



# TBWIRE

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

**December 2025**

## **GREETINGS!**

This year's IUATLD meeting in Copenhagen offered a deep dive into the breadth of tuberculosis research, advocacy, and art. Highlights were sessions focused on drug–drug interactions in TB treatment, evolving definitions and outcomes in post-TB lung disease, progress in PAN-TB regimens, advances in long-acting TB therapeutics and new drugs, and updates from the pediatric SURE trial.



Paulina Siniatkina, TB Survivor and Advocate

A particularly powerful moment came from TB survivor and artist Paulina Siniatkina, whose House of Rays installation bridged personal, societal, and clinical aspects of TB. The expression of lived experiences in TB was a focal point throughout the meeting. The meeting was inspiring and motivating, bringing together individuals from diverse disciplines and countries, and was a window into the impressive body of work being carried out.

Paulina Siniatkina's website: [https://www.paulinasiniatkina.com/?utm\\_source=ig&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_content=link\\_in\\_bio](https://www.paulinasiniatkina.com/?utm_source=ig&utm_medium=social&utm_content=link_in_bio)

- Amee Patrawalla, MD, MPH, Stop TB USA Chair Elect

## **DC UPDATE**

**Government is open until January 30, 2026:** Congress worked out a deal to re-open the government through January 30, 2026, using a continuing resolution (CR). Regular work is underway for the remaining appropriations bills for fiscal year '26 (FY26), including the "LaborHHS" bill that covers funding for the CDC. Congressional Leaders need to hear from their colleagues a strong message about strengthening our public health infrastructure. Therefore, our top action is to continue to ask your Representative in the House and two

Senators to ask Leadership to pass \$225 million for CDC's TB programs for FY26. The Capitol Switchboard is **1-202-224-3121**.

**Sample script 1:** As your constituent and a public health advocate, I urge you to speak out in favor of strong funding for the CDC's 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. Increases in TB drug prices, let alone the three years of increased cases, all require more resources. *[Add a sentence about why you care.]* Will your boss talk 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 and email 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!!

You can also join us in Washington, D.C., on March 2-3, 2026, for TB Hill Day to make your voice heard in person!! If you are interested, email the Immediate Past Chair, Dr. Tschampl ([tschampl@yahoo.com](mailto:tschampl@yahoo.com)) for more details!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Innovation and impact through new tools: Molbio Diagnostics wins Kochon Prize for advancing innovation and equitable TB diagnosis](#)
- [New WHO report urges bold steps for equitable access to novel TB vaccines](#)
- [TB cases fall for first time since pandemic - UN News](#)

TB Yesterday. TB Today. TB Not Tomorrow.


This holiday season, your support helps us build a future where tuberculosis is no longer a threat. Every contribution helps strengthen our national advocacy, education, and community empowerment efforts to #EndTB.

Join us in creating lasting change.

Donate here: <https://stoptbusa.org/donate-now-1>

**TB Yesterday.  
TB Today.  
TB Not Tomorrow.**

This holiday season, we invite you to support Stop TB USA and our mission to **build a future where Tuberculosis is no longer a threat.**

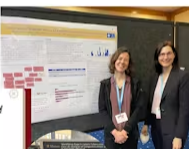


**MISINFORMATION IS SPREADING FAST. LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT:**

This is NOT due to immigrants. The real issue? Decades of underfunding public health and the unintended consequences of COVID-19 diverting resources away from other infectious diseases like TB.

Stop TB USA

Your contribution, no matter the size, directly strengthens our national advocacy, education, and community-empowerment efforts to #EndTB.



Stop TB USA

Thanks to supporters like you, 2025 has been a year of meaningful progress.

With your continued generosity, we can expand these efforts in 2026 and beyond:



- Representing the United States in the global TB elimination effort
- Working with CDC Centers of Excellence, including the Mayo Clinic, in training the next generation of TB Elimination Champions
- Correcting misinformation at scale, including online sources with over one-hundred thousand hits per month
- Supporting accurate, stigma-free journalism
- Centering survivor voices
- Advancing Medicare coverage for TB testing

Stop TB USA

Your support matters.

Together we can build a TB-free tomorrow.

Donate Here:  
<https://stoptbusa.org/donate-now-1>



**Other Opportunities:**

- [Public notice and comment on draft WHO Guidance on Evidence Generation for new tuberculosis diagnostics | Deadline: December 5, 2025](#)
- [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease \(NIAID\) needs volunteers for clinical studies](#)

## **TB RESOURCES & REPORTS**

- [New report: Global Fund partnership has saved 70 million lives since 2002](#)
- [Global Tuberculosis Report 2024](#)
- [Global TB Report: “Progress is Possible: We Know What Works, Let's Scale It” - Updates](#)
- [Tuberculosis Fast Facts](#)
- [Tuberculosis Therapeutics Market Opportunity, and Forecasts Report 2025-2030](#)
- [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](#)
- [Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis: annual meeting report, Geneva, Switzerland, 10-11 June 2025](#)

