

2026
END
TB

Feb
25-28

30th
Annual
Conference

The Union-North
America Region
The Westin
Philadelphia
PA, USA



Philadelphia is where America began. It's where the Founding Fathers made history. It's about diversity and innovation, pretzels and cheesesteaks, Betsy Ross and Ben Franklin.

Coined as "Philly" it has a food scene that's not just award-winning — it's game-changing. Philly is where "Go Birds" is a greeting, and love is a way of life.

The city is the public art capital of the United States of America and also hosts more outdoor sculptures than any other city in the Nation. It is known for its culture, cuisine, and history, maintaining contemporary influence in business and technology, culture, sports, and music.

Philadelphia is a city of many firsts, including the nation's first library (1731), hospital (1751), medical school (1765), national capital (1774), university (1779), central bank (1781), stock exchange (1790), zoo (1874), and business school (1881).

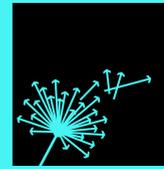
Philadelphia contains 67 National Historic Landmarks, including Independence Hall. With 17 four-year universities and colleges in the city, Philadelphia is one of the nation's leading centers for higher education and academic research.

Philadelphia wrote America's story. Philly is where you'll write yours.

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CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION



CURRY
INTERNATIONAL
TUBERCULOSIS
CENTER

The 2026 End TB Conference includes four CEU-accredited sessions. Participants will receive a separate certificate for each session they attend and evaluate. Each postgraduate course and the Early Career Investigator's workshop will have separate CE credits from the main conference. Participants must attend the entire session, sign in, and complete each evaluation to receive credits.

The credit statements below apply to each of the four CEU-accredited sessions of the 2026 End TB Conference. The four CEU sessions are the two postgraduate courses, the Early Career Investigators workshop, and the main conference. Participants will receive a separate certificate for each session they attend and evaluate.

Post Graduate Course 1: NTM Post Graduate Course 2: Complex Contact Investigations

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Curry International Tuberculosis Center and The Union North America Region. Curry International Tuberculosis Center is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. This educational conference session is approved for **up to 2.75 continuing education hours.**

The Curry International Tuberculosis Center designates this educational activity for a maximum of **2.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The Curry International Tuberculosis Center is approved as a provider of continuing education by the California State Board of Registered Nurses, Provider Number CEP 12308. This educational activity is approved for up to **2.75 continuing education hours.**

The CA Board of Registered Nurses requirements prevent us from offering CE credit to people who arrive more than 15 minutes after the start of the educational conference or leave the educational conference early. Therefore, partial credit will not be awarded.

Early Stage Investigator's Workshop

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Curry International Tuberculosis Center and The Union North America Region. Curry International Tuberculosis Center is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. This educational conference session is approved for **up to 2.0 continuing education hours.**

The Curry International Tuberculosis Center designates this educational activity for a maximum of **2.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The Curry International Tuberculosis Center is approved as a provider of continuing education by the California State Board of Registered Nurses, Provider Number CEP 12308. This educational activity is approved for up to **2.0 continuing education hours.**

The CA Board of Registered Nurses requirements prevent us from offering CE credit to people who arrive more than 15 minutes after the start of the educational conference or leave the educational conference early. Therefore, partial credit will not be awarded.

Main Conference

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Curry International Tuberculosis Center and The Union North America Region. Curry International Tuberculosis Center is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. This educational conference session is approved for **up to 16.25 continuing education hours.**

The Curry International Tuberculosis Center designates this educational activity for a maximum of **16.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The Curry International Tuberculosis Center is approved as a provider of continuing education by the California State Board of Registered Nurses, Provider Number CEP 12308. This educational activity is approved for up to **16.25 continuing education hours.**

The CA Board of Registered Nurses requirements prevent us from offering CE credit to people who arrive more than 15 minutes after the start of the educational conference or leave the educational conference early. Therefore, partial credit will not be awarded.

M E S S A G E S



James Johnston, MD
President, The Union-North
America Region

On behalf of the Union North American Region, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 30th Annual End TB Conference in Philadelphia. Under the leadership of Dr. Rachel Dwilow, the conference committee has created an outstanding program that reflects the depth and diversity of tuberculosis science and practice. The NAR Conference is a highlight of my year and a meaningful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and friends throughout the TB community. My sincere thanks to the planning committee, our speakers, and the BC Lung Foundation for their generous support over the past three decades. I look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia.



Rachel Dwilow, MD
Vice-President/Program Chair,
The Union-North America Region

Welcome to Philadelphia and to the 30th Annual Conference of the Union – North American Region (NAR). On behalf of the NAR Executive Committee, we sincerely thank you for joining us and for your continued commitment to our regional community of TB survivors, healthcare professionals, scientists, and advocates. This conference represents the collective efforts and dedication of volunteers from across the NAR community, whose hard work has shaped a thoughtful and impactful program. We are honored to have you with us and look forward to an engaging and inspiring conference.

