

Forum on Microbial Threats

Innovations for Tackling Tuberculosis in the Time of COVID-19

**Part One of a Two-Part Virtual Workshop
July 22, 2021**

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

**Innovations for
Tackling
Tuberculosis
in the Time of
COVID-19**

**July 22, 2021
11:00AM–1:00PM ET**

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Innovations for Tackling Tuberculosis in the Time of COVID-19

A Two-Part Virtual Workshop

AGENDA – Workshop Part One

JULY 22, 2021

This two-part public workshop will examine future innovations required to meet the [United Nations High-Level Meeting \(UNHLM\) on Tuberculosis](#) targets in 2022 and the WHO [END TB Strategy](#) targets by 2030.

Despite being preventable and curable, tuberculosis (TB) has long been the world's deadliest infectious disease and continues to kill 1.4 million and sicken 10 million new people each and every year, mostly the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world. Unfortunately, COVID-19 and its mitigation efforts have taken a devastating toll on countries with the highest burden of TB disease and the global TB response, threatening to reverse up to eight years of progress. Recent [modeling exercises](#) project that between 2020 and 2025, the initial impact in 2020 of the COVID-19 pandemic will result in an additional 1.4 million TB deaths. The webinar series will consider the science behind the innovations required to bring TB diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and political commitment to the 21st century and achieve the ambitious targets set by the UNHLM and WHO.

The public webinar series will feature invited presentations and discussions to consider:

- How can we accelerate the development of affordable point-of-care tests for TB? What barriers or challenges have prevented the development of accessible point-of-care tests for TB for low and middle income countries?
- Improvements in the usual care for TB: Can we achieve a two-week, non-toxic treatment for drug-sensitive and drug-resistant TB?
- How can we rapidly use the TB platform, such as contact investigation, in low- to middle-income countries to address COVID-19 and other airborne infections to prevent future pandemics?
- How can we ensure increased and sustained commitments to reach the UNHLM TB targets in high burden countries, despite the challenges from COVID-19?

A proceedings of the presentations and discussions at the webinar will be prepared by a designated rapporteur in accordance with institutional guidelines. For more information on this virtual workshop, please visit the [main project page](#).

Thursday, July 22 2021
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM ET

Current State of Tuberculosis Elimination and Impact of COVID-19

- 11:00 AM **Welcome Remarks, Workshop Overview & Goals**
KENNETH CASTRO, *Emory University, workshop co-chair*
GAIL CASSELL, *Harvard University, workshop co-chair*
- 11:05 AM **Opening addresses: current status and urgency of ending TB around the globe**
- Jim Yong Kim, *Global Infrastructure Partners*
 - Salmaan Keshavjee, *Harvard University*
 - Eric Rubin, *New England Journal of Medicine*

Challenges and Innovations

Moderator: Lucica Ditiu, *Stop TB Partnership*

- 11:30 AM **Diagnostics**
- Soumya Swaminathan, *World Health Organization*
- 11:40 AM **Vaccines and Therapeutics**
- Emilio Emini, *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*
- 11:50 AM **Critical Need for New Business Models**
- Kevin Outterson, *Boston University*
- 12:00 PM **Discussion**
- 12:55 PM **Wrap-up and Adjourn**
GAIL CASSELL, *workshop co-chair*
KENNETH CASTRO, *workshop co-chair*