



# TBWIRE

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

**June 2025**

## **GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR!**

We want to thank everyone who found us at the ATS Conference (in the International Participants Center). Times continue to be challenging, and I was once again reminded that in building our community and connections, we will be happier, healthier, and better positioned to recruit our Members of Congress to help us **#EndTB!!** We have also initiated our planning for the 2026-2031 5-Year Work Plan. Do you have ideas for what to include? Contact us at [leadership@stoptbusa.org](mailto:leadership@stoptbusa.org)!

- Cynthia A. Tschampl, PhD, Stop TB USA Immediate Past Chair

## **DC UPDATE**

Congratulations! The TB-related Dear Colleague letter in the House garnered more signers than ever before! You can access [copies](#) of both House and Senate Dear Colleague letters and a link to the tracker of who has signed on already [here](#).

Lots more calls/emails needed!

In addition to the Capitol Switchboard at **1-202-224-3121**, you can download the 5calls.org 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 5 calls in about 5 minutes every day – leave a message on the voicemail if no one answers. Our top action is to ask your Representative and two Senators 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 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 increased rates of transmission or a rise in 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 HHS Appropriations Subcommittee 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**

- [2025 U.S. TB Elimination Champions](#)
- [Time for GREAT NEWS: \\$15.3 Million Unitaied Investment to Strengthen Community-Led Action on Drug-Resistant TB in 16 Countries](#)
- [Regulatory Update: FDA Withdraws Previously Issued Final Guidances on Tuberculosis and Sepsis, Reissues Both as Draft Guidances](#)
- [Open letter: Experts call for urgent expansion of Pretomanid label](#)

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

- [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease \(NIAID\) needs volunteers for clinical studies](#)

## **TB RESOURCES & REPORTS**

- [Global Tuberculosis Report 2024](#)
- [Tuberculosis deaths in the United States, 1953 to 2022 - Our World in Data](#)
- [CDC's 2024 Global Health Impact: By the Numbers](#)
- [Digital TB Surveillance System Assessment Report](#)
- [Provisional 2024 Tuberculosis Data, United States](#)
- [Integrated approach to tuberculosis and lung health](#)

## **TB IN THE NEWS**

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

- [Suffolk health officials: Tuberculosis case detected at Sachem East High School community](#)
- [Multnomah County Health Department confirms one case of tuberculosis in Lane Middle School](#)
- [Tuberculosis case confirmed at Portland middle school - oregonlive.com](#)
- [Florida is seeing more tuberculosis cases. Here's what you need to know - WUSF](#)
- [Tuberculosis Exposure Reported at St. Michael's Catholic Church — San Diego County](#)

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

- [Amidst Challenging and Changing Environment, Stop TB Partnership brings together leaders and stakeholders to discuss innovation in financing, digital technologies, and new tools to end TB](#)
- [On the Path to a New TB Vaccine? - SBU News](#)
- [Largest Medicaid Cut in U.S. History Would Leave Millions Vulnerable | Partners In Health](#)
- [WHO Director-General's keynote remarks at the WHA78 side event: New perspectives for a world without tuberculosis](#)
- [Tuberculosis and the Fatal Beauty of Romanticism - American Society for Microbiology](#)
- [ART, Tuberculosis Prevention Treatments Effective When Taken Simultaneously](#)
- [John Green: Why we keep failing to eradicate this disease | Masters of Scale - YouTube](#)
- [TB Advocates Call for Joint Action Against NCDs and TB at the UN Multi-stakeholder Hearing on NCDs in New York](#)

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

- [Short- and long-term increased risk of all-cause mortality in a tuberculosis cohort attributed to SARS-CoV-2 infection: a time-dependent survival analysis in Chile](#)
- [Novel immune cells identified as potential target for tuberculosis vaccines](#)
- [Is shorter the solution for tuberculosis treatment? - The Lancet Infectious Diseases](#)
- [The health impact of identifying a person with tuberculosis through systematic screening](#)
- [Discovery of DNA switch that controls TB growth could help unlock its antibiotic resistance secrets](#)
- [CRISPR Breakthroughs in Tuberculosis and Tech Transfer with Dr. Valwynne Faulkner](#)
- [To BCG or Not Two BCG](#)

## **EVENTS, CONFERENCES, & COURSES**

Stop TB USA and The Mayo Clinic Center for Tuberculosis recently launched the inaugural TB Champions Network, a dynamic and collaborative educational program designed to build regional capacity in TB care and prevention. The first cohort included 21 participants from Iowa, Kansas, and the Kansas City area who engaged in interactive learning, strengthened their TB knowledge, and established lasting connections with peers and experts. Ongoing engagement through follow-up meetings and continued networking opportunities will help sustain this impactful community of TB advocates as they serve as a reference for their colleagues and further encourage TB awareness in their communities.

