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IN-TRAC: February 2026 Newsletter

All times are Central.

IN-TRAC Hour

Thursdays 12:00pm-1:00pm CT

February 5th

Texas TB Journal Club

Zoom Only

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IN-TRAC Seminar

Hijacking ephrin pathways to optimize Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection

Jeffrey Cirillo, PhD

Interim Department Head & Regents' Professor, Texas A&M University

Building 12 Atrium and Zoom

[Zoom Link](#)

Flyer Below!

February 19th

Texas TB Journal Club

Zoom Only

[Zoom Link](#)

February 26th

IN-TRAC In Session

Factors that Affect Animal Research

Tori Baxter, DVM, PhD, DACLAM

Assistant Professor

Hixon Conference Room and Zoom

[Zoom Link](#)

Flyer



IN-TRAC SEMINAR

FEATURING

Jeffrey Cirillo, Ph.D.

Interim Department Head & Regents' Professor, Texas A&M University

Hijacking ephrin pathways to optimize Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection



Tuberculosis, caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, produces organized immune structures called granulomas in infected tissues. Erythropoietin-producing hepatoma (Eph) receptors are the largest family of receptor tyrosine kinases, mediating cell-cell interactions. Interestingly, *ephA1*, *ephA2* and *ephrinA1* genes are induced by *M. tuberculosis* in mice and human cells. In mice, we have found that their induction impacts bacterial clearance during the chronic phase of infection. In human macrophages, the *eph* genes impact survival of *M. tuberculosis* and modulate expression of genes that provide insight into the role of Eph receptors in susceptibility/resistance to infection. We will present a portion of our data on Eph pathways in mice and human cells, outlining current evidence for their role in *M. tuberculosis* pathogenesis and strategies to dissect the potential mechanisms involved.

 **Thursday February 12th**
12pm to 1pm

 **Building 12 Atrium and Zoom**

 **Jeffrey Cirillo, Ph.D.**
Interim Department Head & Regents' Professor, Texas A&M University

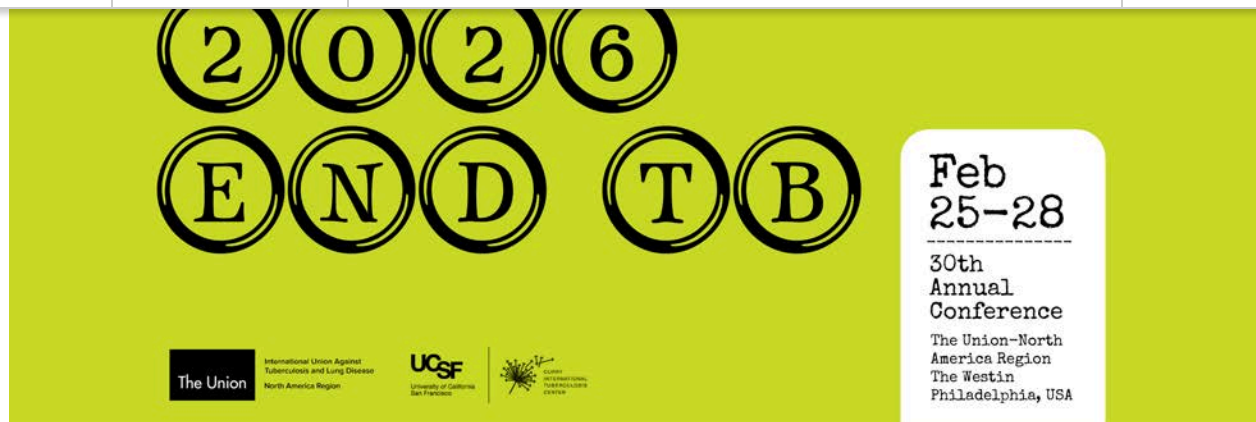
<https://www.txbiomed.org/research/in-trac/>



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IN-TRAC is proud to be represented at the “2026 End TB Conference of the Union North American Region” (NAR) by Benjamin Black, Mia Aguirre, and Shashi Singh. Their presentations and posters highlight the great work happening within our program, and we’re thrilled to see them sharing it with the broader community!



IN-TRAC Recruitment is Always in Full Force!
 Please encourage your colleagues to join IN-TRAC by forwarding them this email. There are so many exciting opportunities they can be a part of to further their TB research and experience!

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN IN-TRAC!](#)



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