



# TBWIRE

THE U.S. PARTNER IN THE GLOBAL  
STOP TB PARTNERSHIP

**October 2025**

## **GREETINGS!**

It happened (again). The federal government is (partially) shut down. I was tempted to say, “tighten your belts and hunker down,” but we who work for the health of the **#whole** community (not the selected, privileged few) have been tightening our belts for years, so we know you know how to do that. Instead, I want to talk about how to mitigate some of the harm those currently in charge are causing so we can get around to **#EndTB**. First, **#SpeakUp**. Tell all your friends and family about the harms to community members and the public health programs that you know about. Also consider taking the action below in the DC Update. Second, look at baby animal videos, or some other just-for-joy activity **#everyday**. Third, hug your loved ones more often. What other “thrive-al” actions would you suggest? Let us know, [leadership@stoptbusa.org](mailto:leadership@stoptbusa.org)!

- Cynthia A. Tschampl, PhD, Stop TB USA Immediate Past Chair

## **DC UPDATE**

**Shutdown edition:** We need to let our members of Congress know the consequences of not fully funding TB programs across the USA, especially considering the millions who are about to lose their healthcare, and TB medication prices are increasing yet again!

**Keep/emailing your 3 members of Congress!** The Capitol Switchboard is **1-202-224-3121**, and our top action is to continue to ask your Rep. and 2 Senators to ask Leadership for \$225 million for CDC's TB programs in FY26, or at least an increase for inflation in any long-term continuing resolution (CR):

**Sample script 1:** As your constituent and a public health advocate, I urge you to speak out in favor of strong funding for the CDC's TB programmatic and research funding. Since TB anywhere is TB everywhere, we cannot afford the risk of further increased rates of transmission or drug resistance. TB drug prices alone demand an increase in funding, let alone the three years of increased cases. *[Add a sentence about why you care.]* Will your boss speak to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee in support of \$225 million for CDC's TB programs? I look forward to hearing a response. *[Leave phone number or email if you wish to receive a response.]*

Bonus points if you write us at [leadership@stoptbusa.org](mailto:leadership@stoptbusa.org) and tell us how your calls went!!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- [CDC Releases 2024 National STI Data](#)
- [Tuberculosis Tracking App Earns Top Honors in Dean's Innovation Challenge](#)
- [Joint statement calling for Secretary Kennedy resignation](#)
- [Standard Tests Alone Not Sufficient to Predict TB in Immunocompromised Individuals](#)

### ***Other Opportunities:***

- [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease \(NIAID\) needs volunteers for clinical studies](#)
- [RFAs: Partnerships for TB Vaccine Development in United States | Deadline: October 7, 2025](#)

## **TB RESOURCES & REPORTS**

- [New report: Global Fund partnership has saved 70 million lives since 2002](#)
- [Global Tuberculosis Report 2024](#)
- [The State of Global Health Funding: August 2025](#)
- [Tuberculosis Fast Facts](#)
- [Tuberculosis Therapeutics Market Opportunity, and Forecasts Report 2025-2030](#)
- [Tuberculosis deaths in the United States, 1953 to 2022 - Our World in Data](#)
- [CDC's 2024 Global Health Impact: By the Numbers](#)
- [Provisional 2024 Tuberculosis Data, United States](#)

## **TB IN THE NEWS**

### ***TB Incidence Reports:***

- [Five things to know about tuberculosis as it surfaces in Maine and North Carolina. Who is at risk?](#)
- [Person at Fennville High School diagnosed with active tuberculosis - WZZM 13](#)
- [Tuberculosis case found at Lincoln County high school](#)
- [Health officials identify tuberculosis case at Riverside County high school](#)
- [Active tuberculosis case discovered at a Wake County high school, county officials say](#)
- [Walker County Schools Report TB Case at Jasper High - Tuscaloosa Thread](#)
- [Tuberculosis case confirmed in Rockingham County school; contact tracing underway](#)
- [Active case of tuberculosis confirmed at Southern Michigan high school - CBS News](#)

### ***TB Articles:***

- [Experts warn loss of USAID endangers the fight against deadly TB](#)
- [TB is the No. 1 killer among infectious diseases. A new study says its toll could mount](#)
- [Global Fund Reports 70 Million Lives Saved – But Warns Progress Is At Risk](#)
- [BIDMC Investigators Pave the Way for Next-Generation TB Vaccine | BIDMC of Boston](#)

- ['America First' Global Health Strategy Commits US To Funding Medicine And Health Workers](#)
- [CRISPR Mouth-Swab Test Could Transform Tuberculosis Screening](#)
- [Using Tongue Swabs to Diagnose Tuberculosis](#)
- [Approved Funding Sits in Banks While Patients Suffer](#)
- [TB website is among a new round of censorship at the CDC](#)

