Bios





Payam Nahid, MD, MPH

Dr. Payam Nahid is a pulmonologist, epidemiologist and clinical trialist. He is Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at UCSF, Director of the UCSF Center for Tuberculosis, Co-Director of the UCSF-UC Berkeley Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center (UC TRAC) and incoming Executive Director of UCSF's Institute for Global Health Sciences. Dr. Nahid serves as the Senior Research Advisor to the SMART4TB Consortium and a member of the WHO STAG. His research includes the conduct of clinical trials and translational research in TB with the goal of improving the care of patients with TB and HIV/TB worldwide. Dr. Nahid has led and contributed to the development of U.S. and international practice guidelines for the treatment of TB.



Lisa Chen, MD

Dr. Chen is a Professor of Medicine in the division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of California San Francisco. She heads the Curry International TB Center at UCSF, which has served as a CDC Center of Excellence for TB training, education, and consultation for the past 30 years. She is the current president for the North American Region International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (NAR IUATLD) and serves on the Coordinating Board for STOP-TB USA and the federal DHHS Advisory Council for the Elimination of TB. Dr. Chen's international contributions for over 15+ years have been as a technical program advisor and education specialist for the development and strengthening of national programmatic management of drug-resistant tuberculosis (PMDT), has served as a contributor/reviewer for both domestic and international guideline on DR-TB, and has been the co-editor for the last two editions of the CITC Drug-Resistant TB Survival Guide.



Philip Hopewell, MD

Dr. Hopewell is professor of medicine, emeritus, at the University of California, San Francisco based at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital where he served as Chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and as Associate Dean. He is the co-founder of the Curry International Tuberculosis Center at UCSF. His academic career has focused on clinical and epidemiological studies of TB and HIV-associated pulmonary conditions in both low-and high-burden settings. Dr Hopewell is a previous President of the American Thoracic Society and in 2004 received the Society's Trudeau Medal that recognizes lifelong major contributions to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of lung disease. He was also awarded the Louis Mark Medal from the American College of Chest Physicians, and the Union Medal from the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases. Dr Hopewell has worked closely with the World Health Organization, United States Agency for International Development, and other organizations to establish and disseminate best practices on TB diagnosis, treatment, and control. He developed the concept and chaired the committee that produced the first International Standards for TB Care and led the effort to implement the Standards globally. In 2009 the Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association awarded him The Princess Chichibu Global Memorial TB Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to global TB control.



Kenneth Castro, MD, FIDSA

Professor Kenneth G. Castro is a physician-scientist trained in epidemiology, internal medicine, and infectious diseases. He serves as Senior TB Scientific Advisor, Office of Infectious Disease, Bureau for Global Health, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). He holds academic appointments as Professor, Hubert Department of Global Health and Department of Epidemiology, Rollins School of Public Health, and as Adjunct Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, Emory University. He also serves as Co-Director of the Emory TB Center and as Director of the Fulbright Scholarship—Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program. Prior to joining Emory University in 2014, Dr. Castro's career spanned 31 years at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps, where he started in the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) and progressed to become Director, Division of TB Elimination and Acting Director, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. He attained the rank of Assistant Surgeon General (Rear Admiral), USPHS. An award-winning author of more than 185 scholarly and policy publications, Dr. Castro is an associate editor for Emerging Infectious Diseases, the International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, and Public Health Reports.



Elizabeth Fair, PhD, MPH

Dr. Elizabeth Fair is an infectious disease epidemiologist with a primary faculty appointment in the Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and has an affiliate faculty appointment in the Institute for Global Health Sciences. Dr. Fair's research interests include TB, TB/HIV, global health, and operational research. Her current work focuses on public health interventions for intensified TB case finding in high-burden settings. As an educator Dr. Fair teaches, mentors, and serves as Director of the PhD Program in Global Health in the UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences, as well as co-Director of the TB Research and Mentoring Program (TB RAMP) and co-Director of the Development Core of the TRAC.



Sophie Huddart, PhD

Dr. Sophie Huddart is a tuberculosis epidemiologist and postdoctoral scholar at UCSF. She is interested in TB quality of care, especially how it influences the long-term outcomes of people with TB.



Jonathan Budzik, MD, PhD

Dr. Jon Budzik graduated from Dartmouth College with a BA in Molecular Biology & Biochemistry and Oxford University with a MSc in Human Anatomy & Genetics. In the MD-PhD program at the University of Chicago, he studied mechanisms of pili assembly in Gram-positive bacteria. Following internal medicine and pulmonary fellowship at UC San Francisco, he obtained post-doctoral training in M. tuberculosis pathogenesis at UC Berkeley. He joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor at UC San Francisco in 2021. His lab is focused on understanding innate immune responses to M. tuberculosis infection.



