

Newsletter



Photo credit: [Rebecca Grapevine/Healthbeat](#)

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DeKalb County is one of the core 5 counties that make up the Atlanta Metro and reports the highest number of TB cases (52 cases in 2024) in Georgia. Along with Fulton and Gwinnett counties, the metro Atlanta area accounts for nearly 46% of all TB cases statewide. To meet the increasing need for TB testing and treatment, DeKalb Public Health is relocating its existing clinic from the T.O. Vinson Health Center to a larger and more advanced facility at the Richardson Health Center, located at 445 Winn Way in Decatur. The new clinic features eight treatment rooms, negative pressure technology, a sputum induction chamber and a radiology suite with digital imaging system for X-rays. The new clinic will enhance the county's capacity to diagnose, treat, contain tuberculosis, and offer safer and more effective care for patients throughout the region. However, in an interview with the *Decaturish*, **Dr. Alawolde Oladele (pictured above)**, the supervising physician and laboratory director for infectious diseases and refugee health at DeKalb

Public Health expressed concerns about recent cuts to public health spending. Of the more than 20 staff who performed TB contact tracing and helped ensure patients took their medications, 17 were recently let go by the state after the federal government recalled Covid relief funding to state health departments. “Without the funding, without the resources, we’re handcuffed, and it limits our ability to do the work” said Dr. Oladele. Dr. Carmen Marsit, Rollins Distinguished Professor of Research and Executive Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Research Strategy at the Rollins School of Public Health, said “It’s been amply demonstrated that investments by the U.S. government in strengthening global TB prevention and control have direct benefit to our country. It is really crucial that, just as diseases know no borders, our efforts don’t stop at our border.” For more local news coverage about the new DeKalb Richardson Health Center TB Clinic see articles by [Georgia Public Broadcasting](#) and [Fox 5 News](#).

TRAColades

Kudos to **Asmith Joseph**, PhD student in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Georgia for being awarded a stipend to attend a four-day training course and the **10th Annual Scientific Symposium: Emerging Issues in Global Women’s Health**. The training was an intensive, in-person program focused on sex differences in global infectious diseases, host immunology across the female lifespan, treatment and prevention strategies, and the social determinants impacting women’s health outcomes. The training and symposium are an initiative from the NYC Tri-I TRAC which will also include the opportunity for trainees to apply for a two-year Women's Infectious Disease Global Scholars (WINGS) mentorship program. After completing her PhD, Ms. Joseph plans to apply for the WINGS mentorship program.

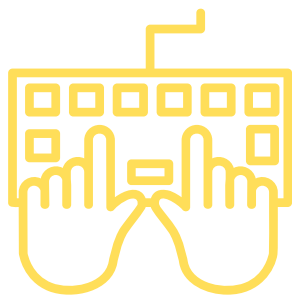


Publication Highlights



Congrats to Sara Auld, MD, MSc and Gregory Bisson MD, MSCE and study team on their first publication from the Inflammation and Fibrosis in Pulmonary TB: the INFIN-TB Study. The paper titled **'Collagen-targeted PET/CT imaging of tuberculosis patients'** was published in The European Respiratory Journal and is based on data from the pilot of the INFIN-TB study. The paper is the first to report a non-invasive characterization of TB-associated pulmonary fibrosis in humans using a collagen-specific PET probe, suggesting a promising role for this radiotracer in the characterization of patients with pulmonary TB. Drs. Auld and Bisson also recently co-authored an editorial in the American Journal of

Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine titled **'Post-tuberculosis Sequelae and the Burden of "Long TB": Continuing TB Care after Treatment Completion'** which considers the publication by Menzie *et al.* titled **'Contribution of Posttuberculosis Sequelae to Life-Years Lost from Tuberculosis Disease in the United States, 2015–2019'** which provides additional data to support the concept that post-TB sequelae should be addressed within a framework of holistic TB care. The editorial concludes that there is a need to expand the evidence base for clinical care of post-TB sequelae and invest in translational studies to enhance our understanding of the pathogenesis of post-TB sequelae. Further studies will provide a foundation for trials of host-directed therapies that could reduce post-TB sequelae and improve long-term outcomes for TB survivors.



