



TBWIRE

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

October 2026

As the calendar turns to Fall, I embrace the White Lady stereotype of loving and welcoming **PUMPKIN EVERYTHING!** My new favorite breakfast is a spoonful of Trader Joe's pumpkin butter in a serving of plain skyr (or greek yogurt) with pumpkin seeds and blueberries. I hope you take a moment to treat yourself as we have to work like we have never worked before to counteract the smear campaigns against public health and funding cuts to our neighbors' health insurance, food options, research projects, and public health benefits. Building trust while communicating about health is a key tool, so I wanted to share this [tip sheet](#). What other tools and tips are you bringing to the fight to **#EndTB?**

-Cynthia Tschampl, PhD, Immediate Past Chair



DC UPDATE

More good news out of DC! On the advice of OMB Director Vought, the president offered to sign an executive order to take extra-Constitutional control over all HHS/NIH grant making. Senators pushed back thanks to all the work we did on the OMB's proposed new rule to claim the same power, and the Administration backed down. Great job! We continue to gather cosponsors for the **End TB Now Act of 2026**, reintroduced in the House by Reps. Ami Bera and Maria Elvira Salazar and in the Senate by Senators Todd Young and Jeanne Shaheen. This is the globally focused policy bill that makes eliminating tuberculosis a top priority for U.S. foreign assistance and global health security. It sets ambitious, measurable targets. It is bipartisan, and your senators and representative should all be co-sponsors!

The Capitol Switchboard number is 1-202-224-3121, and here is a sample script:

“My name is [your name] and I am a constituent from [city or zip code]. As a public health advocate, I urge you to co-sponsor the [End TB Now Act of 2026](#). Since tuberculosis (TB) anywhere is TB everywhere, we cannot afford to risk further increased rates of transmission or drug resistance. Four years of increased cases, drug price increases, and staff burnout all require more resources. *[Add a sentence about why you care.]* For more information or to sign on, please contact:

[Select according to the party affiliation of the person you’re contacting.]

If you are calling your Senators:

- gavin_laffoon@young.senate.gov from Sen. Todd Young’s office (R-IN)
- philip_oke-thomas@foreign.senate.gov from Jeanne Shaheen’s office (D-NH)

If you are calling your Representative:

- emma.brue@mail.house.gov from Ami Bera’s office (D-CA)
- johnmark.kolb@mail.house.gov from Maria Elvira Salazar’s office (R-FL).

I look forward to hearing if my member of Congress will co-sponsor. *[Leave phone number and email to receive a response.]”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We’re proud to share that **Stop TB USA Chair Jonathan Stillo, PhD**, and **Coordinating Board member David Lewinsohn, MD, PhD**, will both be presenting at the Global TB Summit 2026, taking place **October 13–16, 2026**. The event is free to attend, with programming online **October 13–15** and a **hybrid event in London on October 16**.

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

TAG Webinar Series on Pre-XDR-TB and XDR-TB

Global Tuberculosis Report 2025

The WHO's annual Global Tuberculosis Report provides the latest data on the global TB epidemic, including trends in disease burden, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, financing, and research. The 2025 report includes data from 184 countries and areas representing more than 99% of the world's population and TB cases.

CDC Tuberculosis Data & Reports

The CDC's TB data portal provides U.S. surveillance reports, provisional data, state and city reports, latent TB infection estimates, and additional resources for monitoring TB trends and supporting TB programs.

TB IN THE NEWS

TB INCIDENCE REPORTS:

Tuberculosis Exposure at West Texas A&M University Being Investigated by Amarillo Public Health

Amarillo Public Health is investigating a TB exposure at West Texas A&M University after identifying an individual with TB disease who spent time on campus. Public health officials are conducting a contact investigation and will notify individuals who may have had prolonged or repeated close exposure.

Tuberculosis Case at Aurora ICE Facility Under Investigation

Adams County health officials confirmed a laboratory-confirmed case of active TB involving a detainee at the Aurora ICE Processing Center and said the public health investigation was ongoing. Officials also reported difficulty obtaining information and access needed to complete the investigation.

