



# TBWIRE

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

April 2024

## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Many of you have seen the 2023 preliminary TB numbers from the CDC – there's been a 16% increase in TB cases and a 15% increase in the case rate compared to 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic and fallout set us back a full decade, so we need more voices to **#EndTB!** But you can help: for our April 15 TB Hill Day, you can join TB Survivors and other experts in Washington, DC--be it in person, or by calling Members of Congress that day in solidarity (see the DC Update section for our messages). This event happens on the eve of the [co-located](#) annual meetings of the IUATLD-North American Region and the [National TB Conference](#) in Baltimore, April 16-19. Top researchers, clinicians, and advocates including TB survivors and Maria Smilios, author of *The Black Angels*, will all be there!

**#TBElimination** is a big goal, so won't you **#DreamBig** with us?

- Cynthia A. Tschampl, PhD

## DC UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who supported the **TB Survivors' Hill Day on March 14th!** This was the first of two TB Hill Days, where TB survivors and other experts will be making in-person visits with their Members of Congress. Get ready for the April 15<sup>th</sup> TB Hill Day!

Continue to ask your Members of Representatives and Senators to 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.

Additional calls to action include:

1. We need to urge our members of Congress to include a minimum of \$225 million for CDC's FY2025 TB programs, all of which were hard-hit by COVID-19's aftermath.
2. Would the Senator/Representative write a letter to CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure in support of a National Coverage Determination of LTBI screening and testing?

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 that they can respond.

**Sample message using two of our key requests:**

I am a constituent from [your town] and I am calling to urge Sen./Rep.\_\_\_\_\_ to co-sponsor the End Tuberculosis Now Act of 2023, S.288/H.R.1776, which has passed through committee and just needs leadership to bring it to the floor. The bill outlines a plan and critical actions to align tuberculosis efforts in the U.S. with international efforts. TB, an airborne infectious disease, is once again the leading global infectious disease killer. *[Add a sentence about why you personally care about TB elimination.]* Would the Senator/Representative please co-sponsor this bill? Secondly, I am very concerned that the US just suffered a 16% increase in TB cases, largely due to COVID-19 pandemic's aftermath! The only way to make up lost ground is to strengthen our public health infrastructure, especially the TB Division at the CDC. Would the Senator/Representative also speak to Leadership in favor of \$225 million for the TB Division at the CDC?

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- [United States Provides \\$1.5 Million in Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment to Indonesia](#)
- [Scientists close in on TB blood test which could detect millions of silent spreaders](#)
- [WHO urges investments for the scale up of tuberculosis screening and preventive treatment](#)
- [Tuberculosis cases rise, but public health agencies say they lack the resources to keep up](#)

**Opportunities:**

- [Call for case studies and best practices: Adaptation and implementation of WHO's Multisectoral Accountability Framework to end TB \(MAF-TB\)](#)
- [Notice of CDC Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)
- [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease \(NIAID\)](#)
- [Call for expression of interest: Analytical framework and research agenda on the interconnected crises of TB and climate change](#)
- [Opportunities and Challenges Towards Tuberculosis Elimination in the Americas](#)

**EVENTS, CONFERENCES, & COURSES**

- [April 16-19, 2024 | 2024 Tuberculosis Conference](#)
- [April 29, 2024 | Seminar: Macrophage Plasticity during Tuberculosis on April 29, 2024](#)
- [April 30 - May 4, 2023 | Global TB Insitute TB Intensive Workshop](#)
- [May 6, 2024 | Principles of TB Care and Prevention: Translating Knowledge to Action, 2024](#)
- [September 17-19, 2024 | CDC's Tuberculosis \(TB\) Education and Training Network \(ETN\) and TB Program Evaluation Network \(PEN\) Conference](#)

- [Every Tuesday in April | Wisconsin TB Summit](#)
- [Every Tuesday | Weekly TB Project ECHO® sessions, 12:30-1:30pm Pacific Time](#)
- [Monthly | SEATRAC Seminar Series](#)

## **TB RESOURCES & REPORTS**

- [Tuberculosis Prevention: Health Disparities and Ethnic Populations](#)
- [Tuberculosis preventive treatment: rapid communication](#)
- [Achieving universal social protection for people with tuberculosis](#)
- [Experience with 4-month rifampentine and moxifloxacin-based tuberculosis treatment in San Francisco](#)
- [U.S. TB Cases Reach Highest Level in a Decade](#)
- [CDC Report: Tuberculosis Cases Increase in U.S.](#)