**Have items to include in
a future newsletter?**

Email:

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Upcoming Events

SYSTEMS BIOLOGY VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON OFFICE HOURS

  4th Thursday of the month Aug-Oct & Dec 11
10am - 11am ET, RRR 205 & Zoom



Jeffrey Collins, MD, MS



Xin Hu, PhD



Boris Minasenko, MS



Khader Ghneim, MS



Ashish Sharma, PhD

Drop in to receive one-on-one support from informaticists with 'omics' study design and data analysis for tuberculosis research - including bulk and single cell transcriptomics, metabolomics and lipidomics.

THU
28
THU
23

AUGUST

OCTOBER

THU
25
THU
11

SEPTEMBER

DECEMBER

For more information please contact: jeffrey.michael.collins@emory.edu

Bulletin Board

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR AFRICAN INVESTIGATORS



The Glaxo Smith Kline Africa Open Lab Funding opportunity invites applications in the areas of malaria, TB or drug-resistant TB, drug resistant bacterial infections and enteric infections. Concept proposal deadline: September 3rd, 2025. More info [here](#).

Recent NIH Notices:

- Updated NIH Policy on Foreign Subawards, NOT-OD-25-104, May 1, 2025
- Updated NIH Processes for No-Cost Extensions, NOT-OD-25-110, May 7, 2025





EMORY | ROLLINS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PURSUE: Proposals for Unique Research Supports for Scholarly and University Endeavors Summer/Fall 2025 Pilot Program

Emory's Rollins School of Public Health's Office of Research Development will pilot the expansion of proposal development support to include 1:1 support for Assistant and Associate Professors (and equivalent ranks across schools) who are seeking funding from new opportunities* to submit grant proposals. These might include Early career programs, Department of Defense opportunities, Standard federal award mechanisms, Foundations and corporate funding opportunities.

Support Offered:

- Open office hours
- 1-on-1 intake meetings
- Program-specific proposal development toolkits
- Strategic proposal review

Intake Meeting Required Email: ResearchDevelopment@emory.edu (Subject: Intake Meeting Request)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00pm-1:45pm ET, June 17 – December 4, 2025

<https://emory.zoom.us/j/9616943441>

Funding opportunities for researchers impacted by federal funding cuts

**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
COMMITTEE SEED GRANTS**

EMORY UNIVERSITY

University Research Committee

The University Research Committee (URC) supports: 1) Early career faculty on their path toward research independence; 2) More advanced faculty who wish to engage novel questions that enhance their expertise; and 3) Teams of faculty who seek to transcend the boundaries of their respective disciplines and undertake transformative research.

Eligible applicants are regular, continuing full-time faculty of Emory University. [URC grants](#) are open to eligible applicants from all Emory schools and disciplines. More info [here](#).

OFFICE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING DATABASE



Office of the Senior
Vice President for Research

Emory's Office of Research Development (ORD) within the Office of the Senior Vice President for Research (SVPR) maintains a database of >40 Institutional funding opportunities that are predominately seed grants. The full list can be found [here](#).

Eligibility criteria for some programs extend beyond the Emory community and can be viewed within the database.

ERC GRANTS FOR NON- EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

The European Research Council (ERC) is a funding organization for frontier research. Researchers from anywhere in the world can apply for ERC grants provided the research they undertake will be carried out in an EU Member State or Associated Country. Research projects funded by the ERC can last up to five years and can cover frontier research in any scientific domain, including social sciences, humanities and interdisciplinary studies. The grants may help both emerging research leaders ('ERC Starting Grants' and 'ERC Consolidator Grants') and already well-established and recognized scientists ('ERC Advanced Grants'). More Information can be found [here](#).

July Publications

Calderin JM, **Wasserman S**, Resendiz-Galvan JE, Abdelgawad N, Davis A, Stek C, Wiesner L, Wilkinson RJ, Denti P. Population pharmacokinetics of pyrazinamide and isoniazid in plasma and cerebrospinal fluid from South African adults with tuberculous meningitis. Antimicrob Agents Chemother. 2025;69(8):e0009925. DOI: 10.1128/aac.00099-25.