Karolina Maciag, MD, PhD

Dr. Karolina Maciag received her PhD in Immunology from Harvard Medical School and her MD from the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Science and Technology. She did her residency in Internal Medicine at Johns Hopkins, and fellowship in Infectious Diseases at the University of Washington. She has been passionate about TB since before medical school, especially after completing a six-month fellowship working with community health workers in rural Guatemala.



Hedwin Kitdorlang Dkhar, PhD

Dr. Hedwin Kitdorlang Dkhar (known as Kit') is currently working as a staff scientist with Dr. Jyothi Rengarajan at the Emory Vaccine Center, Emory University, Atlanta GA. His research area includes understanding the host immunomodulatory pathways induced by Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells (MDSCs) in pulmonary Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) infection. In collaboration with Dr. Krishnendu Roy at Georgia Tech, he is trying to target MDSCs using synthetic nanoparticles and delineate the impact of MDSCs depletion on lung immune responses against Mtb. Along with Dr. Chris Ibegbu at Emory university, they are trying to understand human MDSCs and their function. Hedwin Kit' is also interested in comparing the lung cellular and spatial transcriptomics to discover pathways and gene expression profile that are altered during Mtb infection. Hedwin Kit' Dkhar received his Ph.D from the CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (JNU) Chandigarh, India. Working with Dr. Pawan Gupta, he deciphered the mechanism of host macrophage nuclear receptor's modulation of host defense and susceptibility to Mtb. He worked as a postdoctoral associate with (late) Dr. Josephine Clark-Curtiss and Prof. Roy Curtiss III at the University of Florida, Gainesville FL where he was involved in evaluating the efficacy of the Recombinant Attenuated Salmonella vaccines (RASVs) against Mtb and NTM.



Riti Sharan, PhD

Dr. Riti Sharan is a NIH-funded Principal Investigator at Texas Biomed and Core Scientist with SNPRC, Dr. Sharan's lab studies host-pathogen interactions and host-directed therapies in TB/HIV co-infection using rhesus macaque model. HIV and TB act synergistically to magnify the burden of disease with deadly consequences worldwide. People living with HIV are at a high risk of reactivating latent TB infection. Dr. Sharan seeks to clarify the precise mechanisms of how HIV reactivates latent tuberculosis (TB) and how this causes both diseases to get worse, even when patients are on antiretroviral therapy against HIV.



Andrea Doltrario, MD, MSc

Dr. Andrea Doltrario is a Post-doctoral Associate in the Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) and a specialist in infectious diseases and tropical medicine. She holds medical and master's degrees from the University of Sao Paolo, Brazil. To date, her research has centered on the applications of metabolomics for discovering urinary biomarkers as a new diagnostic tool for tuberculosis.



Bios



Tess Ryckman, PhD

Dr. Tess Ryckman's research involves the use of mechanistic modeling and cost-effectiveness analysis to inform policy decisions through deeper understanding of the natural history and transmission of infectious diseases. She is currently engaged in several projects related to tuberculosis epidemiology and the economics of strategies to reduce population-level TB burdens and improve experiences and outcomes for individuals with TB. Dr. Ryckman completed her PhD in Health Policy at Stanford University in 2021 and a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2022.



Richard So, MPH, MPA

Richard So is the Executive Director of San Francisco Hep B Free. Richard is passionate about fighting hepatitis B and liver cancer and making the San Francisco Bay Area the first hepatitis B free area in the nation. He has worked in healthcare for over a decade with focus in public health. He previously worked for SF Hep B Free - Bay Area successfully expanding its screening and education program in San Mateo County. His exposure to hepatitis B public health work came years ago working in government affairs for SF Hep B Free lobbying members of congress to shine a light on this huge health disparity between Asian Americans and others. Richard has a master's in public health and public policy from Columbia University, has worked as a health care consultant, and served in the US Peace Corps as a rural health volunteer in Paraguay.



Renee Purdy, MEd

Renee Purdy is a TB Survivor and advocate for We Are TB. Renee was diagnosed with active pulmonary tuberculosis in December 2022 and completed treatment in January 2024. She is a 1st grade teacher in the Bay Area and mom to an amazing 7-year-old.



Chibo Ahrum Shinagawa, MS, PNP

Chibo Ahrum Shinagawa is the Senior Program Manager of Infectious Diseases at the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO). In this role, Chibo is the lead point of contact with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Project Officers and principally responsible for managing AAPCHO's Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination Alliance (TEA) program, and serves as TEA and AAPCHO's representative on both the Stop TB USA Coordinating Board, the Curry International Tuberculosis Center Western Region Advisory Committee, California TB Elimination Advisory Committee, and the Coalition for a TB-Free California. Chibo holds a Master of Science degree in Global Health Policy and Management from Brandeis University, a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Mills College and a Project Management Professional (PMP)® Certification from the Project Management Institute.



