

We've come  
a long way



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August 24, 2023; No conflicts. All photos are mine.

Koch's original paper

# *The Problem*

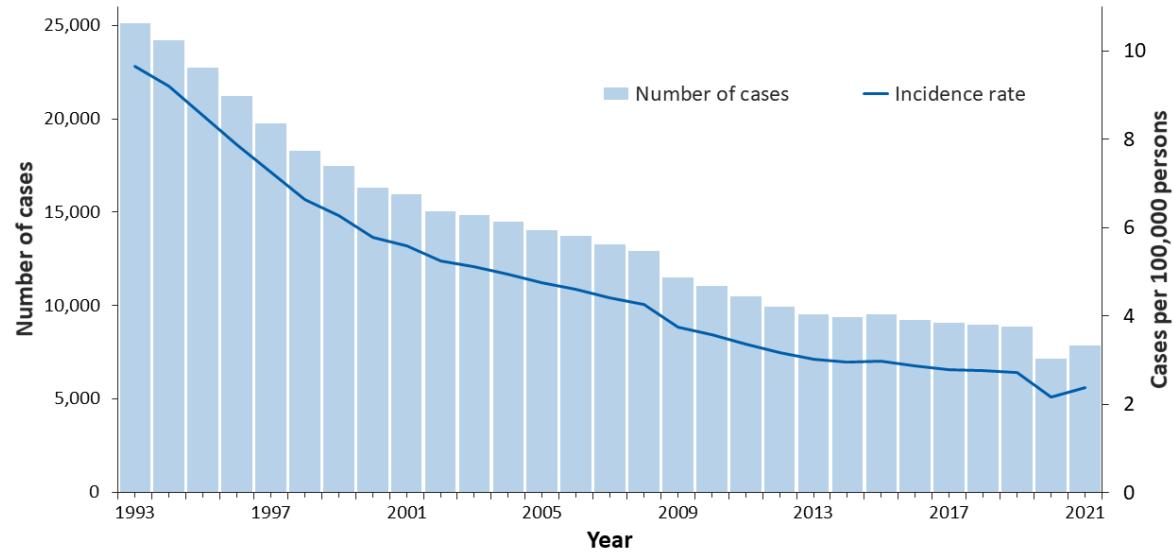


Peru

# *Worldwide*

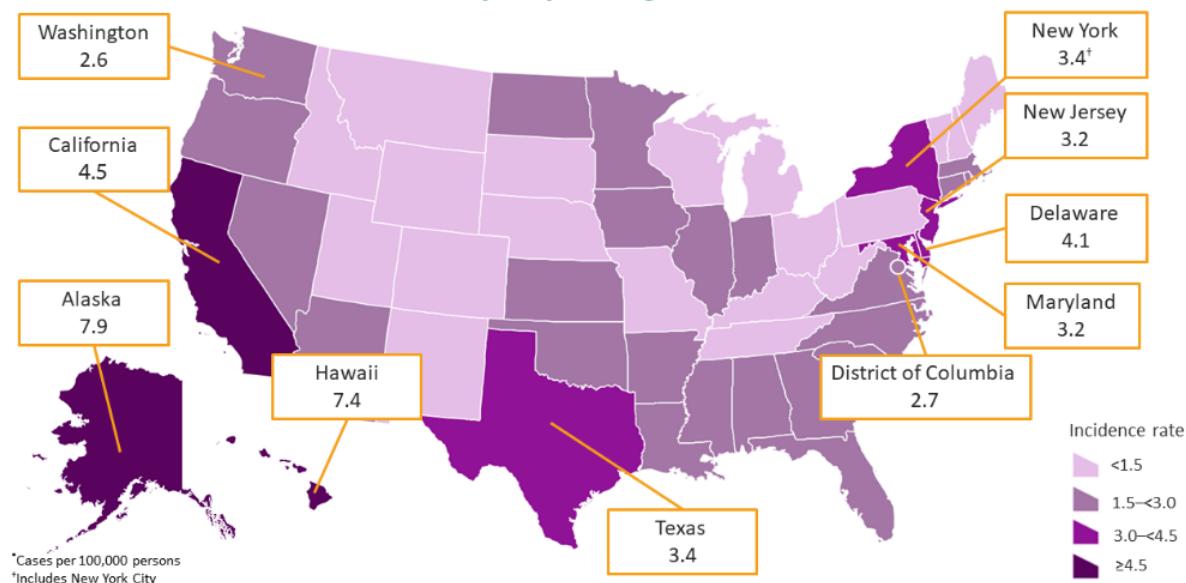
- Estimated 10.6 M new cases 2021
  - Incidence rate ↑3.6%
    - Reversing annual 2% decline for last 2 decades
- 1.6 M died
- Overall cure rate – 86%
- 450,000 new RFM-resistant cases
  - Cure rate 60%
    - » WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2022

