

RESIST-TB

Research Excellence to Stop TB Resistance

RESIST-TB ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

RESIST-TB is an organization of concerned patients, physicians, research scientists and stakeholders. Its mission is to facilitate and promote clinical research to cure and prevent drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB). RESIST-TB is committed to addressing the substantial existing gaps in knowledge and to helping provide access to effective curative and preventive treatment for DR-TB. Efforts have been supported by the Stop TB Partnership, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Treatment Action Group, Partners In Health, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Vital Strategies and Médecins Sans Frontières.

Our 2024 activities centered on:

(1) DR-TB scientific advocacy through dissemination of information through our website, including promoting and arranging a series of webinars and an eNewsletter, publicizing weekly news articles, organizing a symposium at the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease's annual World Conference on Lung Health (Paris) and contributing to published literature on DR-TB testing and treatment.

And

(2) Driving public policy change by producing data demonstrating gaps in care for DR-TB globally and disseminating new developments and best practices in DR-TB treatment.

Details are provided below.

SCIENTIFIC ADVOCACY

RESIST-TB WEBSITE AND eNEWSLETTER

The RESIST-TB website (www.resisttb.org) remains active to share advances in DR-TB clinical trials and disseminate news, developments, and publications. Our website is updated weekly and our newsletter is distributed to 612 subscribers. In our monthly eNewsletter, we highlight information about new DR-TB-treatment related publications, provide news updates, and inform readers about upcoming events. Featured news articles covered DR-TB clinical trial results, developments in the use of drugs and susceptibility testing, publication announcements, symposia, advocacy initiatives, and webinars of interest in addition to global headlines related to DR-TB.

CLINICAL TRIALS PROGRESS REPORT

RESIST-TB continues to be a critical source for up-to-date information on clinical trials for DR-TB. The Clinical Trials Progress Report gathers and maintains updated information on DR-TB clinical trials that are underway and/or in development, including study names, description, status, study enrollment size, and links to more information. We currently track 38 clinical

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trials: 7% are Phase 1, 44% are Phase 2, 42% are Phase 3, and 10% are Phase 4; 5% are not yet recruiting, 39% are currently enrolling participants, and 5% have completed enrollment and follow up, or data analysis is ongoing, and 50% have been completed with results. This resource is updated on a monthly basis with downloadable versions available in PDF and Microsoft Powerpoint. The [Clinical Trials Progress Report](#) page is the most visited page on RESIST-TB's website, aside from the homepage.

2024 also saw the publication of a RESIST-TB effort, [A survey of the effectiveness of centralized consilia in providing advice on drug-resistant TB](#). In 2023, RESIST-TB surveyed members of the IUATLD about their experiences with clinical committees or "consilia" that consult on clinical care for persons with DR-TB. These bodies date back to the early years of treatment of DR-TB in high-TB-burden countries, when clinical expertise was limited and concentrated in a few specialty centers. The report summarizes the findings from the 175 responses received from 45 countries.

The results demonstrate a substantial degree of variability between countries and the need to improve responsiveness for treatment guidance. In countries with small numbers of patients with MDR/RR-TB and where clinical expertise is limited, consilia can function to ensure quality of care. In countries where the burden is substantial, consilia may need to focus on training providers of MDR/RR-TB care so they can function without oversight. The availability of Group A second-line drugs and susceptibility testing to these drugs continues to be suboptimal.

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A Vasquez, C Mitnick, AU Nyaruhirira, C-Y Chiang, CR Horsburgh

RESIST TB also published a report on World TB day, an update on the [Progress in the Fight Against DR-TB](#) which included a summary of progress towards shorter and less toxic treatment for all persons with MDR-TB. It highlighted four major clinical trials with important implications for DR-TB that were reported in 2023, the TB-PRACTECAL trial, the endTB trial, the V-QUIN trial and the TB-CHAMP trial. Additional highlighted resources include the [TAG TB Pipeline Report](#) and [Clinical implications of molecular drug resistance testing for Mycobacterium tuberculosis](#). It also covered recent WHO releases: [Rapid Communication on Tuberculosis preventive treatment](#) and [Rapid Communication on updates to DR Tuberculosis Treatment](#).

