



Pacific Islands Tuberculosis Controllers Association (PITCA) Conference

September 10 – 14, 2026 | GUAM

AGENDA

DAY 1 | Thursday, September 10, 2026

Grand Ballroom

Time	Session Title & Presenter(s)
7:00 – 8:00	BREAKFAST/REGISTRATION
Opening Ceremony <i>Moderators: Chima Mbakwem, MSHS, PGCFE & Derrick Felix, MPH</i>	
8:00 – 9:40	U.S. National Anthem and Guam Hymn (5 minutes)
	Invocation and Guam Traditional Prayer (5 minutes)
	Cultural Performance (10 minutes)
	Welcoming Remarks (20 minutes) <i>Governor Lourdes Aflague “Lou” Leon Guerrero & Lieutenant Governor Josh Franquez Tenorio</i>
	Opening Remarks (20 minutes) <i>Director of Public Health Theresa C. Arriola, MBA & Congressman James C. Moylan</i>
	Special Remarks (25 minutes) <i>Terence Chorba, MD, DSc; Lisa Chen, MD; Donna Wegener, MA; Jonathan Golub, PhD, MPH; Guy Marks, MBBS, PhD</i>
Day 1 Plenary	
9:40 – 11:00	TB Survivor Experience (10 minutes) <i>TB Survivor</i>
	Keynote: From Control to Elimination of TB: Taiwan’s Experience and Implications for the Pacific Islands (60 minutes) <i>Jann-Yuan Wang, MD, PhD</i>
	QA (5 minutes)
	Close Morning: Benediction (5 minutes)
11:00 – 12:00	LUNCH (60 minutes)
Site Visits	
12:00 – 4:00	Travel to Site Visits (30 minutes)
	Facility Tours (30min each site + transit) <i>Northern Regional Community Health Center, Southern Regional Community Health Center, Guam Public Health Training and Biosafety Laboratory Facility, and Todu Guam Foundation</i>
	Return to Conference (30 minutes) <i>End of day refreshments</i>
4:00	ADJOURN



