

2026  
END TB

Feb  
25-28

30th  
Annual  
Conference

The Union-North  
America Region  
The Westin  
Philadelphia, USA



International Union Against  
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
North America Region



University of California  
San Francisco



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KNC INTERNATIONAL  
NONTUBERCULOUS  
MYCOBACTERIUM  
CENTER

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

#### Postgraduate Courses:

##### **Updates in Nontuberculous Mycobacteria (NTM)**

Chairs: Dr. Sarah Brode and Dr. Max Salfinger

9:00-12:00 pm

9:00-9:30     **Laboratory Approaches to Identification of NTM and Approach to NTM Outbreaks**  
*Dr. Adrian Zelazny, NIH Clinical Centre, Bethesda, MD, USA*

9:30-10:00     **NTM Epidemiology and the Environment**  
*Dr. Theodore Marras, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Can*

10:00-10:30     **BREAK**

10:30-11:00     **Management of *Mycobacterium avium complex* and *Mycobacterium abscessus***  
*Pamela McShane, National Health Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA*

11:00-11:30     **New and Emerging NTM Therapies**  
*Dr. Charles Daley, National Jewish Health, Denver, CO, USA*

11:30-12:00     **Panel questions and discussion**

##### **Practical Tools and Approaches for Conducting TB Contact Investigations**

Chairs: Ms. Anita Khilall and Mr. Derrick Felix

1:00-4:00 pm

1:00-1:05     **Introduction**

1:05-1:35     **TB Outbreak in Long Term Care Setting**

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

1:35-2:05     **Source Case Investigation in a Daycare**

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



2:05-2:20      **BREAK**

2:20-2:50      **Contact Investigations in the Setting of Multiple Households and the Importance of Community Partnership**

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

*Ms. Dawn Tuckey, Global Tuberculosis Institute, Newark, NJ, USA*

2:50-3:20      **Genotyping and Epidemiologic Linkages in Contact Investigation**

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

3:20-3:50      **Panel questions and discussion**

#### TB Survivors' Meeting

1:00–4:00 pm

#### TB Research Advancement Centers (TRACs) and Early Career Investigator's Workshop

Chair: Dr. Jonathan Golub

5:00–8:00 pm

5:00-8:00: In person workshop for junior investigators to present research and engage with senior researchers.

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

##### Welcome/Opening of the Conference

8:00-8:45 am

- Opening prayer
- Welcome address:
  - Dr. James Johnston, President, The Union-NAR
  - Dr. Rachel Dwilow, Vice-President, 2026 Program Chair, The Union-NAR



- Patient Perspective

**The George Comstock Lecture:**

**Revisiting TB Elimination Efforts in the Era of AI and Drug Resistance.**

Dr. Carole Mitnick, *Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA*

9:00–9:50 am

**Session 1: Stop TB Session**

**Global Political and Financial Shifts: Impact on TB Communities and a Collective Action Response**

Chairs: Dr. Elizabeth Rea and Dr. Cynthia Tschampl

10:00–11:50 am

**10:00-10:05 Introduction**

*Dr. Elizabeth Rea, Toronto Public Health, Toronto, ON*

**10:05-10:20 TB Impact Tracker: Translating Modelling into Action for Policy and Advocacy**

*Dr. Brooke Nichols, HE2RO, South Africa/USA*

**10:20-10:35 Reprioritization and Efficiencies: The Global Fund Perspective on TB Programs**

*Dr. Mohammed Yassin, Global Fund (virtual)*

**10:35-11:00 The TB Community Coordination Hub: Building Collective Action in Crisis**

*Dr. Robyn Waite, Community Coordination Hub, Canada*

**TB Lives Disrupted: The Human Cost of Interrupted Support in Ukraine**

*Ms. Olya Klymenko (Ukraine) virtual*

**11:00-11:15 Programmatic Resilience and Vulnerability: Lessons from South Africa**

*Dr. Norbert Ndjeka, South Africa, National TB Program (virtual), Pretoria, South Africa*

**11:15-11:25 Oral Abstract Presentation #1 - Updated Estimates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) Infection Prevalence in the United States to Guide Tuberculosis (TB) Prevention Efforts**

*Ms. Jessica Rothman, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA*

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11:25-11:50 **Panel Discussion**

*Dr. Cynthia A. Tscharmpl, Moderator*

**Social Networking/Lunch Break/ Satellite Symposium**

Chairs: Dr. Karen Jacobson

12:00-1:00 pm

**Poster Session 1**

Chair: Dr. Karen Jacobson

1:00-1:50 pm

**Session 2: Setting The Table: TB and Nutrition**

Chairs: Dr. Elizabeth Rea, Dr. Pranay Sinha, and Ms. Anita Khilall

2:00-4:50 pm

2:00-2:10 **Introduction**

2:10-2:40 **Science/ Biology of TB and Nutrition**

*Dr. Peter Cegielski, Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA,  
USA*

2:30-2:50 **BREAK**

2:50-3:20 **TB and Nutrition Roadmap**

*Dr. Pranay Sinha, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine,  
Boston, MA, USA*

