

## TB NOTES






TB Notes 2, 2022



Notes from the Director

Dear Colleague,

It has been a busy spring for staff at the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE).

The [Think. Test. Treat TB](#) campaign to raise awareness of latent TB infection is in full swing, and has received national and local media attention. The campaign now includes patient and provider education materials in seven different languages available for download or to order through [CDC-INFO on Demand](#) . As of June 1, 2022, the campaign website has over 40,000 views and over 2,000 resource downloads. I recently discussed the [Think. Test. Treat TB](#) campaign, and TB in the United States on [Association of State and Territorial Health Offices](#)  (ASTHO)'s Public Health Review [podcast](#) .

Our work and commitment to address health equity issues in TB continues. In April, CDC released a new quick reference document, [CDC recommendations for correctional and detention settings](#). This resource summarizes testing, vaccination, and treatment recommendations for HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and TB and highlights critical public health actions applicable at intake, during incarceration/ detention, and at release. I encourage you to share these recommendations with correctional health partners.

This spring has provided opportunities to collaborate and connect with partners virtually, and in person. In May, the [TB Trials Consortium \(TBTC\)](#) held their virtual meeting where TBTC members and others discussed a variety of clinical trials research activities and topics. Later that month, several CDC staff attended the [National TB Conference](#) , the first time the conference has been held in person since 2019. DTBE also participated in several activities with [TB Elimination Alliance](#)  colleagues in recognition of May's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

These are just a few highlights from our work over the past quarter. I invite you to read further for additional news, resources, and success stories from across DTBE.

Thank you for your continued efforts towards our goal of TB elimination.

Philip LoBue, MD, FACP, FCCP  
Director

Division of Tuberculosis Elimination  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention



## Susan McClure selected as Associate Director of Policy and Issues Management (ADPIM)

DTBE welcomed Susan McClure, MPH, as the new Associate Director for Policy and Issues Management (ADPIM) on June 5, 2022.

Since arriving at CDC in 2000, Susan has served in a number of policy, communication, and management positions. Prior to joining DTBE, she served as the Associate Director for Policy at the [Center for Global Health \(CGH\)](#) where she managed congressional outreach, budget formulation, executive branch requests, issues management, policy analysis/training and external relations with a variety of partners. Before CGH, Susan served as the Team Lead for Partnership Outreach in the [National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases \(NCEZID\)](#) policy office focusing on identifying, developing, and maintaining key strategic partnerships to support center priorities.



Susan began her career as a television news reporter in Georgia. She received a Master of Public Health from the University of South Florida and a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from the University of Georgia.

## Clinical Research Branch



### TB Trials Consortium (TBTC) Virtual Meeting

The TBTC Virtual Meeting was hosted from May 10 –12, 2022. Despite the virtual environment, the interactive meeting offered participants with a variety of opportunities to connect and collaborate. This was the first TBTC meeting where our new Clinical Research Branch (CRB) Chief, Wendy Carr, was able to address the whole Consortium and present her vision. Dr. Carr discussed building a cohesive consortium with a pipeline of research studies by increasing collaboration and partnerships internally and externally as well as accelerating study development and implementation. In addition to the general sessions, the meeting held dedicated forums for laboratorians and study coordinators.



*Submitted by Carla Jeffries, JD, MPH*

### Kia Bryant selected as Team Lead for Data Management and Implementation Team





CRB is happy to announce Kia Bryant as the new Data Management and Implementation Team Lead. Kia has served as the Acting Team Lead for the Team since January. Prior to this role, she was an epidemiologist on the team working primarily on the quality assurance of study data through the development of quality assurance reports for [TBTC](#) clinical trial sites. In addition, she participated in the implementation of the TBTC Study 31/ACTG A5439 statistical analysis plan and data analysis. She has been a member of CRB since 2016.

*Submitted by Carla Jeffries, JD, MPH*

## Communications, Education, and Behavioral Studies Branch

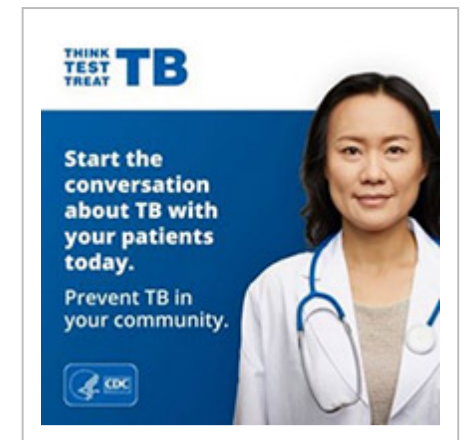


The [Think. Test. Treat TB](#) patient and provider education materials are now available in [Chinese](#), [English](#), [Ilocano](#), [Marshallese](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#), and [Vietnamese](#). Check out the new [Campaign Resource Overview Guide](#)  for a list of available graphics, fact sheets, and other materials. Print materials are available to order for free through [CDC INFO on Demand](#) .





