

CURRICULUM VITAE
Blanca I. Restrepo, Ph.D.
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Professor of Epidemiology

Director, Tuberculosis Research program on the Texas-Mexico border

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health, Brownsville Campus

One West University Blvd, SPH Bldg, Brownsville-TX 78520

Laboratory: 1214 E. Schunior, EREBL Bldg, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute. UTRGV, Edinburg, TX 78542

Email: Blanca.I.Restrepo@uth.tmc.edu; Phone: 956-279-3841

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- I am a **Hispanic, bilingual** and **bi-cultural** scientist dedicated to studying health challenges among Hispanics from the Texas-Mexico border. In this medically underserved region, I am a founder and director of a **tuberculosis (TB)** research program that has international recognition for studies on TB and **type 2 diabetes (T2D)**. Most recently I began studies on the impact of TB and T2D in **older adults** and **aging**.
- My **epidemiological studies** pioneered the demonstration of the worldwide re-emergence of T2D as a risk factor for active TB disease. I complemented these findings with **basic science studies**, where I was among the first to show the dysfunctional immune response in T2D patients. Together, these findings provide a foundation for improving TB prevention among T2D patients. I have recently discovered that the association between T2D-TB wanes with older age, opening new avenues for understanding the underlying biology of the interaction between **age*T2D** on TB risk. My studies are also raising **awareness of the importance of studying older adults**, who are vulnerable, neglected and understudied.
- My **field site** is uniquely suited for TB studies in the US, where I have **access to more TB patients** than any other clinic in the country. As such, I collaborate with scientists across the US to test new diagnostics or establish basic science principles for novel products in TB patients. I have also held sub-contracts with industry to test TB diagnostics for FDA approval and clinical use in the US.
- I have **international recognition** for my expertise in TB-T2D (invited speaker, manuscript and grant reviewer) and am now expanding to the field of aging. Furthermore, I am a **role model for Hispanic women scientists** and am an invited to present my research findings in **Spanish to Latin American** audiences.
- In 2021 I was among the 2% most cited scientists. I have with >95 peer-reviewed manuscripts, +7000 citations and an **H index of 45**. Importantly, my research studies have had an impact on the **clinical management of active TB patients and their close contacts** at a national and international level. My next translational goal is to expand the role of TB clinics worldwide to become strategic sites for opportunistic T2D diagnosis during TB contact investigations.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Microbiology	Department of Microbiology, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), San Antonio, TX.	1994
B.S. in Medical Technology	Colegio Mayor de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia	1986

EMPLOYMENT

Professor, Tenured	Epidemiology, UTHealth Houston, SPH, Brownsville Campus	2024-present
Associate Professor, Tenured	Epidemiology, UTHealth Houston, SPH, Brownsville Campus	2010-2024
Assistant Professor, Tenure track	Epidemiology, UTHealth Houston, SPH, Brownsville Campus	2007-2010
Assistant Professor, NTR	Epidemiology, UTHealth Houston, SPH, Brownsville Campus	2003-2007
Post-doctoral fellow, Tuberculosis	University of Texas Health Science Center Houston (UTHealth Houston), School of Public Health (SPH), Brownsville Campus (Advisors: Susan P. Fisher-Hoch and Joseph B. McCormick)	2002-2003
Head, Molecular Parasitology	Corporación para Investigaciones Biológicas, Medellín, Colombia	1997-2001
Post-doctoral fellow, Parasitology	Department of Microbiology (Advisor: Judy M. Teale's)	1994-1997

Social Service, Research on Medical mycology	Corporación para Investigaciones Biológicas, CIB., Medellín, Colombia (Advisor: Angela Restrepo-Moreno) Audie L. Murphy Veterans Administration Hospital, San Antonio, TX. (Advisor: Richard Graybill)	1986-1987
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AFFILIATIONS

iCARE	International Center for the Advancement of Research and Education. Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio, TX	2023-present
Adjoint Research Faculty	Population Health, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio, TX	2022-present:
Institute on Aging	Member, UTHealth Houston	2022-present
Global Frailty Network	Member (https://www.globalfrailty.org/)	2022-present
Adjoint Associate Professor	South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute, School of Medicine, UT Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg campus, TX	2016-present:
Gulf Coast Consortia, Aging and Geroscience	Inaugural member, UTHealth Houston	2025-present

NOMINATIONS AND HONORS (since 2011)

Among top 2% most cited scientists worldwide. Snapshot from Scopus and updated to citation year 2021. Classification method based on citation metrics developed by a group of researchers from Stanford University. Featured in UT Rio Grande Valley's research newsletter.

- <https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/btchxktzyw/3>
- https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Health-Matters--School-of-Medicine-news.html?soid=1130858595335&aid=1tSs03F1T_g

Featured manuscript: "A functional role for antibodies in tuberculosis" (*Cell* 2016 doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2016.08.072). 2016

- Featured in Nature Reviews Immunology: "Marking disease states in tuberculosis" <http://www.nature.com/nri/journal/v16/n11/full/nri.2016.120.html>

Featured manuscript: "The Impact of Global Immigration on Tuberculosis in Children Younger than 5 Years of Age within the United States. (*Pediatrics*; February 10, 2014; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2013-2570)". 2014

- Lead story on <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/>

- Featured on Daily Rx:

<https://www.rxwiki.com/news-article/tuberculosis-cases-children-occurred-more-among-those-born-overseas>

Featured manuscript: "Cross-sectional assessment reveals high diabetes prevalence among newly-diagnosed tuberculosis cases. (*Bull World Health Organ* 2011 May 1)" 2011

- Selected and evaluated by Anthony Harries, a Member of the Faculty of 1000 (F1000), which places this work in the F1000 library of the top 2% of published articles in biology and medicine (<http://f1000.com/11855966>)
- Manuscript featured by the WHO for media release (http://www.who.int/bulletin/releases/media_notes/en/index.html).
- Featured in the United Nations radio (<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/spanish/detail/175949.html>)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed n > 90; +5,000 citations, H index = 42 on ResearchGate) * UT-SPH student; ** Mentored non-UT-SPH student or post-doctoral trainee

PEER-REVIEWED ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS (reviews listed separately)

