IN-TRAC: August 2024 Newsletter

All times are Central.

IN-TRAC Hour

Thursdays, 12:00pm-1:00pm

August 1: Texas TB Journal Club
Zoom Only
This Journal Club has passed, but articles discussed can be found here:
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August 8:
IN-TRAC Forum
Facilitator: Micaela Sandoval, MPH, Ph.D.
Community-based Strategies for TB Prevention and Control
Register for Zoom

August 15: Texas TB Journal Club
Zoom Only
Zoom link to come

August 22:

Facilitator: Soumyajit "Somjit" Dutta, Ph.D.

Beyond the Surface: Microscopy Insights into Tuberculosis Pathogenesis

Register for Zoom

August 29:

IN-TRAC In Session

Lisa Armitige, MD, Ph.D.

Register for Zoom

Presentation information to come

Forum Facilitator

IN-TRAC is looking for you to be our future facilitator

Event:	Participation Perk:
Texas TB Journal Club	**Pilot Grant Eligibility, Part 1:** Attend at least half of these sessions and be a presenter
IN-TRAC Forum, an interactive forum for discussion of TB topics	**Pilot Grant Eligibility, Part 2:** Submit a TB topic and Facilitate the discussion

Sign-up Dates:

- January 9th, 2025
- February 13th, 2025
- March 13th, 2025

Contact Crystal Bolden-Rush with the day you'd like to sign-up
Devcore will follow up and record your topic.

IN-TRAC Forum:
Is a 20-minute talk with no more than 15 slides, the remainder time will be for discussion and questions.

Best Practices:

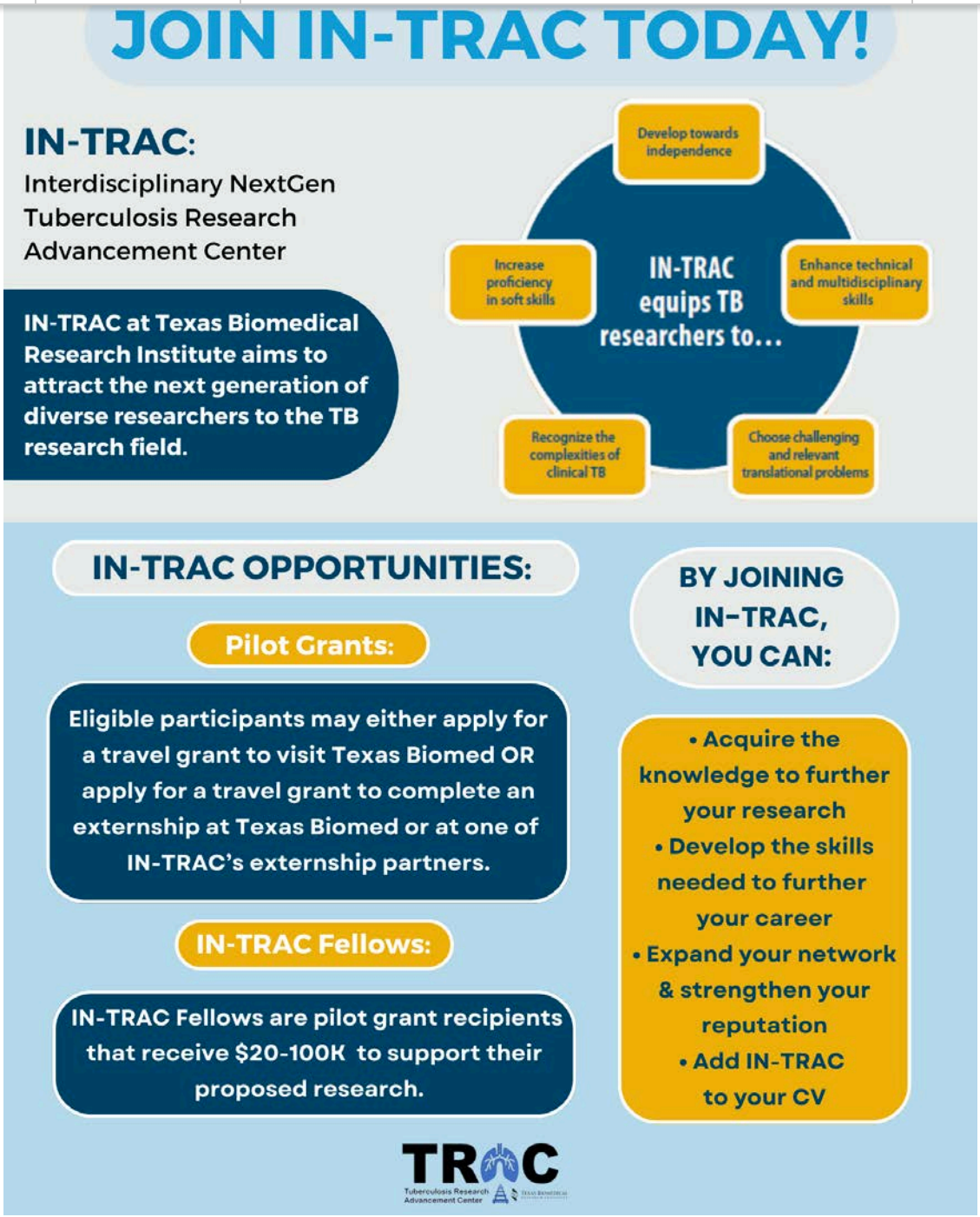
started.
- Interact with virtual participants.
- Encourage discussion by focusing on possibilities, opportunities, or solutions.

