TRAC

Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center
Emory/Georgia

Newsletter

TRAC Annual Meeting

Emory/Georgia TRAC held its 2nd annual TRAC meeting on November 9, 2023. Presentations included updates on core activities over the last year, as well as scientific talks from a diverse group of TRAC members. The meeting concluded with an honors session over lunch. We received great feedback about the future direction of the TRAC, as well as enthusiasm and interest regarding the resources the TRAC currently offers. The afternoon saw a strategic planning meeting about the future of the TRAC, and we are looking forward to implementing everyone's comments to continue to provide high-level resources to support the next generation of TB researchers.

Upcoming Workshops & Presentations

INFLUENTIAL MENTORING SERIES: BUILDING MENTORING CAPACITY AT INSTITUTIONS

The final session of our six-part series on Influential Mentoring will take place Thursday, November 30th at 9am EST. Dawn Comeau, MPH, PhD, will lead the session on how to build mentoring capacity at your home institution. All six sessions of the series will be available for viewing on our YouTube channel: @EmoryGeorgiaTRAC

TUBERCULOSIS TRIALS CONSORTIUM

Register HERE

Registration is now open for the December meeting of the TBTC. The meeting will take place over four days (December 12-December 15) in the R. Randall Rollins Building at the Rollins School of Public Health campus. The TRAC will be hosting a reception and networking cocktail hour on Wednesday, December 13th from 5:30-7:30 PM.

TUBERCULOSIS HACK DAY WITH

SEATRAC
Seattle Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center

DECEMBER 13, 2023 11:30AM-6:00PM

Join us for hands-on workshops on analysis techniques and small-group hack time with bulk and single-cell RNA-seq datasets, led in person by Emory University informaticists with virtual presentations from members of The University of Washington's SeaTRAC. Lunch will be provided.

RRR 345 or on Zoom (Register HERE)

GRA Spotlight: Amy (Doyoon) Kim

Amy Kim, a first-year epidemiology MPH student, recently joined the TB Research Center as a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) and currently assists with Dr. Sarita Shah's CONTEXT project. She brings with her a passion for TB research, first ignited by undergraduate epidemiology courses completed for her Bachelor of Public Health at the University of Waterloo. She aims to contribute to the global effort to combat TB and protect those at risk.

While Amy was fortunate to receive offers from several schools, she ultimately chose the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University after discovering the Emory TB Center. She shared that she was deeply inspired by the center's mission and commitment to domestic and international TB research projects. She firmly believes her experience at Emory will uniquely equip her with the necessary expertise in infectious disease epidemiology and prepare her to be a highly skilled public health professional.

We are thrilled to welcome Amy to the team and excited to play a role in her development towards becoming an infectious disease epidemiologist.

TRACcolades

Dr. Anne Spaulding received a one-year grant from The Gates Foundation in October to conduct a cross-sectional study of a penitentiary facility in Mozambique. The study aims to calculate the sensitivity and specificity of tongue swabbing compared with sputum specimens in the setting of pulmonary tuberculosis and measure the perceptions of the usefulness of tongue swabs in a prison setting through surveys of healthcare staff.

Dr. Kogie Naidoo was awarded the prestigious Outstanding Female Scientist Prize presented by the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), a research program of the European Union (EU). This prize is awarded to "world-leading female scientists in sub-Saharan Africa working on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected infectious diseases."

October Publications

Wasserman S, Harrison TS. Tuberculous Meningitis - New Approaches Needed. N Engl J Med. 2023 Oct 12;389(15):1425-1426. doi: 10.1056/NEJMe2310262. PMID: 37819958.

Winston CA, Marks SM, **Carr W**. Estimated Costs of 4-Month Pulmonary Tuberculosis Treatment Regimen, United States. Emerg Infect Dis. 2023 Oct;29(10):2102-2104. doi: 10.3201/eid2910.230314. PMID: 37735769; PMCID: PMC10521593.

Brown TS, Tang L, **Omar SV**, **Joseph L**, **Meintjes G, Maartens G, Wasserman S, Shah NS,** Farhat MR, **Gandhi NR**, Ismail N, **Brust JCM**, Mathema B. Genotype-Phenotype Characterization of Serial Mycobacterium tuberculosis Isolates in Bedaquiline-Resistant Tuberculosis. Clin Infect Dis. 2023 Oct 24:ciad596. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciad596. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37874928.

