



Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center
Emory/Georgia

Newsletter



Happy Holidays from TRAC!

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As 2023 draws to a close, we would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for the collective dedication and hard work of the Emory/Georgia TRAC. This holiday season, we extend warm wishes to every member of our esteemed group and their families. We hope that this time of celebration brings joy, reflection, and inspiration for the new year, and we look forward to new insights and progress in 2024.

Wishing you a peaceful and healthy holiday season!

New Staff Spotlight: Lisa Sharling



Please join us in welcoming **Dr. Lisa Sharling**, who is joining TRAC as the new Program Director! Dr. Sharling has an extensive background in infectious disease epidemiology and research project management, and is an MPH alum from the Rollins School of Public Health.

Shortly after completing her PhD and post-doc in parasitology, Dr. Sharling worked with CDC's TB Field Service Branch as an intern and then an ORISE Fellow. She joined Dr. Henry Blumberg's team after receiving her MPH at Emory in 2011, providing support for the Fogarty programs in Ethiopia and Georgia. She then worked as the Associate Director of Research Projects for the Emory-led TB Research Unit. Prior to joining TRAC, Dr. Sharling worked with CDC's Extramural Research Program Office in the Global Health Center for the past two years. We are excited to have her join and support our team!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Laurel Bristow**, who will be leaving her role as TRAC Program Director. We wish her all the best in her future projects!

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER TB WORKS IN PROGRESS

Join us on **Friday, December 15th** from 9-10 AM in RRR 345 or over Zoom (see link below) for our December TB Works in Progress talk titled "**United Nations High Level Meeting on TB: What Does It Mean for Ending TB?**" presented by Dr. Kenneth Castro, Dr. Sarita Shah, and Samhita Kumar, MPH.



For those attending via Zoom, please use this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91245491253?from=addon>

Core Highlight: Request Services



- Are you looking for letters of support when applying to funding opportunities?
- Do you need help developing your study protocol and meeting IRB requirements?
- Are you seeking career development support such as proposal development and grant writing skills?

TRAC Core Services are available for request and span all of our Cores: Admin, BTS, BISB, CPS, and Developmental. Read more and find the corresponding request forms [here](#).

TRACcolades



Dr. Jeff Collins received a perfect score of 10 on his R01 grant application titled “Immunometabolic Biomarkers to Advance TB Diagnosis and Treatment Monitoring.” This is Jeff’s first R01 grant application and this score was received on the first NIH submission.

Dr. Sarita Shah (Emory University) and **Dr. Maricelle Gler** (De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute, Philippines) were awarded a 3-year grant to examine “Genomic correlates of resistance to delamanid, bedaquiline, and other novel TB drugs.” The collaborative grant is funded by NIH/NIAID and the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) and leverages the Regional Prospective Observational Research for Tuberculosis (RePORT) International consortium.

Dr. Lisa Marie Cranmer was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the Emory University School of Medicine.

Dr. Yokabed Ermias, a resident physician and junior TB research investigator at Emory, matched into the new Emory Infectious Disease/CDC EIS Fellowship program.

November Publications

Tomalka, J., Sharma, A., Smith, A. G. C., Avaliani, T., Gujabidze, M., Bakuradze, T., Sabanadze, S., **Jones, D. P.,** Avaliani, Z., **Kipiani, M., Kempker, R. R., & Collins, J. M.** (2023). Combined cerebrospinal fluid metabolomic and cytokine profiling in tuberculosis meningitis reveals robust and prolonged changes in immunometabolic networks. *medRxiv : the preprint server for health sciences*, 2023.06.26.23291676. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.06.26.23291676>

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Marks, S. M., Self, J. L., Venkatappa, T., Wolff, M. B., Hopkins, P. B., Augustine, R. J., Khan, A., **Schwartz, N. G.,** Schmit, K. M., & Morris, S. B. (2023). Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention of Tuberculosis Among People Experiencing Homelessness in the United States: Current Recommendations. *Public health reports (Washington, D.C. : 1974)*, 138(6), 896–907. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00333549221148173>

Scheier, T. C., Youssouf, N., Mosepele, M., Kanyama, C., Adekanmbi, O., Lakoh, S., Muzoora, C. K., **Meintjes, G.,** Mertz, D., Eikelboom, J. W., & **Wasserman, S.** (2023). Standard of care in advanced HIV disease: review of HIV treatment guidelines in six sub-Saharan African countries. *AIDS research and therapy*, 20(1), 83. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12981-023-00581-5>

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Jarvis, J. N., Chou, R., Harrison, T. S., Lawrence, D. S., Muthoga, C., Mupeli, K., Meya, D. B., Mwandumba, H. C., Kanyama, C., **Meintjes, G.**, Leeme, T. B., Ndhlovu, C. E., Beattie, P., Sued, O., Pérez Casas, C., Makanga, M., & Ford, N. (2023). Translating evidence into global impact: lessons for HIV research and policy development from the AMBITION trial. *The Lancet. Global health*, 11(11), e1688–e1690. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(23\)00412-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(23)00412-6)

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