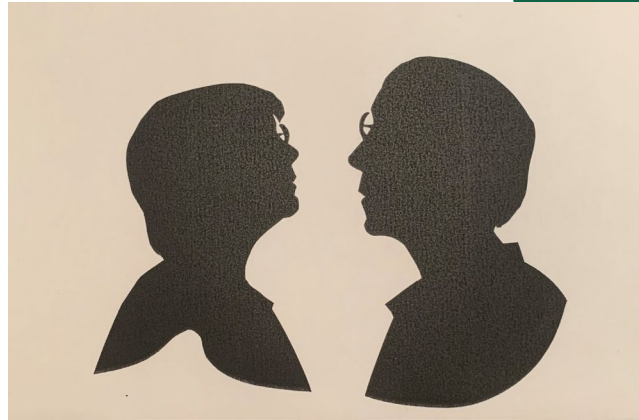


The journey sets the destination



- Why did I end up in the TB field?
- Why did I come to the US?
- **Why did I stay in the TB field?**



Mom and Dad instilled in us 3 kids:

- **Treating others** with dignity, respect, and kindness
- **Helping others**
- **A love for nature** and to take care of mother nature well

I wanted to become a biology teacher...²

Why did I end up in the TB field?



- Participation in the Swiss National Youth Research competition on the topic of ‘Killing kinetics of *Staph. aureus* exposed to formaldehyde”
- Studied medicine, first position at the university hospital in Basel as a fellow in microbiology
- 3 years in, I received an invitation to be the TB laboratory director at the University of Zurich – the new department chair from Yale needed a new TB laboratory director.

Why did I end up in the TB field?



- After about 6 weeks in Zurich, the chief medical officer of a TB sanatorium visited my laboratory and introduced himself, Otto Brändli. He invited me to the weekly meetings of the pulmonary physicians. But his most important question was: What did you already change, Dr. Salfinger?
- During my tenure, the TB laboratory became the Swiss National Center for Mycobacteria by the Swiss Federal Office for Public Health.

Sir William Osler: *TB is a social disease with a medical aspect*

Why did I come to the United States?

- Did a sabbatical at National Jewish and the Colorado Health Science Center & Webb Waring Lung Institute (1986-88) on PZA research.
- In March 1992, received a letter from Harry Taber at Albany Medical Center asking me if I would be interested in the TB laboratory director position at the Wadsworth Center. I was excited, my boss not so much. Howard Gruft died in office 1986 and TB was rampant in NY - *New York needed me!*



Leadership

Why did I come to the United States?

- We developed the New York State Fast-track for TB testing of **people with highly infectious TB**. The Fast-track idea was duplicated in other states and even abroad.
- In 1996, The New York State Health Department received an Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Vision Award - ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH INNOVATION – for the development of the Fast Track for Tuberculosis Testing Program.



Leadership

Why did I stay in the TB field?

- Enjoy working in a team – systems thinking
- One must be an activist, since TB is still neglected – even today!
(PS: I was a state legislator in Switzerland)
- Harry Taber was supportive of my global involvement - Kosovo, Afghanistan, St. Petersburg, Moscow/Siberia, Kazakhstan...
- I have met very extraordinary people in TB



Why did I stay in the TB field?

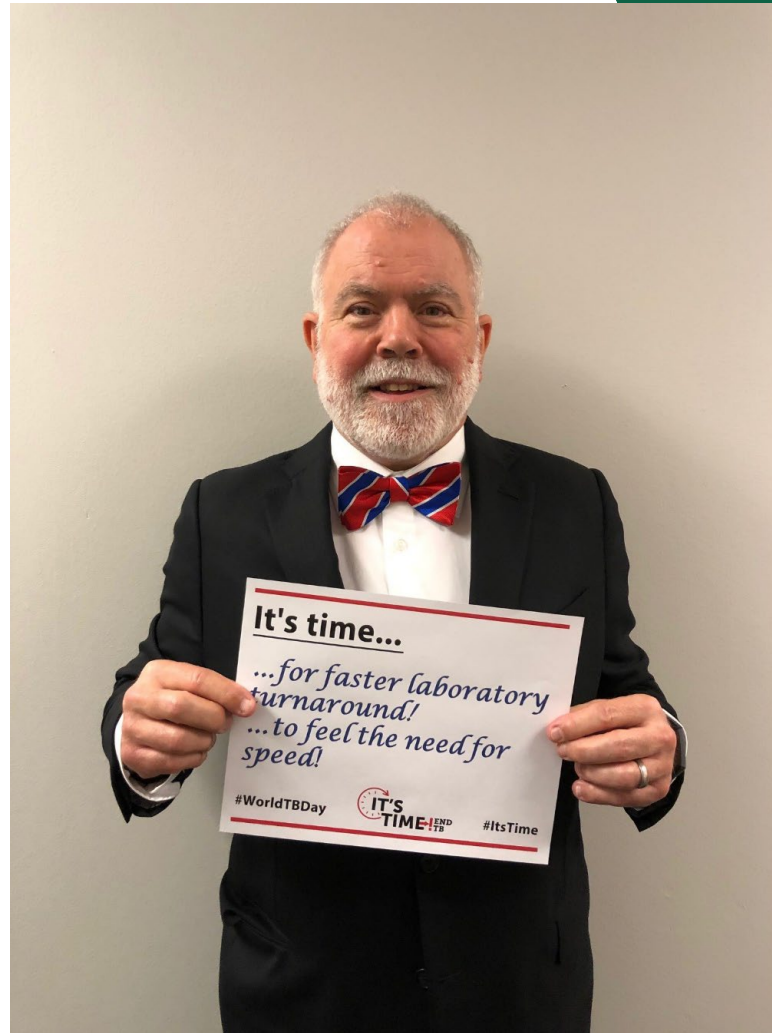
- Belonging to a movement
- UNION's creed:
health solutions for the poor
and now, *healthier lives for all*
- Only a certain type character, deeply caring people and going the extra mile, are staying in the TB field – **it's a positive selection, friends!**
- **TB is not yet eliminated!**