RESIST-TB also began a survey in November 2024 among members of the TB Section of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease and the Global Laboratory Initiative of the World Health Organization in order to update information on international availability of drug susceptibility testing since the 2022 public. If you have not already responded to the survey, we want to hear from you. Please follow the link [here](#).

INCREASING AWARENESS TO CHANGE PUBLIC POLICY

Commented [FCI]: The WHO also released [Rapid communication: key changes to the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis](#). I think this should be added

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WEBINAR SERIES

Since 2015, RESIST-TB has hosted a webinar series on recent developments in DR-TB. This webinar series serves as a forum for updates on pressing issues in the field of MDR-TB through presentations on recent publications. The webinar series also helps fill a critical and otherwise unmet gap in disseminating new, unpublished advances in MDR-TB care and treatment. Webinars hosted as part of this series during 2024 are listed below. Slides and on-demand recordings can be found [here](#):

- **Book Club: High Profile Authors of Recent TB Books**, Presentations by Vidya Krishnan and Maria Smilios on January 30th, 2024

Description: This book club offered opportunities for attendees to discuss *The Phantom Plague* and *The Black Angels* with their respective authors.

- **VQUIN and TB-CHAMP Results**, Presentations by Gregory Fox and Anneke Hesselting on April 11th, 2024

Description: This webinar included presentations on 2 trials, VQUIN and TB-CHAMP, that examined the use of levofloxacin for preventive therapy for MDR-TB

- **Patient Preferences in TB PRACTECAL Trial**, Presentation by Beverley Stringer on May 2nd, 2024

Description: This webinar described results of a qualitative substudy of the TB-PRACTECAL trial on person-centered outcomes and participant experiences with the study regimens.

- **endTB Trial Results**, Presentation by Clauberg Kunda on May 30th, 2024

Description: This webinar described results of the endTB trial, which examined five 9-month regimens for rifampicin resistant TB.

- **Quabodepistat Interim Results**, Presentation by Simbarashe Takuva and Ramesh Dass on September 12th, 2024

Description: Presenters shared the interim results of a trial of 4-month regimens containing quabodepistat, delamanid, and bedaquiline for pulmonary TB.

RESIST-TB GOALS FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

In 2024, RESIST-TB updated our strategic plan for the years 2025-30 with the following goals:

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- Goal 1: Advocate for increased accessibility to susceptibility testing for second-line agents.
- Goal 2: Monitor the emergence of resistance to the new and repurposed agents, especially bedaquiline.
- Goal 3: Advocate for increased compassionate use of new drugs.
- Goal 4: Expand awareness of DR-TB in children and in pregnancy.

In the coming year, RESIST-TB will continue to provide leadership in scientific advocacy, MDR-TB clinical trials design and preparation, and public policy development. Activities planned for 2025:

- RESIST-TB will continue its webinar series. The first 2025 webinar, was a presentation on the preliminary results of endTB-Q.
- RESIST-TB will analyze our survey to determine if access to drug susceptibility testing for the second-line drugs has improved since our 2022 survey.
- RESIST-TB will continue to provide up-to-date information about MDR-TB clinical trials through the RESIST-TB eNewsletter and Clinical Trials Progress Report posted to our website.

CONCLUSION

RESIST-TB fills an important unmet need for innovation, information dissemination and advocacy. By addressing research and implementation gaps in the treatment and prevention of MDR-TB, we draw attention to areas still in need of research. We also undertake important research projects that are not currently being addressed by the global TB community. Our focus remains the development and demonstration of efficacy of scalable, nontoxic regimens for the treatment of DR-TB and facilitation of rapid translation of these advances into practice. The successful continuation of these activities is critical to continued improvement in treatment and prevention of MDR-TB and XDR-TB.