Vivian Liang

Vivian Liang is the Government & Community Affairs Representative at North East Medical Services (NEMS) and is working on AB 2132, aimed at increasing TB screenings statewide, this year with the Coalition for a TB Free California. Prior to joining NEMS, Vivian worked in the California State Assembly and US House of Representatives.



Paul Ogongo, PhD

Dr. Paul Ogongo earned his PhD from University of KwaZulu-Natal and Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI), South Africa, with Dr. Alasdair Leslie where he studied lung tissue resident memory T-cell response to M. tuberculosis in humans. His thesis demonstrated the enrichment of γδ T-cells in lesions of Mtb infected lung and the role of CD4 producing IL-17 T-cells in immune control of TB. Paul is a Postdoc with Prof. Joel Ernst at the University of California, San Francisco, where he focuses on High resolution analysis of human M. tuberculosis specific T-cells. Paul is a Postdoctoral Fellow of the Helen Hay Whitney Foundation



Tessa Mochizuki

Tessa Mochizuki is an epidemiologist and research scientist at UCSF. She currently works on TB diagnostic studies with collaborators across Africa and Asia. Her prior work includes several years working on TB prevention in California.



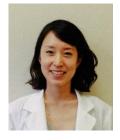
Kinari Shah, MSc

Kinari Shah is a researcher in the Department of Pulmonary Medicine working primarily on novel diagnostics research across Asia and Africa. She previously worked on patient centricity in clinical trials at a non-profit in DC and earned her MSc in Global Disease Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins & BS from the University of Michigan.



Cynthia A. Tschampl, PhD

Dr Cynthia A. Tschampl is a Research Scientist at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University and has more than 20 years' experience with U.S. and global health, starting with a policy and advocacy background (including work in South Africa, Colombia, and Haiti). Dr. Tschampl's research involves both quantitative and qualitative research methods with specialization in economic evaluations, such as cost-effectiveness and distributional cost-effectiveness. Her research interests include prevention and control of infectious diseases (including healthcare financing thereof), responses to substance use disorder, services for people without housing, health inequities, eating disorders, access to oral healthcare, and quality measurement. Dr. Tschampl has served on the Massachusetts Medical Advisory Committee for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (MACET) since 2004 and gave the Inaugural Thomas Q. Garvey Public Health Lecture in 2021. She received the National TB Controller Association's 2011 Charles DeGraw TB Award for outstanding service and was elected Chair-Elect of Stop TB USA in 2021 and rose to Chair in 2023. She has served nearly a decade on the planning committee of the North American Region meeting of The International Union Against TB and Lung Disease, including as Co-chair of the Stop TB Plenary since 2020. She has also served as a member of the Global Partnership for Dengue Control.



Amy Tang, MD

Dr. Amy Shen Tang is a primary care internist and the Director of Immigrant Health at North East Medical Services in the San Francisco Bay Area where she oversees hepatitis B/C and TB elimination programs. She serves as a site investigator for the CDC TB Epidemiological Studies Consortium III, in collaboration with UCSF, CDPH, and SFDPH to implement high-impact and cost-effective strategies to increase LTBI testing and treatment in the primary care setting. She is a graduate of UC San Francisco School of Medicine and completed her primary care internal medicine residency at NYU and Bellevue Hospital in New York City.



Susannah Graves, MD, MPH

Dr. Susannah Graves is the Tuberculosis Controller for San Francisco and has also been serving as Acting Director for the Disease Prevention and Control Branch since January 2023. Prior to her work in San Francisco, she served in various roles including Chief of TB Control and Refugee Health for the County of San Diego and on the faculty of University of California, San Diego as the Site Director for the Global Medicine Residency in Mozambique where her work focused on post-graduate medical education and tuberculosis prevention among hospital workers.



Felix Crespin, HPC II

Felix Crespin is the Chief of Disease Investigation for the San Francisco TB Prevention and Control Section. In 2023, Felix was awarded the Unsung Hero Award by the National TB Coalition of America (formerly the National TB Controller's Association) in recognition of his outstanding service. Felix has served as a role-model for program staff and in particular, leadership, regarding keeping everyone focused on the mission to serve our diverse patient population with respect and humility. Felix goes above and beyond to ensure the San Francisco TB Section provides equitable, respectful, and culturally appropriate service to all clients.