



## Bios

### Keynote Speaker: Paula I. Fujiwara, MD, MPH



Paula I Fujiwara, MD, MPH has been a leader in scientific research and clinical management programs for more than 30 years. Most recently, she has worked as an independent consultant for several organizations, including the United States Agency for International Development, the Stop Tuberculosis (TB) Partnership, the Asia Pacific Cities Alliance for Health and Development, antidote.ngo, and private companies, using her experience to address issues of public health importance.

For 20 years, Dr. Fujiwara provided strategic visioning and technical knowledge across both operational and clinical research in TB at the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union). As Scientific Director (2013-2021), she was responsible for overseeing all technical departments and projects, and provided programmatic assistance to TB programs in Africa, Asia and Latin America. She has served on multiple technical advisory committees of the World Health Organization, the Global Fund to End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the World Organisation for Animal Health. As a member of the Stop TB Partnership Board of Directors Executive Committee, she was the chairperson of the writing committee for the current Global Plan to End TB 2023-2030, as well as its two preceding editions in 2016 and 2018. Dr. Fujiwara led the Partnership's working group to develop the global TB community's "key asks" document for the first ever United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis in 2018. Prior to her work at The Union, Dr Fujiwara was seconded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a medical officer to New York City's Bureau of TB Control from 1992-2000, during which time the incidence of TB declined by more than two-thirds and multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) almost disappeared. She received her medical degree from the University of California (UC) Davis and completed her medical residency in internal medicine at UC San Francisco. Dr. Fujiwara also holds a Master of Public Health and a Master of Science degree from UC Berkeley. She has published scholarly articles on the public health aspects of TB control, including drug resistant-TB and zoonotic TB and rabies.

In 2023, she was awarded the Princess Chichibu Memorial Prize by the Japan Anti-TB Association, for her contributions to global TB Control.

## Welcome



### **Payam Nahid, MD, MPH**

Dr. Payam Nahid is Professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Executive Director of the Institute for Global Health Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco. He has served on the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis and is Senior Research Advisor to the multinational SMART4TB Consortium. He is the founding Director of the UCSF Center for Tuberculosis and Principal Investigator of the NIH-funded UC TB Research Advancement Center, dedicated to training a diverse next generation of TB scientists across pulmonary medicine, infectious disease, and beyond. Through research, mentorship, and advocacy, he has consistently translated science into action to expand access to life-saving TB care and reduce disparities in lung health worldwide.



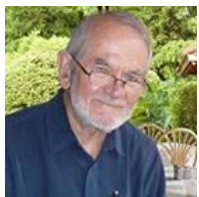
### **Lisa Chen, MD**

Dr. Lisa Chen is a Professor of Medicine in the division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. She heads the Curry International TB Center at UCSF, which has served as a CDC Center of Excellence for TB training, education, and consultation for the past 30 years. She is the immediate Past-president for the North American Region International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (NAR IUATLD) and serves on the Coordinating Board for STOP-TB USA and the federal DHHS Advisory Council for the Elimination of TB. Dr. Chen's international contributions for over 15+ years have been as a technical program advisor and education specialist for the development and strengthening of national programmatic management of drug-resistant tuberculosis (PMDT). She has served as a contributor/reviewer for both domestic and international guideline on DR-TB and has been the co-editor for the last two editions of the CITC Drug-Resistant TB Survival Guide.



### **Susannah Graves, MD, MPH**

Dr. Susannah Graves is the Director of the TB Branch at San Francisco Department of Public Health. Prior to her work in San Francisco, she served in various roles including Chief of TB Control and Refugee Health for the County of San Diego and on the faculty of University of California, San Diego as the Site Director for the Global Medicine Residency in Mozambique where her work focused on post-graduate medical education and tuberculosis prevention among hospital workers.