3:20-3:50 **Cultural and Relationship Aspects of Food in TB Nursing Care**

*Ms. Krystin McDermott, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston, MA, USA*

3:50-4:10 **Patient Perspective**

4:10-4:20 **Oral Abstract Présentation#2 - Nutrition Support Modulates TB Antigen-Stimulated Cytokine Responses in Undernourished Household Contacts in India**

*Ms. Lindsey Locks, Boston University, Boston, MA, USA*



### Awards Ceremony

Chairs: Dr. Lisa Chen and Dr. Jonathan Golub

5:00–6:00 pm

### Stop TB Meeting Canada/USA

Chairs: Dr. Cynthia Tschampl and Dr. Elizabeth Rea

6:00-7:00 pm

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

### Session 3: Early Career Investigators Session

#### Challenges and Opportunities in Preventing and Caring for Tuberculosis Among Immigrant Populations.

Chairs: Dr. Jonathon Campbell, and Dr. Simon Grandjean Lapierre

8:00–10:50 am

8:00–8:10      **Introduction**

8:10–8:20      **TB Patient Perspective**

8:20–8:45      **Meeting People Where They Are: Community TB Screening, with Youth Focus**  
*Dr. Meredith Brooks, Boston School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA*

8:45–9:05      **Challenges and Opportunities Created by Preimmigration IGRA Testing**  
*Dr. Pennan Barry, California Department of Public Health, San Francisco, CA, USA*

9:05–9:25      **BREAK**

9:20–9:40      **Challenges of Dealing with the Spectrum of Immigrant TB in British Columbia**  
*Dr. James Johnson, BC Centre for Disease Control, Vancouver, BC, Canada*

9:40–0:00      **Gaps and Bridges: Enhancing the TB Care Cascade in New York City**  
*Dr. Jean Sullivan-Meissner, New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, Long Island City, NY, USA*



10:00-10:30 **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*  
10:30-10:50 **Panel Discussion**

**Beyond TB Lecture:**

**Solar Powered Oxygen Delivery to Address Oxygen Insecurity in Uganda**

*Dr. Michael Hawkes, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Can.*

11:00–11:50 am

**Lunch/Non-CME-Industry Sponsored Satellite Symposium**

12:00–1:00 pm

**Poster Session 2**

Chair: Dr. Karen Jacobson

1:00–1:50 am

**Challenging Clinical Cases: Session 1**

Chairs: Dr. Tori Cook, Dr. Elizabeth Talbot, Dr. Alfred Lardizabal

2:00 – 3:20 pm

**Session 4: When RIPE Becomes Rotten: Taking Side Effects Seriously**

Chairs: Dr. Bill Burman, Dr. Dick Menzies, and Dr. Mayara Bastos

3:30 – 5:50

3:30 – 3:35 **Introduction**

3:35 – 3:45 **Side -effects: Patient Perspective**

3:45 – 4:00 **How Often, When and How Bad? The Epidemiology of Side-effects.**

*Dr. Mayara Bastos, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Can*

4:00 – 4:15 **What Does it Mean? The Impact of Side-effects on Treatment Outcomes**



*Dr. Bill Burman, DHHA, Denver, CO, USA*

4:15 – 4:30

BREAK

4:30 – 4:45

**What Might Make Treatment Easier to Take?**

*Dr. Maria Florencia Martins, Boston University Medical Center, Boston, MA, USA*

4:45 – 5:00

**What Is Next? Towards Evidence-based Guidelines for Side-effect Prevention and Management**

*Dr. Dick Menzies, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada*

5:00 – 5:10

**Oral Abstract Presentation# 4 - What Is "safe and well-tolerated": Critical Review of Triple-dose Rifampin Trials in Tuberculosis Treatment**

*Dr. Bill Burman, DHHA, Denver, CO, USA*

5:10 – 5:30

**Question and Answer**

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

### Challenging Clinical Cases: Session 2

Chairs: Dr. Tori Cook, Dr. Elizabeth Talbot and Dr. Alfred Lardizabal

8:00–9:20 am

### Session 5: TB and Public Health Law

Chairs: Dr. Ryan Cooper and Dr. Maunank Shah

9:30–11:50 am

9:30-9:35      **Introduction**

9:35-9:55      **Ethical Considerations in TB Decision-Making**

*Dr. Olivia Kates, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA*

9:55-10:15      **Due Process Considerations for Persons with TB**

*Ms. Ashley Park, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA*

10:15-10:30      **BREAK**

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10:30-10:50 **Legal Considerations in Approaching Interventions for Infectious Public Health Threats**

*TBA Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care, Winnipeg, MB, Canada*

10:50-11:00 **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*

11:00-11:50 **Case Study/Panel Discussion**

#### **Report from the Union**

Dr. Bess Miller and Dr. Christoph Lange

12:00–1:00 pm

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Chairs: Dr. James Johnston/Dr. Rachel Dwilow

1:00-1:50 pm

#### **Post-Conference Meeting**

Chairs: Dr. Rachel Dwilow and Dr. Karen Jacobson

2:00–3:00 pm