

RePORT International Newsletter

December 2025

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***MYTH:** A preventive TB vaccine is unlikely because natural infection does not necessarily provide protection from future infection or disease.*

While natural TB infection doesn't guarantee complete immunity against reinfection, this doesn't preclude vaccine development. The [BCG vaccine](#) already provides some protection, particularly against severe childhood TB. Scientists are actively developing improved vaccines that could prevent infection or disease progression, with several promising candidates in clinical trials.

RePORT INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP GROUP



Meeting Highlights Copenhagen | November 18, 2025

The RePORT International Leadership Group met in Copenhagen on November 18 to review ongoing research activities and strategic priorities across the consortium. The meeting brought together 28 Leadership Group members through a hybrid format, including participation from Principal Investigators from RePORT South Africa, RePORT Philippines, RePORT India, RePORT Brazil, and RePORT Korea, as well as sponsors and the coordinating center.

Study Updates

Post-TB Sequelae: The Post-TB Sequelae Study, which will investigate long-term pulmonary and cardiac outcomes in individuals treated for tuberculosis, is advancing on schedule. IRB approvals are progressing successfully across sites, training activities are underway in preparation for enrollment, and standardized data collection.

SUBTLE Study: The SUBTLE team reports active recruitment at sites in Brazil and Uganda. Strategies were discussed to increase primary endpoints, including potential site extensions across selected networks. Operational planning will continue to ensure enrollment efficiency and data quality.

Advances in Biomarker Research: The biomarker protocol remains on schedule, with a portion of the core assays already completed. The team is prioritizing harmonized data capture, cross-site analysis, and shared standards for interpretation. A key initiative includes sequencing *M. tuberculosis* isolates

from treatment-recurrence cases to distinguish relapse versus reinfection, a critical question for TB control strategies.

Looking Ahead: The Leadership Group identified several scientific priorities for the future: 1. Harmonization of data systems and structures across countries 2. Strengthened mentorship and capacity building for early-career investigators 3. Advancement of biomarker validation to support future diagnostic tools and treatment endpoints.

Governance and Infrastructure: The group unanimously agreed to updates to the consortium bylaws. The consortium will also announce the launch of the RePORT International Hub, which will support concept sheet submission and tracking, and voting workflows, promoting project status visibility and reporting across all networks.

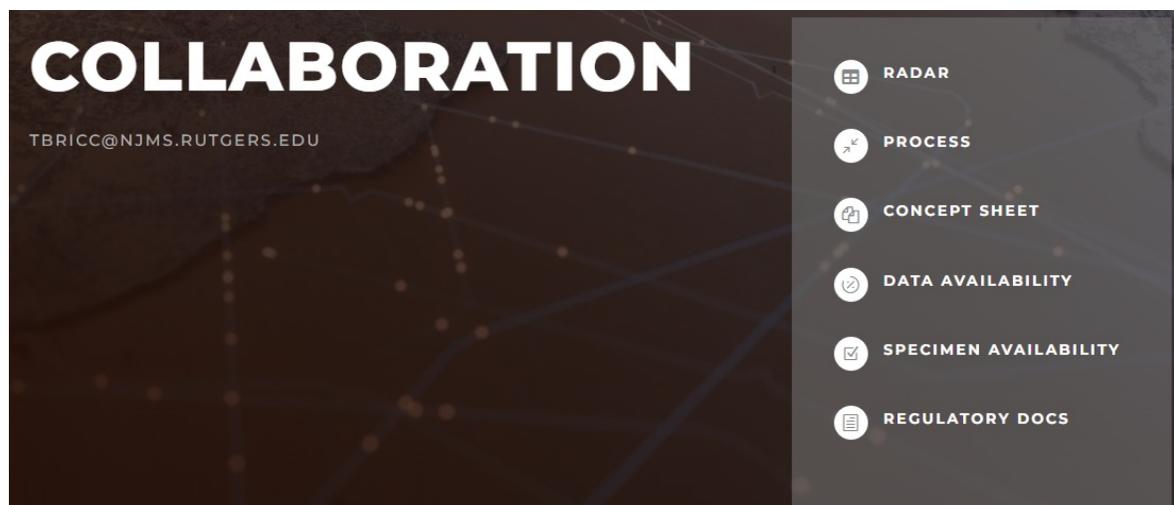
Upcoming Event: On January 8, 2026, Dr. Evan Johnson will present “Applying Large Language Models and Federated Learning to Enhance RePORT Analyses.”

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Closing Remarks: The meeting underscored the strength of collaboration among RePORT networks and investigators, together with the NIH program team. Despite evolving global health priorities, the consortium continues to demonstrate resilience and steady scientific progress, supported by shared data assets, harmonized protocols, and active engagement across sites.

For more information on RePORT International initiatives, please visit the RICC Hub Portal or contact: tbricc@njms.rutgers.edu.

DATA OPERATIONS MEETING



Operationalizing Data Sharing, Learning, and Planning throughout RePORT International

RePORT International’s Data Core hosted its Data Operations meeting on December 8, 2025, with approximately 35 data managers and investigators in attendance. A lively discussion took place regarding data sharing, capacity building, specimen prioritization, and resources. In essence, the meeting served to clarify how to propose feasible and well-thought-out studies using RePORT specimens and data. The status was provided for Cohort B data harmonization, the ongoing asymptomatic TB protocol, and the launch of the post-TB sequelae study. Sheetal Verma, Rutgers PI for the biomarkers protocol, shared some exciting news about the progress of the study and how data will be shared for future studies.

