



TBWIRE

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

September 2026

As the famous Anthropologist Margret Mead, wrote, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” We are making a difference, and our collective efforts are working to help **#EndTB!** Read on to the **DC Update** for more details.

-Cynthia Tschampl, PhD, Immediate Past Chair



DC UPDATE

More good news out of DC! The House passed the Senate’s version of a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government through Dec. 11, which means the authoritarian **proposed rule from OMB is truly delayed until then.** Let’s keep up the pressure so the new rule never comes to pass! In other good news: The **End TB Now Act of 2026** has been reintroduced in the House by Reps. Ami Bera and Maria Elvira Salazar (matching the Senate’s 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

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. These two positions play a key role in guiding the organization's strategic direction, supporting membership growth, and advancing our mission to end tuberculosis. 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

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 Provisional 2025 Tuberculosis Data Report

The CDC's provisional 2025 report provides the latest U.S. TB surveillance data, with 10,260 TB cases reported in 2025, approximately 1% fewer than in 2024. The report highlights continued efforts by state and local TB programs to prevent, identify, and treat TB in the United States.

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.

WHO Tuberculosis Data & Country Profiles

WHO's TB data platform provides downloadable global TB datasets and country, regional, and global profiles covering indicators such as incidence, mortality,

drug-resistant TB, treatment outcomes, prevention, and TB financing.

CDC TB Overview Fact Sheet

This CDC fact sheet provides a concise overview of the global TB burden, including key statistics, drivers of ongoing transmission, and CDC efforts to prevent, diagnose, and treat TB worldwide.

TB IN THE NEWS

TB INCIDENCE REPORTS:

Retired Anglican Priest Detained by ICE Amid Tuberculosis Concerns

A 78-year-old Colorado priest detained by ICE has tested positive on a TB skin test and reportedly has persistent respiratory symptoms, raising concerns that he has not received the sputum testing needed to rule out active TB. The report comes amid an ongoing TB investigation at the Aurora detention facility.

Irving ISD High School Investigated for Possible Tuberculosis

Exposure

Dallas County Health & Human Services is investigating possible TB exposure at MacArthur High School during the 2025–26 school year and is recommending TB testing for returning 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students.

TB ARTICLES:

High-Sensitivity Biosensor Identifies Tuberculosis via Blood-Based Bacterial Marker

Researchers have developed a high-sensitivity blood biosensor that detects the bacterial protein ESAT-6, showing promise for distinguishing active TB from latent infection and other lung diseases. The test could provide a faster, less invasive diagnostic option when sputum testing is difficult or delayed.

Posttuberculosis Consequences on Tuberculosis Prevention

Effectiveness and Cost-effectiveness among New Immigrants, Canada

A new study found that accounting for the long-term health and economic consequences of TB significantly increases the estimated benefits and cost-effectiveness of TB infection screening and preventive treatment among new immigrants to Canada.

Five Things to Know About Tuberculosis Right Now

Colorado Public Radio highlights key facts about TB, including transmission, symptoms, treatment, and the elevated risk in detention facilities; previous Stop TB USA Coordinating Board member Dr. Michelle Haas was interviewed for the article.

Colorado Attorney General Sues ICE Detention Center Operator Over Tuberculosis Case

Colorado's attorney general sued GEO Group over its refusal to comply with public health orders requiring information and access needed to investigate a confirmed TB case at the Aurora ICE detention center.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Tuberculosis Policy Should Shift Focus to Population-Level

Interventions for Greatest Impact

Researchers found that community-wide screening and mass vaccination could have a greater impact on reducing TB incidence than interventions focused only on individuals seeking care, highlighting the need to prioritize population-level prevention strategies.

Researchers Uncover Hidden Function of Known Tuberculosis

Bacterium Gene

Researchers discovered that the TB gene rv2531c produces an enzyme that converts glutamate into GABA under stress, revealing an unexpected role that could provide new insights into TB metabolism, antibiotic resistance, and drug development.

