



# TBWIRE

THE U.S. PARTNER IN THE GLOBAL  
STOP TB PARTNERSHIP

FEBRUARY 2024

## GREETINGS!

We are excited to launch our new feature of the TB Wire – the **TB Bookshelf!** I have often heard that TB is the disease most featured in the arts (operas like *La Bohème*, books like *The Constant Gardener*, movies like *Moulin Rouge*, TV series like *All Creatures Great and Small* and *Peaky Blinders*, etc.), but the non-fiction stories can be even more compelling.

Thus, with the help of our Coordinating Board (and any of you if you are interested in great reads!) we will present a short exploration of a TB-related book once a month at the end of each TB Wire. Appropriately for February, which is Black History Month, we will be starting with Maria Smilios' *The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis*. Enjoy the extra prep for how we **#EndTB!**

## DC UPDATE

**We need you to weigh in!** Ask your Members of Representatives and Senators to co-sponsor the **End TB Now Act**, [H.1776/S.288](#)!! Here's a helpful [fact sheet](#) and a [press release](#) about the End TB Now Act.

Special thanks to Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.), Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA), Rep. María Elvira Salazar (R-FL), Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) for being the lead sponsors. Call and write your members of Congress to ask they co-sponsor the End TB Now Act today, or thank them if they are signed on ([Reps here](#), and [Senators here](#)).

Call the Capitol Switchboard at **1-202-224-3121** and ask for your senator/representative or give your state if you do not know their name. When you are connected to an office, ask for the Health Legislative Assistant. If you leave a voicemail message, include your name, phone number, and email so that they can respond.

**Sample message:** I am a constituent from [your town] and I am calling to urge Sen./Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ to co-sponsor the End Tuberculosis Now Act of 2023. The End TB Now Act has passed through the committees, and I am looking to your leadership to bring it to the floor. The bill outlines a plan and critical actions to align tuberculosis efforts in the U.S. with international efforts. TB, an airborne infectious disease, is once again the leading global infectious disease killer. TB cases and deaths are rising across the globe. [Add a sentence about why you care about TB elimination.] Would you please ask [Senator Schumer (if your Senator is Democrat)/Senator McConnell (if your Senator is Republican)] or if

*a Representative - Representative Jeffries (if a Democrat)/Johnson (if a Republican)] to bring this bill to the floor for a vote?*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- [Funding opportunity: Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services through National Partnerships to Improve and Protect the Nation's Health, applications due in March 2024](#)
- [Extension: Public call for data on data to inform WHO guidelines development process](#)
- [Volunteers wanted to help fight tuberculosis](#)
- [Nominations Now Open: CDC U.S. TB Elimination Champions](#)
- [Want a quick diagnosis? Cough into an app on your phone](#)

## **HIGHLIGHTED TB REPORTS/UPDATES**

- [2023 U.S. tuberculosis \(TB\) outbreak caused by contaminated bone product shows the need to protect patients from tissue-transmitted TB](#)
  - o From our colleagues at CDC-DTBE!
- [Drug shortages create additional challenges for TB programs and patients in California](#)
  - o From our colleagues at CDC-DTBE!
- [MSF statement on EB154/10 - End TB Strategy](#)
- [Global Tuberculosis Testing Strategic Research Report 2024: Bracing Technological Innovations, TB Testing Moves in New Direction](#)

*Read more reports and updates on our website page [‘From TB Wire’!](#)*

## **TB IN THE NEWS**

- [Letter: Congress needs to take action on READ, End TB Now acts](#)
- [Central District Health Conducting a Tuberculosis Investigation](#)
- [Potential Tuberculosis exposure at Mission Valley YMCA, San Diego County officials say](#)
- [SNHD will provide testing for 600 people exposed to tuberculosis at CCSD schools](#)
- [Grants will fund tuberculosis drug development](#)
- [Is the U.S. CDC Expecting a Tuberculosis Outbreak](#)

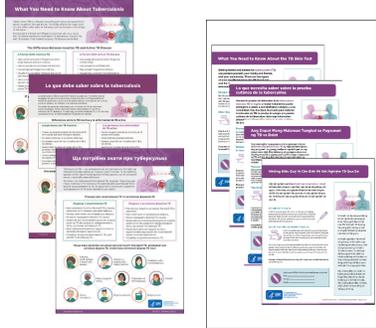
*Read lots more TB news on our website page [‘From TB Wire’!](#)*

## **TB RESOURCES**

- [Understanding the New CDC TB Screening Guidelines: A Comprehensive Review](#)
- [Standards for clinical trials for treating TB](#)
- [Access to TB Testing and Treatments: GeneXpert and Delamanid](#)
- [New guidance documents to support implementation of next generation sequencing to detect DR-TB](#)
- [Treatment of Tuberculosis \(TB\) in Adults with HIV Infection](#)
- [Preventing TB in Your Clinical Setting- A Practical Guidebook](#)

**CDC Fact Sheet: "What You Need to Know About Tuberculosis"**

CDC's new [What You Need to Know About Tuberculosis](#) fact sheet is now available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Ukrainian](#). The fact sheet provides basic information about TB transmission, symptoms, testing, and treatment and can be downloaded from the [CDC TB website](#). Print copies are available to order free of charge on the [CDC On Demand website](#).



