

**G R A N T S**

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## International R01

### Grant Writing Workshop

Janet Gross, PhD and Russell Kempker, MD, MSc led the TRAC's first grant writing workshop specifically for the [NIH NIAID International Research in Infectious Diseases \(IRID\) R01](#), a funding opportunity to support high-priority, regionally relevant infectious diseases research by international investigators in resource-constrained countries. The two hour workshop was held on February 28th and attended by more than 50 investigators and trainees representing 6 countries, including the country of Georgia, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia and Cameroon. At least 9 participants intend to submit an application and will submit draft specific aims and biosketches for review by Drs. Gross and Kempker in the coming weeks.

Participants intending to submit an application will also have the opportunity to meet with the NIAID Program Officer to learn more about the funding opportunity and ask questions. We are excited by the interest in this workshop and the funding opportunity, and look forward to learning more about new collaborations and research directions.

# THE CASE CHALLENGE

Tackling India's Twindemic: Accelerating integrated diabetes mellitus-tuberculosis care to end TB



The [2024 Emory Morningside Global Health Case Competition](#) is scheduled for March 22 - 23. The competition brings together students from diverse disciplines and countries, offering a unique platform for collaborative problem-solving on real-world global health challenges. This year's focus is on addressing the marked increase in the [global burden of tuberculosis and its bidirectional relationship with diabetes](#). Thirty one student teams representing seven countries and six continents will work intensively from March 14 to March 22 to analyze the challenge and devise comprehensive solutions, with a focus on addressing data reporting gaps and developing strategies to improve treatment outcomes. Teams will present their case solutions to judges, including, [Chris Whalen](#), Co-Director of our Clinical and Population Science Core starting Friday March 22. The competition will award six cash prizes. Winning teams will be announced Saturday March 23.



## Student Spotlight

[Rachel Pearson](#), PhD candidate in the [Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis](#) program in Emory's Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences and recipient of the Infectious Disease Across Scales Training Program ([IDASTP](#)) trainee fellowship, was recently interviewed for the IDASTP's [Virulence Vortex Podcast](#). Listen to Rachel describe her PhD work and how HIV can make



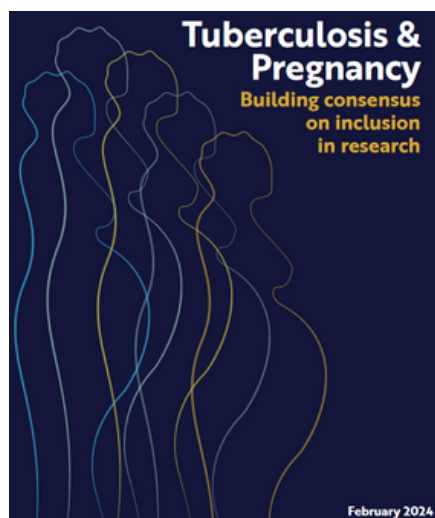
tuberculosis infections worse by destroying crucial immune cells. Rachel also received the prestigious [New Investigator Scholarship](#) to attend the recent Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections ([CROI](#)). She presented a poster entitled 'Single Cell Transcriptomics Reveals Depletion of TB-Specific Th1 and Th17 Cells After HIV Infection'.

## TRACcolades



Congratulations to **Dr. Lisa Marie Cranmer** Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Emory School of Medicine for being elected co-chair of a **WHO TB and Pregnancy Working Group**.

The WHO Global TB Programme established five thematic working groups to foster consensus among researchers, policymakers, and industry partners, facilitating earlier and optimal inclusion of pregnant and breastfeeding women in TB treatment and vaccine research. Dr. Cranmer will co-chair a working group focused on exploring opportunities and addressing research gaps, including pregnant and breastfeeding women in the TB vaccine research pipeline.



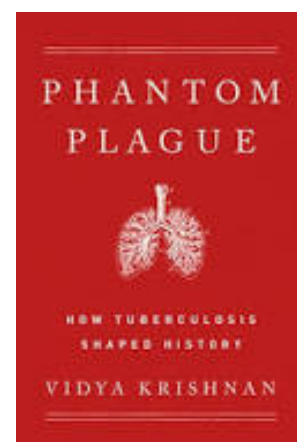
**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Supporting, Mobilizing, and  
Accelerating Research for  
Tuberculosis Elimination



## Book Highlight

The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases' new 'Dialogues' series of [Global Health Matters](#) podcasts recently released the '**Dialogues: a conversation with Vidya Krishnan**' episode in which host Garry Aslanyan speaks with Vidya Krishnan, a health-focused Indian investigative author. Vidya's book, "*The phantom plague: how tuberculosis shaped history*" (PublicAffairs Books, 2022), is about how tuberculosis was impacted by political, social and cultural context, especially in India, and how tuberculosis transmission persists because of conditions such as poverty, crowding, a lack of political commitment and poor public policies. She notes in her book that "poverty is the disease, tuberculosis is the symptom." The conversation reminds us of the importance of community engagement.