DAY 2 | Friday, September 11, 2026

Grand Ballroom

Time	Session Title & Speaker(s)			
7:30 – 8:30	BREAKFAST/REGISTRATION & POSTER SETUP			
BREAKOUT SESSIONS				
	LABORATORY (Room: TBD)	PROGRAM MANAGERS (Room: TBD)	NURSING & OUTREACH (Room: TBD)	CLINICAL (Room: TBD)
8:30 – 9:00	Welcome <i>Moderators: Angela Starks, PhD & Tori Enomoto</i>	Welcome <i>Moderator: Derrick Felix, MPH</i>	Welcome <i>Moderators: Amanda Christensen, RN & Chris Lowbridge, DrPH, MPH</i>	Welcome <i>Moderators: Dick Brostrom, MD & Lisa Chen, MD</i>
	PIHOA Updates <i>Vasiti Uluiviti, PhD</i>	TB & Diabetes: Charting Progress & The Road Ahead <i>Mercedes Gilmete, Connie Olikong, & Chima Mbakwem</i>	8:40 – 9:20 TB101 <i>Amanda Christensen, RN</i>	NTM in the Asian Pacific Region <i>Jann-Yuan Wang, MD, PhD</i>
9:00 – 9:30	DLS Updates <i>Tori Enomoto</i>		9:20 – 10:00 Medications Used for Treatment of TB, Drug Resistant TB and TBI <i>Cherie Stafford, MSN, MPH, RN</i>	Cases: Palau <i>Angela Marcil, MO</i>
9:30 – 10:00	TB Lab Assessments: Safety Programs & Risk Assessments <i>Vasiti Uluiviti, PhD & Morisang Teriong</i>			
10:00 – 10:15	BREAK & POSTER VIEWING (15 minutes)			
10:15 – 11:00	The Importance of Corrective Actions for PT Events <i>Tori Enomoto</i>	Grow and Fertilize Your TB Phylogenetic Trees Using GrapeTree <i>Derrick Felix, MPH</i>	10:15 – 10:50 Nurses/CHOWS Role in Collecting Quality Specimens for the Diagnosis and Management of People with TB <i>Amanda Christensen, RN</i>	Cases: Guam
11:00 – 11:30			10:50 – 11:25 Nutrition and Its Impact on TB Infection and Disease: <i>Cherie Stafford, MSN, MPH, RN</i>	
11:30 – 12:00			Quality Indicator Score Cards for Quality Improvement <i>Angela Starks, PhD</i>	
12:00 – 1:00	LUNCH (60 minutes)			
1:00 – 1:30	Conducting Management Reviews <i>Daisy Phal & Angela Starks, PhD</i>	Asking the Right Questions: Evaluating ARPE CI & TT Data <i>Smita Ghosh, DrPH</i>	1:00 – 1:20pm Beyond the Bedside: My Journey and Experience as a TB Nurse <i>Shamarte Evagelia, LPN</i>	Kiribati 2000-2025 TB Case Notification Review - TB Control Trajectory <i>Alfred Tonganibeia, MD, MHMS Kiribati</i>
1:30 – 2:00	Use of and Potential Enhancements to Electronic TB Register <i>Lea Nisay</i>		1:20- 2:00 <i>Joint session with Nurses</i> A Nurses Perspective on Active Case Finding – The Experience from Kiribati <i>Mareta Hauma (Asafo), RN & Kerrie Shaw, RN (PEARL+ Project)</i>	
2:00 – 2:30	<i>Joint session with Nurse:</i> TB Disease & Importance of Laboratory Testing <i>Amy Woron, PhD & Chris Lowbridge, DrPH, MPH</i>		Ready, Respond, Recover: Typhoon Preparedness and Post-Event Efforts <i>Marlyn Finik, Evonne Sablan, & Alice Cuenca</i>	<i>Joint session with Lab</i> TB Disease & Importance of Laboratory Testing <i>Amy Woron, PhD & Chris Lowbridge, DrPH, MPH</i>
2:30 – 2:45	BREAK & POSTER VIEWING (15 minutes)			
2:45 – 3:30	<i>Joint session with Nurses</i> Review of Specimen Labeling and Test Requisition Requirements	NTSS Power BI Bootcamp <i>Derrick Felix, MPH</i>	<i>Joint session with Lab</i> Review of Specimen Labeling and Test Requisition Requirements Hands-on Exercise: Find and Correct the Error <i>Vasiti Uluiviti, PhD & Tori Enomoto</i>	2:45 – 3:15 Cases: American Samoa <i>Ronald Yip, MBBS</i>
3:30 – 4:00	Hands-on Exercise: Find and Correct the Error <i>Vasiti Uluiviti, PhD & Tori Enomoto</i>			3:15 – 4:00 Cases: Saipan <i>Andrzej Szeftler, MD</i>
				Case QA <i>Sundari Mase, MD, MPH</i>
4:00	ADJOURN			



DAY 3 | Saturday, September 12, 2026

Grand Ballroom

Time	Session Title & Presenter(s)
7:00 – 8:00	BREAKFAST/REGISTRATION
Session 1: Global and Pacific Island Overview <i>Moderators: Chima Mbakwem & Terence Chorba</i>	
8:00 – 8:15	Opening Remarks (15 minutes) <i>Governor Lourdes Aflague “Lou” Leon Guerrero & Lieutenant Governor Josh Franquez Tenorio</i>
8:15 – 8:20	Welcome (5 minutes) <i>Chima Mbakwem, MSHS, PGCFE</i>
8:20 – 9:20	High-level View of Global TB Activities and Concerns (60 minutes) <i>Guy Marks, MBBS, PhD, FRACP, FAFPHM, GAICD</i>
9:20 – 9:50	TB Epidemiologic Profile and Vaccine Readiness in the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands (30 minutes) <i>Richard Brostrom, MD, MSPH</i>
9:50 – 10:00	TB Survivor Experience (10 minutes)
10:00 – 10:15	Q&A (15 minutes)
10:15 – 10:30	BREAK & POSTER VIEWING (15 minutes)
Session 2: Jurisdiction Updates I <i>Moderators: Connie Olikong & Derrick Felix</i>	
10:30 – 10:50	Guam (20 minutes) <i>Chima Mbakwem</i>
10:50 – 11:10	American Samoa (20 minutes) <i>Ina Sagaga</i>
11:10 – 11:30	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (20 minutes) <i>Evonne Sablan</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Q&A (15 minutes)
11:45 – 12:45	LUNCH (60 minutes)
Session 3: Clinical TB Updates <i>Moderators: Janice Louie</i>	
12:45 – 1:25	LTBI Updates: DX, RX + CY-TB (40 minutes) <i>Lisa Chen, MD & Richard Brostrom, MD, MSPH</i>
1:25 – 1:55	What’s New in Pediatric TB? (30 minutes) <i>Ben Marais, MBChB, MMed, MRCP, FRACP, PhD</i>
1:55 – 2:05	Q&A (10 minutes)
Session 4: Programmatic Hot Topics <i>Moderator: Genesis Manglona</i>	
2:05 – 2:25	Tracing the Tide: Aggregated TB Contact Investigation Findings from the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands <i>Smita Ghosh, DrPH, MS (20 minutes)</i>
2:25 – 2:55	TB Travel Restrictions for Commercial Air and Maritime Travel (30 minutes) <i>Rhonda Nembhard, MSN</i>
2:55 – 3:05	Q&A (10 minutes)
3:05 – 3:35	BREAK & POSTER VIEWING: MEET THE AUTHORS (30 minutes, authors at posters)
Session 5: Poster Oral Presentations <i>Moderator: Derrick Felix</i>	
3:35 – 3:40	Oral Poster Presentation I (5 minutes)
3:40 – 3:45	Oral Poster Presentation II (5 minutes)
3:45 – 3:50	Oral Poster Presentation III (5 minutes)
3:50 – 3:55	Oral Poster Presentation IV (5 minutes)
3:55 – 4:10	Q&A (15 minutes)
4:10	ADJOURN