*Read more resources and reports on our website page [‘From TB Wire’!](#)*

## **TB IN THE NEWS**

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

- [TB REACH to provide TB services to 500,000 people through the new GBP 4 million funding boost from the UK](#)
- [Tuberculosis cases are rising in California, and state officials are sounding the alarm](#)
- [Mental Health and Tuberculosis—Holding Our Breath in Isolation](#)
- [TB: No Longer the Forgotten Pandemic?](#)
- [New ways to tackle multi-drug resistant TB](#)

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

- [KFF Dashboard: Progress Toward Global Tuberculosis Targets in USAID TB Priority Countries](#)
- [Positive tuberculosis case confirmed by ASD at Central Middle School](#)
- [The long-term impacts of domestic and international TB service improvements on TB trends within the United States: a mathematical modelling study](#)
- [UW experts weigh in on active tuberculosis case on campus](#)

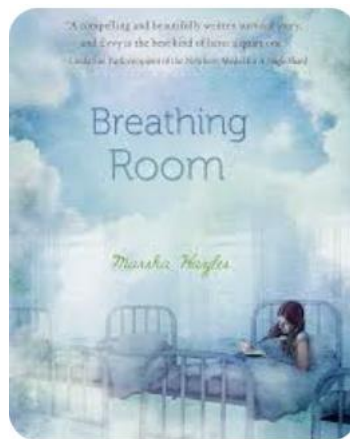
*Read lots more TB news on our website page [‘From TB Wire’!](#)*

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [Newly Identified Mycobacterium africanum Lineage 10, Central Africa](#)
- [Geographic Variation and Environmental Predictors of Nontuberculous Mycobacteria in Laboratory Surveillance, Virginia, USA](#)
- [Bedaquiline Resistance after Effective Treatment of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis, Namibia](#)
- [Risk of tuberculosis among pulmonary tuberculosis contacts: the importance of time of exposure to index cases](#)
- [Investigation of shared genetic features and related mechanisms between diabetes and tuberculosis](#)

Discover many more peer-reviewed articles on our website page [‘Peer-Reviewed Publications’!](#)

## TB BOOKSHELF



*Breathing Room* by Marsha Hayles

ISBN: 9781466816039

Tuberculosis was once so prevalent in the Western (i.e. European and North American) consciousness that its appearance in literature could not be the narrative’s primary element: rather it served as a plot device (to keep characters bedridden or as an alternate means of disposal than “brain fever”) or as a metaphor—consider the afflicted in Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina* and Hugo’s *Les Miserables* or the entirety of Mann’s pre-WWI epic, *The Magic Mountain*.

Marsha Hayles pre-teen novel *Breathing Room* (2012) tasks itself with educating the reader while maintaining its focus on its protagonist, Evvy Hoffmeister, a 13-year-old girl being treated at the Loon Lake Sanatorium, in 1940.

Anyone involved in TB-advocacy in the U.S. knows the challenge of convincing people that tuberculosis is a disease of the present as well as the past. But there's a vibrancy to the book that keeps it from being simply a YA version of *The Magic Mountain* set just before another world war (its looming presence given force via Sarah, who is Jewish –*but don't tell anyone!*--, Evvy's closest friend at the sanatorium. Even when physically quiet and motionless—as prescribed—Evvy is not a passive observer of the power struggles among staff members patients. Good children's and YA novels need not demand their leads to mature, but they must discover and explore. And what Evvy gains, along with the reader, are new perspectives. This sense of discovery parallels the author's own journey writing the book as detailed in Hayles "Author's Notes" and notes on the images. And this discovery ensures that while this is a novel of the past, it is not *the past*—something Hayles conveys in Evvy's grief over the dead: there's a sense that those deaths might have been unavoidable, but deaths from TB are *simply wrong*. And the fact that TB is now treatable gives *Breathing Room* added value for a modern audience, particularly readers of this newsletter wishing to explain why we're here and what we're doing, to the younger generations.

- David Moskowitz, Stop TB USA Media Work Group Chair

### ***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**

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