

# TBeat

A newsletter produced by the  
Heartland National TB Center

Volume 15

Issue 2

December 2020

## *In this issue...*

Definition of Extensively Drug-Resistant TB — Page 1

XDR-TB Defined, continued — Page 2

Update to the Leadership and Continued Growth of the University  
of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler— Pages 2-3

A Message from our Director of Education and Training— Page 3

Ever Wonder Where Our Products Come From? — Page 4

TB.BIT: TB Screening Tests in Children and

HNTC New Website — Page 5

TB Resources — Page 5

HNTC Training Calendar—Page 6

HNTC Contact Information—Page 7

## **Meeting Report of the WHO Expert Consultation on the Definition of Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis**

### **Overview**

The World Health Organization (WHO) consultation meeting on the definition of extensively drug resistant (XDR) tuberculosis (TB) was held on 27, 28 and 29 October 2020 as an online meeting, organized by the Global TB Programme, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland. Over 70 participants attended the meeting, representing countries, bilateral and multilateral agencies, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, civil society and academia.

The overall goal of the meeting was to discuss recent changes in treatment regimens and diagnostics for drug-resistant TB and to determine how these impact on the definition of XDR-TB, with a view to revising this definition. The pre-existing definition of XDR-TB was formulated in 2006 at a meeting of the Global Taskforce on XDR-TB, convened by WHO, and has been in use for clinical and surveillance purposes, since this time.

### **Updated definitions**

***Pre-XDR-TB:** TB caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*M. tuberculosis*) strains that fulfil the definition of MDR/RR-TB and which are also resistant to any fluoroquinolone\**

***XDR-TB:** TB caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*M. tuberculosis*) strains that fulfil the definition of MDR/RR-TB and which are also resistant to any fluoroquinolone and at least one additional Group A drug\**

*Continued on next page....*

[Back to Top](#)



## ***Definition of Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis continued...***

\*The fluoroquinolones include levofloxacin and moxifloxacin as they are the fluoroquinolones currently recommended by WHO for inclusion in longer regimens. The Group A drugs are currently levofloxacin or moxifloxacin, bedaquiline and linezolid, therefore XDR-TB is MDR/RR-TB that is resistant to a fluoroquinolone and at least one of bedaquiline or linezolid (or both). The Group A drugs may change in the future; therefore the terminology Group A is appropriate here and it will apply to any Group A drugs in the future.

These definitions should be applied from January 2021. They will define the group of TB patients who can be rapidly identified and who will require a significantly different treatment approach in order to attain better treatment outcomes without major delays in accessing the treatment. The definitions will also need to be adopted for use in surveillance and epidemiological reporting, to flag both the seriousness of the situation and as a measure of progress against national and global epidemiological indicators to end TB as a public health problem. This meeting report describes background information relevant to the definition of XDR-TB, a rationale for changing this definition and describes the meeting discussions.

Click here for the full report: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/meeting-report-of-the-who-expert-consultation-on-the-definition-of-extensively-drug-resistant-tuberculosis>

---

## **Update to the Leadership and Continued Growth of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler**

On January 4, 2021, history was made. Dr. Julie Philley was announced as the first woman appointed to lead the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. Additionally, UTHSCT will soon become home to the first medical school in East Texas (pending regulatory and accreditation approval), also to be led by Dr. Philley. She is an Associate Professor of Medicine with board certifications in pulmonary and critical care medicine and, until her promotion, was Chair of the Department of Medicine at UTHSCT.

A native East Texan, Philley returned to Tyler in 2012 to continue her research efforts in nontuberculous mycobacterial disease and bronchiectasis. She is also principal investigator on a \$2 million NIH grant for convalescent plasma research to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Philley is an integral part of Heartland and we are proud of all that she has accomplished.





## ***Update to the Leadership continued...***



A new alignment has been announced - The University of Texas System Board of Regents has unanimously approved joining The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler (UTHSCT) with The University of Texas at Tyler (UT Tyler). As part of the world-renowned University of Texas System, UTHSCT is a state health-related institution that administratively is an instructional site of UT Tyler, led by President Kirk A. Calhoun, MD, FACP, effective January 4, 2021.