DAY 4 | Sunday, September 13, 2026

Grand Ballroom

Time	Session Title & Presenter(s)
7:30 – 8:30	BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION
8:30 – 8:35	Welcome (5 minutes) <i>Chima Mbakwem, MSHS, PGCFE (Guam) & Terence Chorba, MD, DSc (CDC)</i>
Session 6: Jurisdiction Updates II <i>Moderators: Ina Sagaga & Amanda Christensen</i>	
8:35 – 8:55	Federated States of Micronesia (20 minutes)
8:55 – 9:15	Republic of the Marshall Islands (20 minutes) <i>Risa Bukbuk</i>
9:15 – 9:35	Republic of Palau (20 minutes) <i>Connie Olikong</i>
9:35 – 9:50	Q&A (15 minutes)
9:50 – 10:05	BREAK & POSTER VIEWING (15 minutes)
Session 7: Special Topics in TB Care <i>Moderator: Lisa Chen</i>	
10:05 – 10:45	TB Inflammatory Response (30 minutes + 10 minutes Q&A) <i>David Ashkin, MD, FCCP</i>
10:45 – 11:15	No Island Behind: TB Care in the Age of HIV, Biologics, and Transplantation (30 minutes) <i>Janice Louie, MD, MPH</i>
11:15 – 11:45	Syndemic Approaches in the Pacific (30 minutes) <i>Monica Hahn, MD, MP</i>
11:45 – 12:00	Q&A (15 minutes)
12:00–1:00	LUNCH (60 minutes)
Session 8: Laboratory Spotlight <i>Moderators: Vasiti Uluiviti & Angela Starks</i>	
1:00 – 1:45	WHO New Policy Recommendations for TB Diagnosis Testing (45 minutes)
1:45 – 2:15	Understanding TB Test Results & Clinical Case Scenarios (30 minutes) <i>Amy Woron, PhD & Lea Nisay</i>
2:15 – 2:30	Q&A (15 minutes)
2:30 – 2:45	BREAK & POSTER VIEWING (15 minutes)
Session 9: TB Treatment: Essential Pieces of the Puzzle <i>Moderators: Tess Manalo & Chris Lowbridge</i>	
2:45 – 3:05	REPORT: Access to TB Drugs & Global Drug Facility Initiatives (20 minutes) <i>Donna Wegener, MA & Subhash Yadav, MD</i>
3:05 – 3:30	Nutrition: Part of a Successful TB Regimen (25 minutes) <i>Cherie Stafford, MSN, MPH, RN</i>
3:30 – 3:45	Q&A (15 minutes)
3:45 – 3:50	Wrap-up & Weekend Event Closure (5 minutes) <i>Chima Mbakwem, MSHS, PGCFE & Terence Chorba, MD, DSc</i>
3:50	ADJOURN



