



# TBWIRE

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

**October 2024**

## **GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR!**

October is American Pharmacists Month, so we want to give a special shout out to our Pharmacy Work Group (PWG) members who, among other activities, are collaborating with CTCA's drug shortage group. The PWG folks will be presenting a poster at the APHA conference in Minneapolis in November, so check them out if you attend! Get in touch with us (@stoptbusa) to let us know how you help to **#EndTB**, or if you want to get more involved in one of our great work groups!

- Cynthia A. Tschampl, PhD, Chair

## **DC UPDATE**

Great news! The End TB Now Act of 2023 **passed the Senate** in September! Now we need to re-double our calls and emails to our House members to ask them to co-sponsor the bill and to speak with leadership to add it to the suspension calendar.

Here are **the asks** for your Members of Congress:

1. Write or speak to the Chair and Ranking member of Appropriations in favor of the Senate fiscal year 2025 funding amount for CDC's tuberculosis programs.
2. Write a letter to CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure in support of a **\*\*timely\*\*** National Coverage Determination of LTBI screening and testing. Get more information [here](#).
3. (House members only:) Co-sponsor the **End TB Now Act, H.1776/S.288**! Here's a helpful [fact sheet](#) and a [press release](#) about the **End TB Now Act**. **Sample script:** As your constituent and a global health advocate, I urge you to support the bipartisan End Tuberculosis Now Act (H.R.1776) being led by Reps. Bera and Salazar. The Senate just passed their companion bill via unanimous consent - and we are urging the House Leadership to put this bill on the suspension calendar for a vote as soon as possible.

**Pro Tips:** Call the Capitol Switchboard at **1-202-224-3121** and ask for your senator/representative or give your state if you do not know their name. When you are connected to an office, ask for the Health Legislative Assistant. If you leave a voicemail message, include your name, phone number, and email so they can respond to you. If you would like a sample script, or additional details, email us at [leadership@stoptbusa.org](mailto:leadership@stoptbusa.org). Bonus points if you write us at [leadership@stoptbusa.org](mailto:leadership@stoptbusa.org) and tell us how your call/email went!!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [K-State Student Tests Positive For Tuberculosis; University And Health Officials Coordinating Response](#)
- [Diagnosis of tuberculosis and detection of drug-resistance: rapid communication](#)
- [M.D./M.P.H. Student Advances Tuberculosis Care with Groundbreaking Research on Telehealth](#)
- [WHO releases updated guidelines on tuberculosis preventive treatment](#)
- [End TB Now Act passes Senate with strong bipartisan support](#)

### **Other Opportunities:**

- [Notice of CDC Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)
- [Call for case studies and best practices on addressing tuberculosis in prisons](#)
- [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease \(NIAID\)](#)

## EVENTS, CONFERENCES, & COURSE

- [Monthly |SEATRAC Seminar Series](#)
- [TB Intensive Workshop|October 2-4](#)
- [Global TB Summit 2024|October 8-11, 2024](#)
- [Pacific Islands TB Controllers Association \(PITCA\) Conference|October 21-25](#)
- [November 12-16, 2024 | The Union World Conference on Lung Health 2024](#)

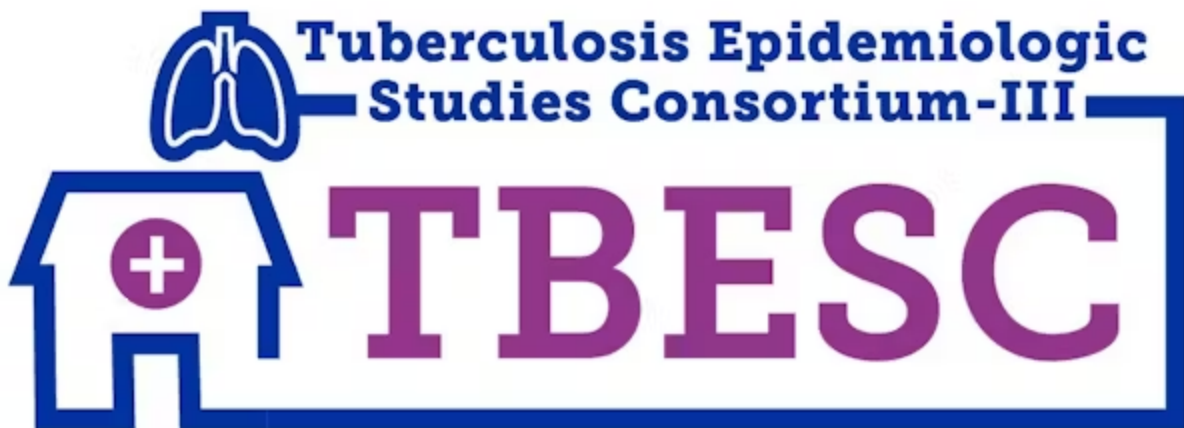
### **TB ETN and TB PEN Conference Recap**

