Stop TB USA
TBWIRE
THE U.S. PARTNER IN THE GLOBAL STOP TB PARTNERSHIP

November 2026

The 2026 Global TB Summit was held this month in London and featured a fascinating mix of basic science as well as programmatic and implementation presentations. As usual, Stop TB USA leadership played major roles in it, with David Lewinsohn presenting on TB infection, while I took part in a roundtable about TB funding that included experts from Stop TB in Geneva, the Global TB Caucus, and others. I also gave a talk about what it will take to finally bend the curve towards TB elimination.

For me, the most interesting talk came from Raquel Duarte of Portugal, who presented the results of a recently published umbrella review of the risk of TB for people receiving different biologic treatments https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42226371/. I urge you to read the article as well as watch her talk on the first day of the Summit*. As some of you may know, Stop TB USA is working hard to get TB testing covered by Medicare. This is in part because older people are much more likely to be taking medicines such as biologics for conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, and these drugs put people at risk of developing TB. One thing I did not know until watching Dr. Duarte's talk was just how much the relative risk of developing TB varies depending on which medication a person is receiving. This is important information for both clinicians and patients to know so that they can best assess the risk of TB —and further reason that Medicare should be covering TB testing.

But that's just one step and a domestic one. What more will it take to eliminate TB Worldwide by 2030? I'll have more thoughts in the December TB Wire, and coming to you 5700 miles away from London at The Union World Conference on Lung Health in Rio de Janeiro.

- Jonathan Stillo, PhD, Stop TB USA Chair

The recordings of all of the 2026 Global TB Summit presentations can be found here:
*https://attendees.bizzabo.com/950767/agenda/activity/1949841

DC UPDATE

Today is Election Day! Make your voice heard and be a Public Health Voter. Vote for candidates who support public health initiatives and are committed to helping us **#EndTB.** Every vote counts toward building healthier communities!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TB and Nutrition Work Group Quarterly Meeting

Join Stop TB USA's TB and Nutrition Work Group for its **quarterly meeting, held on November 12, 2026 @ 12 pm EDT**. The meeting brings together clinicians, researchers, public health professionals, advocates, and partners to discuss the intersection of TB and nutrition. Topics include updates on clinical TB care, nutrition science, and policy; progress on active work group projects; and opportunities to connect and collaborate across the domestic TB response and Food Is Medicine space.

All are welcome to participate! Register here

Help shape the future of Stop TB USA by serving as an Officer on our Coordinating Board. We are currently accepting nominations for Chair Elect and Secretary. Whether you're interested in leading long-term initiatives as Chair Elect or helping keep our organization connected and organized as Secretary, we encourage you to consider nominating yourself or a fellow member. Review the position descriptions and submit your nomination through the form!

TB RESOURCES & REPORTS

Courtesy of Stop TB USA partner, Treatment Action Group (TAG)

TB Treatment Pipeline Report 2026

TB Vaccines Pipeline Report 2026

TB IN THE NEWS

TB INCIDENCE REPORTS:

Georgia prison system confirms inmate at Pulaski, McRae prisons died of tuberculosis
An incarcerated woman in Georgia died from complications of TB after becoming ill while held at Pulaski State Prison. State officials are assessing potential exposures and arranging testing for staff and incarcerated individuals.

Positive tuberculosis case confirmed at Brewer health clinic
A staff member at Brewer Center for Health & Rehabilitation in Maine tested positive for TB. The facility is working with Maine CDC to identify potential contacts and coordinate recommended testing and screening.

Tuberculosis cases reportedly traced back to California strip club
San Francisco health officials are investigating TB cases associated with a local strip club. The investigation highlights the importance of contact tracing and timely public health responses to potential exposures.

TB ARTICLES:

Jury awards $52M to people who got tuberculosis in WA prisons
A Washington jury awarded more than $52 million to formerly incarcerated individuals who contracted TB during a prison outbreak in 2021. The case involved allegations of delayed diagnosis, inadequate screening, and failures to prevent transmission, highlighting the importance of TB prevention and access to care in correctional facilities.

Meeting of the Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis
The CDC announced its upcoming Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (ACET) meeting on December 2–3, 2026. The meeting is open to the public and provides an opportunity to follow federal discussions and priorities surrounding TB elimination.

Written comments must be submitted by ***November 25, 2026.*** *Registration to make oral comments must also be submitted by* ***November 25, 2026.***

Is tuberculosis eradication actually in sight?
The Global Alliance for TB Drug Development outlines a vision for accelerating TB elimination through shorter treatment regimens, including one-month treatment for active TB and a potential one-day treatment for latent TB infection. The article also explores the funding and distribution challenges that could affect implementation.

The 15-year quest for a new TB antibiotic
Cornell researchers detail the 15-year development of a promising new antibiotic candidate, TBD11, which has recently entered Phase I clinical trials. The research highlights the lengthy

drug discovery process and the continued need for new treatments, particularly for drug-resistant TB.