UTHSCT provides health-related educational programs for those seeking careers in the medical field, including Master of Science in Biotechnology, Master of Public Health and Master of Health Administration degrees, as well as residency programs for medical school graduates. Residencies include family medicine, internal medicine, occupational medicine, general surgery, general psychiatry, rural family medicine and rural psychiatry. Psychology internships and fellowships are also available. Students develop marketable skills and qualifications to excel in the medical field as they learn alongside innovative scientists, physicians and other healthcare experts at UTHSCT and UT Health East Texas, a 10-hospital health system in East Texas.

---

## **A Message from our Director of Education and Training**

Despite the setbacks imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Heartland National TB Center was able to successfully conduct ten online and interactive trainings in 2020. As noted in the evaluations, participants that enrolled in our interactive courses welcomed our new approach to trainings. Some of the comments shared by participants include “Loved the interaction between all of us!” “It was very interactive and informative. Positive experience!” “Great presenters! Easy to stay focused and engaged.” “Enjoyed how interactive the breakout room was. Catalina was great to work with and very knowledgeable!”

Hopeful that 2021 will be a better year, HNTC has webcasts, online and interactive trainings covering a variety of topics lined up! These include our *Hot Topics in TB Webcast Series*, *Essential Components of a TB Program: An Overview* (in partnership with Rutgers Global Tuberculosis Institute and National Tuberculosis Controllers Association), *Interactive Case Scenarios for the TB Nurse* and *Introduction to TB Nurse Case Management Online*. For the most current information on our trainings, please visit our new website at:

<https://www.heartlandntbc.org/training.html>

We greatly miss everyone and look forward to the day we can resume our live trainings! Hope to see you soon!

Delphina Sánchez, MA

[Back to Top](#)

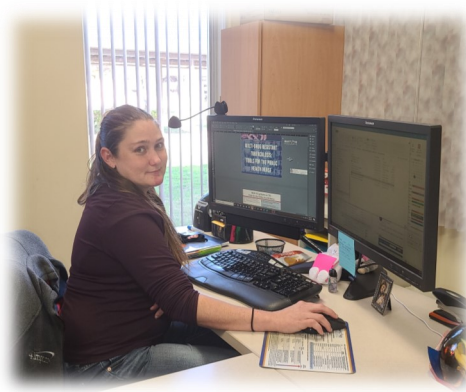




## Do You Ever Wonder Where Our Products Come From?

Creating products is one of my favorite things to do at Heartland. When starting a new product, combining my design skills with all my obtained training and education in TB, I'm always overwhelmed with a heightened excitement for a new challenge. Working on new products gives me the opportunity to study under the doctors and SME's who have been developing expert educational material long before me. Since I am fairly new to product development, I appreciate all of the time I get to spend brainstorming with the experts as well as receiving their guidance. Once it's all said and done, there is nothing else like seeing the final product ready for distribution.

-RoShonda Booker  
Training and Education Developer

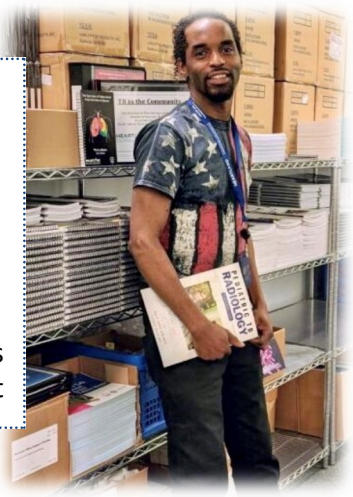


Besides being unofficially named "Jack of all Trades", I find some of my favorite days are the ones used to research content possibilities for new products and updates for revised products, as well as using my own creativity to design/re-design them (with a little help from the internet). Some days can feel very repetitive but, when I work on the products, I always feel a welcome challenge that lights up all sides of my brain. The ultimate enjoyment is seeing each one come to fruition and being able to physically hold something that I created.

