

RePORT International Newsletter

October 2023

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CRDF Global Request for Proposals (RFP) Announcement

RePORT South Africa Phase III

Regional Prospective Observational Research in Tuberculosis in the Republic of South Africa

The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), invite researchers to submit full proposals for the **Regional Prospective Observational Research in Tuberculosis in the Republic of South Africa: RePORT South Africa Phase III**. Proposals due Friday, **December 1, 2023 (4:59 PM)** US Eastern Standard Time (EST).

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Global Infectious Disease Research Administration Development Award for Low-and Middle-Income Country Institutions

The purpose of this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is to invite applications from research institutions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to provide senior administrators from these institutions with advanced training in the management of NIH grants. The goal is to improve oversight of NIAID grant awards and compliance with NIH funding policies and Federal research funding requirements for NIAID-supported foreign institutions in LMICs.

Eligible PIs: PD/PI is a senior administrator with responsibility for grants administration (e.g., grants administrator, business official, and/or researcher with

administrative responsibilities).

Eligible Institutions: Eligible applicant foreign institutions in LMICs are limited to those receiving NIAID grant and/or cooperative agreement support at the time of application submission. Eligible organizations must have received no more than \$8 million in total NIAID grant and/or cooperative agreement support in the last 5 years at the time of submission. To ensure that the U.S. host institutions have appropriate expertise in the management and administration of NIH grants, host institutions are limited to U.S. institutions that, at the time of submission, have received at least \$5 million per year in total NIH research grant and/or cooperative agreement support over the last 10 years.

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7th RePORT International Annual Meeting
Date: 6-8 September 2023
Location: Goa, India
Number of Participants: Approximately 115

The 7th RePORT International Meeting was held at the Radisson Blu, Goa (6-8 September), bringing together approximately 115 participants from diverse backgrounds, including clinicians, researchers, public health officials, and stakeholders from various platforms to discuss advances in TB research and control, and research and governmental initiatives within the seven countries. The scientific agenda focused on crucial topics such as Subclinical TB, Early TB detection, and Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) survival mechanisms, etc. The participants were from USA, Brazil, South Africa, India, Philippines, Indonesia, South Korea, Uganda, Australia and Thailand. The three-day meeting also focused on operational discussions with the various scientific working groups and operational working groups discussing next steps and action items for TB RiCC 3.0 and further initiatives for the RePORT International Consortium.

Other sessions included selected junior investigators from the Networks presented their current research. A video presentation from a TB Survivor from the TB Survivor Program. It gave an insight to the challenges that many survivors go through when it comes to diagnosis, treatment, and the quality of life after.

Key Themes and Discussions:

Subclinical TB: Experts presented cutting-edge research on subclinical TB, highlighting its often-overlooked significance in the TB epidemic. Discussions revolved around the challenges in diagnosing and treating subclinical TB and the potential for early intervention to prevent active TB disease.

Mtb Survival Mechanisms: Leading researchers shared their findings on the survival mechanisms of Mtb, shedding light on drug resistance, latency, and

persistence.

Collaboration and Networking: The meeting provided a valuable face-to-face opportunity for participants to discuss further efforts to harmonize research activities, development of common resources, best practices, and implementation of new common protocols. Next year's international meeting is anticipated in **Salvador, Brazil in August 2024.**

Acknowledgments: Our gratitude to all the participants, speakers, junior investigators, local hosts, government representatives and funders who contributed to the success of this meeting in Goa.



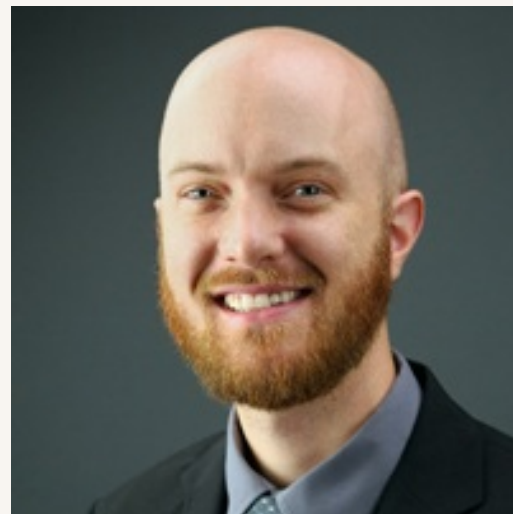
HIGHLIGHTING FRONTIER SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Frontier Science Foundation, headquartered in Boston, USA, is a non-profit research foundation established nearly 50 years ago to conduct scientifically meaningful, high-quality clinical research. Frontier Science has state-of-the-art data management and statistical capabilities and collaborates with sponsors, universities, publicly-funded research networks, foundations, and industry to perform infectious disease and cancer research. Various NIH-funded networks use Frontier Science as their data management center. In this role Frontier Science provides many services to these projects, including participant randomization tools, laboratory information management software, dedicated central databases, virtual specimen repositories, data visualization and dashboard tools, data collection instrument design and implementation, data

quality assurance and control, customized reports, and training and support resources.



Suzanne Siminski, MS, MBA, is the President and Chief Executive Officer of **Frontier Science & Technology Research Foundation**, a not-for-profit organization that provides innovative clinical research data (including from clinical trials) management and statistical analysis services. For over 30 years, she has served in a variety of leadership roles at Frontier Science where she has strategically increased the range and depth of expertise, services, and solutions the organization provides and actively built collaborative partnerships with investigators around the world. Aside from her extensive expertise in bioinformatics and data management, she has made long-standing contributions to both HIV/AIDS and cancer research, and proudly leads several NIH-funded coordinating centers. As the Frontier Science Principal Investigator, she will oversee the data management and quality assurance components of the TB RICC 3.0, specifically providing expertise on centralized data management, data harmonization techniques, and the tools and training needed to successfully build capacity across RePORT sites. She will also serve as a member of the Leadership Group and oversee Frontier's work.



Dr. Soyeon Kim, ScD, is a Senior Research Scientist at Frontier Science & Technology Research Foundation who has worked in the areas of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) research for more than 20 years. Dr. Kim has worked on the design, analysis, monitoring, and reporting of clinical research studies with the **International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials Network (IMPAACT)** and its predecessor the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Network. Before coming to Frontier Science, she held academic appointments at Harvard University, Rutgers School of Public Health, and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. While at Rutgers, she collaborated on a wide range of TB research. As Frontier Science Co-Investigator, she will use her expertise to lead a team of statisticians in support of the research conducted by the TB RICC 3.0.

Alex Benns, BS, CAPM, is a Project Manager at Frontier Science & Technology Research Foundation. Coming to TB RICC by way of the Laboratory Data Division and other harmonization projects, Alex has extensive experience in collecting, managing, harmonizing, and curating a wide variety of data collected in support of clinical trials and other NIH-funded research. He has been heavily involved in developing and maintaining Frontier Science's unique software applications and data collection solutions, including its proprietary **Laboratory Data Management System (LDMS)** and **HIV Algorithm Workflow System (HAWS)**. Alex is also a member of the training team at Frontier Science, which provides various resources, demonstrations, interactive training, and end user validation support. Alex will help coordinate the multi-disciplinary team of Frontier Science staff in its collaboration on the TB RICC 3.0.

RI Collaborators, if you have anything you wish to report or share with the RePORT International Consortium, please send us the information and we'll do our best to include it in a future month's newsletter. Copies of all prior newsletters are stored in the private portal of reportinternational.org website.

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