## Upcoming Events

### **VISITING PROFESSOR LECTURES & RECEPTION APRIL 11 & 12**

**Madhukar Pai, MD, PhD, FCAHS, FRSC, Professor,  
Department of Global and Public Health, McGill  
School of Population and Global Health**



### **SHIFTING POWER IN GLOBAL HEALTH VIA ALLYSHIP**

**Thursday April 11, 2024**

**4-5:30pm Lecture, Discussion and Q&A**

**5:30-7pm Reception**

**RRR Ballroom P01 ([Flyer](#))**

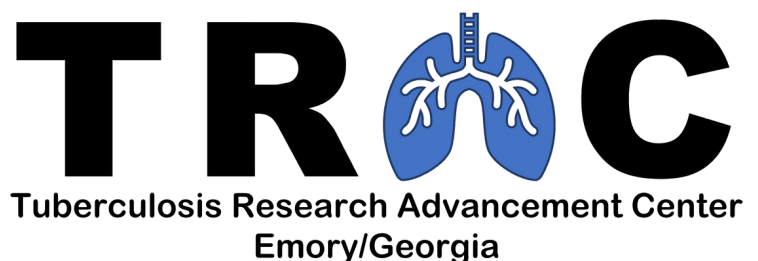
### **CLOSING THE KNOW-DO GAP IN TB CARE**

**Friday April 12, 2024**

**9-10am Lecture**

**CNR 2001 & [Zoom](#) ([Flyer](#) | [Add to calendar](#))**

**Co-sponsored by:**



**EMORY  
UNIVERSITY**

**Emory Global Diabetes  
Research Center**

*of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center*



# WORLD TB DAY EVENTS

## March 22 - 28

WORLD TB DAY - SEMINARS



### March 22 Noon

Register [here!](#)



#### Ending TB Requires Optimal use of Existing Tools, Research & Innovation

**Kenneth Castro, MD, PhD**, Professor, Global Health, Epidemiology, and Infectious Diseases, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University Former Director, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Tuberculosis Elimination  
 UCSF World TB Day Symposium Keynote Address



### March 22 2.30pm

Register [here!](#)



#### Johns Hopkins Center for TB Research 15th Annual George W. Comstock Lecture

**Neel R. Gandhi, MD**, Professor, Emory University Rollins School of Public Health and School of Medicine  
 JHU World TB Day Presentation



### March 27 Noon

RSPH RRR Room 809 & [Zoom](#)



#### Global Public Health Advocacy: United Nations High Level meeting on Tuberculosis (TB) – what does it mean for ending TB?

**Sarita Shah, MD, MPH**, Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Rollins School of Public Health  
**Samhita Kumar, MPH**, Doctoral Student, Global Health & Development Program Hubert Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health  
**Kenneth Castro, MD, PhD**, Professor, Global Health, Epidemiology, and Infectious Diseases, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University  
 Hubert Department of Global Health Noon Seminar Series



### March 28 8am



RSPH, CNR 1000 and via [Zoom](#)

#### Human immunity to Mycobacterium tuberculosis throughout life: from infancy to adulthood

**Cheryl L. Day, PhD**, Associate Professor, Emory University Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
 Infectious Disease Seminar Series



## LUNCHTIME PANEL

# CAREERS IN TB

Come meet and hear from professionals in all aspects of Tuberculosis work as they discuss opportunities from the MPH level to Physician-Investigator



Maryam A. Bello, MPH  
Project Officer, CDC Foundation



Marcos Schechter, MD,  
Associate Professor,  
Emory School of Medicine





Lisa Sharling, PhD, MPH  
Program Director,  
Emory/Georgia TB Research  
Advancement Center



Kelly Stinson, MPH  
Mycobacteriology Lead,  
Bill & Melinda Gates Medical  
Research Institute



Lauren Miller, MPH  
TB Epidemiologist I,  
Georgia Department of Public  
Health

**THURSDAY MARCH 28, 2024, 12PM**  
RRR MARGARET H. ROLLINS ROOM (BALLROOM) - PLAZA LEVEL & ZOOM

MODERATED BY  
Dr. Daniel Graciaa






**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED**

# THE BLACK ANGELS

The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis

**Thursday March 28**

**4 PM LECTURE (hybrid)**  
RSPH, CNR 1000 & Zoom




**5-6:30 PM BOOK SIGNING & RECEPTION**



The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis  
MARIA SMILIOS

*New York City, 1929. A sanatorium, a deadly disease, and a dire nurse shortage. So begins the remarkable true story of the Black nurses who helped cure one of the world's deadliest plagues: tuberculosis.*










# WORLD TB DAY PHOTO BOOTH


Swing by before Convo's on Tap!

Tuesday March 26,  
11am-6:30pm CNR Bridge

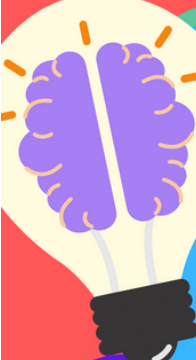

#YesWeCanEndTB #WorldTBDay



## LUNCH & LEARN


# TB TRIVIA

WIN THE SPUTUM CUP!

Tuesday  
March 26


noon - 1pm  
RSPH RRR  
Plaza Ballroom



FREE PIZZA

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT TB!

Come learn why we should all want to be tuberculosis researchers!



