



# TBWIRE

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

**September 2025**

## **GREETINGS!**

It is hard not to focus on the negative as the assault on science continues and we watch funding and staffing cuts dismantle the public and global health infrastructure, which are so important in the fight against TB. However, this week, the World Health Organization brings great news to the TB world in the form of a [consensus statement](#), which affirms the importance of including pregnant and lactating women and people in TB research. This is something I, and many members of the TB community, have supported for more than a decade. Why is this important? Because pregnant and lactating people suffer and die from TB, but because they are usually excluded from research, they lack access to the newest drugs and regimens as there is no data to inform a recommendation—oftentimes for many years after the drug receives approval. I hope that despite funding cuts to clinical trials, researchers will adopt the new WHO consensus and move one step closer to equitable access to the best possible treatment for all people with TB.

- Jonathan Stillo, PhD, Stop TB USA Chair

## **DC UPDATE**

**Congress is back in D.C....**and face a packed agenda! First, regarding rescissions and impoundments, the current Administration continues to [illegally withhold \(impound\) and rescind](#) previously approved bipartisan appropriations for key programs. With 60 votes needed in the Senate to pass any final appropriations bill, Democrats have leverage to try to secure a provision to address these harmful actions to limit or avert rescissions or impoundments. **Second**, Congress is not on track to finish its Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) appropriations work before the end of FY25 on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, Congress will have to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) in September to keep programs funded and avert a government shutdown. The House may take up the CR the week of September 15<sup>th</sup>. The Senate will likely act on it towards the end of the month. While one can't rule out a government shutdown, if the House approves a "clean" short-term CR, the Senate could pass it as is and send it to the President. That means we have more time to let our members of Congress know the consequences of not fully funding TB programs across the USA.

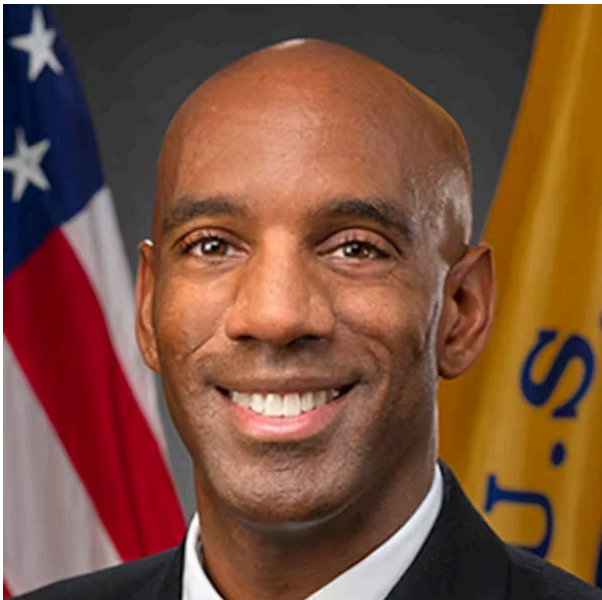
**Keep/emailing your 3 members of Congress!** The Capitol Switchboard is **1-202-224-3121**, and our top actions are to 1.) Thank them if they voted NO on the Big Beautiful-for-

Billionaires budget reconciliation bill, 2.) Ask your Rep. and two Senators to ask Leadership for \$225 million for CDC's TB programs in FY26, or a continuing resolution (CR):

**Sample script:** As your constituent and a public health advocate, I urge you to speak out against CDC cuts and in favor of bolstering our TB programmatic and research funding. Since TB anywhere is TB everywhere, we cannot afford the risk of further increased rates of transmission or drug resistance. Further, we can vastly accelerate the pace of TB elimination by supporting new technologies, like a much-needed point-of-care test and vaccine. *[Add a sentence about why you care.]* Will your boss speak to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee in support of \$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.]*

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



At our Coordinating Board meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup>, members had the opportunity to meet Dr. Deron Burton, MD, JD, MPH (CAPT, USPHS), the newly appointed Director of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE) at CDC. Dr. Burton brings over 20 years of leadership experience at CDC, with expertise spanning tuberculosis research, infectious disease prevention, and global health.

We extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Burton for taking the time to speak with us and share his vision for advancing TB elimination efforts nationwide!

- [WHO releases a consensus statement on “Optimal and early inclusion of pregnant and lactating women in tuberculosis research”](#)
- [WHO releases new Target Product Profiles for tuberculosis screening tests](#)
- [CDC finalizes roughly 600 layoffs; union says workforce ‘decimated’](#)
- [WHO releases an update to the operational handbook on diagnosis of tuberculosis](#)

### ***Other Opportunities:***

- [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease \(NIAID\) needs volunteers for clinical studies](#)
- [Call for proposals: Bioinformatic and Technical Services for WHO DR-TB Mutation Catalogue Updates, DST Validation, and Diagnostic Capacity Building](#)

## **TB RESOURCES & REPORTS**

- [Global Tuberculosis Report 2024](#)
- [The State of Global Health Funding: August 2025](#)
- [Tuberculosis Fast Facts](#)
- [Tuberculosis Therapeutics Market Opportunity, and Forecasts Report 2025-2030](#)
- [A clinical practice guideline for tuberculous meningitis](#)
- [Tuberculosis deaths in the United States, 1953 to 2022 - Our World in Data](#)
- [CDC's 2024 Global Health Impact: By the Numbers](#)
- [Provisional 2024 Tuberculosis Data, United States](#)

## **TB IN THE NEWS**

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

- [Public Health officials partner with Santa Paula school on a TB exposure case | The Fillmore Gazette](#)
- [7 suspected cases of tuberculosis reported at Tacoma ICE center; ICE denies claims - MSN](#)
- [Cache Creek Casino and Resort alerts of contagious tuberculosis | KTVU FOX 2](#)
- [Suspected tuberculosis cases reported at Tacoma immigrant detention center - OPB](#)
- [Suspected tuberculosis cases reported at Washington immigrant detention center](#)
- [Tuberculosis Exposure Reported at Southwest High School - County News Center](#)
- [Active tuberculosis case detected in Western North Carolina: What to know](#)

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

- [New AI Tool Reveals How Drugs Kill Tuberculosis | Tufts Now](#)
- [ICE Detainees Are Testing Positive for Tuberculosis - Esquire](#)
- [Everything Is Tuberculosis: The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection](#)
- [Tuberculosis May Be Treated with 70-Year-Old Parkinson's Drug | Inside Precision Medicine](#)
- [Breakthrough Tuberculosis Research Is Inspired by Real Patients](#)
- [Urgently scale-up research and innovation to End TB: WHO](#)

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

- [Exploring the quality of life and its determinants among caregivers of patients with tuberculosis](#)
- [Researchers identify promising new compound to treat tuberculosis](#)
- [Prioritizing countries for TB vaccine readiness research using a global stakeholder-centric approach](#)
- [A streamlined CRISPR-based test for tuberculosis detection directly from sputum - PMC](#)
- [Active tuberculosis and multiple sclerosis: the importance of screening before treatment](#)
- [Shortened treatment benefits some with pre-existently drug-resistant TB, but not all](#)
- [New TB drugs show promise with fewer side effects than linezolid](#)

- [Recent advances in biomarkers for diabetes mellitus and tuberculosis comorbidity](#)
- [Characteristics and in-hospital outcomes of clinically diagnosed tuberculosis patients in a high-burden setting: A five-year retrospective analysis](#)

## EVENTS, CONFERENCES, & COURSES

Stop TB USA extends our warmest congratulations to members Ria Mohan, Jolie Black, Mythili Batchu, Shruthika Senthilkumar, and Cynthia Tschampl, along with colleagues from the Tuberculosis Elimination Alliance (TEA) and our Academic Detailing Work Group, for having three abstracts accepted for oral poster presentations at the 2025 National TB Conference!

