PMID: 37480005; PMCID: PMC10362598.

Griesel R, Zhao Y, Simmons B, Omar Z, Wiesner L, Keene CM, Hill AM, [Meintjes G](#), [Maartens G](#). **Standard-dose versus double-dose dolutegravir in HIV-associated tuberculosis in South Africa (RADIANT-TB): a phase 2, non-comparative, randomised controlled trial**. Lancet HIV. 2023 Jul;10(7):e433-e441. doi: 10.1016/S2352-3018(23)00081-4. Epub 2023 May 22. PMID: 37230101; PMCID: PMC10322729.

Maseko TG, Rambaran S, Ngubane S, Lewis L, Ngcapu S, Hassan-Moosa R, Archary D, Perumal R, Padayatchi N, [Naidoo K](#), Sivro A. **NK cell phenotypic profile during active TB in people living with HIV-evolution during TB treatment and implications for bacterial clearance and disease severity**. Sci Rep. 2023 Jul 20;13(1):11726. doi: 10.1038/s41598-023-38766-7. PMID: 37474556; PMCID: PMC10359304.

Branigan D, Denkinge CM, Furin J, Heitkamp P, Deborggraeve S, van Gemert W, Herrera R, Kondratyuk S, McKenna L, Ndjeka N, [Omar SV](#), Pai M. **Diagnostics to support the scaling up of shorter, safer tuberculosis regimens**. Lancet Microbe. 2023 Jul 31:S2666-5247(23)00217-3. doi: 10.1016/S2666-5247(23)00217-3. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37536352

Lale Ngema S, Dookie N, Perumal R, Nandlal L, Naicker N, Peter Letsoalo M, O'Donnell M, Khan A, Padayatchi N, [Naidoo K](#). **Isoniazid resistance-conferring mutations are associated with highly variable phenotypic resistance**. J Clin Tuberc Other Mycobact Dis. 2023 Jul 26;33:100387. doi: 10.1016/j.jctube.2023.100387. PMID: 37554582; PMCID: PMC10405055..