1. Ogongo P, Martinez-Lopez YE, Tran A, Lindestam-Arlehamn CS, Dominguez-Trejo IA, Garza L, Cruz-Gonzalez AM, Loera-Salazar R, Rodriguez-Herrera JE, Aguillon-Duran GP, Garcia-Oropesa EM, Ernst JD, **Restrepo BI**. Increased circulating Th17 cells and altered CD4 T cell maturation and differentiation in active tuberculosis with type 2 diabetes. **2025**. *Front Immunol*. 16:1637868; DOI 10.3389/fimmu.2025.1637868
2. Sadee W, Cheeseman IH, Papp A, Pietrzak M, Seweryn M, Zhou X, Lin S, Williams AM, Wewers MD, Curry HM, Zhang H, Cai H, Kunsevi-Kilola C, Tshivhula H, Walzl G, **Restrepo BI**, Kleynhans L, Ronacher K, Wang Y, Arnett E, Azad AK, Schlesinger LS. Human alveolar macrophage response to Mycobacterium tuberculosis: immune characteristics underlying large inter-individual variability. **2025**. *Comms Bio*. 8, 950. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-025-08337-9>
3. Kumari S, Martinez-Garcia J, Ehrman RN, Tang W, Miles J, Basak P, Howlett TS, Wijesundara YH, Wang Z, Izzo A, **Restrepo BI**, Lu LL, Meloni G, Gassensmith J. Testing the Antigenic Potential of Novel Transmembrane Proteins to Develop a Thermostable Tuberculosis MOF-Liposomal Vaccine. **2025**. *ACS Infect Dis*. 11(1);204-215; doi: 10.1021/acsinfectdis.4c00771
4. Calles-Cabanillas LE*, Aguillón-Durán GP, Ayala D, Caso JA, Garza M*, Joya-Ayala M**, Cruz-Gonzalez AM, Loera-Salazar R, Prieto-Martinez E, Rodríguez-Herrera JE, Garcia-Oropesa EM, Thomas III JM, Lee M, Torrelles JB, **Restrepo BI**. **2024**. Interaction between type 2 diabetes and past COVID-19 on active tuberculosis. *BMC Infect Dis*. 24:1383; doi.org/10.1186/s12879-024-10244-z. PMID: PMC11616277
5. McGowan R*, Brown HS, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, **Restrepo BI**. **2024**. Picking the low-hanging fruit: The cost-effectiveness of opportunistic screening for diabetes during tuberculosis contact investigations. *BMJ Public Health*. 2:e001189. doi:10.1136/bmjph-2024-001189
6. Garcia-Vilanova A, Allué-Guardia A, Akhter A, Singh DK, Kaushal D, **Restrepo BI**, Schlesinger LS, Turner J, Weintraub ST, Torrelles JB. **2024**. Proteomic analysis of lung responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection in aged non-human primates: Clinical and research relevance. *Geoscience*. 2024; doi: 10.1007/s11357-024-01264-3
7. Hamada Y, Quartagno M, Malik F, Ntshamane K, Tisler A, Gaikwad S, Acuna-Villaorduna C, Bhavani PK, Alisjahbana B, Ronacher K, Apriani L, Becerra M, Chu AL, Creswell J, Diaz G, Ferro BE, Galea JT, Grandjean L, Grewal HMS, Gupta A, Jones-Lopez EC, Kleynhans L, Lecca L, MacPherson P, Murray M, Marin D, **Restrepo BI**, Shivakumar S, Shu E, Sivakumaran D, Vo LNQ, Webb EL, Copas A, Abubakar I, Rangaka MX. **2024**. Prevalence of non-communicable diseases among household contacts of people with tuberculosis: A systematic review and individual participant data meta-analysis. *Trop Med Int Health* 29: 768-780; doi: 10.1111/tmi.14038. PMID11368628
8. Medrano BA*, Lee M, Gemeinhardt G, Morris S, Yamba L, **Restrepo BI**. **2024**. High all-cause mortality and increasing proportion of older adults with tuberculosis in Texas, 2008—2020. *Epidemiol Infect*. 152; e82; 1-10; doi: 10.1017/S0950268824000669. PMID: PMC2870584
9. Olmo-Fontanez AM**, Scordo JM**, Schami A, Garcia-Vilanova A, Pino PA, Hicks A, Maselli DJ, Peters JL, **Restrepo BI**, Clemens, DL, Turner J, Schlesinger LS, Torrelles JB. **2024**. Human alveolar lining fluid from the elderly promotes Mycobacterium tuberculosis intracellular growth and translocation into the cytosol of alveolar epithelial cells. *Mucosal Immunol*. Apr;17(2):155-168. doi: 10.1016/j.mucimm.2024.01.001.
10. Medrano BA*, Lee M, Gemeinhardt G, Rodriguez-Herrera JE, Garcia-Viveros M, **Restrepo BI**. **2023**. Tuberculosis presentation and outcomes in older Hispanic adults from Tamaulipas, Mexico. *Medicine* 102: e35458; doi: 10.1097/MD.00000000000035458.
11. Zhang K, Sowers ML, Cherryhomes EI, Singh VK, Mishra A, **Restrepo BI**, Khan A, Jagannath C. **2023**. Sirtuin-dependent metabolic and epigenetic regulation of macrophages during tuberculosis. *Front Immunol* 14: 1121495; doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2023.1121495.
12. Curry JS**, Abdelbary B*, Garcia-Viveros M, Garcia JI, Yotebieng M, Rendon A, Torrelles JB, **Restrepo BI**. **2022**. South to North Migration Patterns of Tuberculosis Patients Diagnosed in the Mexican Border with Texas. *J Immigr Minor Health* 24: 1113-1121; doi: 10.1007/s10903-021-01294-5.
13. **Restrepo BI**, Scordo JM, Aguillon-Duran GP, Ayala D, Quirino-Cerrillo AP, Loera-Salazar R, Cruz-Gonzalez A, Caso JA, Joya-Ayala M, Garcia-Oropesa EM, Salinas AB, Martinez L, Schlesinger LS, Torrelles JB, Turner J. **2022**. Differential Role of Type 2 Diabetes as a Risk Factor for Tuberculosis in the Elderly versus Younger Adults. *Pathogens* 11; doi: 10.3390/pathogens11121551.
14. Singh VK, Khan A, Xu Y, Mai S, Zhang L, Mishra A, **Restrepo BI**, Pan PY, Chen SH, Jagannath C. **2022**. Antibody-Mediated LILRB2-Receptor Antagonism Induces Human Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells to Kill Mycobacterium tuberculosis. *Front Immunol* 13: 865503; doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2022.865503.
15. Khan A, Zhang K, Singh VK, Mishra A, Kachroo P, Bing T, Won JH, Mani A, Papanna R, Mann LK, Ledezma-Campos E, Aguillon-Duran G, Canaday DH, David SA, **Restrepo BI**, Viet NN, Phan H, Graviss EA, Musser JM, Kaushal D, Gauduin MC, Jagannath C. **2022**. Human M1 macrophages express unique innate immune response

- genes after mycobacterial infection to defend against tuberculosis. *Commun Biol* 5: 480; doi: [10.1038/s42003-022-03387-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-022-03387-9).
16. Garcia-Vilanova A, Olmo-Fontanez AM**, Moliva JI, Allue-Guardia A, Singh H, Merritt RE, Maselli DJ, Peters JI, **Restrepo BI**, Wang Y, Schlesinger LS, Turner J, Weintraub ST, Torrelles JB. **2022**. The Aging Human Lung Mucosa: A Proteomics Study. *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci* 77: 1969-1974; doi: [10.1093/gerona/glac091](https://doi.org/10.1093/gerona/glac091).
 17. Sowers ML, Tang H, Singh VK, Khan A, Mishra A, **Restrepo BI**, Jagannath C, Zhang K. **2022**. Multi-OMICs analysis reveals metabolic and epigenetic changes associated with macrophage polarization. *J Biol Chem* 298: 102418; doi: [10.1016/j.jbc.2022.102418](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbc.2022.102418).
 18. ⁴ Wang SH, Rajaram MVS, Trollip A, Wu Q, Ayala D, Garza D, Benavidez MA, Fox K, Aguillon-Duran GP, Vargas-Orozco EA, Torres L, Yu L, Ahmed SR, Aspden M, Jackson-Soutter T, Coxon C, Brignall R, **Restrepo BI**. **2022**. Novel Automation of an Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Spot Assay Testing Method: Comparable Diagnostic Performance of the T-SPOT.TB Test Using Manual Density Gradient Cell Isolation versus Automated Positive Selection with the T-Cell Select Kit. *J Clin Microbiol* 60: e0055122; doi: [10.1128/jcm.00551-22](https://doi.org/10.1128/jcm.00551-22).
 19. **Restrepo BI**, Khan A, Singh VK, de Leon E, Aguillon-Duran GP, Ledezma-Campos E, Canaday DH, Jagannath C. **2021**. Human monocyte-derived macrophage responses to M. tuberculosis differ by the host's tuberculosis, diabetes or obesity status, and are enhanced by rapamycin. *Tuberculosis (Edinb)* 126: 102047; doi: [10.1016/j.tube.2020.102047](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tube.2020.102047).
 20. Aguillon-Duran GP, Prieto-Martinez E, Ayala D, Garcia J, Jr., Thomas JM, 3rd, Garcia JI, Henry BM, Torrelles JB, Turner J, Ledezma-Campos E, **Restrepo BI**. **2021**. COVID-19 and chronic diabetes: the perfect storm for reactivation tuberculosis?: a case series. *J Med Case Rep* 15: 621; doi: [10.1186/s13256-021-03193-7](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13256-021-03193-7).
 21. Koyuncu D, Niazi MKK, Tavolara T, Abeijon C, Ginese ML, Liao Y, Mark C, Specht A, Gower AC, **Restrepo BI**, Gatti DM, Kramnik I, Gurcan M, Yener B, Beamer G. **2021**. CXCL1: A new diagnostic biomarker for human tuberculosis discovered using Diversity Outbred mice. *PLoS Pathog* 17: e1009773; doi: [10.1371/journal.ppat.1009773](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1009773).
 22. ³ Scordo JM**, Aguillon-Duran GP, Ayala D, Quirino-Cerrillo AP, Rodriguez-Reyna E, Joya-Ayala M, Mora-Guzman F, Ledezma-Campos E, Villafanez A, Schlesinger LS, Torrelles JB, Turner J, **Restrepo BI**. **2021**. Interferon gamma release assays for detection of latent Mycobacterium tuberculosis in older Hispanic people. *Int J Infect Dis* 111: 85-91; doi: [10.1016/j.ijid.2021.08.014](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2021.08.014).
 23. Scordo JM**, Aguillon-Duran GP, Ayala D, Quirino-Cerrillo AP, Rodriguez-Reyna E, Mora-Guzman F, Caso JA, Ledezma-Campos E, Schlesinger LS, Torrelles JB, Turner J, **Restrepo BI**. **2021**. A prospective cross-sectional study of tuberculosis in elderly Hispanics reveals that BCG vaccination at birth is protective whereas diabetes is not a risk factor. *PLoS One* 16: e0255194; doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0255194](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0255194).
 24. **Restrepo BI**, Twahirwa M, Jagannath C. **2021**. Hyperglycemia and dyslipidemia: Reduced HLA-DR expression in monocyte subpopulations from diabetes patients. *Hum Immunol* 82: 124-129; doi: [10.1016/j.humimm.2020.11.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.humimm.2020.11.005).
 25. Lu LL, Das J, Grace PS, Fortune SM, **Restrepo BI**, Alter G. **2020**. Antibody Fc Glycosylation Discriminates Between Latent and Active Tuberculosis. *J Infect Dis* 222: 2093-2102; doi: [10.1093/infdis/jiz643](https://doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jiz643).
 26. Rashak HA*, Sanchez-Perez HJ, Abdelbary BE*, Bencomo-Alerm A, Enriquez-Rios N, Gomez-Velasco A, Colorado A, Castellanos-Joya M, Rahbar MH, **Restrepo BI**. **2019**. Diabetes, undernutrition, migration and indigenous communities: tuberculosis in Chiapas, Mexico. *Epidemiol Infect* 147: e71; doi: [10.1017/S0950268818003461](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0950268818003461).
 27. **Restrepo BI**, Kleynhans L, Salinas AB, Abdelbary B*, Tshivhula H, Aguillon-Duran GP, Kunsevi-Kilola C, Salinas G, Stanley K, Malherbe ST, Maasdorp E, Garcia-Viveros M, Louw I, Garcia-Oropesa EM, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Prins JB, Walzl G, Schlesinger LS, Ronacher K. **2018**. Diabetes screen during tuberculosis contact investigations highlights opportunity for new diabetes diagnosis and reveals metabolic differences between ethnic groups. *Tuberculosis (Edinb)* 113: 10-18; doi: [10.1016/j.tube.2018.08.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tube.2018.08.007).
 28. Choudhary A, Patel D, Honnen W, Lai Z, Prattipati RS, Zheng RB, Hsueh YC, Gennaro ML, Lardizabal A, **Restrepo BI**, Garcia-Viveros M, Joe M, Bai Y, Shen K, Sahloul K, Spencer JS, Chatterjee D, Broger T, Lowary TL, Pinter A. **2018**. Characterization of the Antigenic Heterogeneity of Lipoarabinomannan, the Major Surface Glycolipid of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, and Complexity of Antibody Specificities toward This Antigen. *J Immunol* 200: 3053-3066; doi: [10.4049/jimmunol.1701673](https://doi.org/10.4049/jimmunol.1701673).
 29. Abdelbary BE*, Garcia-Viveros M, Ramirez-Oropesa H, Rahbar MH, **Restrepo BI**. **2017**. Predicting treatment failure, death and drug resistance using a computed risk score among newly diagnosed TB patients in Tamaulipas, Mexico. *Epidemiol Infect* 145: 3020-3034; doi: [10.1017/S0950268817001911](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0950268817001911).
 30. Perez-Navarro LM, **Restrepo BI**, Fuentes-Dominguez FJ, Duggirala R, Morales-Romero J, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, Comas I, Zenteno-Cuevas R. **2017**. The effect size of type 2 diabetes mellitus on tuberculosis drug resistance and adverse treatment outcomes. *Tuberculosis (Edinb)* 103: 83-91; doi: [10.1016/j.tube.2017.01.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tube.2017.01.006).
 31. Abdelbary BE*, Garcia-Viveros M, Ramirez-Oropesa H, Rahbar MH, **Restrepo BI**. **2016**. Tuberculosis-diabetes epidemiology in the border and non-border regions of Tamaulipas, Mexico. *Tuberculosis (Edinb)* 101S: S124-S134; doi: [10.1016/j.tube.2016.09.024](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tube.2016.09.024).

