



TBWIRE

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

March 2025

GREETINGS!

To paraphrase – it is the best of times, it is the worst of times. It was a joy spending quality time with colleagues, fellow Coordinating Board Members, TB survivors, and more at the The Union-NAR conference last week. And yet, every day we learned of more critical research projects being unilaterally cancelled and of colleagues losing their jobs. Additionally, the illegal actions of a few wealthy individuals are causing people to die from lack of services. But you all continue to inspire me, ensuring I am not overwhelmed to the point of paralysis. Leaning on each other, we can focus on taking one small step each day to #EndTB.

- Cynthia A. Tschampl, PhD, Immediate Past Chair

DC UPDATE

Call early, call often!!

In addition to the Capitol Switchboard at **1-202-224-3121**, you can download the 5 calls app (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/5-calls-contact-your-congress/id1202558609>). It will find the direct numbers for your Representative and Senators and connect you automatically. I hear it is easy to do 4 or 5 calls in 5 minutes every day – leave a message on the voicemail if no one answers. Here is our top ask:

Ask your Representative/Senator to speak up for \$225 million for CDC's TB programs in fiscal year 2026 (FY26). **Sample script:** As your constituent and a public health advocate, I urge you to speak with leadership in support for \$225 million for CDC's TB programs in fiscal year 2026. Decades of budget cuts and the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has led to increasing TB rates and our TB programs being totally overwhelmed. TB continues to impact all 50 states. [Add a sentence about why you care.] Will your boss support \$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.]

If you would like additional details or “asks” for your members of congress, please email us at leadership@stoptbusa.org. Bonus points if you write us at leadership@stoptbusa.org and tell us how your calls went!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [World TB Day 2025](#)
- [The Kansas City TB outbreak shows the value of U.S. government health funding](#)
- [Efficacy and Safety of 4-Month Rifapentine-Based Tuberculosis Treatments in Persons with Diabetes](#)
- [Treating tuberculosis in adults and children: Updated guideline Q&A - IDSA](#)
- [Stop TB's Global Drug Facility Announces 38% Price Decrease for BPaLM Regimen and Newly Available Drug-Sensitivity Tests](#)

Other Opportunities:

- [Notice of CDC Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)
- [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease \(NIAID\)](#)

TB REPORTS & RESOURCES

- [Global Tuberculosis Report 2024](#)
- [Connections Newsletter \(Issue 24-6\) | CDC NCHHSTP](#)
- [CDC's 2024 Global Health Impact: By the Numbers](#)
- [Digital TB Surveillance System Assessment Report](#)
- [Tuberculosis Diagnostics Market Opportunities and Strategies Report 2024-2033](#)
- [KEEP THE LIGHTS ON - A Stop TB Partnership Campaign to Sustain TB Survivor Networks and Local Community Organizations](#)

TB IN THE NEWS

TB Incidence Reports:

- [Kansas City Tuberculosis Outbreak Highlights Ongoing Public Health Challenge](#)
- [KU Medical Center experts work to control tuberculosis outbreak in Kansas](#)
- [TB cases linked to high schools in Michigan, California | CIDRAP](#)
- [The tuberculosis outbreak in Kansas is alarming. It's not the biggest in US history though, CDC says](#)

TB Articles:

- [Tuberculosis Doesn't Respect Borders—US Aid Cuts Could Fuel a Global Health Crisis](#)
- [Designing Self-Destructing Bacteria to Make Effective Tuberculosis Vaccines | Newsroom](#)
- [Tuberculosis is on the rise again. We can fight it — if we try - Yahoo News](#)
- [USAID funding freeze disrupts global tuberculosis control efforts - CIDRAP](#)
- [Do I need a tuberculosis vaccine in Illinois? What to know as Kansas fights outbreak](#)

- [Evaluation of High-Dose Isoniazid in Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis Treatment - CDC](#)
- [Tuberculosis Treatment in Jeopardy as Zimbabwe Loses US Aid - Global Press Journal](#)
- [U.S. pullout from WHO will cripple global response to pandemics](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [New volatile organic compounds from the exhaled breath of active tuberculosis patients](#)
- [A new strategy improving TB diagnosis: stratified urine LAM test based on lymphocyte counts](#)
- [The Role of Neutrophil Response in Lung Damage and Post-Tuberculosis Lung Disease](#)
- [Identification of new ClpC1-NTD binders for Mycobacterium tuberculosis drug development](#)
- [The persistent threat of tuberculosis – Why ending TB remains elusive?](#)

