



## RePORT International Newsletter

October 2025

### In This Issue

- By the Numbers: 2025 RePORT International Annual Meeting
- Congratulations Bruno Andrade!
- WHO Consolidated Guidelines on TB & Undernutrition

### *Did you know...*

October is when the Nobel Prizes are announced. Dr. Robert Koch, the scientist who discovered the tubercle bacillus, won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1905. Dr. Koch actually started as an anthrax researcher, during which he improved his methods of fixing, staining, and photographing bacteria. [He also developed the first form of tuberculin as a “cure” for TB](#); this was deemed quite controversial, but it was the impetus for the use of tuberculin as part of TB diagnosis.

### BY THE NUMBERS:

#### 2025 RePORT INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

The 2025 RePORT Annual Meeting brought together the global tuberculosis research community for three days of science and collaboration. With **270 registered participants** and strong attendance throughout, the virtual event showcased the breadth and depth of TB research being conducted across the RePORT network.

#### Strong Engagement

The meeting demonstrated impressive participation from the global TB research community, with nearly **200 attendees** joining each day across the three-day program.

#### Comprehensive Scientific Program

The meeting featured **six thematic sessions** covering the full spectrum of TB research, from infection and prevention to diagnostics, treatment outcomes, implementation science, and microbiology. This diverse program highlighted the multidisciplinary approach necessary to address the global TB epidemic.

#### Junior Investigators Awardees

A highlight of the meeting was the recognition of emerging talent in TB research. **Five Junior Investigator Awards** were presented to researchers,

underscoring the strength of the next generation of TB researchers and the collaborative nature of the network.

## Feedback

The organizing team has identified valuable lessons to enhance future meetings, particularly in virtual settings. Plans include incorporating more interactive elements such as breakout rooms, live polls, and enhanced chat engagement to foster greater connection and collaboration among participants.

## WISDOM FROM ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKERS



*“We are not detecting TB early enough and mostly treating people with more advanced disease. If we want to impact transmission, we need to find TB cases earlier, potentially before they recognize their symptoms.”*

— **Simon Mendelsohn**, RePORT South Africa, discussing the need for systematic screening for asymptomatic TB in household contacts

*“With India having the highest global burden of TB and the third highest burden of HIV, substance use – particularly unhealthy alcohol use - adds another layer of risk and can worsen the health outcomes of people with TB and HIV. Although India’s TB program has made great progress over the years, one important gap still remains: alcohol use is not being systematically addressed.”*

— **Nishi Suryavanshi**, RePORT India, on implementation research to close the gap on alcohol use among persons with TB



*“A meta-analysis in 2014 concluded that HIV was significantly associated with MDR-TB. We found that HIV-infected participants had lower drug levels and were also more likely to have no detectable drug measured, suggesting they were not taking or absorbing the medication, and this was more common in HIV-infected people.”*

— **Robert "Bob" Horsburgh**, Boston

University, on the issue of decreased serum levels of second-line anti-TB drugs in persons living with HIV

*“There are several theories on long-term population genetics, and closest to my heart is co-evolution between TB and its human host. There are now an estimated 10 different human-adapted MTB lineages... Essentially, the lineages distribute differently across the world, and it has been hypothesized that this is related to how they adapt or how they have co-evolved with different human subpopulations.”*

— **Maha Farhat**, Harvard University, speaking on *M. tuberculosis* lineage and sympatry and human host influences on disease transmission.



## CONGRATULATIONS BRUNO ANDRADE



The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, a partner in the RePORT International Coordinating Center and U.S. site for RePORT India, has announced Dr. Bruno de Bezerril Andrade, MD, PhD, as a new joint appoint in the Department of International Health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Division of Infectious Diseases at the School of Medicine.

A physician scientist who is internationally renowned for his contributions to immunology, infectious diseases, translational research and global health, Dr. Andrade joins Johns Hopkins from his current positions as Senior Investigator and Chief of the Laboratory of Clinical and Translational Research at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation in Salvador, Brazil, one of the world’s leading biomedical research institutions, as Dean of Research and International Affairs at Clariens Educação, and as Scientific Director of MONSTER Research Institute, which is dedicated to nurturing young scientists from low- and middle-income countries and advocating for vulnerable populations including indigenous, homeless, and incarcerated communities.

“Moving to Johns Hopkins feels both exciting and deeply meaningful. It represents an opportunity to expand our scientific impact while keeping our roots and commitments in Brazil very much alive. My plan is to continue strengthening RePORT Brazil’s portfolio, especially in areas where we can integrate data science, AI, and multi-omics to better understand TB and its comorbidities. The move to JHU will allow us to build even stronger bridges between the Global North and South, fostering more equitable collaborations and opening new doors for our trainees and early-career investigators,” Dr. Andrade said. “RePORT

Brazil has been a cornerstone in my scientific journey, and I see this transition as a way to amplify the consortium's visibility and scientific reach, not to shift its focus. I am deeply grateful to all of you at RePORT International for the partnership and friendship we've built over the years. It remains one of the most inspiring and collaborative networks I've ever been part of.

Dr. Andrade has extensive expertise in global health, data science, artificial intelligence, and precision medicine. His networks in Brazil, throughout Latin America, and globally will complement existing bi- and multi-lateral research initiatives and offer opportunities for global collaboration and exchange programs for faculty and students alike.

## CONSOLIDATED GUIDELINES ON TB & UNDERNUTRITION

Greetings from RePORT India! We are delighted to share some wonderful news with you. The World Health Organization (WHO) has released new consolidated guidelines on Tuberculosis and Undernutrition, and it is a proud moment for all of us that RePORT India's work has been recognised in these guidelines under the section on TB and comorbidities.

Evidence from RePORT India based study demonstrates the critical role of undernutrition in TB progression and treatment failure. The multicenter prospective cohort study by Sinha et al., 2023 showed that undernourished individuals have significantly higher risk of poor treatment outcomes, including mortality. This evidence has been cited in the WHO Consolidated Guidelines on Tuberculosis: Module 6 – Tuberculosis and Comorbidities, 2nd edition, 7 October 2025, emphasizing global relevance:

*“People with undernutrition are more than twice as likely to fall ill from TB (3), and to have a higher risk of poor treatment outcomes such as death and loss to follow-up, compared with those who do not have undernutrition (4, 5).”*

[READ MORE](#)

**Key Publication:** Sinha P, Ponnuraja C, Gupte N, Prakash Babu S, Cox SR, Sarkar S, et al. *Impact of undernutrition on tuberculosis treatment outcomes in India: a multicenter, prospective, cohort analysis. Clin Infect Dis.* 2023;76:1483–91. doi:10.1093/cid/ciac915. PMID: PMC10319769

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Pranay Sinha, Dr. Sonali Sarkar, Dr. Senbagavalli Prakash, and their team and our RePORT India Advisor, Dr. Anurag Bhargava, for their valuable contributions to this important achievement. This recognition marks yet another significant milestone for RePORT India. It stands as a testament to the impactful work being carried out by our investigators and collaborators.

---

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!