New Study Sheds Light on Why Tuberculosis Disproportionately

Affects Men

A study of more than 22,000 people found that men were more likely to become infected with TB, but showed no significant difference from women in progression from infection to active disease. The findings suggest that differences in TB exposure may play a larger role in the gender gap in TB burden.

Researchers Link GLP-1 Drugs to Lower Tuberculosis Risk in Type 2

Diabetes

A large retrospective study found that GLP-1 receptor agonists were associated with a lower risk of TB among people with type 2 diabetes compared with several other diabetes medications. However, researchers emphasized that the observational findings cannot establish that GLP-1 drugs directly prevent TB and called for further prospective studies.

EVENTS, CONFERENCES & COURSES

Conferences:

World Conference on Lung Health, The Union

November 17-20, 2026 | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | 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)

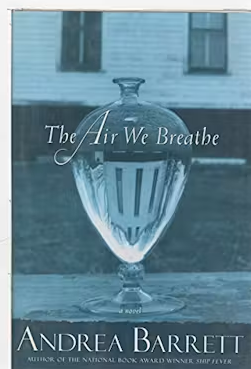
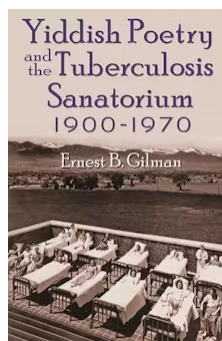
TB BOOKSHELF

“The Ballad of Denver Sanatorium”, H. Leivick. trans. Ernest B. Gilman. *Yiddish Poetry and the Tuberculosis Sanatorium 1900-1970* by Ernest B. Gilman. (Syracuse University Press, 2015)

***The Air We Breathe* by Andrea Barrett (W.W. Norton, 2007)**

Also mentioned:

The Magic Mountain. Thomas Mann (1924). Trans. John Woods. (Vintage International, 1995)



As of this writing, the public knows nothing: No name. No gender. No age. No nationality. No current location. No status regarding their TB or even if they're alive—that is what we know of the detainee at the GEO detention center in Aurora, Colorado, which, along with the contracting body, ICE, is perhaps heeding the lessons of the Nuremberg trials: records can become evidence.

Fewer than 20 miles away from that facility stood the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society's sanatorium, which housed some of the 19th and 20th centuries' most famous Yiddish poets, including Dovid Edelshtat and the author best known for the play, *The Golem*, H. Leivick. Leivick, who, during one of his stays, wrote "The Ballad of Denver Sanatorium" was no stranger to concerns over obscured identity—he was born Leivick Halpren, and adopted the pen name lest he be confused with poet Moyshe Leyb Halpren.

Leivick, knew severe hunger as a child despite his father's status as a local rabbi, and also spent four years in a Tsarist prison camp, so he was well positioned to appreciate both the common benefit of all sanatoria: rich, plentiful food, as he unfortunately acquainted with the draconian regulations and tight scheduling, which often included periods of mandatory immobilization and enforced silence. Indeed, so how might one best view the residents: Patients? Guests? Inmates?



Leivick's protagonist is no son of God or even a prophet, as the "The Ballad" begins telling us: "It isn't Jesus dying, nailed to the cross/ Or Moses on the threshold of Canaan." Instead it's Nathan Newman, a 31-year-old who's spent the last 15 years in a sanatorium bed. His identity as someone unknown, likely to be forgotten, is contrasted with not only the aforementioned biblical figures, but the man whom Leivick named him after, a JCRS patient who died after only two years of residency: Jonathan Newman. Hospital records in fact described Newman as a "brilliant young man," and "one of the most intellectual patients the JCRS ever had." Our fictional Newman knows nothing of his namesake, but when told by an unnamed stranger of other legendary Jews who've died of TB he reacts with,

[...]- a wondrous shiver: In Denver,
After all, lies Dovid Edelshtat! -
To be a third to Heine and Spinoza,
Has such an honor ever been man's lot?