Winters N, Schnitzer ME, Campbell JR, Ripley S, **Winston C**, Savic R, Ahmad N, Bisson G, Dheda K, Esmail A, Gegia M, Monedero I, Dalcolmo MP, Rodrigues D, Singla R, Yim JJ, Menzies D. Identifying patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis who may benefit from shorter durations of treatment. PLoS One. 2023 Oct 5;18(10):e0292106. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0292106. PMID: 37797071; PMCID: PMC10553332.

Haley CA, **Schechter MC**, Ashkin D, Peloquin CA, **Cegielski JP**, Andrino BB, Burgos M, Caloia LA, Chen L, Colon-Semidey A, DeSilva MB, Dhanireddy S, Dorman SE, Dworkin FF, Hammond-Epstein H, Easton AV, Gaensbauer JT, Ghassemieh B, Gomez ME, Horne D, Jasuja S, Jones BA, Kaplan LJ, Khan AE, Kracen E, Labuda S, Landers KM, Lardizabal AA, Lasley MT, Letzer DM, Lopes VK, Lubelchek RJ, Patricia Macias C, Mihalyov A, Misch EA, Murray JA, Narita M, Nilsen DM, Ninneman MJ, Ogawa L, Oladele A, Overman M, **Ray SM**, Ritger KA, Rowlinson MC, Sabuwala N, Schiller TM, Schwartz LE, Spitters C, Thomson DB, Tresgallo RR, Valois P, **Goswami ND**; BPaL Implementation Group. Implementation of Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, and Linezolid in the United States: Experience Using a Novel All-Oral Treatment Regimen for Treatment of Rifampin-Resistant or Rifampin-Intolerant Tuberculosis Disease. Clin Infect Dis. 2023 Oct 5;77(7):1053-1062. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciad312. PMID: 37249079.

Jin Y, **Benkeser D**, **Kipiani M**, Maranchick NF, Mikiashvili L, Barbakadze K, Avaliani Z, Alghamdi WA, Alshaer MH, Peloquin CA, **Blumberg HM, Kempker RR**. The effect of anti-tuberculosis drug pharmacokinetics on QTc prolongation. Int J Antimicrob Agents. 2023 Oct;62(4):106939. doi: 10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2023.106939. Epub 2023 Jul 29. PMID: 37517627; PMCID: PMC10538394.

Ghebrekristos YT, Beylis N, Centner CM, Venter R, Derendinger B, Tshivhula H, Naidoo S, Alberts R, Prins B, Tokota A, Dolby T, Marx F, **Omar SV**, Warren R, Theron G. Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra on contaminated liquid cultures for tuberculosis and rifampicin-resistance detection: a diagnostic accuracy evaluation. Lancet Microbe. 2023 Oct;4(10):e822-e829. doi: 10.1016/S2666-5247(23)00169-6. Epub 2023 Sep 19. PMID: 37739001; PMCID: PMC10600950.

Nelson KN, Shah NS, Cranmer LM, Vasudevan L, **Bednarczyk RA**. An effective vaccine is only the first step: the need to create and sustain demand for TB vaccines. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2023 Oct 1;27(10):718-720. doi: 10.5588/ijtld.23.0365. PMID: 37749838; PMCID: PMC10519388.

Teshima A, Shatnawi AA, Satyanarayana S, Khader YS, **Maia IF**, Wilson NC. High prevalence of current tobacco smoking among patients with tuberculosis and people living with HIV in Jordan: A cross-sectional survey. Tob Induc Dis. 2023 Oct 20;21:136. doi: 10.18332/tid/171551. PMID: 37869614; PMCID: PMC10587893.

Branigan D, Denkinger CM, Furin J, Heitkamp P, Deborggraeve S, van Gemert W, Herrera R, Kondratyuk S, McKenna L, Ndjeka N, **Omar SV**, Pai M. Diagnostics to support the scaling up of shorter, safer tuberculosis regimens. Lancet Microbe. 2023 Oct;4(10):e758-e760. doi: 10.1016/S2666-5247(23)00217-3. Epub 2023 Jul 31. PMID: 37536352.

Corrêa PR, Schwarz MGA, **Maia RM**, Vergara FMF, Moraes MO, Mendonça-Lima L. Differences in responses to the intracellular macrophage environment between Mycobacterium bovis BCG vaccine strains Moreau and Pasteur. Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz. 2023 Oct 13;118:e230070. doi: 10.1590/0074-02760230070. PMID: 37851722; PMCID: PMC10581373.

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