Dagnew AF, Han LL, **Naidoo K**, Fairlie L, Innes JC, Middelkoop K, Tameris M, Wilkinson RJ, Ananworanich J, Bower D, Schlehuber L, Frahm N, Cinar A, Dunne M, Schmidt AC. Safety and immunogenicity of investigational tuberculosis vaccine M72/AS01(E-4) in people living with HIV in South Africa: an observer-blinded, randomised, controlled, phase 2 trial. Lancet HIV. 2025;12(8):e546-e55. DOI: 10.1016/s2352-3018(25)00124-9.

Fossati A, Wambi P, Jaganath D, Calderon R, Castro R, Mohapatra A, McKetney J, Luiz J, Nerurkar R, Nkereuwem E, Franke MF, Mousavian Z, **Collins JM**, Sigal GB, Segal MR, Kampman B, Wobudeya E, Cattamanchi A, Ernst JD, Zar HJ, Swaney DL. Plasma proteomics for biomarker discovery in childhood tuberculosis. Nat Commun. 2025;16(1):6657. DOI: 10.1038/s41467-025-61515-5.

Maghradze N, Loiseau C, Goig GA, **Bablishvili N**, Jugheli L, Borrell S, **Tukvadze N**, **Kempker RR**, Avaliani Z, Gagneux S. [Linking genetic and phenotypic bedaquiline resistance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis strains from Georgia](#). PLoS One. 2025;20(7):e0326794. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0326794.

Nelson KN, **Cranmer LM**, Vasudevan L, Lima A, Acacio S, García-Basteiro A. [Willingness to accept new TB vaccines among adults, adolescents and their caregivers in a high TB burden setting](#). IJTLD Open. 2025;2(7):434-6. DOI: 10.5588/ijtldopen.25.0177.

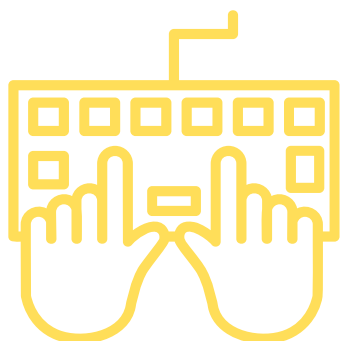
Ordóñez AA, Vangu MW, Rajaratnam A, Mofokeng N, Gabuza L, Maenetje P, Le Fur M, Montesi SB, Caravan P, **Auld SC**, Bisson GP. [Collagen-targeted PET/CT imaging of tuberculosis patients](#). Eur Respir J. 2025;66(1). DOI: 10.1183/13993003.00195-2025.

Pearson RA, Krish KN, Whatney WE, Jaoko W, Mandaliya K, Overbaugh J, Graham SM, McClelland RS, Hicks SL, Maurer J, Scharer CD, **Day CL**. [Single-cell transcriptomics reveals depletion and dysregulation of Mycobacterium tuberculosis-specific Th1 and Th17 cells early after acquisition of HIV](#). J Infect Dis. 2025. DOI: 10.1093/infdis/jiaf354.

Perumal R, **Naidoo K**. [The patient pursuit of safe treatment options for tuberculosis](#). Lancet Infect Dis. 2025. DOI: 10.1016/s1473-3099(25)00362-7.

Phillips PPJ, Peloquin CA, Sterling TR, Kaur P, Diacon AH, Gotuzzo E, Benator D, Warren RM, Sikes D, Lecca L, **Gandhi NR**, Streicher EM, Dianis N, Eisenach K, Mitnick CD, Horsburgh CR, Jr. Efficacy and Safety of Higher Doses of Levofloxacin for Multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis: A Randomized, Placebo-controlled Phase II Clinical Trial. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2025;211(7):1277-87. DOI: 10.1164/rccm.202407-1354OC.

Swartwood NA, **Haddad MB**, Marks SM, Beeler Asay GR, Horsburgh CR, Jr., Cohen T, Menzies NA. [Health Impact and Cost-Effectiveness of Testing and Treatment of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection Among Asian and Hispanic Persons With Diagnosed Diabetes in the United States](#). Value Health. 2025;28(7):1029-37. DOI: 10.1016/j.jval.2025.03.009.



**Have items to include in
a future newsletter?**

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