



TBWIRE

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

May 2024

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR!

We are still buzzing with excitement from seeing so many of you in Baltimore (*hear emoji*)...and now for the #FollowUp work to #EndTB! The first step is to join our [advocacy training May 2nd, 7pm Eastern](#). We will be practicing how to have a powerful meeting with decision makers. Second, the conference presentation by Dr Brenda Waning, (Chief, [Global Drug Facility](#), Stop TB Partnership) galvanized several TB clinicians who are interested in working on getting access to pediatric formulations of TB medicines not currently available in the US. If you want to join a Work Group on that topic, let us know and we will facilitate! Third, we are also starting a Government Relations Work Group, so stay tuned (or email us at leadership@stoptbusa.org) for more details!

- Cynthia A. Tschampl, PhD

DC UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who supported the **TB Survivors' Hill Day on April 15th!** This was the second of two TB Hill Days this year, where TB survivors and other experts made in-person visits with their Members of Congress.

Continue to 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.

Additional actions you can ask your members of Congress to take:

1. Please write or speak to the Chair and Ranking member of Appropriations in favor of a minimum of \$225 million for CDC's fiscal year 2025 TB programs as TB cases increased 16% in 2023 and will continue to rise as the full impact of COVID-19 comes to bear.
2. Please write a letter to CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure in support of a National Coverage Determination of LTBI screening and testing.

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. If you would like a sample script, email us at leadership@stoptbusa.org.

[Bonus points if you write us at leadership@stoptbusa.org and tell us how your call went!!]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Introducing WHO's Civil Society Task Force on Tuberculosis for 2024–2025](#)
- [Global Fund Board Welcomes Investments Towards Ending AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Expresses Concern Over Growing Needs From Polycrisis Amid Global Economic Pressures](#)
- [Johnson & Johnson Receives Positive CHMP Opinion Recommending Full Approval for SIRTURO® \(bedaquiline\) for Treatment of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis](#)
- [WHO announces forthcoming updates on co-administration of treatment for drug-resistant tuberculosis and hepatitis C](#)
- [USAID Celebrates World Tuberculosis Day 2024](#)

Opportunities:

- [Call for case studies and best practices: Adaptation and implementation of WHO's Multisectoral Accountability Framework to end TB \(MAF-TB\)](#)
- [Notice of CDC Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)
- [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease \(NIAID\)](#)
- [Call for expression of interest: Analytical framework and research agenda on the interconnected crises of TB and climate change](#)
- [Opportunities and Challenges Towards Tuberculosis Elimination in the Americas](#)

EVENTS, CONFERENCES, & COURSES

- [April 30 - May 4, 2023 | Global TB Institute TB Intensive Workshop](#)
- [May 6, 2024 | Principles of TB Care and Prevention: Translating Knowledge to Action, 2024](#)
- [September 17-19, 2024 | CDC's Tuberculosis \(TB\) Education and Training Network \(ETN\) and TB Program Evaluation Network \(PEN\) Conference](#)
- [Monthly | SEATRAC Seminar Series](#)

TB RESOURCES & REPORTS

- [Health District confirms tuberculosis investigation at Las Vegas elementary school](#)

- [Department of Public Health reports tuberculosis cases in Connecticut stable despite 16% increase in TB cases nationally](#)
- [Communicable disease threats report, 14-20 April 2024, week 16](#)
- [CDC reports tuberculosis case counts and rates have been increasing since 2020](#)
- [US reports 2023 rise in TB cases, incidence](#)

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

TB IN THE NEWS

TB Articles:

- [Tuberculosis cases rise, but public health agencies say they lack the resources to keep up](#)
- [The Path to a Better Tuberculosis Vaccine Runs Through Montana](#)
- [Experience With Four-Month Rifapentine and Moxifloxacin–Based Tuberculosis Treatment in San Francisco](#)
- [TB: No Longer the Forgotten Pandemic?](#)
- [New ways to tackle multi-drug resistant TB](#)
- [Tuberculosis national registries and data on diagnosis delay – Is there room for improvement?](#)

TB Incidence Reports:

- [Disease outbreaks: measles, Mpox, tuberculosis, meningococcal, and bird flu 2024](#)
- [Racial, ethnic disparities persist in U.S. tuberculosis cases](#)
- [US tuberculosis cases rise for third year in a row: CDC](#)
- [Around the nation: US tuberculosis cases hit a 10-year high](#)