*Think. Test. Treat TB* materials have been spotted in Seattle, Washington, and Los Angeles, California. Mobile ads were spotted outside the [International Community Health Services](#) clinic in Seattle. The TB team from [Los Angeles Department of Public Health](#) spread the *Think. Test. Treat TB* message in their community as part of World TB Day activities.



For more information about this campaign, and ideas on how to use the campaign in your community, visit [cdc.gov/thinktesttreattb](http://cdc.gov/thinktesttreattb) and follow our activities on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

*Submitted by Leeanna Allen, MPH and Nick DeLuca, PhD*



## Ukrainian TB Resources Available

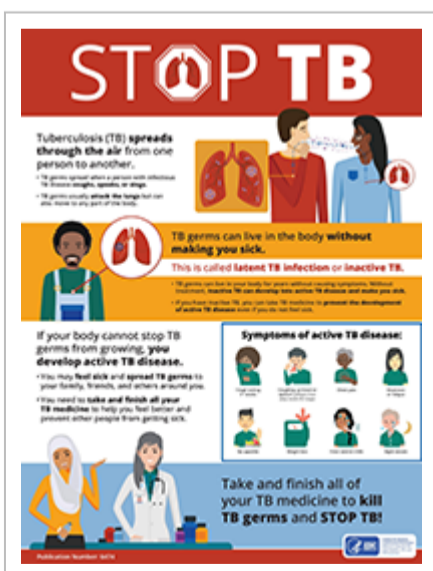
“Questions and Answers about Tuberculosis” and “TB: General Information fact sheet” are now available in Ukrainian. Access [patient and general public materials](#) in multiple languages on the CDC website, including Dari, Pashto, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and more. Materials can be ordered for free through [CDC-INFO on Demand](#) [PDF – 685 KB].

*Submitted by Peri Hopkins, MPH*



## Stop TB poster

In June 2022, CDC released an updated [Stop TB poster](#) [PDF – 2 MB]. The Stop TB poster was originally released over 20 years ago and was previously updated in 2012. The poster can be used by TB programs and other healthcare settings to help educate people with TB disease and latent TB infection, as well as people at risk for TB.



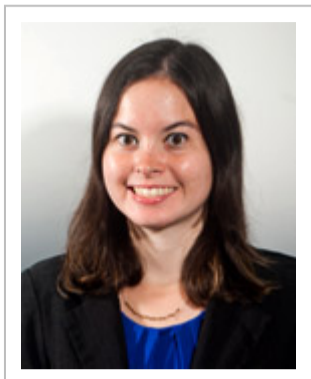
The revised Stop TB poster:

- incorporates new graphics,
- describes how TB is spread,
- explains the difference between latent TB infection and TB disease,
- includes symptoms of active TB disease, and
- highlights the importance of completing TB treatment to help stop TB.

To download online copies in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), please check out the [CDC website](#). To order print copies, please visit [CDC-INFO on Demand](#) [PDF – 685 KB].

*Submitted by Carissa Sera-Josef, MS, CHES*

### Kathryn Winglee selected as Team Lead for Epidemiology Team



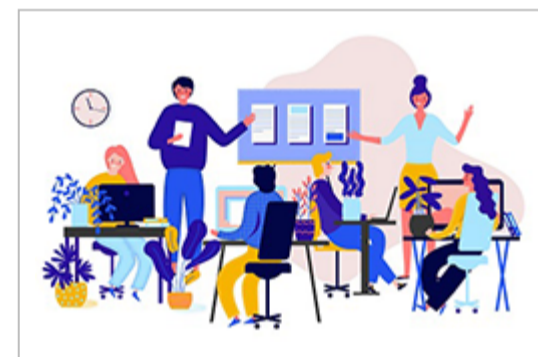
Dr. Kathryn Winglee has been selected as the permanent Epidemiology Team Lead in SEOIB. Dr. Winglee has been serving on detail as Epidemiology Team Lead since January, where she has been leading the implementation of the [TB Epidemiologic Studies Consortium \(TBESC\)-III](#), the wrap-up of TBESC-II, the development of a cooperative agreement to improve latent TB infection connections to care for persons undergoing immigration status adjustment, and many other projects under the Epidemiology Team umbrella.