- The CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination hosted the 2024 Tuberculosis Education and Training Network (TB ETN) and Tuberculosis Program Evaluation Network (TB PEN) Conference on September 17–19, 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia. At the conference, TB program staff expanded their understanding of TB education, training, and program evaluation through a variety of TB education and skills-building activities. Speakers shared information about TB learning opportunities and highlighted education and training efforts at local, state, and international levels.



## **TB Epidemiologic Studies Consortium (TBESC-III) Recap**

- The TB Epidemiologic Studies Consortium (TBESC-III) Annual Meeting took place at CDC in Atlanta, GA September 23-24. Attendees heard scientific presentations from TBESC-III partners. For more information on TBESC-III, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/research/tbesc.html>.



## **TB REPORTS & RESOURCES**

- [Notice of CDC Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)
- [New report: Global Fund partnership has saved 65 million lives since 2002](#)
- [WHO consolidated guidelines on tuberculosis Module 1: prevention - tuberculosis preventive treatment, second edition](#)
- [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease \(NIAID\)](#)
- [Operational Update on Latest Resources From the Global Fund](#)
- [Tuberculosis \(TB\) news, resources and funding for global health researchers](#)
- [The U.S. Government and Global Tuberculosis Effort](#)

- Tuberculosis - Disease Surveillance Epidemiology Program

*Read more reports and resources on our website page 'From TB Wire'!*

## **TB IN THE NEWS**

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

- Tuberculosis exposure reported at La Jolla nursing home
- Tuberculosis Has Broken Out in Texas Prison System
- Tuberculosis exposure reported at East County school
- Tuberculosis outbreak infects dozens

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

- Tuberculosis Diagnostics Test Market to hit USD 3.7 billion by 2032, says Global Market Insights Inc.
- Press release: Senator Todd Young Praises Passage of End Tuberculosis Now Act
- In it together: Battling TB as a caregiver
- How tackling TB could help win the war on superbugs
- Honoring a tuberculosis trailblazer: Dr. Kathleen Jordan's legacy in focus at Granite Falls exhibit
- Researchers urge bundled screening for TB and chronic hepatitis B
- Tuberculosis Reactivation May Be a Risk During Ruxolitinib Treatment
- No More Siloes - Ending Drug-Resistant TB and Antimicrobial Resistance by 2030!

*Read lots more TB news on our website page 'From TB Wire'!*

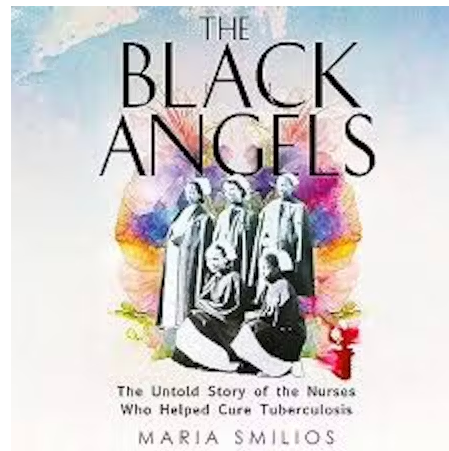
## **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

- Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio and Its Association with Latent Tuberculosis Infection and All-cause Mortality in the US Adult Population: A Cohort Study from NHANSES 2011-2012
- Persistent Fever in Tuberculosis: Clinical Experience and Literature Review
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Tuberculosis—the Cost of Neglect
- Challenges and Insights in the Diagnosis and Management of Orbital Tuberculosis: A Systematic Review of 113 Cases

*Discover many more peer-reviewed articles on our website page 'Peer-Reviewed Publications'!*

## TB BOOKSHELF

### A Review of *The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis*



#### *The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis*

ISBN: 9780593544921

*The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis* is a factual narrative of remarkable heroism, courage, sacrifice, perseverance by a group of revolutionary Black nurses who helped to treat patients afflicted with various forms and stages of tuberculosis (TB).