## TB Cases and Incidence Rates, United States, 1993–2021



# USA TB

### TB Incidence Rates\* by Reporting Area, United States, 2021



USA	Cases	Rate
2020:	7170	$2.2 \times 10^{-5}$
2021:	7874	$2.4 \times 10^{-5}$
2022:	8300	$2.5 \times 10^{-5}$
Illinois	Cases	Rate
2020:	216	$1.7 \times 10^{-5}$
2021:	254	$2.0 \times 10^{-5}$
2022:	298	$2.3 \times 10^{-5}$

# *What's new?*



Zambia

# *Artificial Intelligence and TB*



Malawi

# *Artificial intelligence*

- ≡ Machine learning
  - (not AI interpreting speech, blogs, email, etc.)
  - Huge computing power, data sources & variables, sophisticated statistics
  - Trained through algorithms
- Example
  - Analyze all pixels of thousands of radiographs for character and relations with other
  - Calibration: set of TB CXRs
  - Self-correction
  - Product: prediction

# *Artificial Intelligence for diagnostics*



Malawi

# ***Diagnostic problems***

- Of > 10 M case annually
  - Only 5.8 M diagnosed
  - Only 58% bacteriology confirmed
  - Only  $\frac{1}{3}$  had WHO-approved rapid testing
- Sputum often unobtainable
  - Early TB, under treatment, children
  - Need quicker, cheaper, more accessible tools
- Chest radiographs inconsistent
  - Seldom used
  - Rarely for diagnosis

» Pande. Eur Resp J 2015;46:1816-9

# *Chest radiographs*



Gabon

# *Computer-analyzed digital CXRs*

- 23,954 Bangladesh TB clinic patients
- 3 radiologists vs 5 AI algorithms
- All 5 AI outperformed radiologists
  - >90% sensitivity
    - » Qin et al., Lancet Digit Health 2021;3:e543-54
- Electronic imaging
  - Cost saving
  - Allow mass screening

# *Computer analyzed CXRs*

- Generates “abnormality” score
  - Above threshold: TB possible
  - Below threshold: TB is ruled out
  - Microbiologic confirmation needed
    - » Geric et al. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis 2023;27:367-72
- WHO target
  - >90% sensitivity; 70% specificity
  - Uses
    - Triage for those with symptoms
    - Screening (no sx), depends on prevalence

# *CAD Radiographs – unresolved*

- Trials: TB vs. nonTB
- Calibration reference standard
  - Radiologist? QFT? Culture (1 or 2)?
- Children wide spectrum of TB
  - PA only (lateral for children)
- Variations in local populations
- 17 companies (variation in quality)
- Software updates regularly
  - » Geric et al. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis 2023;27:367-72

# *Other image analyses*

- CT imaging
  - 829 CT on 526 persons
  - TB diagnosed 81%-91%
    - » Yan, et al. Eur Radiol 2022;32:2188-99
- Sputum smears ≥ pathologists
  - » Fu, et al., Sensors (Basel) 2022;22:8497
  - » Gupta et al., J Investig Med 2023;9  
doi:10.177/10815589231171402

