

MGILL INTERNATIONAL TB CENTRE / WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE

WHO ARE WE?

The McGill International Tuberculosis Centre (MTBC) was founded in 2014. Since November 2018, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) / World Health Organization (WHO) designated the MTBC as a PAHO / WHO Collaborating Centre for Tuberculosis Research.

VISION: To contribute to the elimination of TB in the world, especially in high-burden countries and among the most vulnerable population groups.

MISSION: To help end TB, within **Canada and globally**, by:

- Doing innovative, interdisciplinary research that will result in the transformative new tools and strategies needed to help end TB.
- Strengthening training and capacity building that can support TB elimination, especially in high-burden countries and vulnerable population groups (indigenous, children, etc.).
- Forging equitable research partnerships with local and international partners.

MEMBERSHIP: The MTBC includes 40 investigators (27 members and 10 associate members) who have research expertise spanning from basic biomedical methods to clinical, epidemiological and social sciences. Members work includes the development, evaluation and implementation of new diagnostic tests and strategies, as well as new treatment regimens for TB infection and disease. Members currently supervise 75 post-graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

PRIZES AND SPECIAL AWARDS TO MEMBERS: Currently, members of the MTBC hold 27 grants with an annual value of approximately \$12.7 million. Members hold Foundation grants and other operating awards from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (including Menzies, Divangahi, Schurr, Pai, Behr, Ahmad Khan, Schwartzman), salary awards from Fond de Recherche du Québec (Veyrier, Grandjean Lapierre, Ahmad Khan) and Canada Research Chairs (Menzies, Pai, Behr) and, as well as large scale grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr. Menzies as PI, and several members as co-investigators (Behr, Schwartzman, Ahmad-Khan, Johnston and Fox) received a new grant for clinical trials in TB treatment from the CDC for Tuberculosis Trials Consortium in 4 countries (Canada, Australia, Benin and Vietnam) – 17,2 million CAD \$ for 2020-2030).

PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA: In 2021-2022, more than 100 publications were co-authored by MTBC investigators. Members had publications in journals such as New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, Lancet Global Health, Cell, Science Immunology, PLoS Medicine, Nature Microbiology, Nature Reviews Disease Primers and BMJ. The journal impact factors for these varied from 2.3 to 79, with an average of 18. Throughout the year, members have been in external media at least 53 times (37 TB-related and 16 COVID-related). In addition, the MTBC received the 2020 Stop TB Community Award.

WHAT DO WE DO?

| COMMON AREAS OF WORK | MTBC ACTIVITIES | WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE ACTIVITIES |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biomedical, Epidemiological and Clinical Research • Testing and Diagnosis • Treatment • Capacity building and Training • TB in specific populations • Knowledge transfer, Advocacy and Policy setting • Publications, Resources and Tools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TB Research Day event • Summer courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summer Institute in Infectious disease and global health (5 TB courses) - Epidemiology for health communication • TB Seminars • TB Newsletters <p><i>*FUNDING: FMHS, GHP</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance in Low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) in the promotion and Implementation of the WHO Global Action Framework for TB research • Guideline development in treatment and prevention of TB • Policy development • Courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic evaluations as part of implementation research. - Economic Research Methods - TB Research Methods - Qualitative research in TB - Advanced TB Diagnostics research <p><i>*FUNDING: RI-MUHC</i></p> |

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

| PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS / STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1: Develop new research partnerships in Canada and globally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop formal agreements – MOU and contract – with National TB programs, Universities/ Research Institutes and NGOs working in TB research in LMICs. - Develop new research collaborations with Canadian partners, starting with Montreal Public Health (common areas of research, shared supervision) • Action 2: Develop new inter-disciplinary research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify one theme for this research – TB Prevention – which can involve many disciplines. - Identify potential funding sources for inter-disciplinary, translational projects. - Establish mechanisms for co-supervision of trainees by investigators from different disciplines. • Action 3: Create a community advisory board (CAB) in Canada – Patient voice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify CAB members - with assistance of Montreal Public Health, Other Montreal NGOs, as well as Canadian NGO's (Results Canada, STOP-TB Canada) - Develop our CAB members toolkit: staffing, goals, roles and responsibilities, compensation and recognition. Identify funding. • Action 4: Develop a McGill recruitment plan for new investigators – Clinician scientists, PhD scientists and Social scientists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the needs of the faculties and departments that have tenure track slots open/will be hiring. - Prepare a recruitment plan, for specific individuals who do TB research and that meet these needs of other departments (Medicine or SGPH for clinicians, basic science for PhD scientists). |

MTBC FULL LIST OF MEMBERS

Gonzalo Alvarez
 Marcel Behr, Associate Director
 Andrea Benedetti
 Paul Brassard
 Jonathon Campbell
 Amrita Daftary
 Nandini Dendukuri
 Maziar Divangahi, Associate Director
 Tim Evans
 Christina Greenaway
 Philippe Gros
 James Johnston
 Faiz Ahmad Khan, Associate Director
 Robyn Lee
 Simon Grandjean Lapiere
 Dick Menzies, Director
 Momar Ndao
 Charity Omenka
 Olivia Oxlade, Associate Director
 Madhukar Pai, Associate Director
 Michael B. Reed
 Erwin Schurr
 Kevin Schwartzman
 Hafid Soualhine
 Glogia Sulis
 Frédéric J. Veyrier
 Alice Zwerling

MTBC ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Luis Barreiro
 Anurag Bhargava
 Claudia Denkinger
 Nora Engel
 Greg Fox
 Stéphanie Law
 Ruslami Rovina
 Srinath Satyanarayana
 Anete Trajman
 Toyin Togun

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Priya Amin (Canada)
 Tenzin Kunor (USA)
 Handaa Rea (Mongolia)
 Zolelwa Sifuma (South Africa)
 Nandita Venkatesan (India)

Coordination:
 Dick Menzies (Canada)
 Lisandra Lannes (Canada)

In line with MTBC / WHO CC priorities, we set an International virtual Community Advisory Board (CAB) to support patient voice in TB research around the world. The CAB serves as a patient advisory group to encourage greater patient involvement into research design, as well as help with knowledge translation, and contribute to build a TB research network. This research advisory board advises on research protocols and results, including their dissemination, with a view of improving TB research programs.