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY – FEB 25, 2026

POST GRADUATE COURSES:

9-12	Updates in Nontuberculous Mycobacteria (NTM)) – Salon I & II Chairs: Dr. Sarah Brode and Dr. Max Salfinger	2:00	Q & A
		2:05	BREAK
		2:20	Barking Up the Right Tree: Using WGS and Epidemiology to Focus Resources Where They Matter Most Ms. Camille Dollinger, California Department of Public Health, Bay Area, CA, USA
9:00	Laboratory Approaches to Identification of NTM and Approach to NTM Outbreaks (virtual) Dr. Adrian Zelazny, NIH Clinical Centre, Bethesda, MD, USA		
9:30	NTM Epidemiology and the Environment Dr. Theodore Marras, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada	2:40	Q & A
10:00	BREAK	2:50	Diplomacy Meets Disease Control: Managing TB in High-Risk Contacts and Complex Households Mr. Dayson Marar, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, KS, USA, Ms. Dawn Tuckey, Global Tuberculosis Institute, Newark, NJ, USA
10:30	Management of Mycobacterium avium complex and Mycobacterium abscessus Dr. Pamela McShane, National Health Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA	3:20	Q & A
11:00	New and Emerging NTM Therapies Dr. Charles Daley, National Jewish Health, Denver, CO, USA	3:30	Discussion
11:30	Panel Questions and Discussion	3:55	Wrap-up and Evaluation
12:00	North America Region Executive and NAR Council Meeting – Director’s Room	5-8	TB Research Advancement Centers (TRACs) and Early Career Investigator’s Workshop – Salon I & II Chair: Dr. Jonathan Golub <i>*All participants welcome to attend</i>
1-4	Complex Contact Investigation – Salon I & II Chairs: Ms. Anita Khilall and Mr. Derrick Felix	5:00	Introduction
1:00	Introduction	5:10	Lightning Talks- TRAC and ESI Presenters 5 minute presentations, 1 minute question period
1:05	TB Outbreak in Long Term Care Setting Ms. Amy Painter, South Carolina Dept. of Public Health, Columbia, SC, USA	7:00	Guest Faculty Presentations Dr. Susanna Mendez, Program Officer for TRAC, NIAID, Bethesda, Maryland, USA Dr. Megan Murray, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA Dr. Daniel Fitzgerald, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY, USA
1:30	Q&A	7:38	Panel Discussion
1:35	Large Daycare Contact Investigation in a Low Incidence State Ms. Kristin Bertrang, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Lincoln, NB, USA		

PROGRAM

THURSDAY – FEB 26, 2026

8:30	Welcome/Opening of the Conference Welcome address: Dr. James Johnston, President, The Union-NAR Dr. Rachel Dwilow, Vice-President, 2026 Program Chair, The Union-NAR	11:15	Oral Abstract Presentation #1: <i>Breaking Down Barriers: An Umbrella Review of Patient, Provider, & System-level Determinants of Tuberculosis Services in High-Burden Settings.</i> Dr. Shiya Prete, Univ. of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA
8:45	Survivor's Perspective Mr. Derrick Mapp	11:25	Panel Discussion Dr. Cynthia A. Tschapl, Moderator
9:00-9:50	The George Comstock Lecture: <i>Revisiting TB Elimination Efforts in the Era of AI and Drug Resistance</i> Dr. Carole Mitnick, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA	12:00	Lunch/Non-CME-Industry Sponsored Satellite Symposium (Euroimmun)
10:00-11:50	Session 1: Stop TB Session <i>Global Political and Financial Shifts: Impact on TB Communities and a Collective Action Response</i> Chairs: Dr. Elizabeth Rea & Dr. Cynthia Tschapl	1:00	Poster Session 1 – Salon III Chair: Dr. Karen Jacobson
10:00	Introduction Dr. Elizabeth Rea, Toronto Public Health, Toronto, ON, Canada	2:00-4:30	Session 2: Setting The Table: TB and Nutrition Chairs: Dr. Elizabeth Rea, Dr. Pranay Sinha
10:05	<i>TB Impact Tracker: Translating Modelling into Action for Policy and Advocacy</i> (virtual) Dr. Brooke Nichols, HE2RO, South Africa/USA	2:00	Introduction
10:20	<i>Reprioritization and Efficiencies: The Global Fund Perspective on TB Programs</i> (virtual) Dr. Mohammed Yassin, Global Fund	2:05	Survivor's Perspective Ms. Maggy Ngombi
10:35	<i>The TB Community Coordination Hub: Building Collective Action in Crisis</i> Dr. Robyn Waite, Community Coordination Hub, Canada	2:20	<i>Science/ Biology of TB and Nutrition</i> Dr. Peter Cegielski, Emory Univ. Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA, USA
11:00	<i>TB Lives Disrupted: The Human Cost of Interrupted Support in Ukraine</i> (virtual) Ms. Olya Klymenko (Ukraine)	2:50	<i>TB and Nutrition Roadmap</i> Dr. Pranay Sinha, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA
	<i>Programmatic Resilience and Vulnerability: Lessons from South Africa</i> (virtual) Dr. Norbert Ndjeka, South Africa, National TB Program, Pretoria, South Africa	3:20	BREAK
		3:35	<i>Cultural and Relationship Aspects of Food in TB Nursing Care</i> Ms. Krystin McDermott, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston, MA, USA
		3:55	<i>Community-led TB nutrition initiatives in Nunavut</i> (virtual) Nunavut Tunngavik Inc
		4:15	Oral Abstract Presentation #2: Nutrition Support Modulates TB Antigen– Stimulated Cytokine Responses in Under-nourished Household Contacts in India Ms. Lindsey Locks, Boston University, Boston, MA, USA
		4:25	Q&A panel (all speakers)
		5-6	Awards Ceremony — Chairs: Dr. Lisa Chen and Dr. Jonathan Golub
		6-7	Stop TB Meeting USA – Georgia Chairs: Dr. Cynthia Tschapl Stop TB Canada – Independence I & 2 Dr. Elizabeth Rea

