



TB Times

Mayo Clinic Center for Tuberculosis (MCCT)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Select links for
details

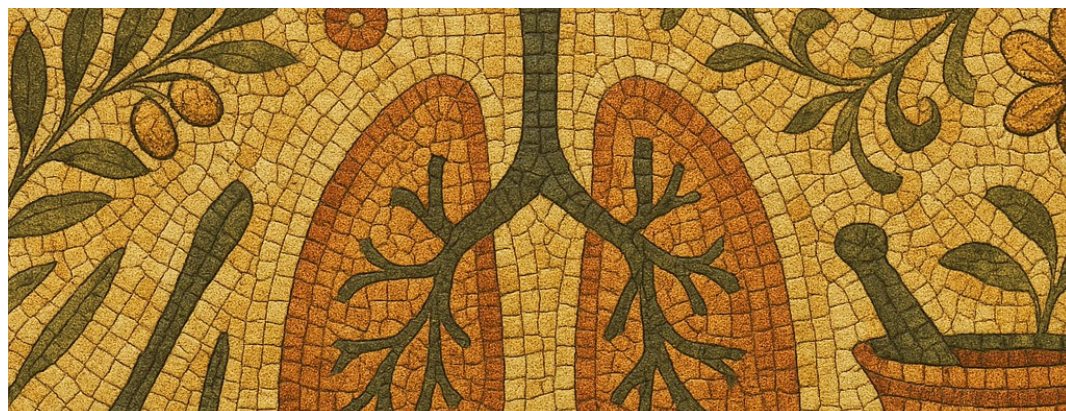
[Innovations in
Tuberculosis
\(TB\) Webinar
Series](#)
**Adverse
Reactions in
Tuberculosis
(TB) Treatment**
August 21
Webinar

[Innovations in
Tuberculosis
\(TB\) Webinar
Series](#)
**Multi-Drug-
Resistant
Tuberculosis
(MDR-TB)**
September 18
Webinar

[TB Clinical
Intensive](#)
October 8-9
Rochester, MN
& Livestream

[Innovations in
Tuberculosis
\(TB\) Webinar
Series](#)
**Tuberculosis
(TB) and
Diabetes**
October 16
Webinar

[Civil Surgeons
Series](#)
**Inside the TB
Technical
Instructions**
November 6
Webinar



Celebrating a Remarkable Career!



Jeffrey R. Starke, MD

After more than four decades of dedicated service, Dr. Jeffrey Starke is retiring from Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine. A globally recognized expert in pediatric tuberculosis, Dr. Starke has shaped the field through his clinical care, research, and leadership in national and international guidelines. He directed the Children's Tuberculosis Clinic for nearly 30 years and served as Infection Control Officer at Texas Children's for over two decades. His scholarly contributions include over 150 papers and 40 book chapters, and he's been honored with lifetime achievement and distinguished research awards. But beyond the accolades, Dr. Starke is known for his unwavering advocacy for children, his mentorship, and his generosity of spirit. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he's touched and the standards he's set. We thank him deeply and wish him joy, rest, and adventure in retirement.

TB Clinical Intensive in Rochester, Minnesota

Join the [TB Clinical Intensive 2025](#) at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN – October 8–9, 2025!

It will be two days of expert-led learning – in-person or online – focused on the latest in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention, with practical tools to enhance care across disciplines.

[Reserve your spot today!](#)

2025 NTCA Conference Special Session

Join the [NTCA Virtual Conference](#) on August 27 for a special session on implementing the new Community Respiratory Isolation Guidelines for TB. [Registration](#) is open now.

Attendees are encouraged to preview the Wisconsin TB Summit presentation for background to help prepare for the session. [Access the recording here.](#)

Dr. Anthony “Tony” Garcia-Prats, M.D., M.Sc., Ph.D. Joins Pediatric TB Consultant Group!



Anthony Garcia-Prats, MD, MSc, PhD

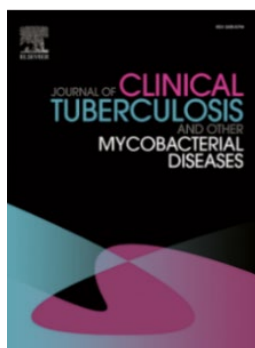
We're excited to welcome Dr. Anthony “Tony” Garcia-Prats, M.D., M.Sc., Ph.D to the Pediatric TB Consultant Group at the Mayo Clinic Center for Tuberculosis. An expert in pediatric TB and MDR-TB, Dr. Garcia-Prats leads global research on TB drug safety and access for children. He co-leads CHEETA, advancing pediatric TB drug evaluations,

and collaborates with WHO on treatment policy. His appointment strengthens our commitment to improving care for children affected by TB worldwide.