## **TB IN THE NEWS**

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

- [Kansas' tuberculosis outbreak, one of the largest in the US since the 1950s, declared over](#)
- [Tuberculosis case detected at Mecklenburg County school](#)
- [CMS confirms case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis at local school - WCCB Charlotte](#)

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

- [The Plague That Won't Die](#)
- [Why some health clinics are turning to AI to screen for tuberculosis - NPR](#)
- [ASU scientists uncover tuberculosis bacterium's 'heartbeat'](#)
- [MIT study finds targets for a new tuberculosis vaccine](#)
- [Global Tuberculosis Diagnoses Rise to a Record, but Deaths Fall, WHO Reports](#)
- [How funding cuts affected TB services around the world | Context by TRF](#)
- [Disappointed and Outraged at Lack of Health Care Protections - POZ Magazine](#)
- [Tuberculosis patients share brutal experiences with researchers - San Antonio Report](#)
- [The United States Maintains Its Global Fund Commitment](#)
- [Every 3 minutes, a child dies of tuberculosis - MSF Access Campaign](#)
- [Rapid point-of-care test shows promise for detecting latent tuberculosis](#)

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [Integrated health checks as a person-centered approach to systematic screening of household tuberculosis contacts: A realist-informed mixed-methods study](#)
- [Prognostic value of an abnormal chest X-ray result in predicting the development of tuberculosis](#)
- [Diagnostic accuracy of the WHO tuberculosis treatment decision algorithms for children with presumptive tuberculosis: An individual participant data meta-analysis](#)
- [Asheville, North Carolina: The Origin of the American Tuberculosis Sanitarium Movement](#)
- [New TB drugs reduce treatment time for world's deadliest infectious disease](#)
- [Improving the efficiency of drug resistant tuberculosis treatment trials: a time-to-event alternative marker for bacteriological response and adaptive minimization for randomization](#)
- [Reprogramming the host: Mycobacterium tuberculosis as a silent architect of the immuno-tumoral](#)
- [A Narrative Review of Tuberculosis and Diabetes Mellitus: The Double Burden Epidemiology, the Current Moment and the Future](#)
- [Genitourinary Tuberculosis in a Young Male With Advanced Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\) Diagnosed via Urinary Lipoarabinomannan Antigen \(TB-LAM\): A Case Report From a High-Burden Setting](#)

## EVENTS, CONFERENCES, & COURSES

- [Advancements in Responsible & Ethical Use of AI in Public Health Education: Updates From ASPPH's AI Task Force](#)
- [Global #ENDTB Youth Townhall: Mobilizing youth power to accelerate the TB response | December 12, 2025, 12:30 – 3:00 CET](#)
- [WORK-TB: Workplace Occupational Risk and Knowledge on TB | December 18, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 pm CST](#)
- [2026 END TB Conference of The Union - North America Region | February 25, 2026-March 1, 2026](#)

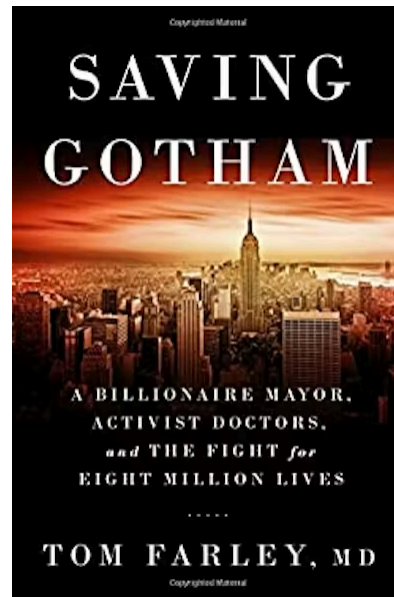
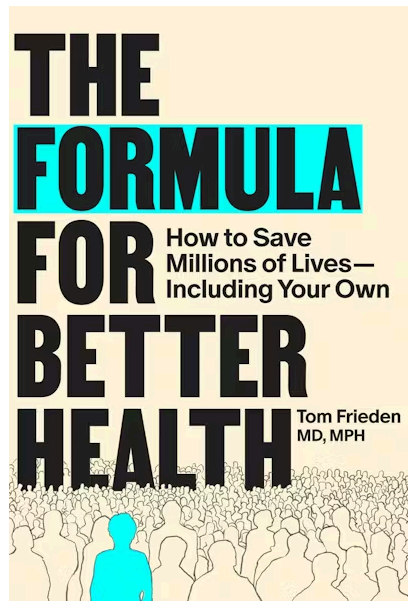
Register for Stop TB USA's Annual Membership Meeting on February 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm EDT. Members attending the NAR conference in person are welcome to join the meeting onsite. However, registration is open to **all** Stop TB USA members, regardless of NAR attendance.