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

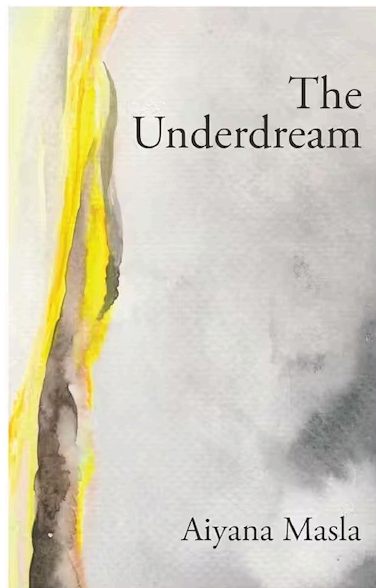
- [A deadly equation: The global toll of US TB funding cuts](#)
- [Childhood tuberculosis: robust funding and integrated solutions needed now](#)
- [The Role of Youths in Within-Household Tuberculosis Transmission: A Household Contact Cohort Study](#)
- [Human CD4+ T cells recognize \*Mycobacterium tuberculosis\*–infected macrophages amid broader responses](#)
- [Diagnostic accuracy of T-SPOT.TB and TST in detecting active tuberculosis in patients with rheumatic immune diseases: a fully matched comparative study](#)
- [Study highlights US gaps in TB preventive care for immigrants](#)
- [Refining the diagnostic approach to latent tuberculosis Infection with QuantiFERON gold plus](#)

## **EVENTS, CONFERENCES, & COURSES**

- [Strengthening Communication Skills in the Community Health Center Workforce Webinar | October 28, 2025, 2pm EDT](#)
- [Union World Conference on Lung Health 2025 | November 18-21, 2025](#)
- [Monthly | SEATRAC Seminar Series](#)

## **TB BOOKSHELF**

***The Underdream* by Aiyana Masla**



***The Underdream* by Aiyana Masla**

Cornerstone Press, 2025

ISBN: 978-1968148065

Tuberculosis (TB) is now treatable. And the resulting loss of its punch as a literary device is worth it: there are plenty of illnesses out there for a contemporary Keats or Bronte. Disease does not define the deathbed, after all, be it squalid (e.g., Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina*), luxurious (Thomas Mann’s *Magic Mountain*—featured TB Wire, December 2024) or a curious mix (Baz Luhrmann’s *Moulin Rouge*). Deadly, if not a guaranteed death sentence, TB still has a place in contemporary settings—especially when it’s the author’s own journey—as Aiyanna Masla demonstrates in her second collection of poems, *The Underdream*.

While current TB treatment may not inspire the meditations on time with which Mann peppered *The Magic Mountain*, it is long by any standards—certainly to those who hear “antibiotics” and expect a 3-14 day course of treatment. Accordingly, *The Underdream* continually provides the *when* – time of day, month, season – and the *how long*.

As Masla writes:

[...]

Thumps repeated, long hours  
on the windowless clinic,  
pushes side effects, night terrors,  
harsh daily swallows of chemical pills.

[...]

drags pain through this year,                      & the next.

(“Greywater”)

One recalls Stephen Linton’s description of TB sufferers in *Out of Breath* (TB Wire, September 2024) as people who “[...] eat, take bitter pills and then sit around and lament [their] situation.” Masla certainly has more freedom—of any type—than the North Korean patients in that documentary, but the imposed lack of agency sours any ‘*At least I’ll have time*

to' thoughts:

I do not want the excuse of  
of sickness

to need the reason  
of illness

[...]  
to have twenty-eight hours  
listening & quiet.

("Spell for a Slower Life")

Masla wants to "Walk, walk & walk until we're blistered" and engage in  
"[s]pontaneous dancing" in the rain "or a crowded pulsing room/where I have to shout to be  
heard over sweaty thumping music." ("I'm Not Ready Yet"). Instead:

The sick woman,  
out for her walk, early  
down the driveway  
gravel & mud  
Then back up it again  
  
half an hour's time, enough.

("Reverence")<sup>1</sup>

*The Underdream* is filled with color, but that is not necessarily a counter to the risk of  
ethambutol-induced color-blindness, nor is every mention of "red" related to bloody sputum.  
Rather, as a visual artist, Masla is simply shifting from watercolors to language, giving the  
reader "Kidney yellow & chalk white,/plastic red", "loyal blue", and "devoted gold"

Those coming to *The Underdream* from this newsletter should be wary not to try to  
read everything as relating to TB. Similarly, the often jarring spacing within and between  
lines, be it extensive or absent, need not reflect shortness of breath, a coughing fit, or a mid-  
sentence cognitive short-circuit that comes with the antibiotic cocktail; as a visual artist, the  
composition of words, how they appear on the page, matter. That said, as of this writing, no  
audio exists online of her reading her poems: I hope one day to hear her perform them and  
what she does with the pauses and the emphasis of the volume's sole use of all-caps:

[...]  
lusting after tight seams

the crease & the wrinkle-less

always

dreaming of DONE.

(“The Ends”)

David Moskowitz – Chair, Media Work Group, with thanks to [Jeanine Hall Gailey](#) and [Laura Cherry](#) (email [leadership@stoptbusa.org](mailto:leadership@stoptbusa.org) for a list of their suggested works exploring illness through verse).

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*1. As a pulmonary TB survivor, this poem hit the hardest. I distinctly remember the moment when, during treatment, I was out for some exercise and had to stop almost mid-step as my body said, “You’re done for the day.” No shortness of breath. No light-headedness. Just a solid: “Nope”.*

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

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Stop TB USA

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