### **CDC TB Skin Test Fact Sheet Available in Tagalog and Vietnamese**

CDC's [What You Need to Know About the TB Skin Test](#) fact sheet is now available in [Tagalog](#) and [Vietnamese](#). Download the fact sheet in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#) and [Vietnamese](#) from the [CDC TB website](#).

[International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of Tuberculosis Drugs 2023](#)

[Uniting for Ukraine: Tuberculosis Information and Resources](#)

*Find more TB resources on our website page [‘TB Resources’!](#)*



### **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

- [Addressing the needs of people with extensively drug-resistant TB through pre-approval access to drugs and research](#)
  - o Check out this article authored by our very own Chair Elect, Dr. Jonathan Stillo!
- [ICI treatment may increase risk of tuberculosis reactivation or latent tuberculosis infection in patients with cancer, research finds](#)
- [When the Lightning Strikes Twice: Navigating the Complex Terrain of Cerebral Tuberculosis](#)

- [Quantitative measurement of antibiotic resistance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis reveals genetic determinants of resistance and susceptibility in a target gene approach](#)

*Discover many more peer-reviewed articles on our website page [‘Peer-Reviewed Publications’!](#)*

## **COURSES/WORKSHOPS**

- [Weekly TB Project ECHO® sessions, Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30pm Pacific Time](#)
- [Monthly SEATRAC Seminar Series](#)
- [Seminar: Macrophage Plasticity during Tuberculosis on April 29, 2024](#)

## **EVENTS, MEETINGS, & CONFERENCES**

- [February 6-8, 2024 | 37th Stop TB Partnership Board Meeting](#)
- [April 5, 2024 | Thomas Q. Garvey, MD, JD 4th Annual Public Health Lecture](#)
- [April 16-19, 2024 | 2024 Tuberculosis Conference](#)
- [Recording: The ABC for a TB Activist: 1/4/6x24 Campaign and Supportive Diagnostics](#)

## **TB BOOKSHELF**

### *The Black Angels by Maria Smilios*

Maria Smilios’ triumph of science writing and history, *The Black Angels*, opens in 1929 with mass resignations of white nurses at New York City’s Sea View Hospital creating a vacuum in care so severe that administrators were willing to recruit from black universities. And into those jobs stepped the book’s protagonists, Edna, Missouri, and Virginia.

*Black Angels* documents their next quarter century in the treatment trenches, but also discusses subjects ranging from TB research—in the petri dish, the patients, the pharmaceutical boardroom, and the press—to New York City politics, to Nazis including those in stateside POW camps being cared for by the black angels. And it is this seamless, repeated circling back to the angels that provides the structural and personal foundation to the book. After all, the numbers are so staggering—even once a successful treatment is found – it’s easy to forget that everyone involved—patient, caregiver, bureaucrat, researcher—is an individual with their own perspectives, approaches and reactions.

Smilios makes it clear where our sympathies should lie, but though the book is about “angels”, it is not a hagiography, nor are even the worst of the “devils” cardboard villains (which in some cases would be an improvement.) The angels face unrelenting racism, classism and sexism—in all cases institutional and individual—which feel unfortunately contemporary in a book set almost a century ago. (A further echo of today: masking was not allowed for care workers.)

But none of the devils compare to the disease itself, and Smilios shows us the tolls, financial, societal, psychological and most importantly, physical. In the latter category she doesn’t shy from details, be it from the bacillus or the treatments, but she trusts the reader: *Black Angels* is sickness porn nor is it a clinical catalog of suffering, the kind we’ve grown used to in televised ads for prescription drugs.

Her experience as a science book editor comes through in the breadth and depth of the research which is as impressive as the balancing act she achieves with the topics. There are many fine books about tuberculosis, but in spite of its seemingly narrow focus, I would feel perfectly comfortable handing a copy

to someone new to the subject, saying, “Read the main text, then go to the footnotes and bibliography, and follow whatever interests you.”

***Stop TB USA: Where we unite to #EndTB!***

Invite a friend to [sign up](#) to receive the TB Wire and [be a part](#) of Stop TB USA!

Consider donating: Make a check out to NTCA (our fiscal home) with “Stop TB USA donation” in the memo line.

Send to PO Box 260288, Atlanta, GA 31126

**Stop TB USA**

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