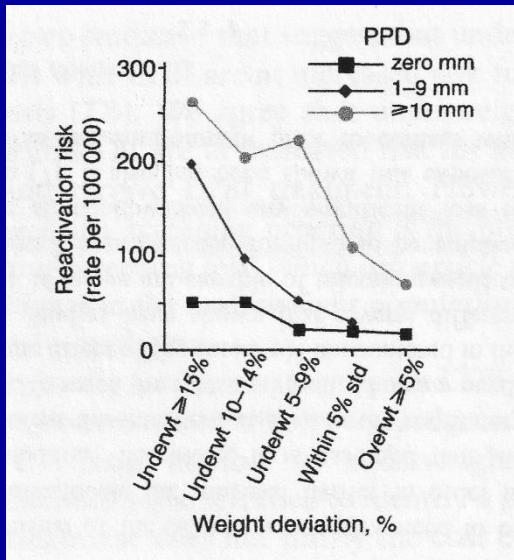
# Biomarkers



Pushkar India

# *Markers of host (non-AI)*

- BMI



WT deviation	Risk
-15%	2.6 X
-10 to -14%	2.0 X
-5 to -9%	2.3 X
W/in 5% ideal	1.1 X
>5%	0.7 X

- » Palmer et al., Am Rev Resp Dis 1957;76:517-39
- » Chan. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis 2018;22:967-8

- QFT Gold level in HIV<sup>+</sup>

- Active TB  $\propto$  QFT level

- » Aichelburg et al., Clin Infect Dis 2009;48:954-62

# *Biomarkers of pathogen*

- Volatile organic compounds
- Cell-free DNA
- Ag-specific (e.g. LAM)
  - More available with less immunity
    - » Mukherjee et al. Tuberc 2023;140: 102340

# *Host: Blood*

- Transcriptional signatures
  - 55 genes up or down regulated
    - » Madamarandawala et al., Mol Biol Rep 2023;50:3935-43
  - Active vs incipient TB
    - » Sivakumaran et al., Front Immunol 2023;13:1051963
- Plasma cell RNA
  - » Chang A. medRxiv 2023;  
doi:10.1101/2023.01.11.23284433

# ***Active v. latent v. normal***

- Protein, RNA, metabolite signature
  - Discriminatory set
  - 12-protein signature
    - » Mousavian et al., iScience 2022;105652
- mRNA (3-gene signature)
  - Sens 87%, specificity 94% v other resp dis
    - » Sutherland et al., Clin Infect Dis 2022;74:2136-41
- Cytokines on blood spots
  - » Khalid et al., Nature Sci Rep 2023:13:599



*Artificial intelligence - other uses*

Brazil

# *Other AI-TB of eye*

- Eye TB difficult diagnosis
  - Minority of uveitis due to TB
- Uveitis consortium study
  - AI all pathologic findings
  - 277 TB cases
    - Active or seropositive +
  - Comparison: 1397 with ~all other forms
    - » Jabs, et al., Am J Ophthalmol 2021;228:142-51

# *Other AI – TB of eye*

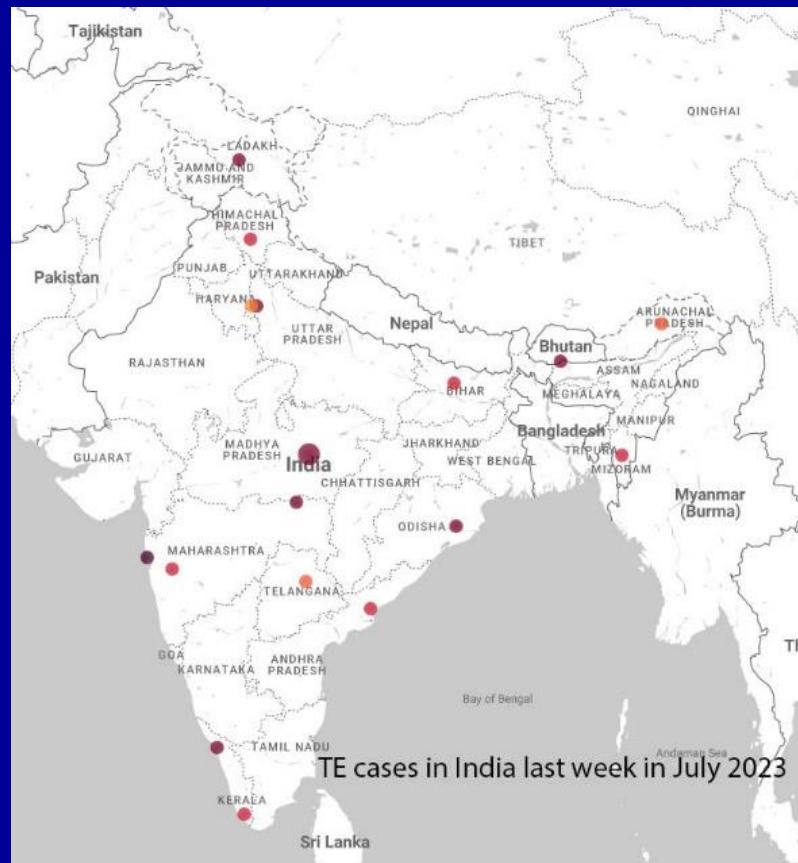
- 4 uveitis lesions → TB 93% accuracy
  - Anterior uveitis with iris nodules
  - Serpiginous tubercular choroiditis
  - Choroidal nodules (tuberculoma)
  - Occlusive retinal vasculitis
- Active TB elsewhere: other findings
  - » Jabs, et al., Am J Ophthalmol 2021;228:142-51

