



## RePORT International Newsletter

September 2025

### In This Issue

- 2025 RePORT International Annual Meeting (Virtual)
- Dr. Erlina Burhan: Clinician, Scientist, and Media Star!
- Making TB Knowledge a Bit More Fun
- Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination

### 2025 RePORT INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING (VIRTUAL)

September 17–19, 2025

This September, investigators and collaborators from around the world will gather online for the RePORT International Annual Meeting, taking place virtually from September 17 to 19, 2025. The meeting will spotlight the latest in tuberculosis (TB) research, bringing together RePORT networks and partners to share findings, strengthen collaborations, and map future directions in the fight against TB.

---

### Highlights from the Agenda

**Keynote Address (Sept 17):** *Frank Cobelens*, Professor of Global Health, Department of Global Health, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, will begin the meeting with an overview of **early and long TB**, outlining challenges and opportunities ahead.

**TB Infection & Prevention:** Featuring results from the **VPM1002 POR trial**, novel diagnostic signatures, and updates on preventive therapy, this session explores strategies for stopping TB before it starts.

**Treatment Outcomes:** Presentations will showcase the **Clinical Epidemiology Protocol**, biomarkers for monitoring therapy, predictive web apps, and determinants of treatment success.

**Diagnostics & Asymptomatic TB:** Sessions will dive into pediatric studies, host-response biomarkers, and innovative screening approaches for detecting TB earlier and more accurately.

**Long TB & Implementation Science:** From the **TB PURE and HATHI studies** to insights into TB aftermath, this session emphasizes translating science into practice.

**Microbiology & Transmission:** Cutting-edge findings on **genomics, MDR-TB**, and transcriptomics will round out the program before closing remarks by meeting co-chairs, *Amita Gupta* and *Mark Hatherill*.

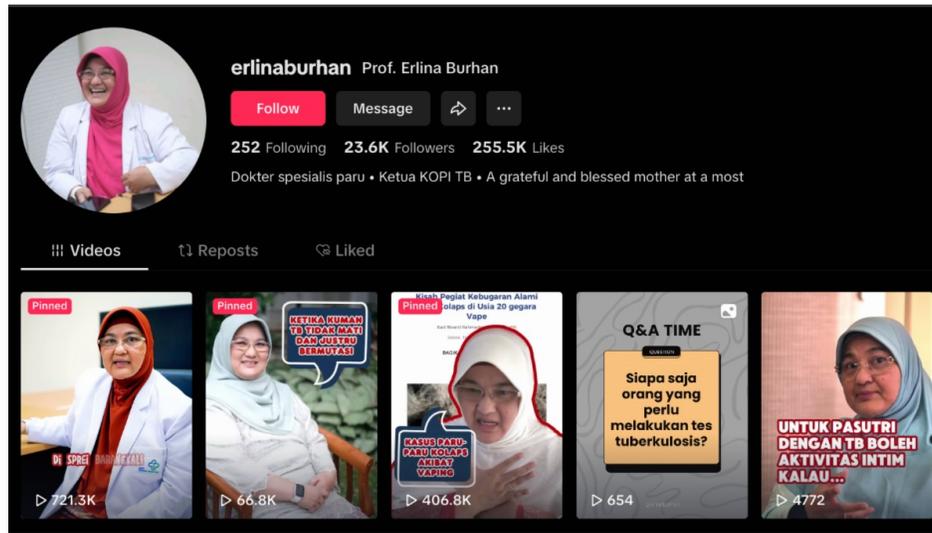
---

### A Truly Global Exchange

The three-day program will feature presentations by senior investigators, junior

researchers, and consortium leaders from across RePORT networks — including **Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Africa**, and the **Philippines**. Dedicated sessions highlight contributions from emerging investigators, reinforcing RePORT's commitment to mentoring the next generation of TB researchers.

## DR. ELINA BURHAN: CLINICIAN, SCIENTIST, & MEDIA STAR



We have a celebrity amongst us! Dr. Erlina Burhan, Principal Investigator for RePORT Indonesia and Professor of Pulmonology and Respiratory Medicine at the University of Indonesia, was featured by [GAVI's VaccineWork](#) regarding her public health advocacy. She admittedly has left her comfort zone and has been using the social media platform, TikTok, to share health messages on a diverse set of topics, including vaccines, diabetes, and TB. Dr. Burhan is not only imparting important prevention and treatment information but also fighting stigma at the same time for affected communities.

To see Dr. Burhan's work, visit her [TikTok account](#) as well as some other health campaign videos she has appeared in.



*3 Questions with: Dr. Erlina Burhan, TB Expert in Indonesia*



*Dr. Erlina Burhan shares her experiences during the operational research for the #6MonthsMax regimen*

## RICC POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS' LEARNING FORUM

### Making Research Collaborations and Partnerships Work Effectively

Collaborations and partnerships, on the surface, seem like an ideal way of learning, sharing resources, and putting many brains together. However, how does one form such an effective team in the research field? The August [RICC Post-Doctoral Fellows'](#) Interactive Learning Forum had a panel of experts who shared their experiences.

Led by [Dr. Bob Bolliger](#) of Johns Hopkins University, the panel included [Professor Gerhard Walzl](#), Executive Head of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Head of the Division of Immunology, and Head of the Stellenbosch University Immunology Research Group, and [Dr. Karen Dobos](#), Professor of Microbiology at Colorado State University. The RICC Fellows and other

participants got a taste of what it takes to make research collaborations and partnerships work.