### **Phil Hopewell, MD**

Dr. Phil Hopewell is professor of medicine, emeritus, at the University of California, San Francisco based at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital where he served as Chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and as Associate Dean. He is the co-founder of the Curry International Tuberculosis Center at UCSF. His academic career has focused on clinical and epidemiological studies of TB and HIV-associated pulmonary conditions in both low-and high-burden settings. Dr. Hopewell is a previous President of the American Thoracic Society and in 2004 received the Society's Trudeau Medal that recognizes lifelong major contributions to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of lung disease. He was also awarded the Louis Mark Medal from the American College of Chest Physicians, and the Union Medal from the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases. Dr. Hopewell has worked closely with the World Health Organization, United States Agency for International Development, and other organizations to establish and disseminate best practices on TB diagnosis, treatment, and control. He developed the concept and chaired the committee that produced the first International Standards for TB Care and led the effort to implement the Standards globally. In 2009, the Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association awarded him The Princess Chichibu Global Memorial TB Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to global TB control.



### **Gisela Schecter, MD, MPH**

Dr. Gisela Schecter is one of the co-founders of the Curry International Tuberculosis Center at UCSF. She was the San Francisco Tuberculosis Controller from 1984-1996 and served on the CDC's Tuberculosis Elimination Advisory Board from 1989-1992. Dr. Schecter worked at the Tuberculosis Control Branch at the California Department of Public Health from 2006-2017. She has edited and contributed to numerous publications. After retiring from the California State Tuberculosis Control Branch, she continued to see patients at the San Francisco Tuberculosis Clinic until 2020.

## Session 1 – From Ideation to Implementation: Developing Research with Community Partners



### **Kinari Shah, MSc**

Kinari Shah is a researcher in the Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases, and General Medicine working TB vaccine preparedness. She previously worked on novel diagnostics evaluations in the Department of Pulmonary Medicine and earned her MSc in Global Disease Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins & BS from the University of Michigan.



### **Kalee Singh, MPH, DrPH**

Dr. Kalee Singh is a researcher at the Center for Tuberculosis, working on a study using implementation science methods, evidence synthesis, and community-based participation to enhance demand, generation, and access for TB related healthcare services. Her prior work spans the intersection of humanitarian response and applied research, including roles with organizations such as the World Health Organization and Save the Children. She earned her DrPH at the University of California, Berkeley.



### **Rejoice Abimiku, PhD, MSc**

Dr. Rejoice Helma Abimiku is a Biomedical Scientist and Public Health professional with over a decade of experience in teaching and research. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Medical Microbiology from Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria. He currently serves as a Lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences at Bingham University, Nigeria, and as a Postdoctoral Research Associate (PDRA) at the Zankli Research Centre, Bingham University. In this capacity, he contributes to the implementation of the Investigating a Novel Targeted Rollout Strategy for Adult and Adolescent TB Vaccines for Maximum Impact (INTRO-TB-VAX) study. The project is led by the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), USA, in collaboration with partners including Johns Hopkins University (USA), the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), and the University of Indonesia, with funding support from the Gates Foundation. Dr. Abimiku also serves as a Quantitative and Qualitative Research Scientist and Technical Advisory Consultant at the International Research Center of Excellence (IRCE), Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN), Abuja. He is an active member of several professional bodies, including the Public Health Alliance for Genomic Epidemiology (PHA4GE) Training and Workforce Development Working Group in collaboration with the University of the Western Cape, South Africa; the American Society for Microbiology (ASM); and the Nigerian Society for Microbiology (NSM). In addition, he serves on the Editorial and Research Evaluation Board of Global Scientific Journals.



### **Makomo Hachintu, MS**

Makomo Hachintu is a Nurse and public health professional with over a decade of experience in HIV and tuberculosis (TB) programs. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Community and Health Psychology from the University of South Africa and a Master of Public Health from the University of Lusaka. Her academic and professional training has equipped her with strong expertise in community engagement, health promotions, and implementation research. Hachintu is a dedicated researcher who has authored and co-authored TB/HIV research abstracts presented at both international and local scientific conferences. Her work reflects a strong commitment to

strengthening community-centered approaches to TB and HIV programs. She also contributes to national health policy and program development through her roles in the National Community Health Technical Working Group and the National Health Promotions Technical Working Group, where she serves as Vice Chairperson. She is a passionate advocate for community participation and is deeply committed to empowering communities and strengthening meaningful stakeholder engagement in tuberculosis research and program implementation.