# *AI – Drug development*

- Target proteins required for growth
- Library biologic and chemical data
  - Millions of potential agents
  - Interactions, toxicity, binding
  - Can find candidates
    - » Ejalonibu, et al., Int J Mol Sci 2021;22:13259

# *AI – TB surveillance*

- Epidemiologic tracking
- HealthMap®



» Brownstein et al., N Engl J Med 2023;388:1597-1607

# *Treatment*



India

# *Latent treatment*



Ethiopia

# *Treatment- latent*

- INH only if RFM cannot be used
  - INH & EMB not active against dormant
  - Transplant, HIV, clopidogrel
  - Drug shortage
- Usual
  - RFM 4 months daily
  - 3HP: INH+RFP in 12 once-weekly doses
  - 2HRZE (in ruling out active)

# ***1-month treatment***

- 1 mo INH + RPT vs 9 mo INH
- 3000 HIV TB<sup>+</sup>; followed 3.3 y
  - H 300 mg/d; RPT 300-600 mg (~10 mg/kg)/d

	<b>HP1</b>	<b>H9</b>	
Active TB	2%	2%	NS
Serious side-effects	6%	7%	NS
Completion rate	97%	90%	p<0.001

» Swindells, et al., N Eng J Med 2019;380:1001-11

- WHO conditional recommendation
  - » WHO guidelines: module 1: Prevention 2020
  - » <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240001503>

# ***1-month treatment***

- Second small study in HIV 1HP
  - Effective
    - Liou et al., J Int AIDS Soc 2021;24:e25844
- Mice: 6wP, 1HP, 3HP
  - Greater cumulative RPT without H
  - “INH contributes little to HP efficacy”
    - » Radtke et al., Antimicrob Agents Chemother 2021;65:e017521
- May be useful in time crunch

# *Drug sensitive active TB*



Malawi

*Shorter  
treatment*

India

# *Still standard*

- 2HRZE/4HR
  - May extend
    - Poor penetration (CNS, bone-joint, eye)
    - Slow resolution (still positive after 2 months)
- 2HRZE/2HR
  - Abacillary, noncavitory
    - » Hong Kong Chest Service. Am Rev Respir Dis 1989;139:871-6
- 3 mo → 7% relapse

# ***SHINE trial – children (smear neg)***

- 4 month (2HRZ(E)/2HR)
  - Pulmonary, pleural, nodes (age 3 mo to 16 y)
  - 14% culture positive; 11% HIV
  - EMB use depended on local resistance
  - Noninferior
    - » Turkova et al., N Eng J Med 2022;386:911-22
- WHO conditional recommendation
  - » WHO module 4 treatment, May 2022
  - <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240048126>