JCTUBE Spotlight

[Defining the Role for Mycobacterium Tuberculosis PCR Testing from Stool Samples](#)

Stool PCR testing is emerging as a valuable tool for tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis, especially when sputum samples are difficult to obtain—such as in children or adults with physical limitations. Recent WHO guidance supports stool testing in pediatric cases, and advances like the assay have improved sensitivity. A Mayo Clinic-developed stool PCR test showed promising results in a Filipino adult cohort, detecting TB in cases missed by sputum testing. While U.S. availability is limited due to regulatory barriers, stool PCR may enhance diagnostic yield and guide further testing. Implementation science is needed to optimize its use, particularly in adults and low-resource settings, where it could complement or substitute traditional methods.



CDC Updates

Dr. Deron Burton Appointed Director of DTBE



Deron Cornell Burton, MD, JD, MPH (CAPT, USPHS)

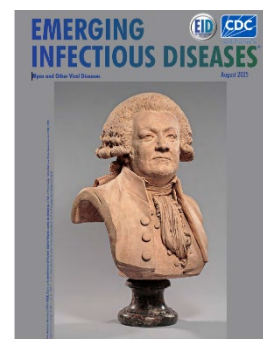
Dr. Deron Cornell Burton, MD, JD, MPH (CAPT, USPHS) has returned to NCHHSTP as Director of the Division of TB Elimination (DTBE). Dr. Burton brings over two decades of CDC leadership experience, including roles in NCBDDD and NCHHSTP. He previously led DTBE's Clinical Research Branch and served internationally in Kenya. Board

certified in preventive medicine, Dr. Burton holds degrees from Johns Hopkins and UCLA. He will officially join DTBE on June 16 and will shadow Dr. LoBue until his retirement on June 27. We look forward to his leadership in advancing TB elimination!

[Systematic Review of Contact Investigation Costs for Tuberculosis, United States](#)

A CDC-led systematic review analyzed the costs of tuberculosis (TB) contact investigations in the U.S. from 2013–2022.

Contact investigations, essential for preventing TB transmission, cost an average of \$228.93 per contact, with labor comprising 77% of expenses. Nationally, the total cost reached \$137.35 million over the decade. The study found significant cost variation by setting, with community-based investigations being the most expensive. Despite limited published data, findings underscore the importance and cost-effectiveness of contact investigations in averting TB cases and healthcare costs. Enhanced data collection could improve planning and resource allocation for TB prevention efforts.



Newsletter Content Suggestions

We invite you to be active participants in shaping the content of our newsletter. We will do our best to provide clarity on your TB related questions and include topics and events you would like to showcase. Simply submit your ideas to [TB Times Content Suggestion](#). Each issue we will feature suggested content, making this newsletter a true reflection of your needs.

Vision

To become a regionally, nationally, and internationally recognized Center of Excellence for tuberculosis.

Mission

To contribute, in a meaningful way, to the control, management, and elimination of tuberculosis regionally, nationally, and globally.



Medical Consultation

MCCT provides expert medical consultation to public health and medical professionals in our assigned region. We have colleagues with expertise in public health nursing, pharmacy, laboratory, occupational health, pediatrics, and radiology just to name a few.

Consultations can be requested using one of the following options:

- Submit at [IDCrowd Platform](#)
- Email tbcenter@mayo.edu
- Call 507-284-0275

IDCrowd is the preferred platform for submitting requests used by all TB COEs. If you are using IDCrowd for the first time, choose the option to register for a new membership. Additional information on how to submit a request can be found [here](#).

Mini Fellowships

As part of the TB COE initiatives, MCCT is providing mini-fellowship opportunities for healthcare professionals seeking to deepen their understanding of TB.

Experiences will be curated to meet individual learning needs. Some experiences that may be offered include shadowing healthcare professionals as they interact with patients, observing directly observed therapy (DOT), and participating in TB case reviews.

You can find out more information by emailing tbcenter@mayo.edu. To be considered for a mini fellowship, please submit an [application here](#).

Educational Requests

MCCT is able to support a variety of TB related needs including virtual and in-person training, educational material development, and technical assistance. Please contact us to discuss ways we can support your work in treating and preventing tuberculosis.

Contact Us



Tbcenter@mayo.edu



centerfortuberculosis.mayo.edu



507-284-0275