EVENTS, CONFERENCES, & COURSE

- THE ANNUAL NAR UNION COMSTOCK LECTURE. Highlights from NAR – The Riddle of TB Drug Resistance | Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 | 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (Pacific Time). Apply here: <https://www.currytbcenter.ucsf.edu/trainings/highlights-nar-riddle-tb-drug-resistance>
- AAPCHO & Stop TB US will co-host a media advocacy training webinar in preparation for the April 9th TB Hill Day. Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/bS1T61oFTRKXWSCG-R6KGg#/registration>
- [Monthly |SEATRAC Seminar Series](#)
- [Inaugural Annual WGNV Meeting](#)
- [Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections \(CROI\) | March 9-12](#)
- [American Thoracic Society \(ATS\) International Conference | May 16-21](#)

TB BOOKSHELF

It Was Vulgar & It Was Beautiful: How AIDS Activists Used Art to Fight a Pandemic by Jack Lowery



It Was Vulgar & It Was Beautiful: How AIDS Activists Used Art to Fight a Pandemic by Jack Lowery
Bold Type Books, 2022
ISBN: 1645036588

We've been here before: a fatal disease combined with government and public indifference towards the afflicted, if not outright demonization of them. The unilateral cancellation of contracts that funded TB and AIDS programs this past week harkens back to the AIDS crisis in the 1980's and early '90's. Especially given the comorbidities of HIV and TB, it's valuable to revisit what worked for advocates and what didn't, examined in *It Was Vulgar & It Was Beautiful: How AIDS Activists Used Art to Fight a Pandemic*.

Lowery's book features Gran Fury, an art collective based in New York City responsible for "Silence=Death", "Kissing Doesn't Kill", "Women Don't Get AIDS: They Just Die From It" and other art works that were instrumental in ACT UP's success and activity. While *It Was vulgar* primarily focused on the personalities (vivid even without the gloss of artistic temperament, with the added intensity of knowing their loved ones might soon die of AIDS) the book explores the tension and collaboration between aesthetics and activism, and where the messaging worked and fell short.

What is effective? What is counter productive? are questions that come up repeatedly. Will people understand bloody handprints on mail boxes or ashes hurled onto the White House lawn? What of the disruption caused by a public funeral? *All publicity is good publicity*, sounds nice, until the real effects of the backlash hit—their protests involving the New York City Archdiocese are testament to that.

What of diversity? AIDS was seen as the disease of gay white men, something reflected in Gran Fury and ACT UP's membership, even though the infected populations were far more diverse. This issue arises repeatedly as Gran Fury tries to both get help from and address the needs of people "that don't look like [ACT UP's founder] Larry Kramer". It's noteworthy that arguably second to the "Silence=Death" campaign in effectiveness was "Kissing doesn't kill" which stood out for its racial diversity as well as its same-sex couples.

And just like modern TB advocates, Gran Fury and ACT UP faced the dilemma of communicating the seriousness of the disease without providing excuses for society to give in

to its worst impulses: consider the plans then to create camps for the HIV infected, and how in 2025, officials in charge of nativist and racist immigration policies are using the potential of disease as [justification](#) for their actions.

Accordingly, in terms of modern TB advocacy, one need only pick up any editorial, read a quote from an expert or a letter to an editor and count how few words there are before the first instance of “treatable.” Again, “Kissing Doesn’t Kill” is instructive.

It has been 3 1/2 decades since the main events of *It Was Vulgar*, and the media environment has changed dramatically; however, by example if not intention, Gran Fury, communicated valuable lessons, including how to cope in the moment: Who in the advocacy community over the last two months has not been in a meeting that ended with the chair discussing the importance of self-care, taking a break to do something fulfilling or joyous?

When the members of Gran Fury finished their work for a day, the healthy among them went out to art exhibits, but more often, they hit the clubs. And they danced. All night.

- David Moskowitz, Chair of Media Work Group

Stop TB USA: Where we unite to #EndTB!

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Stop TB USA

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