PROGRAM

FRIDAY – FEB 27, 2026

8:00-10:50 **Session 3: Early Career Investigators: Challenges and Opportunities in Preventing and Caring for Tuberculosis Among Immigrant Populations – Salon I & II**
Chairs: Dr. Jonathon Campbell, Dr. Leo Martinez, Dr. Simon Grandjean Lapiere

8:00 Introduction
8:10 **Survivor’s Perspective**
Mr. Khalid Hasan
8:20 **ECIA Winner - Meeting People Where They Are: Community TB Screening, with Youth Focus** (pre-recorded)
Dr. Meredith Brooks, Boston School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA

8:45 **Challenges and Opportunities Created by Preimmigration IGRA Testing**
Dr. Pennan Barry, California Department of Public Health, San Francisco, CA, USA

9:05 BREAK

9:20 **Challenges of Understanding the Spectrum of TB Risk in Newcomers to British Columbia, Canada**
Dr. James Johnson, BC Centre for Disease Control, Vancouver, BC, Canada

9:40 **Gaps and Bridges: Enhancing the TB Care Cascade in New York City**
Ms. Jeanne Sullivan Meissner, New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, Long Island City, NY, USA

10:00 **Oral Abstract Presentation #3 - Program Implementation of One-Month Isoniazid-Rifapentine Regimen for the Treatment of Tuberculosis Infection in New York City**
Ms. Grace Gao, NYC DOHMH, Long Island, NY, USA

10:10 Panel Discussion

11:00-11:50 **Beyond TB Lecture: Solar Powered Oxygen Delivery to Address Oxygen Insecurity in Uganda**
Dr. Michael Hawkes, Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

12:00 Lunch/Non-CME-Industry Sponsored Satellite Symposium (Qiagen)

1:00 **Poster Session 2**
Chair: Dr. Karen Jacobson

2:00 **Challenging Clinical Cases: Session 1**
Chairs: Dr. Tori Cook, Dr. Elizabeth Talbot, Dr. Alfred Lardizabal

3:30-5:50 **Session 4: When RIPE Becomes Rotten: Taking Side Effects Seriously**
Chairs: Dr. Bill Burman, Dr. Dick Menzies, and Dr. Mayara Bastos

3:30 Introduction

3:35 **Survivor’s Perspective** (virtual)
Ms. Iyan Nour

3:45 **How Often, When and How Bad? The Epidemiology of Side-effects**
Dr. Mayara Bastos, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Can

4:00 **What Does it Mean? The Impact of Side-effects on Treatment Outcomes**
Dr. William Burman, DHHA, Denver, CO, USA

4:15 BREAK

4:30 **What Might Make Treatment Easier to Take?**
Dr. Maria Florencia Martins, Boston University Medical Center, Boston, MA, USA

4:45 **What Is Next? Towards Evidence-based Guidelines for Side-effect Prevention and Management** (virtual)
Dr. Dick Menzies, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

5:00 **Oral Abstract Presentation# 4 - What Is “safe and well-tolerated”: Critical Review of Triple-dose Rifampin Trials in Tuberculosis Treatment**
Dr. William Burman, DHHA, Denver, CO, USA