### **Nyiko Kubai**

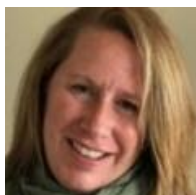
Nyiko Kubai is a dedicated public health advocate from South Africa who is committed to promoting the rights and well-being of young people living with HIV and those affected. With a strong background in advocacy and community engagement, Nyiko has established himself as a leader in the cross-cutting fields of TB, HIV/AIDS treatment optimization, treatment access, options, and improved diagnostics. His background and lived experiences inspire him to strongly advocate for long-acting solutions and friendly formulations to improve the standards of care in LMICs, especially for young key populations. Nyiko was appointed as a Community Advisory Board member of Afrocab, where he leads a technical team of young leaders to advance the quality of HIV/AIDS treatment and CAB long-acting injectable for prevention and diagnostics in South Africa. He is also an active member of the Y+ Network in South Africa, where he is standing as an advocacy officer on HIV/AIDS commodities and SRH-R. Nyiko was recently elevated to an acting country lead for the Transforming Advanced HIV Disease 4are in LMICs through the Comprehensive and Equitable Access (THRIVE) project. He leads South Africa TB vaccine preparedness work as a Regional Community Advisory Board member for the Wellcome Trust project. In addition, he works as a Community Technical Advisor under the TB-DASH project, developing a global framework to enhance demand, access, and seeking of TB-related healthcare services, within UCSF's center for disease. He plays an active role as a CAB member under the Clinical HIV Research Unit (CHRU) and is an active member of the Youth Reference Group for the International HIV and Adolescents Workshop as well as the previous local co-chair.



### **Tariro Kutadza, MS**

Ms. Tariro Kutadza holds a Master of Public Health in Health Promotion and Health Behaviour, and a Master's in International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, to promote Universal Health Coverage. She is a public health advocate and community systems leader from Zimbabwe. Her career in HIV and TB prevention, treatment, and health systems strengthening is grounded in lived experience and a deep-rooted belief that health is a fundamental human right. For over two decades, she has worked to ensure that communities across Africa are not merely passive recipients of medical services but the primary architects of the health systems that serve them. Her expertise lies in bridging the gap between high-level policy and the realities of primary health care - level (PHC) implementation, particularly in monitoring, evaluation, research, and social accountability. She has contributed to published journals on Citizen Science Fostering whole-of-society collaboration: "Harnessing citizen science intelligence for outbreak preparedness and response in low- and middle-income countries - A sequential mixed method approach, October 2022 – June 2023," and Post-TB Diseases (PTLD). Ms. Kutadza currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Zimbabwe Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), where she provides strategic oversight for Global Fund programs. In this role, she fights for transparent decision-making and ensures that the voices of those living with diseases are heard. Serving as a community representative for the Southern Africa Regional Coordinating Mechanism (TB in Mining), her focus is always on equity and access.

## Session 2 - Early-Stage Investigators (ESIs) – Next generation of researchers tackling TB



### **Elizabeth Fair, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Elizabeth Fair is an infectious disease epidemiologist with a primary faculty appointment in the Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Fair's research interests include intensified case finding for TB in high burden settings, global health, and operational research. She serves as a co-Director of the UCSF Center for Tuberculosis, co-Director of the TB Research and Mentoring Program (TB RAMP) and the TRAC Global Fellows Program, and co-Director of the Development Core of the UC TRAC. Dr. Fair also serves as Director of Education for the UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences (IGHS) where she teaches, mentors, and serves as Director of the Global Health PhD program.



### **Celeste Garza, BS**

Celeste is a Biomedical Sciences PhD student in Dr. Sara Suliman's lab at UCSF. In the lab, Celeste studies non-polymorphic CD1 lipid-antigen presenting molecules and regulation of their expression to inform novel TB vaccine design strategies.



