



TBWIRE

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

OCTOBER 2023

GREETINGS!

Please note we have begun to utilize Moosend software to distribute Stop TB USA communications, including the monthly TB Wire. Bear with us while we continue to work out our new system.

We noticed that some members did not receive the September TB Wire through Moosend. Please add leadership@stoptbusa.org to your email contacts. Also, consider [enrolling directly with Moosend via this link](#), (and perhaps using a personal email to do so).

If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at leadership@stoptbusa.org

Make sure to [register for a free, virtual event](#) hosted by the Stop TB USA Media Work Group on October 17th, 7pm ET! Presentations and discussion will follow a screening of *Where the Sun Rarely Goes*, a 12-minute documentary that captures the devastation of tuberculosis (TB) in the Russian prison system and the dedication of *Medicins Sans Frontiers* (MSF) in their effort to support TB treatment and prevention. More details below in our 'Events' section!

DC UPDATE

Senate TB letter deadline is September 7th! Urgent: Ask your senators to sign the Senate UNHLM tuberculosis letter today. The letter could make a big difference in how the U.S. leads on tuberculosis for the future. When contacting Senate offices, please send them a [copy of the letter](#) and the reasons why you want them to sign. If you need assistance figuring out what you wish to say, use messaging from our [online alert](#). Polite persistence will be key to receiving your response and rationale. You can also keep the pressure on senators to sign by submitting a [letter to the editor](#) and asking your Action Networks [to send a message to their senators](#) as well. – [results.org](#)

Keep asking your Members of Congress to co-sponsor the End TB Now Act, H.1776/S.288!! First the **good news:** the End TB Now Act has passed through both the House and the Senate Committees! Here's a helpful [fact sheet](#) and a [press release](#) about the End TB Now Act.

Please continue to ask your Representatives and Senators to co-sponsor this important bi-partisan bill! Special thanks to Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.), Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA)

and Rep. María Elvira Salazar (R-FL), Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) for being the lead sponsors! Call or write your members of Congress to ask they co-sponsor the End TB Now Act today.

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. Additionally, the End TB Now Act has passed through the committees, and I am looking to your leadership to bring it to the floor. 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)/McCarthy (if a Republican)] to bring this bill to the [House/Senate] 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.] The End TB Now Act will amplify our ability to end TB as a public health threat. I urge Sen./Rep. _____ to cosponsor this very important bill. Thank you for your consideration!

Bonus points for sending this via email as well, which also increases your chance of getting a response!

Stay tuned for the introduction of the domestic companion bill, The Comprehensive TB Elimination Act. We'll need to get lots of cosponsors for that one...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis:

On September 22, 2023, the United Nation General Assembly held the [second high-level meeting](#) to focus on ending tuberculosis (TB) [globally](#). CDC leadership and global leaders met to review progress towards the achievement of targets set in the 2018 political declaration. This year's meeting theme was "Advancing



science, finance and innovation, and their benefits, to urgently end the global tuberculosis epidemic, in particular, by ensuring equitable access to prevention, testing, treatment and care.” CDC also participated in a TB side event co-sponsored by STOP TB Partnership, and the CDC Foundation on September 21, 2023.

eMedical Training for Civil Surgeons: Overview and Onboarding

To ensure a smooth transition to the eMedical system, CDC has scheduled comprehensive training sessions. You will receive an invitation to attend an introductory training session where their dedicated team will provide an overview of the eMedical System's capabilities, benefits, and navigation. CDC in partnership with USCIS will host training webinars for Civil Surgeons. See webinar information below and click on the link to register for your preferred date and time. Contact qapcivilsurgeons@cdc.gov for more information.

- [September 26, 2023 - 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM EST](#)
- [September 28, 2023 - 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST](#)
- [October 3, 2023 - 1:00 PM EST - 2:00 PM EST](#)
- [October 5, 2023 - 6:00 PM EST - 7:00 PM EST](#)

HIGHLIGHTED TB REPORTS/UPDATES

- [Tuberculosis Elimination Alliance Awards Mini-Grants for Tuberculosis Testing, Treatment, and Prevention](#)
- [Outbreak of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis – Kansas, 2021–2022](#)
- [WHO strengthens tuberculosis control in Ukraine using high-quality diagnostic methods](#)
- [Lancet Commission Calls for Renewed Global Response on TB](#)
- [Johnson & Johnson and Cepheid must pledge access to lifesaving TB medicines and tests](#)
- [J&J and Cepheid must expand access to TB drug and tests](#)
- [Scientific Advances May End Tuberculosis Outbreaks](#)
- [USAID Launches New Efforts in Fight Against Tuberculosis, Including Additional \\$23 Million in Funding](#)