Inspiring books

- ***The Life of Hermann M. Biggs, M.D., D.Sc., LL.D. Physician and Statesman of the Public Health*** by Charles EA Winslow (1929)
- ***The Everglades: River of Grass*** by Marjory Stoneman Douglas (1947)
- ***Silent Spring*** by Rachel Carson (1962)
- ***The Fifth Discipline: The Art & Practice of The Learning Organization*** by Peter M. Senge (1990)
- ***Follow Your Heart*** by Susanna Tamaro (1996)
- ***Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*** by Angela Duckworth (2016)
- ***Dancing in the Light*** by Denise Stasik (2022)

March 24 – World TB Day

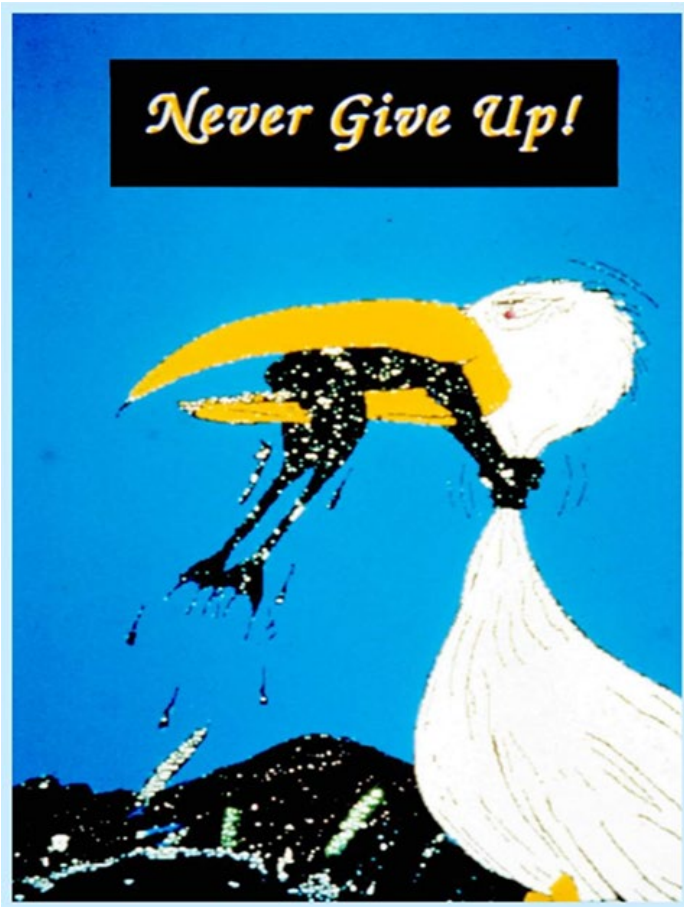


Thank you from the bottom of my heart



- To the nominator
- To my mentors to name a few: Peter Matl, Guy Dietsche, Alexander von Graevenitz, Erich Frech, Otto Brändli, Richard Urbanczik, Mike Iseman, Leonid Heifets, Barth Reller, Fred Crowle, Harry Taber, Phil Amuso, Dean Schraufnagel, Jeff Starke, George DiFerdinando, Margaret Oxtoby, Linda Parsons, Akos Somoskovi, Dave Ashkin, Dale Morse & Jack DeHovitz.
- To all my colleagues in the TB laboratories
- To all the custodians, security staff, engineers, etc., who provide a safe environment in BSL-3 laboratory
- To all the pulmonary and ID docs and TB Controllers, nurse consultants, and staff with whom I worked
- To all past, present, and future officers of the UNION and NAR, especially **Menn**
- To my three kids Barbara, Karin and Stefan, and finally
- To my partner for many years: My wife Yvonne Salfinger

Thank you again for this very special honor
and Never Give Up...!



- **Fighting TB**
- **Fighting Poverty**
- **Standing up for
PEACE!**