### **Lelia Chaisson, PhD, MSc**

Dr. Lelia Chaisson is an infectious disease epidemiologist and Assistant Researcher in the UCSF Center for Tuberculosis and UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences. Her research focuses on TB and HIV, with an emphasis on prevention, screening, and clinical trials. She has a particular interest in sex differences in TB and the prevention and management of TB during pregnancy.



### **Styliani (Stela) Karanika, MD**

Dr. Styliani (Stela) Karanika is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Johns Hopkins University. She earned her medical degree from the University of Athens, Greece, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Karanika further broadened her expertise at Brown University through a research fellowship and completed her internal medicine residency at Boston University and her infectious diseases fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. During her fellowship, Dr. Karanika developed a research focus on tuberculosis (TB), particularly on adjunctive host directed therapy strategies designed to accelerate curative TB treatment and improve outcomes in both immunocompetent and immunocompromised populations. She pioneered therapeutic vaccination approaches to enhance cellular immunity against Mycobacterium tuberculosis stringent response enzymes, establishing proof of concept for reducing treatment duration and relapse — work published as a first author article in the Journal of Clinical Investigation. This research laid the foundation for her NIAID K08 Career Development Award in TB immunotherapy. Building on this foundation, Dr. Karanika's laboratory now develops therapeutic antibody–drug conjugates targeting CCRL2, a novel host directed strategy aimed at improving TB treatment outcomes, with a particular focus on older adults and people living with HIV. Her long term goal is to develop immune based treatment strategies that reduce toxicity, recurrence, and treatment failure in high risk populations.



### **Michael Marll, MD**

Dr. Michael Marll is a current pulmonary and critical care research fellow at Emory University, where he is completing a Master's in Clinical Research focused on HIV, tuberculosis, and post-tuberculosis lung disease. His work focuses on understanding how tuberculosis and HIV co-infection impact long-term lung function trajectories and aims to identify novel physiological phenotypes of post-tuberculosis lung disease.



### **Shashi Prakash Singh, PhD**

Dr. Shashi Prakash Singh is a postdoctoral scientist in the lab of Dr Riti Sharan, Texas Biomedical Research Institute (TBRI), South-West National Primate Centre (SNPRC), San Antonio, Texas. He holds a bachelor's degree in Zoology (Hons.) from Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, a master's in biotechnology from the School of Biotechnology, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and a Ph.D. from the Special Center for Molecular Medicine (SCMM), JNU, New Delhi, India. Shashi brings a wealth of knowledge and a relentless passion for scientific discovery. During his Ph.D., Shashi delved into the intricate mechanisms of microRNAs in both active and latent Mycobacterium tuberculosis infections. Driven by an insatiable curiosity, he is studying the M.tb and HIV-1 coinfection pathogenesis in humanized mice and non-human primates (NHPs) models. Leveraging Immunohistochemistry and multi-parameter Flow Cytometry (FACS), he aims to unravel the underlying mechanisms of latent tuberculosis and viral pathogenesis, to contribute to the development of innovative therapies and preventive strategies.



### **Vijay Soni, PhD**

Dr. Vijay Soni is an Instructor of Microbiology in Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, where his research focuses on understanding microbial metabolism and the biological mechanisms underlying antibiotic action and resistance. A childhood tuberculosis survivor, he has been engaged in TB research for the past 16 years. He earned his PhD jointly from the National Institute of Immunology and Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani–Hyderabad, India. Dr. Soni has co-authored more than 70 research publications and serves as an editor and contributor to multiple books and book chapters on bacterial metabolomics, antimicrobial resistance, and infection metabolism. In addition to academic research, he founded Scipreneur, a platform connecting scientists and entrepreneurs. His work has been recognized with honors including the National Academy of Sciences of India Young Scientist Award and the BioAsia Innovation Award.