-Alysia Wayne  
Program Specialist

Having dealt with Tuberculosis on a personal level makes me want to do whatever I can with the resources I have to get the word out. TB is REAL!! So when an order for our products comes across my desk, I treat it with a sense of urgency each and every time. My name is Tye and I am responsible for the shipping of all of our products here at Heartland. Being a part of a team that dedicates so much time to the research, education, and training of TB excites me. I am right where I need to be.

-Tye Thomas  
Administrative Assistant



For more information on products please visit the NEW Heartland website at:

<https://heartlandntbc.org/products.html>

To place a product order, you can download our Product Order Form at:

<https://heartlandntbc.org/assets/products/orderform.pdf>

[Back to Top](#)



# TB.BIT

## TB Screening Tests in Children—Now Available!



This booklet includes information regarding the current tests for TB Infection in children: the tuberculin skin test (TST) and the Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA).

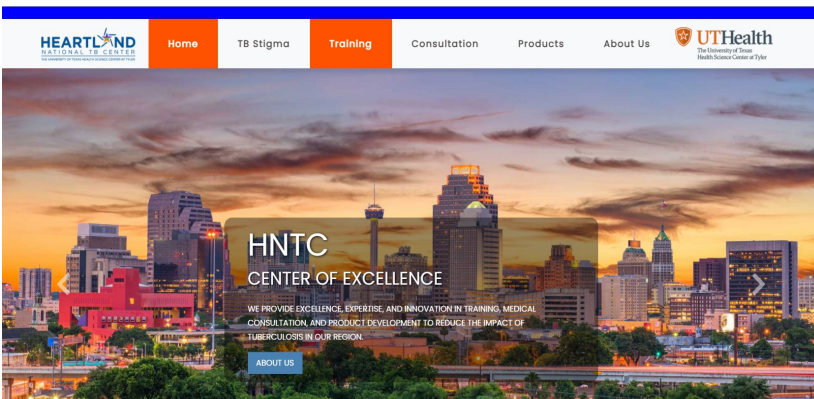
Contents of the booklet include TB Testing Methods in Children, Suggested Uses of the TST and IGRA, Available TB Tests, Testing with Both TST and IGRA, an algorithm discussing Screening for TB with TST and IGRA (adapted from the 2018 American Academy of Pediatrics Red Book, Chapter 3, Figure 3.11), Interpretation of TB Screening Tests and what to expect in a Follow-up Assessment.

The booklet is available via download from the HNTC website and can be printed in-house, or can be ordered by using the HNTC Product Order Form located at:

<https://heartlandntbc.org/products.html>.

Link to Book— [https://www.heartlandntbc.org/assets/products/tb\\_testing\\_in\\_children\\_booklet\\_web.pdf](https://www.heartlandntbc.org/assets/products/tb_testing_in_children_booklet_web.pdf)

## Check out our NEW WEBSITE!



Have you seen our new website yet? Take a look around and let us know what you think!

<https://heartlandntbc.org/>

For questions please contact the Website Content Coordinator: [Edgar.Salinas@uthct.edu](mailto:Edgar.Salinas@uthct.edu)

## Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Tuberculosis Elimination—<http://cdc.gov/tb/>

Centers of Excellence (COE) TB Training and Education Products—<https://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/rtmccproducts.aspx>

Find TB Resources—<https://findtbresources.cdc.gov/>

National TB Controllers Association—<http://www.tbcontrollers.org>

Program Collaboration and Service Integration (PCSI) - <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/programintegration/Default.htm>

TB Education and Training Network—<http://www.cdc.gov/tb/education/Tbetn/default.htm>

Tuberculosis Epidemiologic Studies Consortium (TBESC) - <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/research/TBESC/default.htm>

\*If your organization has any additional links for TB resources that you would like published, please send them to [Alysia.Wayne@uthct.edu](mailto:Alysia.Wayne@uthct.edu)\*

[Back to Top](#)