*Submitted by Julie Self, PhD, MPH*

### Program Evaluation Open Forums offered by the TB Program Evaluation Network (TB PEN)

TB programs use [program evaluation](#) to promote program improvement and help move towards the goal of TB elimination. The TB Program Evaluation Network (PEN) is a unique network of Program Evaluation Focal Points from each state and some local TB programs. The mission of TB PEN is to develop and strengthen the capacity of state and local TB programs to monitor and evaluate their programs and use findings to enhance the effectiveness of prevention and control activities.

TB PEN works to strengthen program evaluation capacity among state and local TB programs by hosting bi-monthly Open Forum Sessions. These hour-long virtual sessions focus on relevant topics to TB PEN members. For example, TB focal points recently described how they used [Aggregate Reports for Tuberculosis Program Evaluation \(ARPE\) data](#) to inform program evaluation and improvement activities in their jurisdictions. Other recent Open Forums offered tools and ideas that can be used to enhance performance, monitoring, evaluation, and program improvement activities, including:



- The Economic Costing of Video DOT Programs: a DIY Tool for Local Health Departments
- Utilizing NTIP for Performance Monitoring and Program Evaluation: Findings and Tips from TB Programs.

TB PEN plans to continue supporting evaluation capacity among TB programs by offering topics such as “Evaluation 101 Training” to help inform newer PEN Focal Points and serve as a refresher for others. Other upcoming topics may include:

- Implementing and improving targeted testing and treatment: Latent TB infection (LTBI) presentations by state and city TB programs
- Community-based approaches to improve TB disease and latent TB infection care amongst disproportionately affected populations

We invite you to join in future TB PEN Open Forums and participate in the TB PEN by emailing [tbpen@cdc.gov](mailto:tbpen@cdc.gov).

*Submitted by Tempest Hill, DrPH, MPH*

### Laboratory Branch Achieves ISO17025 Reccreditation



In early 2015, the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination's Laboratory Branch was selected by CDC's Office for Laboratory Science and Safety (OLSS) as one of five pilot laboratories tasked with seeking accreditation to the International Organization of Standardization (ISO) Standard 17025 for Testing and Calibration Laboratories. The laboratory obtained accreditation to the standard in 2018. On March 17-18, 2022, Laboratory Branch successfully completed a full reassessment by American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). This included a review of purchasing, customer satisfaction, communication, equipment maintenance, environmental controls, sample accessioning, technical procedures, quality control, test reporting, training and competency, and direct observation of the test procedure under scope (pyrosequencing). To maintain accreditation requires a high level of commitment, support, and effort from all laboratory staff members.

*Submitted by Lois Diem*

## Highlights from Partners

### 2022 National TB Conference

The 2022 National TB Conference (NTCA) hosted an in-person TB conference from May 23 -26, 2022 in Rancho Mirage, California. The theme of the conference was "TB Elimination: Back in Focus." The agenda for this conference was curated to provide TB-themed content with a refocus on public health and TB. Session topics included new TB guidelines, TB during pregnancy, new arrivals in the United States, as well as specific sessions for clinicians, nurses, and epidemiologists. Dr. Andrew Vernon, former chief of DTBE's Clinical Research Branch, received the [Robert Koch Award](#), which recognizes an outstanding contribution with a clinical, epidemiological or academic focus by a TB researcher or TB research organization working to eliminate TB. To learn more, visit the conference [website](#).



### Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Twitter Storm

On May 27, 2022, the [TB Elimination Alliance](#) hosted a Twitter Storm to raise awareness about TB disease and latent TB infection during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Participants included the [Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations \(AAPCHO\)](#), the [Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum \(APIAHF\)](#), the [Hepatitis B Foundation](#), [Stop TB USA](#), and others. Overall, there were around 100 tweets and 29 participants in the Storm. To catch up on the messages, search [#TEAstorm22](#) on Twitter.



## DTBE-authored Publications

Kim S, Cohen T, Horsburgh CR, Miller JW, Hill AN, Marks SM, Li R, Kammerer JS, Salomon JA, Menzies NA. [Trends, mechanisms, and racial/ethnic differences of tuberculosis incidence in the US-born population aged 50 years or older in the United States](#). Clin Infect Dis 2022;74(9):1594-603.