# *Study 31: 4-month RPT-MFX*

- 2HPMZ/2HPM vs 6HRZE/2HR (P=RPT)
  - 2516 patients 34 sites
    - Pulm; age >12; CD4>100; Wt >40 kg;
    - Excluded pregnancy, previous Rx
  - Noninferior (cure, side effects, retention)
  - Without MFX → (4HRP) inferior
    - » Dorman et al., N Eng J Med 2021;384:1705
  - WHO conditional recommendation
    - » WHO guidelines: module 4
- RPT (1200 mg/d)

# ***4-month trials not new***

- MFX and RPT alone not sufficient for 4 mo
- British MRC trials of 4 months in 1970s
  - Failures led to 6-month standard
    - 5% failure of 4 months (resistance developed)
    - No failure at 6 months
      - » Singapore Tuberculosis Service/British Medical Research Council.  
Am Rev Respir Dis 1979;119:579

# ***8 Weeks –Truncate Study***

- Pragmatic, open-label, noninferiority
- RFM-sensitive HZE plus:
  - RFM<sup>HD</sup> + LZD (RFM<sup>HD</sup> ≡35, later ↓20 mg/kg)
  - RFM<sup>HD</sup> + CFZ
  - RPT + LZD (EMB replaced by LFX)
  - BDQ + LZD
  - Standard HRZE 26 wks
- Assessed at 96 weeks
  - » Paton et al., N Engl J Med 2023; 388:873-7

# *Truncate results*

- Sx, pos sputum, disease, or missed doses at 8 weeks → extension or switch to std
- Events (death, relapse, stopped)
  - Standard HRZE: 3.9% ( $\mu$  180 d)
  - RFM<sup>HD</sup>+LZD: 11.4% (LZD side effects) ( $\mu$  106 d)
  - RFM<sup>HD</sup>+CFZ (stopped early)\*
  - RPT+LZD (stopped early)\*
  - BDQ+LZD 5.6% (noninferior) ( $\mu$  85d)
    - » Paton et al., N Engl J Med 2023;388:873-87
- \*“pill burden, regulatory advice, import restriction”

# *Drug-resistant treatment*



Leeches for sale  
Türkiye

# *Mono resistance*

- INH
  - MFX can replace INH
- PZA
  - Must go 9 months
  - HR(EF)
- RFM
  - HES<sub>9</sub>, HZE(F)<sub>12</sub>
  - BPaL

# ***STREAM trial***

- STREAM I (MDRTB)
  - Best (2011) std regimen (20 mo) vs.
  - EMB, PZA, MFX, & CFZ throughout + KAN, PRO, INH<sup>H</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 4 months (9-11 mo)
  - Included HIV
  - Noninferior
- STREAM II
  - STREAM I regimens + BDQ 6 mo for KM

» Nunn et al., N Eng J Med 2019;380:1201-13

# **NiX: BPaL**

- NiX-TB Study
    - Excluded: Age <14, pregnancy, extrapulmonary, ↑ QT<sub>C</sub> >500 ms
    - BDQ-Pa-LZD (1200 mg) 6 mo → 90% cure
    - LZD related side effects
      - 81% neuropathy, 48% myelosuppression
- » Conradie et al., N Engl J Med 2020;382:893-902

# *NExT Study*

- LFX, BDQ, LZD<sub>600</sub> v standard ( $\geq 5$  drugs)
- 2.2 X better outcome
- Toxicity high both groups
  - LZD 64%
  - Ended KM use
- Stopped early—BDQ S.O.C. for S Africa
  - Esmail et al., Am J Respir Crit Care 2022;205:1214

# **TB PRACTICAL**

- BPaLM 24 wks, one arm reduced the LZD to 300 mg for the last 2 mo
  - Compared to 9-20 mo standard
  - Non-inferior, safer
    - » Nyang'wa et al., N Engl J Med 2022;387:2331-43
- WHO recommends BPaLM over BPaL
  - » WHO module 4: treatment: drug-susceptible tuberculosis treatment. May 2022

# *Beyond prescriptions*

- Cell phone technology
  - VOT (video observed)
  - Encouragement
  - Pill wrap code texting →↑adherence
- Child-friendly dosing (not yet in USA)
- Emphasis on case management
  - Personal care; avoid stigma

