



RePORT International Newsletter

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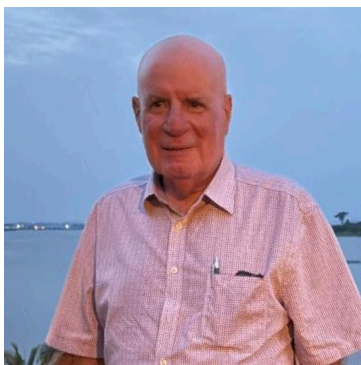
SUBMIT

RICC Scientific Review Committee Co-Chair Appointed



Congratulations to Professor Anete Trajman from RePORT Brazil who has been appointed the Co-Chair for the RePORT International Coordinating Center (RICC) Scientific Review Committee. She will work with Chair, Dr. Stephanus Malherbe, leading the committee in its decision-making on the research by two or more networks or that funded by RICC. Professor Trajman's term will parallel the Chair role until March 2028. We thank her for her additional service to the Scientific Review Committee!

Celebrating 50 Years of Research with Dr. Ellner



Congratulations to Dr. Jerry Ellner's for celebrating 50 years of a remarkable career in TB research!

Take look at this interview by Dr. Sonali Sarker, RePORT India Principal Investigator, on Dr. Ellner's reflections on his career and the future of TB research.

WATCH



15th RePORT INDIA ANNUAL MEETING
29th - 31st July 2026 - Puducherry

The Meeting Highlighted Scientific Achievements and Future Directions in TB Research

The RePORT India 15th Annual Joint Leadership Meeting was held from 29–31 July 2026 at Accord, Puducherry, bringing together investigators, young researchers, collaborators, and partners from India and the global RePORT consortium. The three-day meeting reviewed the major scientific and institutional achievements of RePORT India Phases I and II, showcased research by emerging TB scientists, discussed advances across the TB research spectrum, and outlined the scientific vision for RePORT India Phase III. The meeting also provided opportunities to strengthen international and industry collaborations and to discuss how research findings can be translated into better TB care and public health practice.

Day 1: Celebrating the Achievements of RePORT India

The meeting opened with welcome and opening remarks, a Presidential Address, sponsor reflections and a keynote presentation, “Square the Circle – The TB Challenge,” which emphasised the importance of high-quality data, effective use of research findings, clinically useful innovation and measuring outcomes that matter to patients.

A major session, the Scientific Achievements and Milestones of RePORT India Phases I and II, presented by Dr. Sonali Sarkar and Dr. Amita Gupta, highlighted the growth of the network and its contribution to TB research. RePORT India has developed strong collaborative governance, data coordination, and quality-assurance systems, expanded research and laboratory capacity, and supported the development of young investigators. Across Phases I and II, the consortium completed 92 sub-studies, trained 50 early- and mid-career researchers, received 75 grants and supplemental awards, produced 181 publications and strengthened eight laboratories, representing a total value of more than US\$24 million and Rs. 220 crores since 2015. The presentations also highlighted the RePORT India biobank, scientific workshops, laboratory training and contributions to initiatives such as the Indian TB Genome Sequencing Consortium.

The scientific work generated through the consortium has covered a wide range of areas, including TB diagnostics and biomarkers, nutrition, diabetes and TB, pharmacokinetics, post-TB lung health,

recurrent TB, transmission, drug resistance, household contacts and host genetic factors. Together, these studies demonstrate the value of a multicentre research platform in generating evidence relevant to both scientific understanding and TB programme needs.

Day 1: Supporting the Next Generation of TB Scientists

The Future TB Science Leaders session provided a platform for young investigators from India and international partner institutions to present their work. Research covered post-TB lung disease, nutrition and latent TB infection, nutritional status and angiogenic factors, immune responses in pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB, and TB–diabetes interactions. The session demonstrated the breadth of research being undertaken by emerging investigators and reinforced the importance of mentorship, training and opportunities for young scientists within the RePORT network.

An Industry Collaboration Session featured theraCUES and MedGenome Labs, highlighting opportunities to connect academic TB research with advanced technologies in transcriptomics, genomics, epigenomics, spatial biology, immune profiling and next-generation sequencing. The session demonstrated the potential for industry partnerships to support the development and application of new technologies in TB research and diagnostics.

Day 2: Advancing TB Research Across the Disease Continuum

Day 2 focused on four major scientific themes. The session on Innovations in TB Diagnostics explored tongue swabs and portable molecular testing as approaches for patients unable to produce good-quality sputum, as well as the challenges and emerging approaches for diagnosing extrapulmonary TB. A presentation on RePORT International highlighted opportunities for investigators to share research, access international resources and strengthen collaboration and knowledge exchange across the RePORT programmes.

The session on Understanding the Tuberculosis Continuum: Transmission, Infection Resistance and Disease Progression examined household contact investigation, natural resistance to TB infection and factors associated with progression to disease. Findings showed that symptom-based contact investigation may miss TB among household contacts, while transcriptomic and immunological studies are helping to identify biological pathways associated with resistance to infection. Studies of adiponectin also highlighted its possible role as a marker of susceptibility to TB progression.

The session Host-Response Biomarkers for TB Treatment Response and Clinical Outcomes examined alternative measures of treatment response, NanoString-based validation of biomarkers and immune markers associated with unfavourable treatment outcomes. The presentations highlighted the potential of host-response biomarkers to provide earlier information on treatment response and identify patients who may require closer monitoring.

The final scientific session of Day 2, Host and Pathogen Determinants of TB Disease, addressed post-TB lung health, micronutrient deficiencies, TB-associated cachexia and the relationship between *M. tuberculosis* genetic lineages and treatment outcomes. The Scientific Rapporteur, Dr. Robert Modlin, emphasised that successful TB treatment should extend beyond microbiological cure to include recovery of lung function, muscle strength, nutritional status and quality of life, while promising biomarkers need to be validated and translated into clinically useful tools. The day concluded with a group photograph and networking dinner.

Day 3: Shaping the Next Generation of TB Research

Day 3 focused on “Shaping the Next Generation of Tuberculosis Research: Scientific Milestones from RePORT India Phase I & II and Future Directions.” Chaired by Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), the session brought together research on novel diagnostics and biomarkers, paediatric TB, post-TB lung health, natural resistance, immune mechanisms of disease progression and implementation science. The presentations highlighted several

priorities for the next generation of TB research. These included improving diagnostics and biomarkers across the TB spectrum, developing practical tools for paediatric TB, understanding why some individuals resist infection or progression, addressing the long-term effects of TB, and translating research findings into routine practice.

Dr. Sonali Sarkar and Dr. Amita Gupta presented the scientific vision for RePORT India Phase III, building on the resources and experience developed during the first two phases. Important remaining gaps include extrapulmonary and paediatric TB, treatment optimisation, post-TB disability, vaccines, diagnostics, biomarkers, host–pathogen interactions, durable immunity, precision dosing and individualised treatment. The Phase III vision places greater emphasis on integrating clinical and laboratory research with artificial intelligence and implementation science, and on moving discoveries from validation towards clinical and public health use.

The proposed Phase III programme includes ten integrated research projects: TIES, focusing on host-pathogen interactions and TB transmission; ENDURE, focusing on improved diagnostics and rapid drug-resistance testing; POSHAN, focusing on nutrition and recovery; PATH-LUNG, focusing on childhood TB and long-term lung health; SWIFT TPT, focusing on TB preventive treatment among household contacts and other priority populations; E(PTB)-CARE, focussing on improving diagnosis, biomarkers and long-term outcomes in adult and paediatric extrapulmonary TB; INSIGHT-TB, focusing on studying disease severity, recovery and precision medicine; VANGUARD-TB, focussing on TB vaccines, correlates of protection and immunity; OPTIMIZE-TB, addressing therapeutic drug monitoring and optimisation of treatment and INTEGRATE-TB supporting integrated precision TB care and translational systems biology. Together, these projects aim to build on the strengths of Phases I and II while addressing important gaps across the TB spectrum and translating research into improved diagnosis, treatment, prevention, post-TB care and policy.

The meeting concluded with an open panel discussion involving the DBT Secretary and senior RePORT India investigators. The discussion focused on TB vaccine development, quality of life after TB treatment, diagnostics, post-TB health and broadening TB research through collaboration with investigators from other disciplines. The DBT Secretary emphasised the importance of TB vaccines and improving quality of life after treatment. The panel discussed the challenges of vaccine development, the need to strengthen basic science, emerging approaches such as M72 and mRNA vaccines, near-point-of-care diagnostics and better management of post-TB lung impairment. Other areas discussed included paediatric BCG vaccination research, trained immunity, miRNA research and liver involvement in TB. A key concluding message was the importance of bringing together and integrating the data generated across RePORT India into a single platform to maximise the value of the consortium's research resources and support future discoveries. The meeting concluded with final remarks, a photo session with the DBT Secretary, lunch, and an address by the DBT Secretary at JIPMER, attended by the RePORT India team and young researchers, postgraduate students, doctoral scholars, research fellows, and early-career faculty.

The 15th Annual Meeting served both as a celebration of the achievements of RePORT India and as a platform for defining its next phase. The discussions reinforced the network's commitment to collaborative, multidisciplinary and patient-centred TB research, with a clear focus on translating scientific discoveries into better diagnosis, treatment, prevention, post-TB care and policy.

Contributed by Dr. Senbagavalli Prakash Babu on behalf of RePORT India

IeDEA TB-SRN and RePORT International Collaboration

The [International epidemiology Databases to Evaluate AIDS](#) (IeDEA) is an NIH-funded global research consortium that brings together HIV observational cohorts from seven geographic regions to answer questions beyond those addressed by individual studies alone. IeDEA supports collaborative

research on HIV treatment, comorbidities, and other related health outcomes, generating evidence that informs clinical practice and public health policy worldwide.

Building on this collaborative infrastructure, the [IeDEA Tuberculosis Sentinel Research Network](#) (TB-SRN) is a prospective, multi-regional study designed to advance understanding of tuberculosis among people with and without HIV. The TB-SRN collects harmonized clinical and epidemiologic data across participating IeDEA regions as well as the RePORT (Regional Prospective Observational Research in TB) network in Brazil, creating opportunities to study TB diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes in diverse populations, while strengthening research capacity across the network. The TB-SRN investigators and working group are currently finalizing baseline analyses and publications on the prevalence and determinants of depression and substance use disorders in people with TB, as well as analyses of TB severity and associated factors in people with and without HIV. Findings regarding TB treatment outcomes and their determinants in people with drug-susceptible TB will also be presented soon (Union World Conference on Lung Health, Rio 2026).

The protocol for the IeDEA TB-SRN builds upon the RePORT Cohort A (TB cases) protocol and they share many key data elements. Investigators from RePORT International and the IeDEA TB-SRN are working together to harmonize data from these two cohorts and expand future opportunities for collaboration. By identifying common variables and aligning data structures where appropriate, this effort aims to facilitate future cross-network analyses, enable complementary research questions, and lay the foundation for broader scientific collaboration between the two global research networks.

For questions about collaborating with the IeDEA TB-SRN, please contact TB-SRN protocol chairs Dr. Olivier Marcy (olivier.marcy@u-bordeaux.fr) and Dr. Leslie Enane (lenane@iu.edu).

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