Chu VT, Schwartz NG, Donnelly MAP, Chuey MR, Soto R, Yousaf AR, Schmitt-Matzen EN, Sleweon S, Ruffin J, Thornburg N, Harcourt JL, Tamin A, Kim G, Folster JM, Hughes LJ, Tong S, Stringer G, Albanese BA, Totten SE, Hudzic MM, Matzinger SR, Dietrich EA, Sheldon SW, Stous S, McDonald EC, Austin B, Beatty ME, Staples JE, Killerby ME, Hsu CH, Tate JE, Kirking HL, Matanock A; COVID-19 Household Transmission Team. Comparison of home antigen testing with RT-PCR and viral culture during the course of SARS-CoV-2 infection. JAMA Intern Med 2022. Epub ahead of print.

Smith JP, Oeltmann JE, Hill AN, Tobias JL, Boyd R, Click ES, Finlay A, Mondongo C, Zetola NM, Moonan PK. Characterizing tuberculosis transmission dynamics in high-burden urban and rural settings. Sci Rep 2022;12(1):6780.

Waltenburg MA, Whaley MJ, Chancey RJ, Donnelly MAP, Chuey MR, Soto R, Schwartz NG, Chu VT, Sleweon S, McCormick DW, Uehara A, Retchless AC, Tong S, Folster JM, Petway M, Thornburg NJ, Drobeniuc J, Austin B, Hudzic MM, Stringer G, Albanese BA, Totten SE, Matzinger SR, Staples JE, Killerby ME, Hughes LJ, Matanock A, Beatty M, Tate JE, Kirking HL, Hsu

CH; COVID-19 Laboratory & Testing Task Force. Household transmission and symptomology of SARS-CoV-2 Alpha variant among children—California and Colorado, 2021. *J Pediatr* 2022. Epub ahead of print

**Filardo TD, Feng P, Pratt RH, Price SF, Self JL.** Tuberculosis—United States, 2021. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2022;71:441–6.

Holzman SB, Perry A, Saleeb P, Pyan A, Keh C, Salcedo K, Narita M, Ahmed A, Miller TL, Pettit AC, Khurana R, Whipple M, **Katz D**, Largen A, **Krueger A**, Shah M. Evaluation of the latent tuberculosis care cascade among public health clinics in the United States. *Clin Infect Dis* 2022. Epub ahead of print.

Phillips PPJ, **Kurbatova EV**, Dorman SE. Four-month rifapentine regimens for tuberculosis—reply. *N Engl J Med* 2022;386(11):1095–6.

Smith JP, Modongo C, Moonan PK, Dima M, Matsiri O, Fane O, Click ES, **Boyd R**, Finlay A, Surie D, Tobias JL, Zetola NM, Oeltmann JE. Tuberculosis attributed to transmission within healthcare facilities, Botswana—The Kopanyo Study. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2022. Epub ahead of print.

Spaulding AC, Rabeeah Z, Del Mar González-Montalvo M, Akiyama MJ, Baker BJ, Bauer HM, Gibson BR, Nijhawan AE, **Parvez F**, Wangu Z, Chan PA; Rollins Investigational Team on STIs in Corrections. Prevalence and management of sexually transmitted infections in correctional settings: a systematic review. *Clin Infect Dis* 2022;74(Supplement 2):S193–S217. (Parvez, also with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene).

**Carr W, Kurbatova E, Starks A, Goswami N, Allen L, Winston C.** Interim guidance: 4-month rifapentine-moxifloxacin regimen for the treatment of drug-susceptible pulmonary tuberculosis—United States, 2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2022;71(8):285–9.

Gargis AS, Spicer LM, Kent AG, **Zhu W**, Campbell D, McAllister G, Ewing TO, Albrecht V, Stevens VA, Sheth M, Padilla J, Batra D, Johnson JK, Halpin AL, Rasheed JK, Elkins CA, Karlsson M, Lutgring JD. Sentinel surveillance reveals emerging daptomycin-resistant ST736 *Enterococcus faecium* and multiple mechanisms of linezolid resistance in enterococci in the United States. *Front Microbiol* 2022;12:807398.

Saelee R, Zell E, Murthy BP, Castro-Roman P, Fast H, Meng L, Shaw L, Gibbs-Scharf L, **Chorba T**, Harris LQ, Murthy N. Disparities in COVID-19 vaccination coverage between urban and rural counties—United States, December 14, 2020–January 31, 2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2022;71:335–40.

**Winglee K, Hill AN**, Belknap R, Stout JE, **Ayers T.** Variability of interferon- $\gamma$  release assays in people at high risk of tuberculosis infection or progression to tuberculosis disease living in the United States. *Clin Microbiol Infect* 2022:S1198-743X(22)00094-5. Epub ahead of print.

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