## 2021 HNTC Training Calendar

Date(s)	Course	Location
February 4	Hot Topics in TB Webcast Series New Healthcare Worker Guidelines and Practical Implications for Tuberculosis	Online
February 23	Essential Components of a TB Program: An Overview	Online
February 24	2021 North American Region Post Graduate Course How Can the Laboratory Aid in the Patient-Centered Diagnosis and Management of TB?	Online
February 25—27	25th Conference of The Union North America Region **conducted by International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease <a href="http://www.theunion.org">www.theunion.org</a>	Online
March 24	World TB Day Webcast (1/2 Day)	Online
April 8	Hot Topics in TB Webcast Series Radiographic Manifestations of Pediatric TB	Online
April 15	Interactive Case Scenarios for the TB Nurse: Decision to Initiate a Contact Investigation	Online
May 14—19	2021 American Thoracic Society Conference <a href="https://conference.thoracic.org/">https://conference.thoracic.org/</a>	Online
May 4, 11, 18, 25	Introduction to TB Nurse Case Management	Online
Jun 17	Interactive Case Scenarios for the TB Nurse: Strategies for Patient-Centered TB Nurse Case Management	Online
Jul 8	Hot Topics in TB Webcast Series <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> disease in Humans	Online

\*\*This calendar is not inclusive of all available courses. Please refer to the website for any future trainings and detailed information.\*\*

Please visit our website: <https://heartlandntbc.org/training.html>

Proposed topics are subject to change; check website for the latest updates.

**TRAININGS ARE POSTED TO THE WEBSITE  
AS THEY ARE CONFIRMED**

[Back to Top](#)

**T  
r  
a  
i  
n  
i  
n  
g  
s**



## Heartland National TB Center Staff

2303 Southeast Military Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78223

Tel: 800-TEX-LUNG (839-5864); Fax: 210-531-4500

[www.heartlandntbc.org](http://www.heartlandntbc.org)

### Medical Director

Barbara Seaworth, MD

(210) 531-4541

[barbara.seaworth@uthct.edu](mailto:barbara.seaworth@uthct.edu)

[barbara.seaworth@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:barbara.seaworth@dshs.texas.gov)

### Medical Consultant

Megan Devine, MD

(903) 877-7380

[megan.devine@uthct.edu](mailto:megan.devine@uthct.edu)

### Nurse Consultant/Educator

Catalina Navarro, RN, BSN

(210) 531-4569

[catalina.navarro@uthct.edu](mailto:catalina.navarro@uthct.edu)

### Web Site Content Coordinator

Edgar Salinas, BBA

(210) 531-4520

[edgar.salinas@uthct.edu](mailto:edgar.salinas@uthct.edu)

### Assistant Medical Director

Lisa Y. Armitige, MD, PhD

(210) 531-4548

[lisa.armitige@uthct.edu](mailto:lisa.armitige@uthct.edu)

[lisa.armitige@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:lisa.armitige@dshs.texas.gov)

### Nurse Consultant/Educator

Iris Barrera, RN

(210) 531-4580

[iris.barrera@uthct.edu](mailto:iris.barrera@uthct.edu)

### Director of Education and Training

Delphina Sanchez, MA

(210) 531-4528

[delphina.sanchez@uthct.edu](mailto:delphina.sanchez@uthct.edu)

### Program Specialist

Alysia Wayne

(210) 531-4540

[alysia.wayne@uthct.edu](mailto:alysia.wayne@uthct.edu)

### Executive Director

Vacant

Currently accepting applications

### Nurse Consultant/Educator

Marybel Monreal, RN, BSN

(210) 531-4539

[marybel.monreal@uthct.edu](mailto:marybel.monreal@uthct.edu)

### Training and Education Developer

RoShonda Booker, BS

(210) 531-4543

[roshonda.booker@uthct.edu](mailto:roshonda.booker@uthct.edu)

### Administrative Assistant

Abe 'Tye' Thomas, II

(210) 531-4568

[abe.thomasII@uthct.edu](mailto:abe.thomasII@uthct.edu)

The **MISSION** of the Heartland National TB Center is to build capacity with our partners. We will share expertise in the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis by: developing and implementing cutting-edge trainings, delivering expert medical consultation, providing technical assistance, and designing innovative educational and consultative products.

The **VISION** of Heartland National TB Center is to provide *excellence, expertise, innovation* in training, medical consultation, and product development to reduce the impact of tuberculosis in our region.

[Back to Top](#)