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

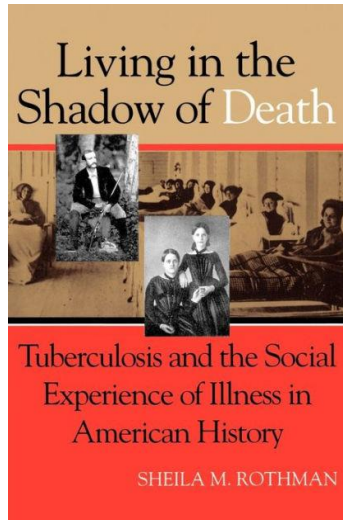
JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [Tuberculosis screening in adults with HIV: beyond symptoms](#)
- [Duration of Effective Tuberculosis Treatment, not Acid-Fast Bacilli \(AFB\) Smear Status, as the Determinant for Deisolation in Community Settings](#)
- [Incidence and risk factors of active tuberculosis among older individuals with latent tuberculosis infection: a cohort study in two high-epidemic sites in eastern China](#)
- [Integrated plasma proteomics identifies tuberculosis-specific diagnostic biomarkers](#)
- [Identification of differentially recognized T cell epitopes in the spectrum of tuberculosis infection](#)

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

TB BOOKSHELF

Living in the Shadow of Death: Tuberculosis and the Social Experience of Illness in American History by Sheila M. Rothman



Living in the Shadow of Death: Tuberculosis and the Social Experience of Illness in American History by Sheila M. Rothman

John Hopkins University Press

ISBN: 0801851866

Subtitles matter: in the introduction to *Living in the Shadow of Death: Tuberculosis and the Social Experience of Illness in American History* [emphasis mine], Sheila Rothman states that because their experiences were so different from her white, relatively well-off subjects: “I have not included the narratives of illnesses of miners, of African Americans or Native Americans even though large numbers of them suffered from the illnesses.” It’s an especially noteworthy declaration because an underlying theme of the book—which covers a period from the early 19th century to the advent of streptomycin-based treatment in the 20th—is the disconnect between voices needing to be heard and those kept silent.

We see this in the early chapters about Deborah Fiske, who maintained two entirely separate sets of letters: The first, full of resolve and discipline, was for the public and her family. The secret second set, preserved but not meant for publication, contains her private doubts and frustrations. Similarly, discussions of duality and coded language fill the book. Consider “passing,” a word often associated with race and sexual preference, applied to hiding one’s affliction. After all, regardless of one’s ability to pay rent, discovery as a “lunger” could lead to homelessness. (The consequences for exposed “cousining,” i.e., sleeping with another sanatorium patient, were more varied.)

American also refers to the intersection of lore and history. Rothman discusses New England evangelicals who headed south not only for the curative climate but to promote slavery's abolition and educating illiterate whites. And she would have been justified titling later sections "Go West, Young Tubercular" with its descriptions of exercise via horseback or working the orchards in the nascent Southern California citrus industry.

As the treatment model changed from travel and outdoor exercise to sanatorium confinement, silence was often mandated. (Rothman explicitly notes how different American sanatoriums—even those catering to the rich—were from portrayals in Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain*: there anyone physically capable would gossip, lecture, or argue at length—at least in between cigarettes.) Patients could however express themselves in in-house newsletters with the titles such as "Spunk," "Pep," and "The Optimist." One wonders how the public attitude toward TB would have changed—if at all—had such publications had modern electronic distribution.

Living in the Shadow of Death is a 30-year-old book and that makes it *more* valuable to the contemporary reader: there was no COVID, no widespread use of antivirals for HIV patients, none of the recent progress (and backsliding) regarding race and gender informing Rothman's writing. This reinforces how little—beyond the science—has changed. Consider the paternalistic attitudes involved in strict reliance on and the language of "directly observed therapy (DOT)," as Stop TB USA's own Jonathan Stillo has written about (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00187259.2023.2286173>).

And as Rothman's book makes clear how important science, legislation, and public will are in combatting TB, there's an additional message: **patients' voices matter**.

- David Moskowitz, Stop TB USA Media Work Group Chair

Stop TB USA: Where we unite to #EndTB!

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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

stoptbusa.org

leadership@stoptbusa.org

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