5:10 Question and Answer

5:30 **Report from the Union**
Dr. Christoph Lange

6:00 **Annual General Meeting** — Dr. James Johnston and Dr. Rachel Dwilow

PROGRAM

SATURDAY - FEB 28, 2026

- 8:00 | **Challenging Clinical Cases: Session 2**
– *Salon I & II*
Chairs: Dr. Tori Cook, Dr. Elizabeth Talbot and Dr. Alfred Lardizabal
- 9:30-11:50 | **Session 5: TB and Public Health Law**
– *Salon I & II*
Chairs: Dr. Ryan Cooper and Dr. Maunank Shah
- 9:30 | Introduction
- 9:35 | **Survivor's Perspective**
Ms. Crystal Fevreau
- 9:50 | ***Ethical Considerations in TB Decision-Making***
Dr. Olivia Kates, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA
- 10:10 | ***Due Process Considerations for Persons with TB***
Ms. Ashley Park, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA
- 10:30 | BREAK
- 10:40 | ***Legal Considerations in Approaching Interventions for Infectious Public Health Threats*** (virtual)
Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care, Winnipeg, MB, Canada
- 11:00 | **Oral Abstract Presentation #5 - Understanding Provider Perspectives on TB Isolation Decision Making in Massachusetts**
Dr. Amanda Marino, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard University, Boston, MA, USA
- 11:10 | Case Study/Panel Discussion
- 12:00 | **Post-Conference Meeting**
Chairs: Dr. Rachel Dwilow and Dr. Karen Jacobson

KEYNOTE LECTURE

GEORGE COMSTOCK LECTURE

The George Comstock Lecture acknowledges Dr. Comstock's pioneering work and leadership over many decades. His direct and personal involvement in advanced research of tuberculosis spanned the period of early BCG trials to the modern era of molecular biology. His steadfast advocacy and tremendous depth of wisdom solidly based on experience was a guiding force for all health workers in the various fields of tuberculosis research all around the world, not only in the United States. His mentorship led us to many fruitful investments in research in tuberculosis prevention. This year's George Comstock Lecture is presented by Dr. Carole Mitnick



Carole Mitnick, MD

Dr. Carole Mitnick FPO is a Professor of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Global Health and Medicine at Boston University. She is an experienced TB clinician whose research has focused on TB epidemiology and clinical trials. She is currently Co-Chairman of the Union's DR-TB Working Group and Chairman of the Steering Committee of RESIST-TB, an international organization that advocates for improved treatment for persons with Drug-resistant TB.

KEYNOTE LECTURE

BEYOND TB LECTURE

When The Union was founded in 1920, the organizers rallied around the dream of eliminating tuberculosis as a public health threat. Since that time, we have seen the development and implementation of the DOTS strategy, the identification of linkages between socioeconomic status and TB, and the introduction of new technologies. Yet TB remains a global threat. The Beyond TB Lecture of The Union-NAR conference serves to focus attention on forces outside the traditional TB world, assisting us to look beyond the usual partners, usual paths, and usual solutions to innovation and novel public health strategies to achieve our goal. This year's Beyond TB Lecture will be presented by Dr. Michael Hawkes.



Michael Hawkes, MD

Michael Hawkes (BEng, McGill U; MD, U of Alberta; PhD, U of Toronto; DTM&H, Peru; FRCPC, Pediatrics and Infectious Diseases) is a clinician-scientist at the University of British Columbia/BC Children's Hospital. In addition to a clinical practice in consultant Pediatric Infectious Diseases, he leads a translational research program in global pediatric infections. Diseases of focus include some of the leading infectious diseases of children in the world today: pneumonia, malaria, dengue, and HIV. He operates field sites in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. His research aims to improve outcomes in children with serious infections in some of the least industrialized areas of the globe.

A W A R D S

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Charles (Chuck) L. Daley is Chief of the Division of Mycobacterial and Respiratory Infections at National Jewish Health (NJH) and Professor of Medicine at NJH, the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Prior to joining NJH, he spent 21 years at UCSF where he directed the Chest Clinic at San Francisco General, worked in the TB clinic and became the first Medical Director of the Curry TB Training Center. Dr. Daley has served on and chaired expert panels for the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Infectious Diseases Society of America and American Thoracic Society. He was Chair of the Green Light Committee, Global GLC and Global Drug Resistant TB Initiative. For his work with global MDR-TB control, he was awarded the World Lung Health Award by the American Thoracic Society. Dr. Daley chaired the multi-society sponsored revision of the guidelines for the treatment of pulmonary nontuberculous mycobacterial infection and is now the Chief Research Officer for the Bronchiectasis and NTM Association. He was previously Associate Editor of the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine and The European Respiratory Journal and is now Associate Editor for Frontiers in Tuberculosis. His academic interests include clinical and translational research related to TB, NTM and bronchiectasis.



Charles L. Daley, MD

AWARDS

SERVICE AWARDS

Dr. Rajita Bhavaraju is the Director of Global Operations for the RePORT International Coordinating Center based at New Jersey Medical School at Rutgers University. She has worked in the field of tuberculosis for almost 30 years, focusing on capacity building, research, clinical services administration, and technical assistance. Her leadership roles have spanned



Rajita Bhavaraju
PhD, MPH

the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease globally and regionally, the Rutgers University Senate and its committees, and various professional guidelines and advisory committees. Dr. Bhavaraju is also a lecturer in the Department of Health Behavior, Society, and Policy at Rutgers School of Public Health.

EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD (ECIA)

Dr. Meredith Brooks is an Assistant Professor of Global Health at Boston University School of Public Health. She is an epidemiologist and implementation scientist whose work focuses on strengthening tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis, and care in high-burden settings. Her research is rooted in long-standing global partnerships and a commitment to translating rigorous, data-driven evidence into practical and equitable solutions for tuberculosis programs.

Dr. Brooks' research addresses key gaps across the tuberculosis care cascade. A central focus of her work is the development and evaluation of data-driven decision-support tools. Her work has informed policy and practice, including contributions to WHO operational guidance on



Meredith Brooks
PhD, MPH

tuberculosis in children and adolescents and tools used by Zero Tuberculosis coalitions and National Tuberculosis Programs. She has published widely and has been an active contributor to Union conferences for over a decade.

In addition to her research, Dr. Brooks is deeply committed to mentoring and training the next generation of global health and tuberculosis researchers. She also teaches implementation science at Boston University. She is actively involved in tuberculosis-focused academic and practice groups in Boston, including co-chairing the Tuberculosis Interest Group, and serving as a core member of the Providence–Boston CFAR Implementation Science/HIV Scientific Working Group.

TRAVEL GRANTS



Mia Aguirre

Mia Aguirre is a recent Master of Public Health graduate with focus in Epidemiology. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame. Her research focuses on tuberculosis and drug-resistant TB along the Texas–Mexico border. Her training includes infectious disease surveillance, laboratory-based research, and the analysis of phenotypic and genotypic resistance data to inform TB control and evidence-based public health decision-making.



Megan Allgauer

Megan Allgauer's research interests center on provider education and case management. She is particularly interested in strengthening provider knowledge and confidence in the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis as well as patient-centered case management approaches that integrate social supports to maximize treatment success, autonomy, and effective public health TB control.



Benjamin Black

Benjamin Black's research focuses on evaluating the validity of frailty screening in tuberculosis (TB) populations and investigating the biological mechanisms underlying multisystem dysregulation in TB patients. The goal of his work is to determine whether frailty screeners can stratify TB patients by disease severity, a concept that remains abstract and difficult to assess. This preliminary research lays the foundation for identifying patients at increased risk of post-TB sequelae, enabling early intervention and resource allocation.



Fanta Kaba

Fanta Kaba is a Public Health Epidemiologist with the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control at the NYC Health Department. Her work focuses on the programmatic management of rifampin-resistant tuberculosis, with a particular interest in studying the experiences and outcomes of patients in New York City receiving BPaL-based regimens. She coordinates efforts to ensure seamless drug procurement and medical consultation while evaluating patient outcomes to identify operational successes and challenges in implementing new TB therapies in programmatic settings.

TRAVEL GRANTS



Amanda Marino, MD

Dr. Amanda Marino earned her medical degree and completed her Internal Medicine and Respiriology residencies at McGill University. She is currently pursuing advanced fellowship training in tuberculosis and non-tuberculous mycobacterial disease at Harvard University's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and the University of Toronto.



Meghan Mouton

Meghan Mouton is a current 3rd year PhD Candidate at Tulane University School of Medicine in the Biomedical Sciences program. She joined the lab of Dr. James McLachlan and obtained a research fellowship through the Southern Regional Education Board. Her current research focuses on developing an improved tuberculosis vaccine using combination adjuvants that leads to longer-lasting protection for all individuals regardless of immune status.



Natalya Sarkisova

Natalya Sarkisova is an epidemiologist with the Seattle-King County TB Program. She completed her Master of Public Health from Boston University. Her work focuses on designing LTBI data models, integrating disparate data sources, conducting health insurance claims analyses, and developing systems to inform program practice, targeted provider outreach, and monitoring patient outcomes.



Shashi Prakash Singh, PhD

Dr. Shashi Prakash Singh is a postdoctoral scientist in the lab of Dr Riti Sharan, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio, Texas. Driven by curiosity, he is studying the M.tb and HIV-1 coinfection pathogenesis in humanized mice and non-human primates (NHPs) models. He aims to unravel the underlying mechanisms of latent tuberculosis and viral pathogenesis and contribute to the development of innovative therapies and preventive strategies.

TRAVEL GRANTS



Nawang Yanga

Nawang Yanga, is a PhD candidate in the School of Health Policy and Management at York University, specializing in Health Policy and Equity. Her dissertation explores the lived experiences of Tibetan refugees with TB and the healthcare workers treating them in Dharamsala, India. Her research interests include refugee health, infectious disease, health equity, medical anthropology, and the Tibetan diaspora.



Ekua Yeboah, MD, MPH

Dr. Ekua Yeboah is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research applies epidemiologic and biostatistical methods to advance the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of tuberculosis and HIV. She has a strong interest in clinical trials and applied clinical research, with an emphasis on rigorous study design, data analysis, and translation of evidence into public health practice to improve outcomes through interdisciplinary research initiatives and global partnerships.