## Bulletin

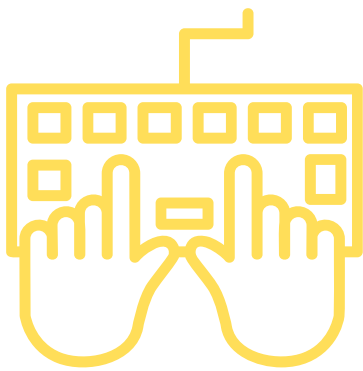
The Atlanta Global Research & Education Collaborative (AGREC) invites proposals for the AY 2024-25 "Global at Home" funding [opportunity](#). **The application deadline is April 19, 2024.** For more details, please visit [here!](#) If you have any inquiries, please contact [Obse Ababiya](mailto:Obse.Ababiya@emory.edu) (obse.ababiya@emory.edu), Associate Director of Atlanta Global Partnerships in the Office of Global Strategy and Initiatives.



### Georgia CTSA Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Research Design (BERD) Pilot Grant Announcement



The BERD program is soliciting proposals to support novel methodological research in biostatistics, epidemiology, or health services research to advance clinical & translational research. Review criteria include quantitative methodological research to fill gaps, innovation, feasibility, and plans for dissemination & translation. Full-time faculty from Emory, Georgia Tech, Morehouse School of Medicine, and UGA are eligible and applications from new investigators are encouraged. **Deadline April 12, 2024 - More info and application [here!](#)**



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

**Email:**

**[lisa.sharling@emory.edu](mailto:lisa.sharling@emory.edu)**

## February Publications

Adams, T., Miller, K., Law, M., Pitcher, E., Chinpar, B., White, K., Deutsch-Feldman, M., LiR., Filardo, T. D., Hernandez-Romieu, A. C., **Schwartz, N. G., Haddad, M. B.**, & Glowicz, J. (2024). Systematic contact investigation: An essential infection prevention skill to prevent tuberculosis transmission in healthcare settings. *Am J Infect Control*, 52(2), 225-228. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2023.06.014>

Brown, T. S., Tang, L., Omar, S. V., Joseph, L., **Meintjes, G., Maartens, G., Wasserman, S., Shah, N. S., Farhat, M. R., Gandhi, N. R.**, Ismail, N., **Brust, J. C. M.**, & Mathema, B. (2024). Genotype-Phenotype Characterization of Serial Mycobacterium tuberculosis Isolates in Bedaquiline-Resistant Tuberculosis. *Clin Infect Dis*, 78(2), 269-276. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciad596>

Khayumbi, J., Sasser, L., McLaughlin, T., Muchiri, B., Ongalo, J., Tonui, J., Ouma, S. G., Campbell, A., Odhiambo, F. H., Kiprotich, C., **Gandhi, N. R., & Day, C.** (2024). Active tuberculosis is associated with depletion of HIV-specific CD4 and CD8 T cells in people with HIV. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses*. <https://doi.org/10.1089/aid.2023.0088>

Nimmo, C., Bionghi, N., Cummings, M. J., Perumal, R., Hopson, M., Al Jubaer, S., **Naidoo, K.**, Wolf, A., Mathema, B., Larsen, M. H., & O'Donnell, M. (2024). Opportunities and limitations of genomics for diagnosing bedaquiline-resistant tuberculosis: a systematic review and individual isolate meta-analysis. *Lancet Microbe*, 5(2), e164-e172. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2666-5247\(23\)00317-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2666-5247(23)00317-8)

Reis, K., Wolf, A., Perumal, R., Seepamore, B., Guzman, K., Ross, J., Cheung, K., Amico, K. R., Brust, J. C. M., Padayatchi, N., Friedland, G., **Naidoo, K.**, Daftary, A., Zelnick, J., & O'Donnell, M. (2024). Differentiated service delivery framework for people with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and HIV co-infection. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. <https://doi.org/10.1097/qai.0000000000003394>

Semitala, F. C., Kadota, J. L., Musinguzi, A., Welishe, F., Nakitende, A., Akello, L., Kunihira Tinka, L., Nakimuli, J., Ritar Kasidi, J., Bishop, O., Nakasendwa, S., Baik, Y., Patel, D., Sammann, A., Nahid, P., Belknap, R., Kanya, M. R., Handley, M. A., Phillips, P. P., Katahoire A, Berger, C. A., **Kiwanuka N,** Katamba A, Dowdy D. W., Cattamanchi, A. (2024). Comparison of 3 optimized delivery strategies for completion of isoniazid-rifapentine (3HP) for tuberculosis prevention among people living with HIV in Uganda: A single-center randomized trial. *PLoS Med*, 21(2), e1004356. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1004356>

White, Y. N., Solans, B. P., Denti, P., van der Laan, L. E., Schaaf, H. S., Vonasek, B., **Malik, A. A.**, Draper, H. R., Hussain, H., Hesselning, A. C., Garcia-Prats, A. J., & Savic, R. M. (2024). Pharmacokinetics and Optimal Dosing of Levofloxacin in Children for Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis: An Individual Patient Data Meta-Analysis. *Clin Infect Dis*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciae024>

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