Data Sharing and Transfers

Sue Siminski from Frontier Sciences presented on data flow and data use agreements (DUAs) for RICC, highlighting Frontier Science's secure and compliant infrastructure. She explained the various data collection methods,

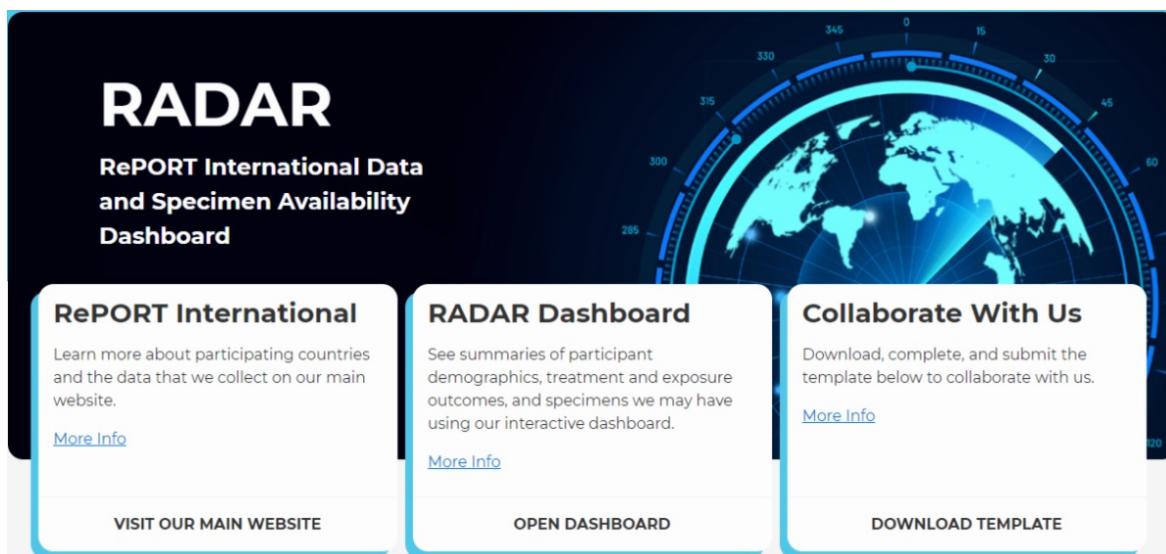
secure data transfers, and data processing steps, emphasizing the need for DUAs to transfer participant-level data. A concern was raised about the importance of individual data use agreements and the need for country-level investigators to be involved at every stage of the data-sharing process. There was consensus that this involvement would be a part of the concept proposal process.



Research Resources

Among the resources shared by Ann Tufariello (Rutgers) were the [Collaborate with Us](#) and [Common Protocol Toolkit](#) webpages. Ann walked people through the various documents to be referred to for ongoing and proposed research. This included the revision of the Clinical Manual of Procedures, which is expected to be finalized early in 2026.

Rajita Bhavaraju (Rutgers) discussed RICC capacity-building initiatives, including its [Post-Doctoral Fellowship and Future Leaders Program](#), courses, and the [Virtual Learning Room](#) (VLR). She encouraged the audience to contribute to the VLR and the Weekly Education Bulletin, as well as to mentor and be faculty for training events.



Proposed Research and Specimen Retention

For new proposals, presentations were made about the revised [concept sheet](#) workflow and standards of practice. Alex Benns of Frontier Sciences discussed [RADAR](#) - The RePORT International Data and Specimen Availability Dashboard. Alex reviewed the dashboard's content and noted feedback about future versions. This was followed up by his discussion of data harmonization efforts within the Consortium. Alex, along with Stephany Duda (Vanderbilt) and David Hom (Rutgers), the chairs of the Data Harmonization Working Group, led discussions around best practices for data collection, use, and sharing throughout the meeting. Finally, Soyeon Kim (Frontier Sciences) provided an overview of RePORT's revised specimen valuation guidance, as well as provided recommendations for keeping select specimens based on study design, type of research outcome, and specimen rarity.

Special thanks to RICC Program Manager Daphne Martin for her tireless behind-the-scenes work in tying everything together! If you have any questions or feedback about the meeting, please email tbricc@njms.rutgers.edu.

The Impact of Observational Research: The Latest Science from RePORT International at the World Conference on Lung Health

- Chairs: Marissa Alejandria and Sonali Sarkar
- Rajita Bhavaraju - RePORT International: Collaborative Science to Eliminate Tuberculosis
- John Carlo Malabad - TB Recurrence and Progression to Active TB: Burden, Determinants, and Implications on TB Prevention and Care
- Thomas Scriba - Immunological signatures of asymptomatic TB
- Felipe Ridolfi - Treatment of HIV-related TB: New Insights from RePORT Brazil
- Sonali Sarkar - Beyond the person with TB: Educational disruption in the wake of TB



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