COMMITTEES

NAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: James Johnston, MD, MPH, BC Centre for Disease Control, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Vice-President/2025 Program Chair: Rachel Dwilow, MD, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

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2026 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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FACULTY

FEB 25, 2026 POSTGRADUATE COURSES:

UPDATES IN NONTUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA (NTM)



Adrian Zelazny,
PhD, D(ABMM)
NIH Clinical Center
Bethesda, MD, USA

Dr. Adrian Zelazny is Chief of the Microbiology Service, Director of the Mycobacteriology section and Director of the Microbiology Fellowship at the Microbiology Service, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, MD. He has published more than 120 peer-reviewed manuscripts and review articles.

His research has focused on chronic infections and outbreaks of mycobacteria, pathogen and host-pathogen interactions in immunocompromised patients and novel proteomic- and genomic-based diagnostic approaches.

Dr. Zelazny serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical Microbiology and on several committees of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI).



Theodore Marras, MD
University of Toronto,
Toronto, ON, Canada

Dr. Marras is the Director of the Toronto Western Hospital Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Disease Program, a pulmonary consultant at the University Health Network, Toronto, and an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto, Canada.

His clinical and research interests are in the field of nontuberculous mycobacterial disease, predominantly population-based studies and epidemiology.

FACULTY

UPDATES IN NONTUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA (NTM)



Pamela McShane, MD
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD, USA

Dr. McShane is a Chicago native, her fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine was at the University of Chicago.

From 2020 to 2025, Dr. McShane worked at the University of Texas Health Science Center Tyler (UTHSCT), in Tyler, TX, a nationally renowned acid-fast bacilli laboratory and national referral center for patients with NTM lung disease. There, she served as principal investigator for over twenty clinical trials in bronchiectasis and NTM lung disease, and she received the award for Excellence in Clinical Research from the UTHSCT Department of Medicine.

In August 2025, Dr. McShane moved to the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health to study the role of genetics in bronchiectasis and NTM lung disease.



Charles Daley, MD
National Jewish Health,
Denver, CO, USA

Dr. Charles (Chuck) L. Daley is Chief of the Division of Mycobacterial and Respiratory Infections at National Jewish Health (NJH) and Professor of Medicine at NJH, the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Daley has served on and chaired expert panels for the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Infectious Diseases Society of America and American Thoracic Society. He was Chair of the Green Light Committee, Global GLC and Global Drug Resistant TB Initiative. For his work with global MDR-TB control he was awarded the World Lung Health Award by the American Thoracic Society. Dr. Daley is the 2026 NAR Lifetime Achievement Award Winner.

FACULTY

PRACTICAL TOOLS AND APPROACHES FOR CONDUCTING TB CONTACT INVESTIGATIONS



Amy Painter
South Carolina Dept. of Public Health, Columbia, SC, USA

Amy Painter, RN has worked in public health for 26 years, with the last 17 years spent in TB control activities. She has provided direct patient care for individuals diagnosed with TB disease or TB Infection, worked as a regional manager of a TB program that covered twelve counties, and currently provides state oversight as the TB Director/TB Controller of the South Carolina Department of Public Health. She currently serves on the Board of the National Tuberculosis Coalition of America (NTCA) as Secretary



Kristin Bertrang
Nebraska Dept. of Health and Human Services, Lincoln, NB, USA

Kristin Bertrang serves as the TB Program Specialist RN for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. She graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha for her BSN and MSN. She serves on the NTCA Board as the low incidence representative and has a published article in the MMWR “Possible Airborne Person-to-Person Transmission of Mycobacterium bovis-Nebraska 2014-2015.”



Camille Dollinger
California Department of Public Health, Bay Area, CA, USA

Camille Dollinger is an epidemiologist and public health data scientist with over six years of experience in infectious disease surveillance, outbreak response, and applied research. At the California Department of Public Health, she supports complex investigations across local health jurisdictions and interprets whole-genome sequencing (WGS) data to enhance outbreak detection and disease surveillance. Camille holds a Master of Science in Epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



Dayson Marar
Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, KS, USA

Dayson Marar is a Public Health Educator, Community and Clinical Linkages of the Bureau of Health Promotion at Kansas Department of Health and Environment. He is the founder of Micronesia Community Foundation (MCF).

FACULTY

PRACTICAL TOOLS AND APPROACHES FOR CONDUCTING TB CONTACT INVESTIGATIONS



Dawn Tuckey
Global Tuberculosis Institute,
Newark, NJ, USA

Dawn Tuckey is a consultant for the Global TB Institute with nearly 40 years experience at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dawn is a national expert in TB contact investigation, led major tuberculosis initiatives, managed multi-state and international projects, and provided expert guidance during outbreaks. Dawn's career highlights include developing training programs, directing emergency responses, and authoring key publications. Dawn holds an MPH from Tulane University and has received multiple CDC awards for excellence in public health and emergency response.