Study Advances Mechanistic Insight into Tuberculosis Vaccine's Link to Reduced Dementia Risk
Johns Hopkins researchers investigated how the BCG vaccine may help reduce dementia risk through trained immunity. Using mouse models, the study provides additional insight into the potential protective effects of BCG beyond its established role in TB prevention.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Editorial: Advances in tuberculosis in children: diagnosis, treatment, and management strategies
This editorial reviews recent developments and ongoing challenges in pediatric TB diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. It highlights emerging diagnostic tools, clinical complications, and the need for earlier diagnosis and improved access to appropriate pediatric TB care.

Left Eye Ocular Tuberculosis in an Immunocompromised Patient: A Diagnostic Dilemma
This case report explores an uncommon presentation of extrapulmonary TB affecting the eye in an immunocompromised patient. It highlights the diagnostic challenges associated with ocular TB and the importance of considering TB in patients with atypical symptoms.

The Bidirectional Relationship Between Tuberculosis and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: Pathogenesis, Treatment Challenges, and Prevention Strategies
This review examines the relationship between TB and type 2 diabetes, including how diabetes-related immune dysfunction can increase susceptibility to TB and worsen clinical outcomes. It also discusses treatment challenges and opportunities for integrated prevention and management strategies.

Diverse infection models demonstrate robust resistance of Mycobacterium tuberculosis to innate immunity
Researchers investigated how Mycobacterium tuberculosis responds to innate immune defenses across several experimental infection models. Findings demonstrate that the bacteria can resist innate immune clearance even under conditions designed to strengthen the host's initial immune response.

EVENTS, CONFERENCES & COURSES

Looking for TB-related events, conferences, and educational opportunities? Visit Stop TB USA's What's New page to stay up to date on upcoming events, announcements, and other opportunities in the TB community.

Conferences:

World Conference on Lung Health, The Union
November 17-20, 2026 | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | In-person

Annual TB Conference, The Union NAR
February 24-28, 2027 | Vancouver, BC, Canada | In-person

Courses:

Core Concepts of TB Epidemiology for Public Health Practice

Management of Child and Adolescent Tuberculosis and Resources for Trainers (The Union online)

When TB is the Least of Their Worries: Mini-Course Series

TB 101 for Health Care Workers Training (CDC)

TB Intensive Workshop (Rutgers Health)

Events:

US biosafety policy and regulations: Assessing the landscape
Thursday, November 5, 2026, 2:00 — 2:45 p.m. EST
The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium
In-person: Register here
Online:Register here

TB BONUS FEATURE

(What exactly does Stop TB USA do to #EndTB? As individuals, just about everything from treating patients, to laboratory research, to public speaking about TB. As a collective, much of what we do takes part in specialized work groups, which we will be featuring over the next few months. First up: the Wikipedia Workgroup (WWG))

Starting with the facts:
In the summer of 2024, the Wikipedia tuberculosis page was noteworthy for its quantity of mis- or outdated information, and an even greater number of daily visitors (163,000/month as of this writing). So what was initially conceived of as a project for the Media Work Group

clearly demanded its own dedicated work group, one currently co-chaired by a TB survivor and a veteran of another Stop TB USA work group, the Youth Leadership Board.

Here is what the page looked like then: https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tuberculosis&oldid=1238013641

And what it looks like now: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuberculosis

Obviously, much of the work done on the page since then has come from sources other than the WWG, but a search through the edit history will convey just how much they've contributed to in sections such as transmission, mycobacteria, at-risk groups and now Direct Observed Therapy, short course

That variety of subjects highlights one strength of the group's approach: aside from our chairs and core attendees, the WWG taps into Stop TB USA's members, officers, and coordinating board members to match expertise with a specific field, answering answer not only "Is this revision/addition technically correct?" but, "Can you help us explain it to the lay reader?".

Audience awareness:
"Who is reading this?" Is the question second only to "Is this accurate and up-to-date?" in importance to the WWG.

Just about everyone, is the answer guiding the WWG, understanding that TB experts have their preferred academic sources and many in the broader community will prefer an algorithm rather than humans reviewing and compiling the text. The WWG envisions a reader who's read about an incident at a local school, or has a diagnosis or exposure closer to home. For example, when the group started, the ***transmission*** section provided numbers regarding aerosol droplets (size, quantity per sneeze) but nothing to answer the question "Am I in danger?" To this end, our team added this simple critical fact, from the CDC: "TB is not spread by shaking hands, sharing food, drinks, or utensils, touching bed linens and toilet seats, sharing toothbrushes, or kissing"

The WWG is also diligent about the messaging itself: as outdated as some of the numbers were, the language was more so and the team therefore follows Stop TB Partnership's Words Matter Language Guide which dictates for example, someone with symptoms or signs is not a "suspect" but a "person with presumed TB." TB Stigma is real: the TB survivors working on the page can attest to that from the lived experiences they bring to the task.

There's a lot of work to be done and the WWG encourages you to look at the main page (and any of its offshoots) and if you see something in need of improvement–be it an egregious error in fact, an overdue update, or something woefully underdeveloped–please email us.

Stop TB USA: *Where we unite to* ***#EndTB****!*
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