Click Here to Sign Up

IN-TRAC recruitment is in full force!

Please encourage your colleagues to join IN-TRAC by forwarding them the flyer below. There are so many exciting opportunities they can be a part of to further their TB research and experience!

Register to join IN-TRAC here



Highlights: TB Research from the Perspective of Summer Scholars

Itzel Galan and Daniella Ortega

Why TB research?

Itzel: To be completely honest, I joined the TB lab primarily because of Dr. Torrelles and his dedicated lab members. Their passion for research and commitment are truly inspiring. Being part of this lab offers a unique opportunity to learn not only from Dr. Torrelles but also from each member of the team.

Daniella: Millions of people die from TB each year, worldwide, and unfortunately the treatment options aren't optimal. This disease has a devastating impact on the world, therefore raising awareness and studying improved treatments is imperative.

What have you learned being apart of TB research?

Itzel: When I first joined the lab, I had no knowledge whatsoever about TB. However, my time here has been incredibly enlightening. I've gained a substantial understanding of the subject, and I was astounded to learn that a quarter of the world's population is infected with latent TB. This revelation was particularly shocking to me, as I had previously believed TB to be a disease of the past, not one that remains so prevalent today.

Daniella: I learned more about TB infection mechanisms as well as some new advancements in the development of treatment options directly from scientists at the forefront of TB research. I also learned how important it is that the public and especially the younger generations are knowledgeable about TB.

Do you plan on continuing with TB research?

Itzel: At this moment, my plans remain open-ended. I am enthusiastic about continuing TB research during my undergraduate studies, but beyond that, I

Daniella: I hope to continue with TB research! Whether I find a lab as a grad student or as a post-doc, I fully intend to pursue studying TB.

What has been challenging about being an intern in a TB lab?

Itzel: The most challenging aspect of interning in a TB lab is navigating the complexity of scientific research papers. These documents are crucial for a comprehensive understanding of TB, yet they are densely packed with information that requires considerable time and effort to fully grasp. However, with continued practice and time, I am confident that my ability to read and comprehend these papers will improve.

Daniella: It was challenging not being able to see some experiments from beginning to end as I only had 8 weeks in the lab. There were a lot of exciting experiments starting that ran beyond my stay as an intern due to the TB infections needing to run for longer periods of time than I am normally used to when I work with other bacteria.

What has been the most enjoyable part of being an intern in a TB lab?

Itzel: The most enjoyable aspect of interning in a TB lab are the unmatched research opportunities I have been given, beyond the scope of a typical university undergraduate lab. Prior to this experience, I had never worked with bacteria, let alone engaged in the intricate process of infecting cells with it. Undertaking the hands-on research has been nothing but fascinating, making it by far the most enjoyable and intellectually stimulating endeavor I have encountered in a lab.

Daniella: I really enjoyed seeing the community of scientists so devoted to improving TB treatments and outcomes. There was so much to learn about all their novel research and all of the progress that they have made thus far in the field. Not only are they developing ways to treat TB but also developing new models to study TB and other respiratory diseases in.

Thank you for your hard work as Summer Scholars, Itzel and Daniella!

TRAC Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center | Texas Biomedical Research Institute

Our mailing address is: