



## RePORT International Newsletter

### June 2026

#### In This Issue

- RePORT International Annual Meeting Junior Investigators
- Dr. Jerrold Ellner Receives Excellence in Research Award
- Fellowship Spotlight: Beatriz Barreto Duarte

Have something you want to share in the newsletter?

Let us know!

**SUBMIT**

## RePORT INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING, MUMBAI

### Junior Investigator Abstract Presenters: Rising Voices in Tuberculosis Research

At the 2026 RePORT International Annual Meeting in Mumbai, a cohort of six early-career scientists will take center stage to present their abstracts. These junior investigators, selected through a competitive abstract review process, represent the breadth and depth of global tuberculosis research, from Cape Town to Chennai, from Baltimore to Bahia. Their work reflects both the enduring challenges of tuberculosis prevention and the innovative methodologies being brought to bear on them.

The abstracts below span community-based screening, clinical scoring tools, treatment outcomes, comorbidities, drug pharmacokinetics, and molecular biomarkers. Together, they showcase a new generation of researchers who are tackling tuberculosis from multiple angles and across international networks.

#### The Presenters

##### **Rodrigo Carvalho de Menezes**

Institution: Federal University of Bahia

Network: Brazil

Title: *Host Blood RNA Signatures Had Limited Utility as Biomarkers of Suboptimal Adherence During Tuberculosis Therapy*

##### **Komala Ezhumalai**

Institution: Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research

Network: India

Title: *A Tuberculosis-Specific Sarcopenia Risk Score (TB-SARCO) Using Routine Clinical Data: Development and Validation in a Prospective Cohort*

**Devanshu Gohil**

Institution: Johns Hopkins India Institute

Network: India

Title: *External Validation of a Parsimonious Prediction Model for Tuberculosis Recurrence in India*

**Lakshmi Spurthi Kodali**

Institution: Johns Hopkins University

Network: India/US

Title: *Alcohol Misuse is Associated with Worse Lung Function and Respiratory Health Status in Pulmonary Tuberculosis*

**Rohan V. Lokhande**

Institution: P.D. Hinduja Hospital and Medical Research Centre

Network: India

Title: *Pharmacokinetic Assessments of Second-Line Anti-Tuberculosis Drugs: An Observational Study from India*

**Sarah Nyangu**

Institution: University of Cape Town

Network: South Africa

Title: *Performance of Human and Computer-Aided Evaluation of Digital Chest Radiography for Community-Based Screening of Asymptomatic Tuberculosis*

The RePORT International Leadership congratulates all six presenters and looks forward to their presentations at this year's Annual Meeting. We also thank the selection committee members for their time and effort in this process.

## DR. JERROLD ELLNER RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARD



Each year one or two faculty members of the New Jersey Medical School faculty are selected to receive the New Jersey Health Foundation prestigious award to recognize members of the faculty for outstanding research performed during the academic year. This year, **Dr. Jerrold Ellner**, Chair, RePORT International, received the [George F. Heinrich, M.D. Excellence in Research Award](#).

If you have news about someone from your network who have been recognized, please email us at [tbricc@njms.rutgers.edu](mailto:tbricc@njms.rutgers.edu)

## RICC Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program



*How the RICC Fellowship Shaped Beatriz's Mission to Champion Science for Vulnerable Populations*

For Beatriz, joining the RICC Post-Doctoral Fellowship wasn't just a career opportunity but a turning point. What she describes as a "career-changing" experience has since set her on a path toward leading tuberculosis research among vulnerable populations, mentoring the next generation of scientists, and working to make research more equitable across the globe.

### **A Career-Changing Platform**

When Beatriz started the fellowship, she found more than a program; she found a community. Reflecting on the experience, she highlights three pillars that made the difference: mentorship, learning, and networks.

"The mentorship I received, particularly from mentors like [Johns Hopkins Fellowship Director] Dr. Bob Bollinger, was invaluable," she recalls. The fellowship gave her direct access to experienced researchers who helped her not only develop technically but also envision what her career could look like. The tailored courses taught her critical skills she had not encountered before: grant writing, budget management, and how to present her work in relevant scientific forums.

"Beatriz represents what the RICC Fellowship was designed to cultivate: a scientist with intellectual discipline, generosity, courage, and a deep commitment to populations that are too often left at the margins of science and public health. I have had the privilege of watching her grow from a talented young investigator into a thoughtful leader who understands that excellent science and equity must walk together," Dr. Bruno Andrade, her mentor and RePORT Brazil PI, said. "Her work in tuberculosis, her dedication to vulnerable communities, and her commitment to mentoring young women in Brazil and South America make her one of the clearest examples of the transformative power of this program."

Beyond skills, the fellowship opened doors. The networking opportunities it provided expanded her career prospects in ways she hadn't anticipated, connecting her with collaborators and communities that would shape the trajectory of her research.

### **From Learning to Leading**

One of the most tangible outcomes of the fellowship was the development of Beatriz's own research project. For the first time, she had a structured platform to grow an idea into a full research initiative, complete with budget oversight and presentations in front of expert groups. This experience, she says, was instrumental in guiding her toward her current focus: tuberculosis research among vulnerable and underserved populations.

The program helped her understand not just how to do research, but why it matters and how to advocate for communities whose health needs are too often overlooked.

"The fellowship helped me envision my future career goals and understand what kind of scientist and leader I want to be."

### **A Vision for the Next Decade**

Looking ahead to the next 10 years, Beatriz's ambitions are both vast and deeply purposeful. She wants to lead multi-country studies, build research capacity in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), and perhaps most personally, raise the next generation of researchers in Brazil and South America. A particular focus of hers is creating opportunities for young women in science. Having navigated the challenges of building a research career herself, Beatriz is committed to making the path smoother for those who come after her; especially in regions where such opportunities are scarce.

Over the next three years, Beatriz aims to expand her network beyond South America to Asia and Africa by building a truly global coalition of researchers tackling health challenges in vulnerable populations. Her goal is nothing less than a lasting infrastructure for equitable, inclusive science.

### **Equity as a Foundation**

At the heart of Beatriz's vision is a conviction that research must be equitable to be meaningful. She speaks of building not just research capacity, but opportunity and ensuring that young scientists in LMICs have access to the same tools, networks, and mentorship that transformed her own career.

"I want to change the world through research," she says. A statement coming from someone who has already built so much from a single fellowship feels entirely believable.

---

**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!