32. Agarwal S*, Nguyen DT, Lew JD, Teeter LD, Yamal JM, **Restrepo BI**, Brown EL, Dorman SE, Graviss EA. **2016**. Differential positive TSPOT assay responses to ESAT-6 and CFP-10 in health care workers. Tuberculosis (Edinb) 101S: S83-S91; doi: [10.1016/j.tube.2016.09.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tube.2016.09.012).
33. Agarwal S*, Nguyen DT, Lew JD, Teeter LD, Yamal JM, **Restrepo BI**, Brown EL, Dorman SE, Graviss EA. **2016**. Comparing TSPOT assay results between an Elispot reader and manual counts. Tuberculosis (Edinb) 101S: S92-S98; doi: [10.1016/j.tube.2016.09.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tube.2016.09.013).
34. Lu LL, Chung AW, Rosebrock TR, Ghebremichael M, Yu WH, Grace PS, Schoen MK, Tafesse F, Martin C, Leung V, Mahan AE, Sips M, Kumar MP, Tedesco J, Robinson H, Tkachenko E, Draghi M, Freedberg KJ, Streeck H, Suscovich TJ, Lauffenburger DA, **Restrepo BI**, Day C, Fortune SM, Alter G. **2016**. A Functional Role for Antibodies in Tuberculosis. Cell 167: 433-443 e14; doi: [10.1016/j.cell.2016.08.072](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2016.08.072).
35. Medrano BA, Salinas G, Sanchez C, Miramontes R, **Restrepo BI**, Haddad MB, Lambert LA. **2014**. A missed tuberculosis diagnosis resulting in hospital transmission. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 35: 534-7; doi: [10.1086/675833](https://doi.org/10.1086/675833).
36. **Restrepo BI**, Twahirwa M, Rahbar MH, Schlesinger LS. **2014**. Phagocytosis via complement or Fc-gamma receptors is compromised in monocytes from type 2 diabetes patients with chronic hyperglycemia. PLoS One 9: e92977; doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0092977](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0092977).
37. Pang J, Teeter LD, Katz DJ, Davidow AL, Miranda W, Wall K, Ghosh S, Stein-Hart T, **Restrepo BI**, Reves R, Graviss EA, Tuberculosis Epidemiologic Studies C. **2014**. Epidemiology of tuberculosis in young children in the United States. Pediatrics 133: e494-504; doi: [10.1542/peds.2013-2570](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2013-2570).
38. Stew SS, Martinez PJ, Schlesinger LS, **Restrepo BI**. **2013**. Differential expression of monocyte surface markers among TB patients with diabetes co-morbidity. Tuberculosis (Edinb) 93 Suppl: S78-82; doi: [10.1016/S1472-9792\(13\)70015-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1472-9792(13)70015-5).
39. **Restrepo BI**, Schlesinger LS. **2013**. Host-pathogen interactions in tuberculosis patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Tuberculosis (Edinb) 93 Suppl: S10-4; doi: [10.1016/S1472-9792\(13\)70004-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1472-9792(13)70004-0).
40. **Restrepo BI**, Pino PA, Zarate I, Mora-Guzman F. **2013**. Dipstick urinalysis for diabetes screening in TB patients. Int Health 5: 157-9; doi: [10.1093/inthealth/iht007](https://doi.org/10.1093/inthealth/iht007).
41. Pollock NR, Macovei L, Kanunfre K, Dhiman R, **Restrepo BI**, Zarate I, Pino PA, Mora-Guzman F, Fujiwara RT, Michel G, Kashino SS, Campos-Neto A. **2013**. Validation of Mycobacterium tuberculosis Rv1681 protein as a diagnostic marker of active pulmonary tuberculosis. J Clin Microbiol 51: 1367-73; doi: [10.1128/JCM.03192-12](https://doi.org/10.1128/JCM.03192-12).
42. Gomez DI, Twahirwa M, Schlesinger LS, **Restrepo BI**. **2013**. Reduced Mycobacterium tuberculosis association with monocytes from diabetes patients that have poor glucose control. Tuberculosis (Edinb) 93: 192-7; doi: [10.1016/j.tube.2012.10.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tube.2012.10.003).
43. ² Wang SH, Stew SS, Cyktor J, Carruthers B, Turner J, **Restrepo BI**. **2012**. Validation of increased blood storage times with the T-SPOT.TB assay with T-Cell Xtend reagent in individuals with different tuberculosis risk factors. J Clin Microbiol 50: 2469-71; doi: [10.1128/JCM.00674-12](https://doi.org/10.1128/JCM.00674-12).
44. Gomez DI*, Mullin CS, Mora-Guzman F, Crespo-Solis JG, Fisher-Hoch SP, McCormick JB, **Restrepo BI**. **2011**. Rapid DNA extraction for specific detection and quantitation of Mycobacterium tuberculosis DNA in sputum specimens using Taqman assays. Tuberculosis (Edinb) 91 Suppl 1: S43-8; doi: [10.1016/j.tube.2011.10.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tube.2011.10.009).
45. **Restrepo BI**, Camerlin AJ*, Rahbar MH, Wang W, **Restrepo MA**, Zarate I, Mora-Guzman F, Crespo-Solis JG, Briggs J, McCormick JB, Fisher-Hoch SP. **2011**. Cross-sectional assessment reveals high diabetes prevalence among newly-diagnosed tuberculosis cases. Bull World Health Organ 89: 352-9; doi: [10.2471/BLT.10.085738](https://doi.org/10.2471/BLT.10.085738).
46. ¹ Walsh MC*, Camerlin AJ*, Miles R*, Pino P, Martinez P, Mora-Guzman F, Crespo-Solis JG, Fisher-Hoch SP, McCormick JB, **Restrepo BI**. **2011**. The sensitivity of interferon-gamma release assays is not compromised in tuberculosis patients with diabetes. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis 15: 179-84.
47. Fisher-Hoch SP, Rentfro AR, Salinas JJ, Perez A, Brown HS, Reininger BM, **Restrepo BI**, Wilson JG, Hossain MM, Rahbar MH, Hanis CM, McCormick JB. **2010**. Socioeconomic status and prevalence of obesity and diabetes in a Mexican American community, Cameron County, Texas, 2004-2007. Prev Chronic Dis 7: A53; doi: [10.1016/j.diagmicrobio.2009.12.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diagmicrobio.2009.12.007).
48. Gomez DI, Fisher-Hoch SP, Bordt AS*, Quitugua TN, Robledo J, Alvarez N, Correa N, McCormick JB, **Restrepo BI**. **2010**. Systematic interpretation of molecular beacon polymerase chain reaction for identifying rpoB mutations in Mycobacterium tuberculosis isolates with mixed resistant and susceptible bacteria. Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis 67: 37-46; doi: [10.1016/j.diagmicrobio.2009.12.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diagmicrobio.2009.12.007).
49. **Restrepo BI**, Fisher-Hoch SP, Smith B, Jeon S, Rahbar MH, McCormick JB, Nuevo Santander Tuberculosis T. **2008**. Mycobacterial clearance from sputum is delayed during the first phase of treatment in patients with diabetes. Am J Trop Med Hyg 79: 541-4; doi: [10.1080/00365540802342372](https://doi.org/10.1080/00365540802342372).
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Reference footnotes:

- ¹ Reference cited by the **US Preventive Services Task Force** for management of latent TB infection of adults in the US (Jonas DE, Riley S, Lee L, et al. *Screening for Latent Tuberculosis Infection in Adults: An Evidence Review for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force [Internet]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US); 2023 May. (Evidence Synthesis, No. 226.)* References. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK591765/>
- ² Xten reagent now approved by FDA for clinical use with T.Spot-TB kits in the US
- ³ Reference cited by the **US Preventive Services Task Force** for management of latent TB infection of adults in the US (Screening for Latent Tuberculosis Infection in Adults: Updated Evidence Report and Systematic Review for the US Preventive Services Task Force. *May 2023 JAMA The Journal of the American Medical Association* 329(17):1495-1509. DOI: 10.1001/jama.2023.3954)
- ⁴ T-Cell Select kits now approved by FDA for clinical testing of TB infection in the US

REVIEWS AND COMMENTARIES (peer-reviewed)

1. Culasino Carandang THD, Jaula Cunanan D, Co GS, Pilapil JD, García JI, **Restrepo BI**, Yotebieng M, Torrelles JB, Notarte KI. Diagnostic Accuracy of Nanopore Sequencing for Detecting *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and Drug-Resistant Strains: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. **2025**. *Scientific Reports* 15(1):11626, DOI: 10.1038/s41598-025-90089-x
2. Zhang K, Sowers ML, Cherryhomes EI, Singh VK, Mishra A, **Restrepo BI**, Khan A, Jagannath C. **2023**. Sirtuin-dependent metabolic and epigenetic regulation of macrophages during tuberculosis. *Front Immunol* 14: 1121495; doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2023.1121495.
3. Yusoof KA, Garcia JI, Schami A, Garcia-Vilanova A, Kelley HV, Wang SH, Rendon A, **Restrepo BI**, Yotebieng M, Torrelles JB. **2022**. Tuberculosis Phenotypic and Genotypic Drug Susceptibility Testing and Immunodiagnosics: A Review. *Front Immunol* 13: 870768; doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2022.870768.
4. Mishra A, Singh VK, Jagannath C, Subbian S, **Restrepo BI**, Gauduin MC, Khan A. **2022**. Human Macrophages Exhibit GM-CSF Dependent Restriction of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Infection via Regulating Their Self-Survival, Differentiation and Metabolism. *Front Immunol* 13: 859116; doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2022.859116.
5. Torrelles JB, **Restrepo BI**, Bai Y, Ross C, Schlesinger LS, Turner J. **2022**. The Impact of Aging on the Lung Alveolar Environment, Predetermining Susceptibility to Respiratory Infections. *Front Aging* 3: 818700; doi: 10.3389/fragi.2022.818700. (Invited review)
6. Garcia JI, Allue-Guardia A, Tampi RP, **Restrepo BI**, Torrelles JB. **2021**. New Developments and Insights in the Improvement of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Vaccines and Diagnostics Within the End TB Strategy. *Curr Epidemiol Rep* 8: 33-45; doi: 10.1007/s40471-021-00269-2.
7. Cadena J, Rathinavelu S, Lopez-Alvarenga JC, **Restrepo BI**. **2019**. The re-emerging association between tuberculosis and diabetes: Lessons from past centuries. *Tuberculosis (Edinb)* 116S: S89-S97; doi: 10.1016/j.tube.2019.04.015.
8. Ronacher K, van Crevel R, Critchley JA, Bremer AA, Schlesinger LS, Kapur A, Basaraba R, Kornfeld H, **Restrepo BI**. **2017**. Defining a Research Agenda to Address the Converging Epidemics of Tuberculosis and

Diabetes: Part 2: Underlying Biologic Mechanisms. Chest 152: 174-180; doi: 10.1016/j.chest.2017.02.032. (Invited review).