DAY 5 | Monday, September 14, 2026

Grand Ballroom

Time	Session Title & Presenter(s)			
7:30 – 8:30	BREAKFAST/REGISTRATION			
BREAKOUT SESSIONS				
	LABORATORY (Room: TBD)	PROGRAM MANAGERS (Room: TBD)	NURSING & OUTREACH (Room: TBD)	CLINICAL (Room: TBD)
8:30 – 9:00	Training of New Laboratory Staff <i>Lea Nisay</i>	8:30 – 9:15 USAPI Perspectives on Implementing NTCA Guidelines for Respiratory Isolation & Restrictions <i>Moderators: Amanda Christensen, RN & Derrick Felix, MPH</i>		Cases: Majuro <i>Subhash Yadav, MD</i>
9:00 – 9:30	LIMS Implementation <i>Paula Fernandez</i>	9:15 – 9:45 Ocean of Opportunity: National TB Conference Report Back & USAPI Special Interest Group <i>Chima Mbakwem & Donna Wegener, MA</i>	9:15 – 9:45 Working with Community Based Organizations in TB Elimination Activities – Experiences from 2 Jurisdictions <i>Ashley Calvo Rodriguez</i>	9:00-9:20 Cases: Ebeye <i>Joaquin Nasa, MD</i>
9:30 – 10:15	9:30 – 10:00 Implementation of Quality Management for TB Lab Services at the Pohnpei Hospital Laboratory <i>Pelinda Edwin</i>	From the Manager's Desk: Lessons Learned from Correctional TB Cases and Contact Investigations <i>Connie Olikong, Kyra Yaoch, & Ina Sagaga</i>	9:45 – 10:15 Working with the Community to Develop Culturally Appropriate IEC Materials <i>Chris Lowbridge, DrPH, MPH</i>	9:20-9:40 Cases: Kiribati <i>Alfred Tonganibeia, MD, MHMS Kiribati</i>
	10:00 – 10:15 Q&A			9:40-10:15 Pediatric Cases <i>Ben Marais, MBChB, PhD</i>
10:15 – 10:30	BREAK & POSTER VIEWING (15 minutes)			
10:30 – 11:00	TB Laboratory Services at the CHCC Lab, CNMI: Challenges and Best Practices for Sustaining Improved and Quality Services <i>Chris Boone</i>	Joint session with Clinical Understanding Your Own Drug Procurement Process/Challenges: <i>Richard Brostrom, MD, MSPH Derrick Felix, MPH & Lisa Chen, MD</i>	10:30 – 10:50 2024 MDR TB Outbreak in Guam: Challenges, Achievements, and Lessons Learned <i>Chima Mbakwem & Alice Cuenca</i>	Joining session with PM Understanding Your Own Drug Procurement Process/Challenges: <i>Richard Brostrom, MD, MSPH Derrick Felix, MPH & Lisa Chen, MD</i>
			10:50 – 11:10 TB Program Success Stories <i>Cheryl Saturno & Genesis Manglona</i>	
11:00 – 11:30	Considerations for Conducting Test Validation <i>Maria Marfel</i>	Groups share re: own systems for DS, DR, prevention drugs and adjuvants	11:10 – 11:55 Overview of Paediatric TB – Why TB Nurses Can Provide TPT to Young Household Contacts <i>Ben Marais, MBChB, PhD</i>	Groups share re: own systems for DS, DR, prevention drugs and adjuvants
11:30 – 12:00	Topics for USAPI Regional TB Lab Calls & PITCA 2027 <i>Vasiti Uluiviti, PhD & Tori Enomoto</i>	Topics for PITCA 2027 <i>Derrick Felix, MPH</i>	11:55 – 12:00 Wrap Up and close	Topics for PITCA 2027 <i>Dick Brostrom & Lisa Chen</i> Wrap up and close
12:00 – 1:00	LUNCH (60 minutes)			
Session 10: TB Prevention <i>Moderators: Risa Bukbuk & Kelly Musoke</i>				
1:00 – 1:25	Impacts of Large-Scale TB Screening (25 minutes) <i>Richard Brostrom, MD, MSPH</i>			
1:25 – 1:50	Kiribati PEARL Project: Progress to Date (25 minutes) <i>Ben Marais, MBChB, MMed, MRCP, FRACP, PhD</i>			
1:50 – 2:05	Q&A (15 minutes)			
2:05 – 2:20	BREAK & POSTER REMOVAL (15 minutes)			
Closing Ceremony <i>Moderators: Chima Mbakwem & Derrick Felix</i>				
2:20 – 2:25	2027 PITCA Conference Announcement (5 minutes)			
2:25 – 2:30	Closing Remarks (5 minutes)			
2:30	ADJOURN			
6:00 – 9:00	Closing Reception			

Tumon, Guam

September 10 – 14, 2026

Agenda is subject to change