- [Monthly | SEATRAC Seminar Series](#)

## TB BOOKSHELF

***The Formula For Better Health: How to Save Millions of Lives Including Your Own***  
By Tom Frieden, MD, MPH

***Saving Gotham: A Billionaire Mayor, Activist Doctors, and the Fight for Eight Million Lives*** By Tom Farley, MD



As the market-friendly title of Tom Frieden’s *The Formula For Better Health: How to Save Millions of Lives Including Your Own* suggests, the book does contain personal advice, but it is not just another guide for determining one’s optimal number of steps and carbohydrates. Instead, while much of the focus is on the three primary threats to health Frieden identified during his time running New York City’s health department under Mayor Bloomberg –cigarette smoke, high levels of salt in processed food, and sugary sodas–the informing experiences of all of his efforts lie in his earlier fight against the early 1990’s MDR-TB outbreak in New York followed by five years fighting TB in India. In those situations, he learned to deal with obstinate private and public officials, broken systems, and a public lacking the tools and information to make well-informed personal decisions.

Frieden adopts a tripartite approach to health issues: *See* the problem, *Believe* that a solution is possible, and *Create* a plan to solve it. Along the way he discusses the contributing factors to the “Cassandra curse”, i.e. why people ignore warnings; how to create effective systems that embody simplicity, speed, and scalability; and the critical importance of insuring that message, messenger, and target audience are all in alignment to achieve progress in spite of opposition.

Frieden’s advice delves deeply into his experience, but it is primarily a forward looking book much in the way of Sam Daley Harris’s *Reclaiming Our Democracy* ([TB Wire: July 2025](#)), using stories of past successes (and in Frieden’s case, some failures) as a springboard for his advice. In contrast, Frieden’s successor in the NYC health department, Tom Farley, looks back at Frieden’s tenure and his own, with the lessons of *Saving Gotham* being implicit rather than the ultimate focus. Of special note for TB advocates in *Saving Gotham* is the repeated question of “*How do we make people care?*” It’s difficult enough to affect change as when someone is presented with threats to their own health they will often respond “*Why shouldn’t I smoke/drink/consume trans fats and sodium– I’m going to die anyway?*” But how do you mobilize people to commit to improving the lives of others–after all, how many in power view the massive loss of life stemming from USAID cuts to TB and HIV programs as a statistic rather than a tragedy <sup>1</sup>?

The NYC health department found that death gets neatly shunted away as “part of life” but suffering is what gets people’s attention. It is one thing to tell someone tobacco and excessive sodium are life threatening, but it is far more effective to present them with a threat to their *quality of life*—such as breathing through a tracheostomy, or being permanently disabled due to a hypertension-induced stroke: that is what moves the public to accept smoking bans and reduced salt in their diet. Those who’ve seen the documentary *Out of Breath* (TB Wire: September 2024) cannot forget the sight of Kim Taesung struggling with every breath as if it were a marathon. But what is too much to show? At what point will the viewer become numb to the message, or just turn away in denial and revulsion? And when one is dealing with infectious disease, there’s the issue of fear and stigma making the message counter-productive: Suffering from TB is anything but romantic, but how much reality should one broadcast before the infected and potentially infected avoid treatment and testing, fearing how the rest of the community may respond? After all, HIV/AIDS is no longer a death sentence, but PrEP campaigns certainly don’t focus on tell-tale purplish lesions from Kaposi’s sarcoma and explosive diarrhea.<sup>3</sup>

While other advocacy books the “TB Bookshelf” has covered—namely John Green’s *Everything is Tuberculosis* (TB Wire: April 2025) and Daley-Harris’s *Reclaiming our Democracy*—focus on overcoming systemic obstacles to public health, such as institutional racism and simple ignorance, *The Formula for Better Health* explicitly calls out specific targets: Frieden excoriates the Trump administration for its messaging of COVID-19 and criticizes Joe Biden’s CDC for prioritizing consistency over transparency. He’s also publicly denounced tobacco executives by name as mass murderers. Given that as this column goes to print, the Trump administration has just followed up cuts to TB and HIV treatment with a rejection of World’s AIDS Day, as if to put into practice the ACT UP warning *Silence=Death*<sup>2</sup>, maybe it’s time for TB advocates to not only create systems embodying “*See. Believe. Create.*,” but also follow Stop TB USA Coordinating Board member Sopie Huddart’s advice: “[...]push ourselves to be louder: more ambitious, more rock ‘n’ roll. This disease should not be killing people in 2025, and we have to start screaming until it’s true.”

1. There is debate that Josef Stalin “The death of one man is a tragedy, the death of millions is a statistic”, but that is beyond the scope of this column.
2. See *It Was Vulgar & It Was Beautiful: How AIDS Activists Used Art to Fight a Pandemic* by Jack Lowery (TB Wire: March 2025) and *Let the Record Show: A Political History of ACT UP New York, 1987-1993* by Sarah Schulman
3. These are the most commonly known symptoms—and associated with men. See Schulman for more on ACT UP’s success in getting the CDC to add symptoms such as chronic vaginal yeast infections and pelvic inflammatory disease to its diagnostic guidelines.

- David Moskowitz, Stop TB USA Media Work Group Chair

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

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

Stop TB USA

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

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

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