### **Hassan Eldesouky, PhD**

Dr. Hassan Eldesouky received his Ph.D. in 2020 from Purdue University, where he focused on antifungal drug discovery. In 2021, he joined University of Washington as a postdoctoral fellow in the Sherman Lab, studying drug responses and persistence mechanisms in Mycobacterium tuberculosis. His research broadly centers on antimicrobial tolerance and therapeutic optimization using chemical and functional genomics approaches.

## **Session 3 - Firsthand Experiences Surviving TB**



### **Isela Ford, MPA**

Isela Ford is the Director of the Office of Equity and Community Engagement at the San Francisco Department of Public Health, where she leads a team that works closely with clinical and community partners, including the TB Branch, to strengthen prevention strategies for populations disproportionately affected by infectious diseases. She also advances initiatives such as the Promotores Community of Practice and cross-division overdose prevention efforts, with a focus on uplifting community voices to improve health outcomes.



### **Teresita (Teresa) Ampie**

Teresita Ampie is the Health Worker Section Chief at the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Tuberculosis Branch. She has been with SFDPH since 1990 and joined the TB Control team in 1993, during a time when tuberculosis cases were sharply rising in San Francisco. Throughout her career, Teresita has focused on Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) and Video Directly Observed Therapy (VDOT), using her field experience to strengthen patient care and adherence. She is dedicated to training and mentoring fellow health workers, sharing her knowledge and practical expertise to support effective TB prevention and treatment efforts across the city.

## Session 4 - Protecting Family and Community – Case Presentation & Introduction to the CI Team



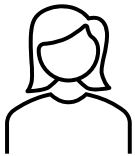
### **Seemab Haider, MPH**

Seemab Haider is a Disease Control Investigator at Ward 94/TB Branch at San Francisco Department of Public Health. Prior to coming to Ward 94, Seemab served in various other roles including as a Disease Control Investigator with the COVID-19 Task Force Team in Isolation and Quarantine at San Francisco Department of Public Health, as a Healthcare Analyst in Quality and Performance Improvement at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, Health Program Specialist at Sutter County Public Health where he coordinated the oral health program, and as a Communicable Disease Investigator at San Joaquin County Public Health Department working in Communicable Diseases and TB Program where he helped trained staff and provided education to the community on TB and Communicable Diseases.



### **Felix Crespín, HPC II**

Felix Crespín is the TB Disease Investigation Section Chief for TB Branch at the San Francisco Department of Public Health. In 2023, Felix was awarded the Unsung Hero Award by the National TB Coalition of America (formerly the National TB Controller's Association) in recognition of his outstanding service. Felix has served as a role-model for program staff and in particular, leadership, regarding keeping everyone focused on the mission to serve SF's diverse patient population with respect and humility. Felix goes above and beyond to ensure the San Francisco TB Branch provides equitable, respectful, and culturally appropriate service to all clients.



### **Laura Romo-Timme, MPH**

Laura Romo-Timme manages the Surveillance and Epidemiology team for the San Francisco Department of Public Health's TB Branch. She has been working in TB for a little over a decade now, and what keeps her motivated is the chance to collaborate with people who deeply care about making a difference. She loves the challenges of figuring out, alongside colleagues, how they can deliver the most thoughtful, patient-centered care possible – even when the work gets tough.

## Session 5 – Fighting TB Together: Advocacy for All of Us!



### **Elizabeth (Lizzy) Lovinger**

Elizabeth (Lizzy) Lovinger serves as the U.S. and global health policy director for Treatment Action Group (TAG), and is based in Washington, DC, where she advocates for TAG's federal policy priorities and represents TAG's work to community and government partners and elected officials. Prior to joining TAG, Lizzy was manager of community health promotion at the New York City Health Department, where she coordinated outreach and education efforts for LGBTQ+ health and sexual health, focusing on lesbian and bisexual women's health research. She previously worked at Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), during which time she advocated for an end to HIV criminalization and for better HIV prevention in state and federal prisons. Lizzy earned her Master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan.



### **Sophie Huddart, PhD, MSc**

Dr. Sophie Huddart is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at UCSF. She is interested in TB quality of care, especially how it influences the long-term outcomes of people with TB.