9. Critchley JA, **Restrepo BI**, Ronacher K, Kapur A, Bremer AA, Schlesinger LS, Basaraba R, Kornfeld H, van Crevel R. **2017**. Defining a Research Agenda to Address the Converging Epidemics of Tuberculosis and Diabetes: Part 1: Epidemiology and Clinical Management. Chest 152: 165-173; doi: 10.1016/j.chest.2017.04.155. (Invited review)
10. **Restrepo BI. 2016**. Diabetes and Tuberculosis. Microbiol Spectr 4; doi: 10.1128/microbiolspec.TNMI7-0023-2016. (Invited review)
11. **Restrepo BI. 2016**. Metformin: Candidate host-directed therapy for tuberculosis in diabetes and non-diabetes patients. Tuberculosis (Edinb) 101S: S69-S72; doi: 10.1016/j.tube.2016.09.008.
12. **Restrepo BI**, Schlesinger LS. **2014**. Impact of diabetes on the natural history of tuberculosis. Diabetes Res Clin Pract 106: 191-9; doi: 10.1016/j.diabres.2014.06.011. (Invited review)
13. **Restrepo BI. 2007**. Convergence of the tuberculosis and diabetes epidemics: renewal of old acquaintances. Clin Infect Dis 45: 436-8; doi: 10.1086/519939. (Invited commentary)
14. **Restrepo BI. 2004**. [New tools for detection of latent tuberculosis]. Biomedica 24 Supp 1: 202-11; doi.
15. Barbour AG, **Restrepo BI**. 2000. Antigenic variation in vector-borne pathogens. Emerg Infect Dis 6: 449-57; doi: 10.3201/eid0605.000502. (Invited review)

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Garcia-Oropesa EM, Huerta Y, Rodriguez E, **Restrepo BI**. Tuberculosis y diabetes con enfoque en estudios en México. In: Tuberculosis en México. Ed UABC 2019
2. **Restrepo, BI**. Diabetes and Tuberculosis, in: Understanding Host Immune Responses against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Infection. Ed. V. Venketaraman. Springer International Publishing AG (2018). ISBN 978-3-319-97367-8 (eBook); <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-97367-8>. 2018
3. **Restrepo, BI**. Diabetes and Tuberculosis, in: Tuberculosis and Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Infections. 7th Edition. Ed. D. Schlossberg. ASM press, USA, 2017
 - **Note:** *Invited; new book chapter for 7th Edition. Comments from the Editor* “The chapter is magnificent: authoritative, up-to-date and beautifully written. It promises to be a highlight of the text.”
 - Also published by ASM press as review article (listed above) with 170+ citations
4. Botero O, Soto B, **Restrepo, BI**. Neurocysticercosis in: Neurocirugía para Médicos Generales. Ed. Carlos E. Navarro. Editorial Universidad de Antioquia. Medellín, 2006

INVITED SPEAKER (last 5 years)

- Restrepo BI. “Value of Frailty Assessment across a Spectrum of Ages and Comorbidities”. 16th Intrinsic Capacity, Frailty and Sarcopenia Research (ICFSR) Conference. Symposium: “Confounder, Mediator, or Moderator? Understanding the Frailty–Disease Relationship to Advance Causal and Translational Insights”. Organizer Qian-Li Xue, Hopkins Blumberg Center, Washington D.C. Mar. 10-12, **2026**
- Restrepo BI. “TB: Diabetes interactions with old age and COVID-19”, 3rd International Virtual Conference on Mycobacterium tuberculosis research and drug development. United Scientific Group- a non-profit organization. Chair: Martin Rottenberg, Karolinska Instituted, Sweden. Virtual presentation. Feb 2-3, **2026**
- Restrepo BI. Tuberculosis binational collaboration program updates”. Mycobacteriosis workshop 2025 (for leaders of sanitary jurisdictions for the state of Tamaulipas in Mexico). Virtual presentation. Oct 9, **2025**
- Restrepo BI. “Interacciones inesperadas entre la tuberculosis, diabetes y la tercera edad”. Congreso internacional de investigación: Tuberculosis y Otras Micobacteriosis. August 28, **2025**. Ensenada, Mexico
- Restrepo BI. “Approaching the challenges to tuberculosis control in Texas-Mexico border regions”. Texas Department of State and Health Services - Office of Border Public Health. Task force of Border Health officials meeting. April 9, **2025**. Austin, Texas (virtual)
- Restrepo BI. “Identifying opportunities to control tuberculosis in diabetes patients”. World Tuberculosis Day – Live webcast. Heartland National TB Center, Texas Department of State and Health Services and IN-TRAC. March 24, **2025**. Austin, Texas (virtual)
- Restrepo BI. “Tuberculosis: Role of diabetes and old age in Texas border communities”. Infections and Immunity Colloquium. University of Texas Medical Branch. November 19, **2024**. Galveston, Texas (invited by J. Endsley)
- Restrepo BI. “Tuberculosis: Interaction between diabetes and old age”. Molecular Microbiology and Immunology Seminar series. University of Texas at San Antonio. November 1, **2024**. San Antonio, Texas (invited by A. Cardona)