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

TB IN THE NEWS

- [Barely Contained Rage: An Open Letter to Danaher and Cepheid](#)
- [Bone Matrix Graft Products Linked to Tuberculosis Risks, FDA Warns](#)
- [Tuberculosis: a different way of doing things](#)
- [World leaders commit to new targets to end TB](#)
- [Diagnostics to support the scaling up of shorter, safer tuberculosis regimens](#)
- [Community perspective on child-friendly medications for drug-resistant TB: importance, priorities and advocacy](#)
- [Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan Update National Guidelines for Drug-Resistant TB Treatment to Advance National Rollout of Three-Drug, Six-Month Regimen](#)
- [An effective vaccine is only the first step: the need to create and sustain demand for TB vaccines](#)
- [Incidence of TB disease among persons who use drugs in California](#)

- [Inside America's last remaining tuberculosis hospital](#)
- ['The bugs are winning' – Researchers are fighting drug-resistant tuberculosis](#)

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

TB RESOURCES

Uniting for Ukraine: Tuberculosis Information and Resources:

CDC has released new tuberculosis (TB) resources to increase awareness about the TB screening and attestation requirements of the Uniting for Ukraine program. Resources are available in Ukrainian,



Russian, and English. Learn more: www.cdc.gov/unitingforukraine.

- A conversation guide for talking with your clients about screening for TB ([Ukrainian](#), [Russian](#), and [English](#)),
- A fact sheet ([Ukrainian/English](#) and [Russian/English](#)),
- A flyer ([Ukrainian/English](#) and [Russian/English](#)),
- A poster ([Ukrainian/English](#) and [Russian/English](#)),
- Sample [newsletter content](#) (Ukrainian, Russian, and English),
- Sample [text message content](#) (Ukrainian, Russian, and English), and
- Sample [social media posts](#) (Ukrainian, Russian, and English).

[Find updated CDC TB Skin Test Fact Sheet here.](#)

Find more TB resources on our website page ['TB Resources'!](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

[Estimated Costs of 4-Month Pulmonary Tuberculosis Treatment Regimen, United States](#)

A new article, published by our partners at CDC, estimates the direct healthcare costs of a 4-month or 6-month regimen for drug-susceptible pulmonary tuberculosis treatment in the United States. In 2022, CDC published recommendations for a 4-month regimen as an option to the standard 6-month regimen. This analysis found direct costs of the 4-month and 6-month regimens to be \$23,000 per person treated. Treatment shortening has potential advantages from a healthcare perspective and may be appealing to persons being treated for TB.

- [One size does not fit all: community views on choices for TB treatment and prevention](#)
 - o Check out this article co-authored by our very own Chair-Elect, Dr. Jonathan Stillo!
- [Characteristics of and Deaths among 333 Persons with Tuberculosis and COVID-19 in Cross-Sectional Sample from 25 Jurisdictions, United States](#)
 - o Our colleagues at CDC and NTCA aimed to describe demographic, social, and clinical characteristics of persons with TB and COVID-19 in the United States, including risk for death, and to identify populations who may benefit most from integrated interventions.
- [Outcomes of TB contact tracing and predictors of success: a 10-year retrospective cohort analysis in Birmingham, UK](#)
- [The lived experiences of tuberculosis survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic and government lockdown in South Africa: a qualitative analysis](#)
- [Person-centered strategies for delivering TB diagnostic services in Lima, Peru](#)
- [Shorter TB treatment regimens should be safer as well](#)
- [TB programme stakeholder views on lessons from the COVID-19 response in South Africa](#)
- [Four-Month High-Dose Rifampicin Regimens for Pulmonary Tuberculosis](#)

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

COURSES/WORKSHOPS

- The [Association of Public Health Laboratories](#) (APHL) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collaborated to develop an online course, [“Understanding TB Laboratory Testing for Public Health Nurses”](#) to help TB nurses and clinicians learn about TB laboratory testing best practices. The course will aid in communicating effectively and timely with the patient, clinician, and laboratory. To learn more visit [APHL](#).
- [4-8 December 2023: International Course on the Clinical and Programmatic Management of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis 2023 \(hybrid course\)](#)
- [End TB Course Series](#)
- [Register for WHO’s courses on TB](#)
- [Prevent Tuberculosis: Management of TB Infection, Part I](#)
- [Prevent Tuberculosis: Management of TB Infection, Part II](#)
- [Union Courses Online](#)

EVENTS, MEETINGS, & CONFERENCES

[October 17th, 2023, 7pm ET: Where the Sun Rarely Goes. Register now!](#)

Our very own Media Work Group will be presenting *Where the Sun Rarely Goes*, a 12-minute documentary that captures the devastation of tuberculosis (TB) in the Russian prison system and the dedication of *Medicins Sans Frontiers* (MSF) in their effort to support TB treatment and prevention.

