

## RePORT International Newsletter

### January 2026

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#### MEETINGS OF NOTE

##### Key TB-related international meetings in 2026 include:

###### **APRC 2026: 10th Asia Pacific Region Conference of The Union**

- Date: February 4–7, 2026
- Location: Bangkok, Thailand

###### **Annual TB Conference of the Union North America Region (NAR)**

- Date: February 26–28, 2026
- Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

###### **CROI 2026: Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections**

- Date: February 22–25, 2026
- Location: Denver, Colorado, USA

###### **Keystone Symposia: Tuberculosis: Understanding the Disease Across Scales**

- Date: March 23–26, 2026
- Location: Cape Town, South Africa

###### **ATS 2026: International Conference of the American Thoracic Society**

- Date: May 15–20, 2026
- Location: Orlando, Florida, USA

###### **3rd Conference on Innovations in Tuberculosis (TB) 2026**

- Date: July 1–2, 2026
- Location: Likely in Africa, with a focus on implementing innovations in high-disease-burden regions.

###### **Union World Conference on Lung Health 2026 (WCLH 2026)**

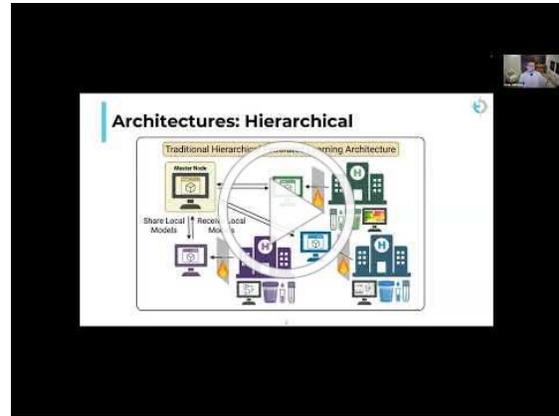
- Date: Dates are typically in November

- Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## GLOBAL RESEARCH SERIES

### Applying Large Language Model and Federated Learning to Enhance RePORT Analyses

By Evan Johnson, PhD  
Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases  
Director, Center for Data Science  
Rutgers University—New Jersey Medical School



## HIGHLIGHTING RePORT IN 2025!

This past year has been an exciting time for RePORT International and RICC! Our readership has grown by 45 percent in 2025, and we are honored to have you join us for this journey.

Please check out this special January edition of our newsletter that showcases a collection of the monthly articles from 2025, contributed by Daphne Martin, Rajita Bhavaraju, Colter Billings, and many of our esteemed partners. We look forward to sharing more with you next year!

### January

#### Future Leaders Program

Built within the RePORT International Consortium, the Future Leaders Program focuses on developing early-career investigators working in tuberculosis and TB/HIV research across global partner sites. The program centers on mentorship, hands-on research experience, and cross-site collaboration, creating opportunities for trainees to build both scientific and leadership skills within an established international network.

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### February

#### Highlighting Rutgers University

Rutgers University has played a central role in advancing global tuberculosis research within the RePORT International Consortium, drawing on a long history of leadership in TB science and strong institutional partnerships. In collaboration with Boston University and international sites such as JIPMER, Rutgers investigators helped build RePORT India and extend research on TB comorbidities and biomarker discovery.

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### March

**Partner Network Spotlight: TRACS**

### April

**The Next Generation of TB Researchers**

The Tuberculosis Research Advancement Centers (TRACs) were launched by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to strengthen multidisciplinary TB research and mentor early-stage and transitioning investigators through funding, shared resources, and structured training opportunities. Six TRACs at leading U.S. institutions, including Emory University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of California, San Francisco, support pilot research awards, workshops, and mentorship programs that foster collaboration across disciplines.

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The RePORT International Coordinating Center supports the development of promising early-career TB researchers through competitive Post-Doctoral Fellowship and Future Leaders programs that integrate research, mentorship, and professional growth. Incoming fellows include physician-scientists and investigators advancing diagnostic strategies, epidemiological modeling, biomarker validation, and vaccine research across diverse settings, from South Africa to Brazil and the Philippines.

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## May

### **Making a Difference in Tuberculosis Research**

RePORT International showcases members from its global network whose work exemplifies commitment to advancing tuberculosis research and improving public health. In Brazil, Michael Rocha, a study coordinator at the Brazilian Institute for Tuberculosis Research, applies his clinical and translational expertise to lead research teams and inform care strategies that support vulnerable populations. In Indonesia, data manager Melinda Setiyaningrum strengthens research quality and accessibility by managing complex datasets across multiple infectious disease studies and helping harmonize digital systems that fuel cross-site analysis.

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## June

### **New Voices in Tuberculosis Research**

Four early-career researchers from RePORT networks presented new perspectives on TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Simon Mendelsohn validates non-sputum diagnostics, Denis Awany applies machine learning to bridge animal and human TB data, Evans Muchiri focuses on predictive factors across TB and TB/HIV, and Claire Vania advances modeling and AI tools to support TB medication analysis and public health decisions.

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## July

### **Consortium Highlight: Nur Latifah Hanum**

Nur Latifah Hanum, Clinical Research Site Specialist with INA-RESPOND in Indonesia, advances tuberculosis research by strengthening cross-site collaboration

## August

### **RePORT on Vaccine Misinformation**

This article examines how framing nutrition interventions as a “vaccine” for tuberculosis prevention can create misleading expectations about their role in disease

and supporting data and technology integration for studies within the RePORT International network. Since joining INA-RESPOND in 2020, she has played a key role in coordinating biomarker analysis efforts and facilitating partnerships that enhance research capacity and operational efficiency across clinical and laboratory teams.

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control and inadvertently fuel misinformation. Commentary by Dr. Sonali Sarkar, Dr. Little Flower Augustine, and Anurag Bhargava discusses why clear communication about the distinct scientific roles of vaccines versus nutritional support is essential to maintain public trust in evidence-based TB prevention and avoid conflating different strategies in public health messaging.

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## September

### Doctoral Fellows Learning Forum

Doctoral fellows from the RePORT International consortium convened for a multi-day learning forum that combined scientific presentations, hands-on skill sessions, and peer exchange to strengthen research competencies. Participants engaged in workshops on study design, data analysis, and communication strategies, and discussed their ongoing research projects with mentors and colleagues from diverse geographic and disciplinary backgrounds.

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## October

### RePORT International Annual Meeting Speakers

At the RePORT International Annual Meeting, speakers including Simon Mendelsohn, Nishi Suryavanshi, Bob Horsburgh, and Maha Farhat shared insights on critical gaps and opportunities in tuberculosis research, emphasizing the need for earlier detection, multidisciplinary approaches, and innovation to improve TB prevention and care

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## November



### Impact of Observational Research

Check out the video to see RePORT researchers explain their findings and

## December

### RePORT International Data Operations Reporting

RePORT International brought together data managers and operations staff from across its global network to share best practices, discuss common challenges, and strengthen the infrastructure that supports consortiumwide research. Participants explored strategies for harmonizing data systems, improving quality assurance, and streamlining workflows to ensure timely and accurate data collection. The meeting also provided opportunities for cross-site collaboration, capacity building, and problem-solving.

real-world impact and discuss TB across  
global sites.

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