- Restrepo BI. “Cooperación binacional: Programa de investigación en TB en el norte de Tamaulipas”. Seminars to celebrate World TB Day. Hosted by “Secretaría de Salud de Tamaulipas”. Reynosa & Rio Bravo. April 4 & 5, **2024**
- Restrepo BI. “Quick talk: From pulmonary tuberculosis to accelerated aging on the Texas-Mexico border”. Frailty & Multisystem Dysregulation Working Group bi-monthly meeting. Johns Hopkins Older Americans Independence Center and the Center on Aging and Health. Johns Hopkins University. Virtual. January 10, **2024**.
- Restrepo BI. “TB, diabetes and old age in the Texas-Mexico border”. 6th Annual Texas Tuberculosis Research Symposium. April 13-14, **2023**. San Antonio, Texas
- Restrepo BI. Virtual panel discussion on “TB testing in diabetes” in observance of World Tuberculosis Day. “US-specific guidelines on TB screening for risk groups, including residents of congregate settings, healthcare personnel and children” Panel discussion with Drs. Parth Patel, Masae Kawamura, Blanca I. Restrepo and Lindsey Cameron from the USA. Qiagen Inc. March **2023**. <https://www.qiagen.com/us/applications/tb-management/events/world-tb-day>
- Restrepo BI (Invited lecturer). “TB-Diabetes- Increasing interaction with age”. Ohio State University Global One Health Summer Institute, Infectious Disease series. July 14, **2023**. Columbus, OH (Invited by Dr. Shu-Hua Wang, MD; Virtual conference addressed to medical trainees and residents from around the world, mostly from East Africa)
- Restrepo BI. “TB and diabetes mellitus: clinical interactions”. TB Science 2022 symposium theme “TB risk and outcome: Influence of co-morbidities and environmental factors”. Union World Conference on Lung Health. Paris, France. November 8-11, **2022** (virtual)
- Restrepo BI. “Tuberculosis en población adulto mayor y diabetes”. Simposium # 14. Congreso Nacional Mexicano de Patología Clínica **2022**. November 4, 2022. Merida, Mexico (virtual)
- Restrepo BI. “TB-Diabetes in Adults vs Elderly: Unexpected Interactions”. A Research Reboot of Tuberculosis on the Keystone Symposia 50th Anniversary. Keystone Research Symposium. Breckenridge, CO. August 2, **2022**
- Restrepo BI. Impacto de la tuberculosis en adultos mayores; una población vulnerable y olvidada. Temática de la Serie: Tuberculosis en el curso de la vida. ObservaTB-América Latina y el Caribe y Americas TB coalition (virtual conference). Broadcast to Latin American countries. July 29, **2022**.
- Restrepo BI. “Tuberculosis y diabetes: Interacciones inesperadas en la tercera edad”. Jornadas Académicas, Corporación para Investigaciones Biológicas CIB (virtual conference). Medellín, Colombia. July 28th, **2022**
- Restrepo BI (invited alumni speaker). “Latent tuberculosis infection testing, control and management of diabetes mellitus”. Virtual seminar sponsored by Qiagen corporation. Dec 9, **2021** (<https://www.360dx.com/resources/webinars/recent>)
- Restrepo BI (Keynote speaker). “De la bacteriología a la investigación. Estudios en tuberculosis, diabetes y la tercera edad”. IV Congreso Internacional de Bacteriología y Laboratorio Clínico. Colegio Mayor de Antioquia, Facultad Ciencias de la Salud. Medellín, Colombia. Oct 7-8, **2021**.
- Restrepo BI. “Tuberculosis en pacientes con diabetes. Tuberculosis y comorbilidades: ¿problema de salud pública?” Webinar to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela and Chile. Organismo Andino de Salud - Convenio Hipólito Unanue (ORAS-CONHU). March 25, **2021**.
- Restrepo BI. “Tuberculosis en pacientes con diabetes y la tercera edad”. *Primer Foro Internacional de Tuberculosis 2020*. Invited by Dr. Raquel Muñiz. Red Multidisciplinaria de Investigación en Tuberculosis (RemiTb), Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Ensenada, Baja California (virtual international conference for Latin America, USA, India & Spain) Oct 8-10, **2020**. <https://www.remitb.org/index.php/2020/09/29/primer-foro-virtual-internacional-de-tuberculosis-2020/>

SESSION CHAIR, ORGANIZER OR MODERATOR OF WORKSHOPS OR SYMPOSIA

- 2023-04 Restrepo BI, Armitige L (**Session chairs**, “Clinical treatment and diagnosis”). “TB, diabetes and old age in the Texas-Mexico border”. 6th Annual Texas Tuberculosis Research Symposium. San Antonio, TX. April 13-14, 2023.
- 2019-10 Restrepo BI (**Organizer and moderator**). Panelists: Horacio Ramírez-Oropeza, Eder Ledezma-Campos, Otto Boneta, Melissa Davis. “Tuberculosis in the border: Challenges and solutions to prevention and management”. 4th Annual, 2019 International Conference on Border Studies. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. “Global Borders: Resistance & Resilience. Oct 25, 2019 at Edinburg, TX
- 2016-05 Restrepo BI (**Planning Committee member, Session Chair**). “TB, Type 2 diabetes and HIV Therapeutic”. NIH workshop sponsored by NIAID, NIDDK, Office of AIDS research, Bethesda, MD. May 2016
- 2016-02 Restrepo BI (**Session Chair**) “Metabolism and Co-Morbidity II. Keystone Symposium “Tuberculosis Co-morbidities and Immunopathogenesis. Keystone, CO, Feb 28-Mar 3, 2016

ACTIVE GRANTS AND RESEARCH FUNDING

1R01AG082341-01 (NIH NIA) Restrepo (MPI)	9/20/22-9/19/26
Immune and metabolic dysfunction during aging in human cohorts	
Role: Contact PI (MPI J. Turner)	Total \$ 2,038,772, Direct \$ 1,422,755
R01AI176309-01 (NIH NIAID) Restrepo (MPI)	04/06/23-04/05/28
Improving rapid phenotypic drug susceptibility testing for drug resistant TB in high-burden areas	
Role: MPI with J. Torrelles (contact MPI) and M. Yotebieng	Total \$ 1,100,760, Direct \$ 728,819
R01 AI158858 Lu (PI) (NIH-NIAID)	11/1/2021 – 10/31/2026
Defining the Antibody Interface Between Mycobacterium Tuberculosis and Host	
Role: Co-investigator	Total \$ 58,030, Direct \$ 37,200
P30 AI168439-01 (NIH NIAID) Schlesinger (PI)	3/1/22-2/28/27
Interdisciplinary NexGen TB Research Advancement Center (IN-TRAC)	
Role: Lead of Clinical Research & Patient Care Core	Total \$ 360,350, Direct \$ 238,605

TEACHING (past 5 years)