We are excited to see your important work showcased on September 11<sup>th</sup> – a testament to your dedication and commitment to advancing TB elimination efforts!

- [It's not too late to register for NTCA's Virtual TB Conference! Sessions will be scheduled on Wednesdays and Thursdays from late August through September. Register now!](#)
- [RESIST-TB Webinar: Everything is Tuberculosis with John Green](#)
- [Tuberculosis in the Western Pacific Region: Epidemiology and programmatic advances on the path to elimination](#)
- [Submissions for the 2026 END TB Conference are now open! The deadline for submission of abstracts, challenging cases, and travel grants is September 30, 2025.](#)
- [Monthly | SEATRAC Seminar Series](#)
- [Inaugural Annual WGNV Meeting](#)

## TB BOOKSHELF

*(An upcoming TB Bookshelf will survey the works of Peter Hotez MD PhD. In advance of this, we are exploring a response to a key challenge he faces, i.e., ideology and misinformation threatening science and the greater public good)*

### **Improving the Health of Americans Together (IHAT) By Defend Public Health**

<https://www.defendpublichealth.org/sites/default/files/2025-08/IHAT%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

It's not hyperbole to suggest the closest parallel to Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s appointment as Health and Human Services secretary is Trofim Lysenko taking over Soviet Science with RFK's ideological, anti-scientific, and personal enrichment agenda potentially doing to Americans' health and the nation's science what Lysenko's Lamarckian policies did to Soviet agriculture. But the value of exploring such comparisons, including the relative intelligence and decency of their bosses, is worth only so much energy. So, while never holding back in their criticism of RFK and his Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) report's

deficiencies, Defend Public Health (DPH) instead looks forward, proposing “an evidence-based framework for addressing the root causes of illness in the U.S.”, i.e. IHAT.

In creating this document, DPH adheres to the slogan “Science. Compassion. People Power.” while displaying acute conscious awareness of their potential readership. But who is the audience? The authors state that “We do this with no expectations that Mr. Kennedy or the administration will adopt our recommendations,” but between the report’s accessible prose and the deeper science it links to, the audience is clearly everyone, not completely indebted to and/or devoted to enabling the MAHA-adherents. Consider, for example, IHAT begins not with vaccinations and the opposition to them for which RFK Jr. is most publicly associated, but diet –including food safety–and exercise. From there, it covers everything from clean air to combating scientific misinformation to pandemic preparedness—in all cases, pairing contributing socioeconomic factors with the laboratory evidence.

MAHA proponents depend on rage from the so-called “culture wars” to steamroll scientific and humanitarian concerns, and while IHAT’s authors use clear and forceful language and do not shy away from hot-button topics, they are covering much more than what dominates public discourse: In an almost 8000-word report, the words “transgender” and “abortion” appear only twice each, “race” and “DEI” once. For DPH, reproductive as well as sex-and gender-focused healthcare are essential healthcare and socioeconomic factors affect public health. Full stop. There is no debate. Similarly, in the section treating gun violence as a threat, DPH declares firearm ownership remains a constitutional right in the United States. **Nonetheless, steps can be taken immediately to reduce gun violence and the harm it does to individuals and communities.**

It’s this awareness of audience(s) that makes the document so valuable: the report’s sections are all under two pages, mixing plain and bolded text along with hyperlinks to the supporting evidence in a way that facilitates both quick and deep reading. And anticipating the reader who will start reading, then skip to the end, DPH saves the explicit call for RFK Jr.’s removal for the final section: “The HHS Secretary must be a person who respects expertise and has the humility to listen to scientists and healthcare...Secretary Kennedy is a threat to the health of every person in the United States.”

- David Moskowitz, Chair, Media Work Group

***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!

Donate today! <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/stop-tb-usa>

Stop TB USA

<https://www.stoptbusa.org/>

[leadership@stoptbusa.org](mailto:leadership@stoptbusa.org)

PO Box 260288, Atlanta, GA 31126



[Unsubscribe from our emails](#)