



# TBWIRE

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

**November 2024**

## **GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR!**

Happy American Diabetes Month, everyone! Did you know that TB and diabetes influence each other in an unhealthy synergy reminiscent of TB/HIV? Just one of the reasons why, among others, we admire Dr. Richard Brostrom's work on bidirectional testing and health worker support. Who is your **#TBHero**? Who or what inspires you to work to **#EndTB**?

- 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

- [Tuberculosis Returns as Top Infectious Disease Killer, WHO Says](#)
- [MSF calls for urgent action as governments and donors are failing children with TB](#)
- [Rare tuberculosis case confirmed at Madison City high school](#)
- [Everything is Tuberculosis Press Release: Out March 18th 2025!](#)

### **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

- [The World Conference on Lung Health 2024](#)
- [Monthly |SEATRAC Seminar Series](#)
- [November 12-16, 2024 | The Union World Conference on Lung Health 2024](#)
- [Inaugural Annual WGNV Meeting](#)

### **CDC Highlights Key Updates in Tuberculosis Trials at Virtual Meeting**

- CDC virtually hosted the latest Tuberculosis Trials Consortium (TBTC) meeting from October 22 to October 24. This meeting focused on study updates and planning for their three major trials: CRUSH-TB (Combination Regimens for Shortening Tuberculosis Treatment)/Study 38; ASTERoidD (Assessment of the Safety, Tolerability, and Effectiveness of Rifapentine Given Daily for Latent TB Infection)/TBTC Study 37; and TBTC Study 35, CDC's trial for appropriate dosing of a novel water-dispersible, child-friendly formulation of rifapentine with isoniazid in children aged 0-12 years



### **CDC Announces Continued Partnership with TB Elimination Alliance**

- CDC is pleased to announce that we will be continuing our work with the TB Elimination Alliance partners (Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Stop TB USA, and Hep B United) through the next cycle of CDC's National Partners Cooperative Agreement. To learn more about TEA, visit the TEA website



## **Pacific Islands TB Controllers Association (PITCA) Conference Recap**

- The [Pacific Islands TB Controllers Association \(PITCA\) Conference](#) took place from October 21-25, 2024, in Pohnpei, Micronesia. Tuberculosis experts from the Pacific Islands, Australia, and the U.S. mainland gathered to discuss TB management and control. The conference provided training and networking opportunities through [plenary and breakout sessions](#) for clinicians, nurses, outreach workers, laboratory staff, and program managers.

## **TB REPORTS & RESOURCES**

- [Global Tuberculosis Report 2024](#)
- [TACTIC: Test, Avoid, Cure TB in Children](#)
- [WHO consolidated guidelines on tuberculosis Module 1: prevention - tuberculosis preventive treatment, second edition](#)
- [USAID's Global Tuberculosis \(TB\) Strategy 2023–2030](#)
- [Digital TB Surveillance System Assessment Report](#)

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

## **TB IN THE NEWS**

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

- [ICE detainee tests positive for drug-resistant tuberculosis in Louisiana. The state is suing.](#)
- [Hundreds of students, staff to get tested after possible tuberculosis exposure at Walton High School](#)
- [Tuberculosis case found at Bob Jones High School, students and staff ‘no longer at risk’](#)
- [Public health officials return to Walton High School to read TB test results](#)
- [Tuberculosis infected 8 million people last year, the most WHO has ever tracked](#)

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

- Tuberculosis Through Time: Historic Burden, Modern Challenges
- Tuberculosis Disrupts Glucose Metabolism and Could Promote Diabetes
- New The Union head says eliminating TB ‘doable’ but ‘expensive’
- How Dr. Paul Farmer Revolutionized Tuberculosis Care
- HBV, Tuberculosis Infection Screening Rates Are Low Among Non-US-Born Persons
- Tuberculosis Cases Can be Reduced in 2024 with Vaccination
- Wildflower compound may help fight tuberculosis, research finds
- Could the ordinary TB vaccine improve resistance to Covid-19?

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

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

- Facial cutaneous tuberculosis infected by non-tuberculous mycobacteria
- Utilising available isoniazid-resistance tests in new patients
- Critical assessment of infants born to mothers with drug resistant tuberculosis
- Study finds tuberculosis changes liver metabolism and could promote diabetes
- Tuberculosis recovery in Georgia: implementing more by 24
- Tuberculosis—eliminating the latent killer

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

## **TB BOOKSHELF**



***“A Sanatorium for the Future: Tuberculosis, Jewish Organizations, and the State in Decolonizing Morocco.” a Webinar by Julia Schulte-Werning***

***Hosted by: JDC***

***Run time: Approximately 53 minutes***

*<https://archives.jdc.org/julia-schulte-werning-lectures-on-tuberculosis-in-morocco/>*

The work examined in this month's column, a webinar on Morocco's Ben Ahmed Sanatorium, is different not just due to the medium. Julia Schulte-Werning is reporting on research in progress, revealing not only her findings but the thinking behind her presentation—analogue to how those invested in TB treatment and eradication must continually ask, “How do we best communicate TB related matter, and to whom for maximum efficacy?”

Besides exploring the logistical and financial issues in building, supplying, and staffing the sanatorium—a joint project of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Community (JDC) and the Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE)—throughout the webinar, Schulte-Werning focuses on critical questions of trust and cooperation. After all, since the sanatorium project began, the government changed from pre-WWII French Colonial control, to a nominally Vichy-controlled regime (the sultan Sidi Mohammed Ben Youssef did not actively oppose the Germans, but worked to protect Jews from the worst of Nazi initiatives), to interim allied-control (as Morocco was liberated well before VE-Day), to yet another French Colonial regime (where renewed French investment in TB treatment was designed to quell domestic dissatisfaction), and finally, to Moroccan self-rule. Examining how the JDC—an international organization based in America—and the OSE adapted, serves as a reminder of just how important institutions—in all meanings of the word—are to reach successful treatment.

Beyond issues of construction, funding, management, and training there were questions such as would the patients come (even with the installation of a kosher kitchen)? And whose treatment would get priority given limited resources? After all, in the immediate post-shoah period, Moroccan Jews gained importance among worldwide Jewry as a “population reservoir” but Morocco is a predominantly Muslim country, and the war stemming from the foundation of modern Israel was inflaming Jewish-Muslim relations worldwide.

There are other present-day parallels: just as many TB patients suffer from comorbidities including HIV and diabetes, Morocco's doctors were occupied with the “three T's”, trachoma, tinea, and tuberculosis: the first two they thought they could eradicate (which happened with trachoma) while tuberculosis provided an entirely different set of challenges in part to TB patients being prone to reinfection in their crowded living conditions. High-level decision-making is a matter of resources and results, and the definition of results was highly fluid (“desirable”, “essential,” and simply “good”). So fluid in fact, that discussing her process and future plans, Schulte-Werning says that even to her trained historian's eye, her biggest surprise was the extent to which “things are far more complicated than ever imagined.”

Schulte-Werning's plans to continue her research, but in the meantime, TB Wire readers can find many more tuberculosis-related photos and documents all through the publicly accessible JDC archives at <https://search.archives.jdc.org/>.

- David Moskowitz, Stop TB USA Media Work Group Chair

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

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