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

SESSION 1: STOP TB SESSION GLOBAL POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SHIFTS: IMPACT ON TB COMMUNITIES AND A COLLECTIVE ACTION RESPONSE



Brooke Nichols, MD
HE2RO, South Africa/USA

Dr. Brooke Nichols is an Associate Professor of Global Health at Boston University School of Public Health. She is an infectious disease modeler and health economist whose work focuses on using quantitative evidence to guide more effective, equitable responses to infectious diseases at both country- and global-levels. She recently co-founded ImpactCounter.com, a platform that measures the human consequences of U.S. global health funding cuts.



Mohammed Yassin, MD
Global Fund (virtual)

Dr. Mohammed Yassin is a public health physician and infectious diseases epidemiologist. He is the Senior TB Advisor at the Global Fund and provides technical leadership to ensure resources are used efficiently and equitably. He works closely with countries and global partners. He is the Chair of the Public-Private Partnership Core Working Group of the Stop TB Partnership. He contributes to global policy/guidance development, promotes innovations and accelerates implementation.

SESSION 1: STOP TB SESSION GLOBAL POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SHIFTS: IMPACT ON TB COMMUNITIES AND A COLLECTIVE ACTION RESPONSE



Robyn Waite, MD
Community Coordination Hub,
Canada

Dr. Robyn Christine Waite is an independent consultant dedicated to advancing the global fight to end tuberculosis (TB). She brings a unique blend of community-building, storytelling, project management, research, and advocacy expertise to her work, supporting clients such as MinXray, TB Alliance, the Global Fund Advocates Network, RESULTS, and others.

Building on her 2023 efforts to connect, coordinate, equip, and mobilize advocates around the world for meaningful engagement in the UN High-Level Meeting on TB, Robyn revived the TB Community Coordination Hub in 2025 in response to widespread stop-work orders—an experience she will speak to today.

Robyn also serves on the Stop TB Canada Steering Committee, where she played a leading role in reinvigorating the network's infrastructure and strengthening it into the vibrant community it is today.



Norbert Ndjeka, MD
South Africa, National TB
Program (virtual), Pretoria,
South Africa (virtual)

Dr. Norbert Ndjeka serves as Chief Director: TB Control & Management under the National Department of Health in South Africa. Under his leadership, there has been a major increase in the number of TB tests conducted, a significant improvement in TB treatment coverage, a decline in the number of TB, DR-TB cases and a remarkable improvement in proportion of patients successfully treated, particularly among the DR-TB patients.

FACULTY

SESSION 2: SETTING THE TABLE TB AND NUTRITION



Peter Cegielski, MD
Emory University Rollins School
of Public Health,
Atlanta, GA, USA

Dr. Peter Cegielski is an infectious diseases physician and epidemiologist currently at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. He worked in international TB research and programming at the US CDC for 22 years until 2020. At CDC, he discovered the global emergence of XDR-TB, and he published seminal articles on nutrition and TB. Prior to CDC, he worked in academic medicine for 10 years, including Duke University's program in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Johns Hopkins University's program in Chiang Mai, Thailand.



Pranay Sinha, MD
Boston University Chobanian &
Avedisian School of Medicine,
Boston, MA, USA

Dr. Pranay Sinha is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Boston University whose research has advanced understanding of how undernutrition drives tuberculosis. His work in India, Benin, and Togo has informed national policies and highlighted the importance of nutritional care for people with TB and those at risk. He has served as a technical resource expert for both the World Health Organization and the Indian government in shaping nutritional guidelines. Clinically, he works as an infectious diseases physician at Boston Medical Center.



Krystin McDermott, BSN, RN
Boston Public Health Commission,
Boston, MA, USA

Krystin McDermott is a public health nurse with Boston Public Health Commission. She graduated with her BSN from Simmons University in 2021, and is currently pursuing her MSN with a concentration in public & population health from Worcester State University. She is passionate about the role of nursing in planning, implementing, and elevating public health interventions. Krystin also enjoys bird watching and going to the beach.

FACULTY

SESSION 3: EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS SESSION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN PREVENTING AND CARING FOR TUBERCULOSIS AMONG IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS



Meredith Brooks, PhD, MPH
Boston School of Public Health,
Boston, MD, USA (pre-recorded)

Dr. Meredith Brooks is an Assistant Professor of Global Health at Boston University School of Public Health. She is an epidemiologist and implementation scientist whose work focuses on strengthening tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis, and care in highburden settings. Her work has informed policy and practice, including contributions to WHO operational guidance on tuberculosis in children and adolescents and tools used by Zero Tuberculosis coalitions and National Tuberculosis Programs. She is the 2026 NAR Early Career Investigator Award Winner.



Pennan Barry, MD
California Department of Public
Health, San Francisco, CA, USA

Dr. Pennan Barry works in the California Department of Public Health, Tuberculosis Control Branch where he has had both clinical and epidemiology roles since 2009. He completed internal medicine training at Johns Hopkins before serving as a CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer. He completed ID fellowship training and is a Clinical Professor at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). He sees patients at the TB clinic and the VA medical center in San Francisco.