He smiles again - at the impertinence
[...]To compare oneself with the godlike Spinoza,
And to Heine the romantic poet.

The description of Newman hearkens back to our introduction to *The Magic Mountain's* protagonist, Hans Castorp: Mann provides an extended explanation as to why the label "mediocre" is entirely justified, and used entirely without malice. Accordingly, Castorp's would be mentor, Settembrini ¹ refuses to even call Castorp by name, addressing him instead as "engineer" a profession Settembrini respects, even if Castorp continually frustrates him as he studies everything but engineering at the sanatorium and shows no more grasp of his would-be mentor's philosophy than Nathan Newman displays for Spinoza's.

Leo Marburg is referenced as the deceased clan patriarch in Andrea Barrett's earlier works, so he is allowed to keep his name in the Lake Saranac-

inspired sanatorium setting of *The Air We Breathe*. But what about any identity beyond that, professional, ethnic or religious? “So was he Jewish?” Barret writes, “In Odessa yes, in New York no.” His education? Significant, but insufficiently utilized or acknowledged except by the novel’s lead women, for whom he becomes as much a prize as a person. Barrett also adopts a first-person plural narrator for the other sanatorium residents, whose prognoses suggest a *Why bother learning their names?* approach in much the same way Mann divided the *Magic Mountain*’s other residents into clusters based on dining room locations: e.g. the “good Russian” and “bad Russian” tables. “We don’t have funerals here,” Barret’s patients explain, “[...]our bodies are taken away at night” just as in Mann. But in *The Magic Mountain*, there was at least a lingering odor of disinfectant to remind one of the change in residency while Barrett’s deceased are buried a mile from the facility, in a location not even mentioned in their rule book.

As for Leivick’s Newman, “Ballad” chronicles his last days, but as soon as he’s lowered into a grave marked only with a number ², he’s forgotten. The poem shifts focus to Edelshtat’s resting place over which someone has bought an elaborate tombstone, decorated with a portrait ³ and a quote urging his death be memorable and meaningful:

"Oh, my good friends, when I shall die,
Carry the red flag to my grave,
The red flag with the colors bright,
Spattered with the blood of workers brave."

Like *The Magic Mountain*, *The Air We Breathe* is set during WWI, and its characters are aware of but physically separate from the millions being slaughtered. However, *The Air We Breathe* is also a 9/11 novel and after a disaster at the sanatorium ⁴, Marburg, whose fictional Jewish ancestors may have been

spared the forcible resettlement H. Leivick's did, still has all of his backgrounds—Russian? German? Polish?—collapsed into one: foreigner.

“May his name be erased” is considered one of the most severe Jewish curses, and as planes loaded with former American residents head for countries they may have no living or ancestral ties to, it's unlikely we will ever get a description, a name, or as with Leivick's Nathan Newman, even a number for the TB patient in Aurora, Colorado.⁵

- David Moskowitz, Media Work Group Chair

1. Who in turn shares the last name of the 19th century statesman, Luigi, but is a parody of Mann's brother, Heinrich.
2. The poem's 1940 publication date predates the mass tattooing numbers on Jewish camp victims. However, in the “Gelman” letter of 1919, Hitler had referred to Jews as “racial tuberculosis.”
3. A burial stone that was not only standing but contained with a portrait may strike many modern readers as decidedly un-Jewish but this apparently was neither an issue for nor a statement by Edelstat's community.
4. In *Dust and Light: On the Art of Fact in Fiction* (W.W. Norton, 2025) Barret discusses how she began a downtown NYC writer's residency on September 10th, and *The Air We Breathe's* scenes of people jumping out of the burning building reflect what was happening mere blocks away from her office.
5. Many journalists have been covering this story since mid-July 2026: of note, Colorado Public Radio's John Daley has interviewed Stop TB USA current and former coordinating board members for background information.

Stop TB USA: Where we unite to #EndTB!

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Stop TB USA

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