# *Drugs*



Ethiopia

# Bedaquiline



Indonesia

# *Bedaquiline*

- Diarylquinoline -X ATP synthase
- 2.0-2.4 X ↑ absorption with food
- Action delayed
- Metabolized by CYP3A4 <- ↑ & ↓ drugs
  - » Van Heeswijk et al., J Antimicrob Chemo 2014;69: 2310-8
- Terminal  $T_{1/2}$  164 (range 62-408) days
  - Accumulates in cells, long tail
  - >15% resistance in Moldova
    - » Chesov et al., Eur Respir J 2021;59:100621

# *Linezolid*

- Action
  - -X tRNA on ribosomes → protein synthesis
- Myelosuppression
  - -X human mitochondrial ribosomes
  - $\propto$  dose & duration
  - Stop or reduce dose until improvement
    - » Oehadian et al., Tuberc Resp Dis 2022;85:111-21

# *Linezolid dose*

Daily for 26 weeks

<b>Dose</b>	<b>Favorable outcome</b>	<b>Serious Adverse event</b>
1200 mg	93%	Neuro 38%, Heme 22%
600 mg	91%	Neuro 22%, Heme 2%
300 mg*	71%	less

\*Given for higher dose LZD intolerance (neuropathy)

Conradie et al., N Eng J Med 2022;387:810-823

\*Koh et al., J Antimicrobial Chemother 2009;64:388-91

# *Pretomanid*



Kyrgyzstan

# *Pretomanid*

- Nitroimidazooxazine
  - Developed by TB Alliance ( $\downarrow \$$ )
  - Actions
    - -X mycolic acid synthesis & nitric oxide release
    - Against replicating and dormant bacilli
- Enhances culture conversion, but  $\leftrightarrow$  RMs
  - » Dooley, et al., Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2023;207:929-35
- QTc: Pa  $\uparrow$ 9 ms, BPaL  $\uparrow$ 13 ms
  - » Hanbin et al., Antimicrob Agents Chemother 2019;63:e00445-19

# *Quinolones*



Ethiopia

**TABLE 4. ANY ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS AMONG PARTICIPANTS WITH MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS**

	Levofloxacin Group (n = 78)	Moxifloxacin Group (n = 77)	P Value
Gastrointestinal trouble	30 (38.5%)	29 (37.7%)	0.92*
Musculoskeletal abnormalities	28 (35.9%)	11 (14.3%)	0.002*
Neurologic abnormalities	8 (10.3%)	11 (14.3%)	0.44*
Dermatologic abnormalities	9 (11.5%)	7 (9.1%)	0.62*
Others <sup>†</sup>	7 (8.9%)	9 (11.7%)	0.58*
Hepatotoxicity	8 (10.3%)	7 (9.1%)	0.81*
Ototoxicity	5 (6.4%)	4 (5.2%)	1.00 <sup>‡</sup>
Allergic reaction	1 (1.3%)	6 (7.8%)	0.06 <sup>‡</sup>
Cardiovascular abnormalities <sup>§</sup>	3 (3.8%)	2 (2.6%)	1.00 <sup>‡</sup>
Eye toxicity	1 (1.3%)	2 (2.6%)	0.62 <sup>‡</sup>
Endocrinologic abnormalities	0	1 (1.3%)	0.50 <sup>‡</sup>
Hematologic abnormalities	0	0	—
Any adverse drug reactions	54 (69.2%)	46 (59.7%)	0.22 <sup>‡</sup>

\* P value from chi-square test.

† Others include general weakness, fatigue, sweating, and chills.

‡ P value from Fisher's exact test.

§ QT prolongation was not reported in both groups.

Grade 3 or 4 toxicity	7.7%	5.2%	NS
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Koh et al., Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2013;188:858-64

MFX conc decreased by RFM by 30% ; WHO prefer LFX

# *Treatments to come*

- Trials in progress
  - ≥ 7 new drugs in phase I
  - ≥ 10 new drugs in phase II
  - Including less toxic oxazolidinone
    - » Lange et al., Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2022;205:1142-44

# *Summary*

- Explosive growth TB research
- Discoveries already being put to use
- More to come

*Thank you.*