Tuberculosis Case Under Investigation at Rowan-Salisbury School System

Rowan County Public Health is investigating a confirmed TB case involving an individual at Rowan-Salisbury Schools. Close contacts have been notified, and individuals identified as significantly exposed are being offered testing at no charge.

Cumberland County Investigating Confirmed Tuberculosis Case at Seventy-First High School

Cumberland County Public Health is investigating a confirmed TB case at Seventy-First High School in Fayetteville, with more than 260 potential close contacts identified and notified. Individuals identified as potentially exposed are being offered TB screening.

Tuberculosis Case Confirmed at Charlotte School: What to Know

Mecklenburg County health officials are investigating a TB case at Alexander Graham Middle School in Charlotte and notifying individuals who may have been exposed. The health department reported that the overall public risk remained low.

TB ARTICLES:

Reps. Salazar, Bera Reintroduce Bipartisan Bill to Combat Tuberculosis Worldwide

Representatives María Elvira Salazar and Ami Bera reintroduced the End Tuberculosis Now Act of 2026, legislation focused on strengthening global TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and elimination efforts. The bill was introduced with bipartisan original cosponsors.

Sanatorium: Inside the Architectural Cure for Tuberculosis

Author and photographer John Lazzaro will present photographs and excerpts from his book *Sanatorium: Inside the Architectural Cure for Tuberculosis* on October 13 in Kearney, Nebraska. The presentation explores how sanatorium architecture shaped the historical response to TB in the United States.

New “Blockbuster” Tuberculosis Vaccines Could Save Seven Million Lives by 2050

New analysis estimates that next-generation TB vaccines expected from 2029 could prevent millions of deaths and generate substantial economic benefits in low- and middle-income countries by 2050. The analysis estimates that the vaccines could save up to 7.3 million lives between 2030 and 2050.

From Research to Real-World Results: TB Prevention Saves Lives

The CDC highlights findings from the PROTECT study demonstrating how TB preventive treatment can be integrated into routine HIV care. The initiative illustrates how research can be translated into large-scale TB prevention programs across multiple countries.

Tuberculosis Transmission May Hold Key to Prevention

Weill Cornell Medicine researchers identified mechanisms that allow *M. tuberculosis* to survive drying and potentially develop mutations associated with antibiotic resistance during transmission. The findings suggest that transmission itself may represent an important period in TB evolution and prevention research.

Tuberculosis of the Sphenoid Sinus Causing Blindness in a Pediatric Patient: A Case Report

This case report describes a 10-year-old child with rare sphenoid sinus TB causing severe vision loss. Molecular testing confirmed *M. tuberculosis*, and treatment following surgical decompression ultimately restored the child's vision.

Improved Rifampicin Delivery to Macrophages Infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Using Folate Targeted Liposomes

Researchers developed folate-targeted liposomes designed to deliver rifampicin directly to macrophages infected with *M. tuberculosis*. The approach enhanced macrophage targeting and improved clearance of intracellular TB bacteria without increasing toxicity in the study.

Clinical, Hematological and Biochemical Alterations in Pulmonary Tuberculosis with Coexisting Skin Infections

A cross-sectional study of 128 participants examined clinical, hematological, and biochemical differences among individuals with pulmonary TB, TB with coexisting skin infections, skin infections alone, and healthy controls. The study characterizes how coexisting skin infections may affect the clinical profile of pulmonary TB.

Novel RT-qPCR-Based Blood Signatures for the Diagnosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Researchers evaluated blood-based gene-expression signatures for diagnosing pulmonary TB without relying on sputum samples. Three signatures demonstrated promising sensitivity and specificity in pilot validation, supporting further investigation of affordable blood-based TB diagnostics.

When Tuberculosis Left the Heart in a Cage: Multimodality Imaging Revealing Constrictive Pericarditis in a Young Adult

This case report highlights TB-associated constrictive pericarditis in a young adult and the role of multimodality cardiac imaging in recognizing the condition. The case illustrates a rare extrapulmonary manifestation of TB involving the pericardium.