We congratulate these individuals and applaud their dedication to TB elimination:

Stacy Miller, RN

Allen Greiner MD, MPH

Tammy Cunningham BSN, RN, CIC

Pavika Saripalli, MD

Kathy Bell-Mahler, FNP-BC, ACNP-BC

Crissy Hall, APRN, DNP, FNP-C

Paula Bunde MS Ed, BSN, RN

Janel Thompson, ARNP

Janelle Turner, RN

Cecilia Redmond Norris, MD

Tenille Knoop RN, BSN

Sarah Mata, APRN

Catherine Ewers MSN, RN

Sarah Auerbach, DO

Toni Delgardelle MSN, ARNP, PNP-PC

Monica Cox BSN, RN

Kay Taylor, LPN

Amelia Slaichert MPH, CIC

Megan Hoskins, RN

Clayton Smith, DO

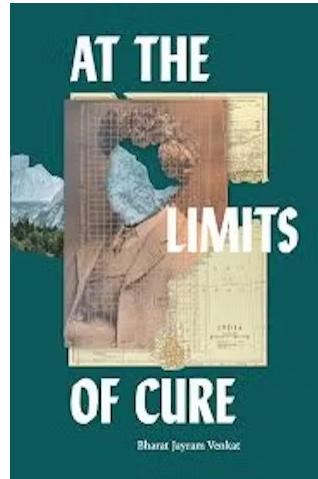
Another cohort is planned for September, and we continue to gauge interest in the program. If interested, please consider applying and you will be notified if a cohort in your region becomes available.

<https://centerfortuberculosis.mayo.edu/education-and-training/tb-champions-network/#:~:text=We%20are%20building%20a%20network,in%20both%20adults%20and%20children.>

- [TBScience 2025 – Abstract Submission Deadline: June 10, 2025](#)
- [International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of Tuberculosis Drugs | July 8-9, 2025](#)
- [National Conference on Health Communications, Marketing and Media | July 28-30, 2025](#)
- [International course on the clinical and programmatic management of drug-resistant tuberculosis 2025. | October 13-17, 2025](#)
- [Monthly |SEATRAC Seminar Series](#)
- [Inaugural Annual WGNV Meeting](#)

## **TB BOOKSHELF**

***At the Limits of Cure by Bharat Jayram Venkat***



***At the Limits of Cure by Bharat Jayram Venkat***

Duke University Press, 2021

ISBN: 9781478013792

“We had three TB reactivations in the county last month,” said a nurse during my post TB-treatment check-up. “Reacti-what?” I asked. “What do you mean? I took the pills. I even have paperwork saying that I. Am. Cured.”

Cancer patients (which I’ve become since) are used to the spectrum of watch-and-wait, remission, NED (no evidence of disease), and “cured”, but even now, with regards to TB “cured” isn’t so simple, as Bharat Jayram Venkat explores in *At the Limits of Cure*, a history of tuberculosis treatment in South Asia from the colonial days up to the advent of MDR- and XDR-TB (multidrug resistant and extensively drug resistant).

European colonizers set the standard for pre-antibiotic-era TB treatment, the sanitarium, and faced the same questions in India as they did back home: What climate is best and which is counterproductive? What features should the program have—e.g., how important is a garden? Who should get priority for beds? How can we get the patients to come and stay for a cure?<sup>1</sup> Venkat also discusses the theoretical and practical intersection between sanitariums and prisons, as well as the efficacy, expense, and psychological implications of directly observed therapy. All these issues are complicated by the rise of MDR and blame for failed treatment fell on patients. <sup>2</sup>

Interspersed with history and science, Venkat provides cultural context and informs our insights into coping mechanisms and general mindsets. For example, how the moon king Chandran’s sex drive explains lunar phases and the general understanding of the recurrence of TB in “cured” patients. <sup>3</sup>

The cultural value of individual sacrifice for the greater good—scientific or political—is a recurring element in *At the Limits*. Venkat explores the deaths from infectious disease of the wives of modern India’s founding fathers, Gandhi and Nehru, as well as in Bollywood depictions of science. But said sacrifices were not entirely willing ones, and with the rise of drug-resistant TB, the discussion extends beyond talk of letting people die because treatment is considered too expensive: it addresses Malthusian questions, including the potential sterilization of those with incurable diseases. <sup>4</sup> And in those cases, the reader is eventually confronted with the flipside of the book’s core question:

When so much depends on resources – be they manpower, knowledge, equipment, pharmaceutical supplies or the means of distribution<sup>5</sup> – just how does one define “incurable”?

1. *Will they come?* is a universal issue. See “A Sanatorium for the Future: Tuberculosis, Jewish Organizations, and the State in Decolonizing Morocco” in the August 2024 [TB Wire](#).
2. Readers of Tracy Kidder’s *Mountains beyond Mountains* or those otherwise familiar with Paul Farmer’s efforts in Peru will recognize this pattern.
3. For how Christian practice, scriptural tropes, shaped American acceptance of germ theory, see *The Gospel of Germs: Men Women and the Microbe in American Life*, featured in the April 2025 [TB Wire](#).
4. Both relevant and chilling now that officials at the highest levels of the richest country in the world celebrate the massive deaths of LMEC individuals due to disease.  
<https://x.com/HouseForeignGOP/status/1906008542382879094>
5. One administrator lamented how vastly superior Coca Cola’s vendors were at reaching all desired segments of the populace.

- David Moskowitz, Chair, Media Work Group

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

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Stop TB USA

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

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

PO Box 260288, Atlanta, GA 31126



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