The impressive feat of these nurses, however, was not without its share of adversity as it occurred during several landmark historical events that typified the late-1920s to mid-1950s: the Great Depression, World War II, and intense racial discrimination and hatred against Black Americans brought about by insidious Jim Crow laws. This created an untenable situation where the nurses were compelled to fight two battles simultaneously: one to save the lives of TB patients who were forcibly dispatched to Staten Island's notorious Sea View Hospital to suffer in agony and become experimental guinea pigs for rudimentary surgical procedures and untested drugs; and one to be accepted and recognized as competent and qualified health professionals by their racist White neighbors, supervisors, politicians, health officials, and national medical organizations, such as the American Nurses Association (ANA).

The author of the book, Maria Smilios, successfully revitalized the once forgotten voices of several Black nurses - most notably, Edna Sutton and Missouri Meadows-Walker - through her detailed illustrations of the untold sacrifices they made in escaping the injustices of the Jim Crow South in search of greater educational employment opportunities in New York City. The journeys of these women ultimately led them to Sea View Hospital, an overcrowded and underfunded TB sanatorium in Staten Island which bore the dubious reputation for being a contagious hotbed of disease and death.

In addition to the riveting stories of Sutton and the other Black nurses at Sea View, *The Black Angels* introduces readers to a diverse and endless cast of patients: Elke (the young German woman who emigrated to the United States from Nazi Germany in search of a better life); Hilda Ali (the East Indian girl who emigrated with her family to the United States from Bengali, India; they feared being ostracized by their community due to Hilda's TB status); Mamie Blair (the 19-year-old Black woman from Staten Island whose infection with pulmonary TB was treated with a combination of streptomycin and para-

aminosalicylic acid); the unnamed German soldier captured during World War II who constantly expressed his racial contempt for Missouri Meadows-Walker, the Black nurse assigned to care for him; and many more. Smilios' decision to incorporate the personal stories of these and other patients into the book helped to humanize the disease, which fostered a more palpable emotional connection between the reader and these real-life patients. It also further solidified the devastating enormity of TB on both a national and global level in that, unlike the racist characters in the book, the disease indiscriminately infected people of all ages, genders, cultures, and nationalities.

Finally, the competition between scientists, physicians, and pharmaceutical companies scrambling to develop a viable cure or 'wonder drug' for TB uncovered a conflicting and controversial dilemma which pitted those who were motivated by corporate greed against those who genuinely wanted to treat and save lives. For instance, Dr. Irving Selikoff and Dr. Edward Robitzek, the latter of whom lost his own father to the disease, were true stalwarts of the Hippocratic oath. Their desire to discover a cure was primarily driven by a sense of altruism and a strict adherence to medical duty-based ethics. In fact, after learning about the anti-TB potential of Ro 2-3973, both men hesitated to characterize the compound as a 'wonder drug' since "[clinical] trials were unfinished and inconclusive, and [they] lacked data to prove that [Ro 2-3973 was] safe and effective" (p. 339). In contrast, pharmaceutical companies such as La Roche, Squibb, Bayer, and Merck were more concerned with prestige and financial gain and therefore reveled in the publicity brought about by the supposed ability of Ro 2-3973 to cure several Sea View patients of TB.

I strongly recommend anyone who is interested in pursuing a career in the field of TB to read this book. It is a masterful re-telling of an infamous period in American history and a tragically long-forgotten period in the centuries-old history of TB that rightfully deserves to be recognized, honored, and respected. We owe a significant debt of gratitude to the Black nurses who, despite facing exorbitant amounts of racism and segregation, continued to put their lives on the line in order to bring compassion and hope to TB patients who were otherwise cast aside by society; to the TB patients who were desperate to achieve some semblance of respite from disease and therefore selflessly volunteered themselves as experimental human subjects for untested drugs, including Ro 2-3973 (which later came to be known as isoniazid (INH)); and to altruistic physicians such as Drs. Selikoff and Robitzek, who courageously prioritized safety and efficacy over profit and fame, even if this decision came at the expense of their own professional careers. To fully appreciate the revolutionary discoveries and technological advancements in the diagnosis and treatment of TB that we enjoy today, we must first acknowledge, understand, and learn from the trials, tribulations, and sacrifices those nurses, physicians, and patients respectively endured for the sake of the societal good. *The Black Angels* help us to accomplish just that.

- Dr. Vanessa M. Griffith, Media Work Group Member

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

Invite a friend to [sign up](#) to receive the TB Wire and be a part of Stop TB USA!

Consider donating: Make a check out to NTCA (our fiscal home) with "Stop TB USA donation" in the memo line.

Send to PO Box 260288, Atlanta, GA 31126

**Stop TB USA**

<https://www.stoptbusa.org/>  
[leadership@stoptbusa.org](mailto:leadership@stoptbusa.org)

PO Box 260288, Atlanta, GA 31126



[Unsubscribe from our emails](#)