FACULTY

SESSION 3: EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS SESSION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN PREVENTING AND CARING FOR TUBERCULOSIS AMONG IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS



James Johnson, MD
BC Centre for Disease Control,
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Dr. Jay Johnston is a Respiriologist and Clinical Professor at University of British Columbia. He is the Evaluation Lead at Provincial TB Services at the BC Centre for Disease Control.



Jeanne Sullivan Meissner, MPH
New York City Department of
Health & Mental Hygiene,
Long Island City, NY, USA

Jeanne Sullivan Meissner is the Director of TB Epidemiology at the NYC Health Department, where she oversees TB contact investigations in congregate settings; molecular epidemiology and the application of whole genome sequencing; outbreak detection, investigation, and community-based response; data visualization and communication; and TB detection and prevention in shelters and other temporary housing settings. She works closely with city, state and federal partners on emergency preparedness and issues related to healthcare access, housing, immigration, homelessness, and health.

FACULTY

SESSION 4: WHEN RIPE BECOMES ROTTEN: TAKING SIDE EFFECTS SERIOUSLY



Mayara Bastos, MD
University of Manitoba,
Winnipeg, MB, Can

Dr. Mayara Bastos trained as an Infectious diseases specialist in Brazil with clinical experience in tuberculosis and related conditions. She is an Assistant Professor in the section of Infectious Diseases at the University of Manitoba and member of the McGill TB Center. Her research focuses on scaling up TB preventive treatment, improving diagnosis, advancing MDR-TB management, and addressing post-tuberculosis disability.



William Burman, MD
DHHA, Denver, CO, USA

Dr. Bill Burman is a TB and HIV clinician and researcher. His current research focus is on prevention and management of side effects during TB treatment.

FACULTY

SESSION 4: WHEN RIPE BECOMES ROTTEN: TAKING SIDE EFFECTS SERIOUSLY



**Maria Florencia
Martins, MD**
Boston University Medical
Center, Boston, MA, USA

Dr. Flor Martins earned her medical degree from the Universidad Nacional de Cordoba in Argentina. She then spent nearly two years as a research assistant on HIV clinical studies at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston before completing her Internal Medicine residency at Boston University Medical Center. During residency, she participated in global health rotations in India and Botswana and was involved in tuberculosis-related research. She is currently a first-year Infectious Diseases fellow at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, with planned academic and clinical interests in tuberculosis, HIV, global health, and medical education.



Dick Menzies, MD
McGill University,
Montreal, QC, Canada (virtual)

Dr. Dick Menzies received his medical training at McGill University, Montreal and specialty training in Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, USA, sub-specialty training in Respiratory Medicine and a Masters degree in Epidemiology & Biostatistics at McGill University. He is now Director of the McGill WHO Collaborating Centre in TB Research, and the McGill International TB Center.

Dr. Menzies has a long history of involvement in tuberculosis care and research, beginning with 2-1/2 years in Lesotho, Africa, where he was first exposed (literally) to tuberculosis with all its devastation. In Montreal he developed a tuberculosis research programme of clinical and epidemiologic studies linked with a large multi-disciplinary clinical service at the Montreal Chest Institute, and the Public Health Unit of Montreal. He developed and lead international collaborative groups in nosocomial transmission of TB, MDR-TB treatment, INH Resistant TB treatment, and latent TB treatment.

SESSION 5: TB AND PUBLIC HEALTH LAW



Olivia Kates, MD
Columbia University,
New York, NY, USA

Dr. Olivia Kates is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Bioethics at Johns Hopkins, Associate Director for Ethics and Qualitative Research at the Johns Hopkins Transplant Research Center, and Editor of the recurring series Ethics Rounds in the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases. She sees patients with infectious complications of immunosuppression from transplantation and studies a wide range of ethical issues in infectious diseases and transplantation, including public health ethics related to TB isolation.



Ashley Park,
Johns Hopkins University,
Baltimore, MD, USA

Ashley Seowon Park is a junior at Columbia University studying Anthropology and Political Science. Her academic interests focus on body politics, law, and ecocritical study, with particular attention to how legal systems shape social and environmental life. She serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Columbia Undergraduate Law Review, leading editorial direction and legal scholarship. Her professional experience includes government relations and advocacy with the New York Civil Liberties Union and the New York State Assembly.



Brent Roussin, MD
Manitoba Health, Seniors
and Long-Term Care,
Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Dr. Brent Roussin is Manitoba's Chief Provincial Public Health Officer and an Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba. A specialist in Public Health and Preventive Medicine with formal legal training, his work focuses on population health, health equity, Indigenous health, and the application of legal and ethical frameworks to public health practice. He led Manitoba's COVID-19 response and continues to advance evidence-informed public policy across complex health systems.

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