The three subject-matter experts are not early-stage career collaborators; however, circumstances related to the direction of their interests and careers have made partnering with others natural. We need collaborators for many reasons. Here are their lessons learned:

- **Collaboration and partnerships are necessary and important.** Partnerships can expand and extend work of interest, and, as government funding gets cut, pooling other types of funding can only be of benefit.
- **Finding a collaborator may be as simple as looking at the literature.** Look into associated investigators and your topics of interest. BUT, also see how people of interest order investigators based on their authorship of publications. This can indicate how the investigator mentors and provides credit for reported science.
- **When starting a new collaboration, you want to ‘sell’ your collaborator on gaining equal or more benefits out of the relationship.** For example, you may be working with a partner who has new, state-of-the-art technology, and you have many samples sitting with no purpose. The samples may be useful for your new collaborator in validating new technology.
- **Be confident about what you can contribute to the relationship.** Many people in the TB field are retiring; therefore, early-stage investigators are valuable for long-term work commitments, innovative ideas, and new competencies and skills, especially around technology.
- **Funders often stipulate that you have to include an external collaborator.** While this is a great way to start a new relationship, make sure this entity has an actual, contributory role as opposed to just being a “figurehead.” Often, groups with a history of successful work together can be of advantage in getting a grant. However, don’t let this stop you from trying out a new relationship that has the same way of thinking as you, with the same goals.
- **Don’t shy away from firmly establishing roles and responsibilities up front.** Collaborators should contribute something to the research. You may try to use written agreements, such as memorandums of understanding or research compacts, to delineate what partners are responsible for.
- **Trust your gut instincts.** Effective collaborations are often based on good interpersonal relationships. These tend to be long-lasting, and working with them provides ‘joy’ in your life.
- **Negative entities don’t mean the end of a relationship.** Decide the impact of a negative relationship and even consider having a heart-to-heart conversation with people with whom you may be having trouble.
- **If a for-profit company wants to partner, don’t always be suspicious.** Many for-profit science companies have obligations to serve the greater good, and some for-profit companies have genuine humanitarian missions.
- **It may take an entire grant cycle to find out if a relationship is valuable.** If the fit is right, try to maintain a valuable research relationship even after the formal collaboration is complete. This may include occasional email check-ins and grabbing a meal together at a conference.

We thank our RePORT colleagues for sharing their wisdom! Look out for the next RICC Post-Doctoral Fellows’ Interactive Learning Forum.



Rebouças, Rebeca & Villalva, Klauss & Pereira, Mariana & Andrade, Bruno. (2025). Defeating Tuberculosis: An Adventure with Learning.

It is a pleasure to share the booklet, “[Defeating Tuberculosis: An Adventure with Learning](#),” developed with dedication by students and professionals from our group.

“Defeating Tuberculosis: An Adventure with Learning” is an educational booklet designed for children, presenting essential information about tuberculosis in a playful and interactive way. This English version was adapted from the original publication in Portuguese. The material introduces basic concepts of microbiology, highlighting the differences between viruses, bacteria, and fungi, and teaches key prevention measures such as vaccination and the importance of hygiene. Through interactive activities — including games, coloring pages, and challenges — the booklet encourages children to learn about TB symptoms, the importance of early diagnosis, and the role of health professionals in treatment. At the end, children receive a “Little Health Scientist Certificate,” reinforcing the message that everyone can contribute to the prevention and elimination of tuberculosis.

This original Portuguese version has already been disseminated through RePORT Brazil’s sites. As mentioned during last month’s [RICC Global TB Research presentation](#) on science communication, we felt encouraged to prepare an English version so that it could reach a broader audience.

We warmly welcome any suggestions or corrections you may have, as we see this as a collective effort to strengthen health education and awareness around TB.

- Contributed by [Dr. Mariana Araújo-Pereira](#)  
RePORT Brazil and MONSTER Initiative

## OFFICE OF HIV/AIDS NETWORK COORDINATION

### A Partnership in Research Excellence

A part of its effort to engage in meaningful research collaborations, RICC was introduced to the Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination (HANC) by our consortium member [Frontier Sciences](#). This article focuses on the work of HANC and its resources, which have already been shared in the RICC [Virtual Learning Room](#). In turn, HANC has featured RePORT International in its [September newsletter](#)!

The [Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination](#) (HANC) is an independent group funded by the Division of AIDS (DAIDS) of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). HANC's mission is to support the science and operations of the HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Networks by increasing efficiency and resource-sharing. HANC coordinates critical activities across the networks and with other research and advocacy partners. The networks are an affiliated group of national and international medical research institutions and investigators that conduct clinical HIV/AIDS research to develop safe and effective drugs, prevention strategies, and vaccines.

---

### Areas of Focus

- Scientific leadership
- Site management and clinical trials logistics
- Behavioral science

- Communications Laboratory operations
- The Legacy Project Training development and dissemination
- Data management
- Performance evaluation
- Community engagement in the research process

HANC has developed many [resources](#), including the [TB Resources for Communities](#). Recently, the following documents were developed:

- TB Prevention Toolbox graphic available in 10 languages
- Bill of Rights and Responsibilities for TB Research available in 3 languages

---

You are invited to learn more about HANC and how HANC supports the science and operations of the HIV/AIDS clinical trials networks by increasing efficiency and resource-sharing through the coordination of critical activities across networks and with other research and advocacy partners by checking out their [website](#) or [sending them a message](#).

Find HANC and The Legacy Project on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#), [BlueSky](#), and [YouTube](#). The Legacy Project builds trust and collaboration between HIV research institutions and the communities most impacted by the US HIV epidemic.

---

Please remember to follow and subscribe. Don't forget to invite others, both inside and outside of RePORT International to follow our updates!



**Newsletter Team:**

*Editor: Rajita Bhavaraju*

*Content Management: Daphne Martin*

*Layout & Design: Colter Billings*

---

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Rutgers University | 225 Warren St | Newark, NJ 07103 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!