Filmed in 2000, MSF first started working in 1995 in Colony No. 33 in the Kemerovo region. When MSF first arrived, the TB mortality rate was 2-3 people per day. At the time of filming, the mortality rate was 2-3 people per month.

In this film, MSF highlights the need for nutrition to support TB medication, directly observed short-course therapy, and improved diagnostic tests and procedures to find cases early. The documentary contains footage from inside Russian prisons, as well as diagnostic testing procedures and interviews with people impacted by the carceral system receiving TB treatment.

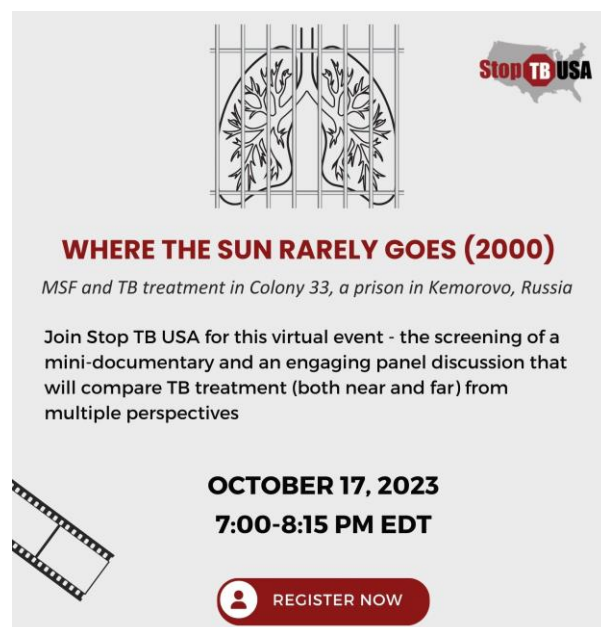
Please join us for a free, virtual screening of *Where the Sun Rarely Goes* with presentations and panel discussion to follow with speakers David Moscovitz, Nataliya Arlyapova, Dr. Jonathan Stillo, and Dr. Lee Reichman. Natalia Black, an MSF press officer who worked on the film, will be available to answer program-specific questions. [Register here.](#)

Nataliya Arlyapova, MPA, BSW, is the Senior Associate for Eastern Europe and Central Asia at Partners in Health. She has been providing oversight and administrative support to multiple Partners in Health Programs, such as the endTB Clinical Trials, as well as the MDR-TB Projects. She has had over 15 years of work experience at global health organizations, implementing public health projects spanning multiple continents.

David Moskowicz, MFA, is a former magazine editor and editorial research director, as well as a programmer and game designer, who completed treatment for active pulmonary TB in 2022. He combines his vocational and treatment experiences as a member of Stop TB USA's Media Work Group as well as *You're Sick and It's Your Fault*, a role-playing game exploring the stigma of illness.

Lee B Reichman, MD, MPH, is the Founding Executive Director at Rutgers Global Tuberculosis Institute. He also worked as a Professor of Medicine & Epidemiology at Rutgers & the State University of New Jersey. Serving on several international committees, Dr. Reichman has been the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the 1999 Will Ross Medal from the American Lung Association.



Jonathan Stillo, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at Wayne State University where he teaches medical anthropology and public health. He is Chair Elect of STOP TB USA, the Co-Chair of TB Europe Coalition and a member of the Global TB Community Advisory Board. Jonathan has received research grants from the US National Science Foundation, The US Department of State, and has consulted for WHO, ECDC, and the US Embassy in Bucharest. He has researched tuberculosis (TB) in Romania and Eastern Europe since 2006 focusing on the social, economic, and political dimensions of drug-resistant TB. For more



WHERE THE SUN RARELY GOES (2000)
MSF and TB treatment in Colony 33, a prison in Kemerovo, Russia

Join Stop TB USA for this virtual event - the screening of a mini-documentary and an engaging panel discussion that will compare TB treatment (both near and far) from multiple perspectives

OCTOBER 17, 2023
7:00-8:15 PM EDT

  **REGISTER NOW**

information: <https://clasprofiles.wayne.edu/profile/gc4943>.

[October 13th, 2023: #EndTB Webinar: Virtual launch for the Guidance on Engagement of Communities and Civil Society to End Tuberculosis](#)

[Recording: The ABC for a TB Activist: 1/4/6×24 Campaign and Supportive Diagnostics:](#)

[APHA Annual Meeting and Expo Registration](#): APHA 2023 is the premier public health event of the year. Learn from leading experts, build leadership skills and knowledge and connect with peers from around the globe, all with the choice and flexibility to select the best format for 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.

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Stop TB USA

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