Protein Linked to Immune Response Against Tuberculosis

UT Southwestern researchers identified SNX5 as a regulator of immune-cell signaling during TB infection. In mouse models, loss of SNX5 was associated with increased lung inflammation and mortality, providing new insight into how the immune system balances protection against TB with tissue damage.

EVENTS, CONFERENCES & COURSES

Conferences:

Global TB Summit 2026, Qiagen

October 13-16, 2026 | London, England | In person & Online

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)

TB BONUS FEATURE

(Over the next few months, the TB Bookshelf is going on hiatus. In its place we will be running short features about the efforts to #ENDTB. In our first installment, Stop TB USA coordinating board member [David Lewinsohn](#) discusses developments with VPM1002, a potential BCG alternative for infants.)

In the [August 18 issue of Lancet Infectious Disease](#) the results of a phase 3 non-inferiority study in infants of the VPM1001 vaccine in the prevention of Mtb infection were published. VPM1002 is an attenuated strain of BCG VPM1002 that is urease C deficient and expresses listeriolysin. It was designed to enhance the development of CD8 T cells, although this benefit has not been demonstrated in human studies. As these early studies demonstrated the safety and immunogenicity of this vaccine in infants, the investigators then tested the vaccine in a trial where the VPM1002 vaccine was compared to BCG in neonates. The double-blind, randomised, phase 3 trial was performed in ten main sites and four smaller sites in Sub-Saharan Africa. To establish the possibility of TB transmission in these communities, it was continued until more than 600 cases of TB were accrued. The study was

designed as a non-inferiority study, where infection with Mtb, as defined by IGRA conversion, was the primary endpoint. 6940 were enrolled, and 6897 infants received vaccination (3452 received VPM1002 and 3445 received BCG). QFT conversion occurred in 184 (5.3%) of 3471 infants in the VPM1002 group and 150 (4.3%) of 3469 infants in the BCG group. Cox proportional hazards regression analysis (VPM1002 vs BCG) revealed VPM1002 was not non-inferior to BCG, with an HR of 1.23 (95% CI 0.99–1.53).

While possibly underpowered, these data would not support replacement of BCG with VPM1002. Nonetheless, it highlights the value of a well-crafted study in evaluating vaccine efficacy and represents an important milestone in the development and evaluation of novel vaccines for TB. Clearly, given the plethora of indications for a TB vaccine, ranging from infants, to those recently infected, to the elderly, more trials targeting vaccines of differing immune mechanisms, are urgently needed. As discussed in the accompanying commentary from Helen McShane from Oxford University, the study also highlights some of the challenges in TB vaccine development. The first is that a true surrogate for infection with Mtb is lacking, highlighting the importance of developing these tests, as prevention of infection remains an attractive endpoint. Second, the utility of animal models in predicting efficacy in humans remains elusive, highlighting the need to link protective correlates in human studies with these animal models. Finally, it emphasizes the potential importance of human challenge models in the early evaluation of vaccines for TB, especially those that might target mucosal immunity. These models have proved essential in other human diseases, such as malaria, where true correlates of protective immunity have been difficult to establish.

- David Lewinsohn, MD, PhD

Reference:

Comparison of VPM1002 with BCG in the prevention of tuberculosis in newborn infants: a multicentre, double-blind, randomised, phase 3, non-inferiority trial.
Nduba V, Mathebula M, Nankabirwa V, Dempster M, Mhimbira F, Sabi I, Wajja A, Cotton MF, Barnabas S, Adegnika AA, Kaufmann SHE, Brückner S, May M, Höß CW, Revathy M, Niranjana V, Bhargava A, Gupta M, Kapse D, Desai S, Grode L, Kulkarni PS, Shaligram U; priMe consortium.

Lancet Infect Dis. 2026 Aug 18 Lessons from another negative tuberculosis vaccine trial
McShane H Lancet Infect Dis. 2026 Aug 18

Stop TB USA: Where we unite to #EndTB!

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