Primary or guest instructor at UTHealth Houston, School of Public Health

- Fall 2025:
 - **Epidemiology-I** PHWM2612L. **Online** Epidemiology Core course. Lead instructor (100%; n=54 students).
 - **Disease: natural history, prevention and control PHW2750. Online.** Two guest lectures: “Pulmonary Tuberculosis” and “Diabetes and tuberculosis”. (n=65 students; Lead instructor: Dr. Teresa Ochoa)
- Fall 2024:
 - **Epidemiology-I** PHWM2612L. **Online** Epidemiology Core course. Lead instructor (100%; n=45 students).
 - **Disease: natural history, prevention and control PHW2750. Online.** Two guest lectures: “Pulmonary Tuberculosis” and “Diabetes and tuberculosis”. (n=65 students; Lead instructor: Dr. Teresa Ochoa)
- Summer 2024:
 - **Epidemiology II** PHW2615. **Online.** Epidemiology Core course. Lead instructor; (100% effort) (n=20 students)
- Fall 2023:
 - **Epidemiology-I** PHWM2612L. **Online** Epidemiology Core course. Lead instructor (100%; n=60 students).
 - **Disease: natural history, prevention and control PHW2750. Online.** Two guest lectures: “Pulmonary Tuberculosis” and “Diabetes and tuberculosis”. (n=65 students; Lead instructor: Dr. Teresa Ochoa)
- Summer 2023:
 - **Epidemiology II** PHW2615. **Online.** Epidemiology Core course. Lead instructor; (100% effort) (n=20 students)
- Fall 2022:
 - **Epidemiology-I** PHWM2612L700-**Online** Epidemiology Core course. Lead instructor (100%; n=60 students).
 - **Disease: natural history, prevention and control PHW2750. Online.** Two guest lectures: “Pulmonary Tuberculosis” and “Diabetes and tuberculosis”. (n=65 students; Lead instructor: Dr. Teresa Ochoa)
- Summer 2022:
 - **Epidemiology II** PHW2615-**Online** Core course. Field Research Methods in Epidemiology. Lead instructor; 50% effort n=40 students
 - *Mentored new teaching faculty colleague Dr. Heather Essigmann*
- Fall 2021:
 - **Epidemiology-I** PHWM2612. **Online** Core course. Lead instructor; 100%; n=60 students

- **Disease: natural history, prevention and control** PHW2750. Online course Two guest lectures: “Pulmonary Tuberculosis” and “Diabetes and tuberculosis”. (n=65 students; Lead instructor: Dr. Teresa Ochoa)
- Summer 2021:
 - **Epidemiology II** PHW2615-Online Core course. Field Research Methods in Epidemiology. Lead instructor; 100% effort; n=40 students
 - *Mentored teaching faculty Dr. Audrey Choh*
- Fall 2020:
 - **Epidemiology-I** PHWM2612. Online Core course. Lead instructor; 100%; n=65 students
 - **Disease: natural history, prevention and control** PHW2750. Online course Two guest lectures: “Pulmonary Tuberculosis” and “Diabetes and tuberculosis”. (n=65 students; Lead instructor: Dr. Teresa Ochoa)
- Summer 2020:
 - **Epidemiology II** PHW2615-Online Core course. Field Research Methods in Epidemiology. Lead instructor;; 100% effort; n=40 students

Guest lecturer for students and trainees at other institutions or programs

- 2025-09 **Lecturer.** “Tuberculosis, Diabetes and COVID-19”. *In:* Biomedical Engineering Health Disparity Journal Club. *Invited by:* Dr. Nuttada Panpradist and student Aayra Khan. UT Austin. Austin, TX. Sep 24, 2025. Virtual.
- 2025-02 **Lecturer.** “Preparing a Conference/Symposium Abstract”. B2BMED Professionalism Monthly. *Invited by:* Dr. Anne Chew. UT Rio Grande Valley Biomedical Sciences degree program. Edinburg, TX
- 2024-10 **Lecturer.** “TB field studies: Defining the key elements of an informed consent: implications for the participants and researcher”. *In:* IN-TRAC hour weekly seminar series. The IN-TRAC Texas training program is an NIAID-funded P30 to train the new generation of TB researchers. PI: Larry Schlesinger. Texas Biomedical Research Institute. San Antonio, TX. Oct 24, 2024. Virtual.
- 2024-02 **Lecturer.** “Preparing a Conference/Symposium Abstract”. B2BMED Professionalism Monthly. *Invited by:* Dr. Anne Chew. UT Rio Grande Valley Biomedical Sciences degree program. Edinburg, TX
- 2021-03 **Lecturer.** “Digestive Health and Nutrition Module”. *Invited by:* Dr. Wendy Innis. UT Rio Grande Valley, School of Medicine I. 2nd Yr Medical Students. Edinburg, TX
- 2020-03 **Lecturer.** “Digestive Health and Nutrition Module”. *Invited by:* Dr. Wendy Innis. UT Rio Grande Valley, School of Medicine I. 2nd Yr Medical Students. Edinburg, TX

COMMUNITY SERVICE (past 5 years)

Community service on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border

- 2025-10 **Guest speaker.** “Tuberculosis binational collaboration program updates”. Tamaulipas Health Department - Mycobacteriosis workshop 2025. Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Workshop for leaders of all sanitary jurisdictions for the state of Tamaulipas in Mexico. Virtual. Oct 9, 2025
- 2025-10 **Planning committee and bilingual interviewer panelist.** “3rd Annual IN-TRAC Patient Conference”. Organized with Drs. L. Armitige and L. Schlesinger. Dr. Restrepo further interviews TB survivors regarding their medical experience, social stigma and emotional hardships suffered during the process of the TB diagnosis and treatment. Sponsor: Interdisciplinary NexGen TB Research Advancement Center, an NIH-sponsored P30 Center. Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio, TX Oct 30, 2025
- 2024-10 **Planning committee and bilingual interviewer panelist.** “3rd Annual IN-TRAC Patient Conference”. Organized with Drs. L. Armitige and L. Schlesinger. Dr. Restrepo further interviews TB survivors regarding their medical experience, social stigma and emotional hardships suffered during the process of the TB diagnosis and treatment. Sponsor: Interdisciplinary NexGen TB Research Advancement Center, an NIH-sponsored P30 Center. Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio, TX Oct 31, 2024
- 2020-present **Laboratory support for *M. tuberculosis* infection and screening for drug-resistant TB.** Since the COVID-19 pandemic the TB clinics on the Mexican side of the border have suffered a significantly cut in resources for access to sputum cultures and prompt identification of drug-resistant TB. Through our research studies we have stepped in to complement this void by sharing our results for *M. tuberculosis* species isolation and drug-resistance screen.
- 2015-present **Invited for TV/podcast interviews as a public health expert who is bilingual, bicultural & a Hispanic role model.**

- Tu Salud ¡Si Cuenta! (Your Health Matters!). Health campaign in the Rio Grande Valley since 2003. TV aired clip to disseminate health news in the binational south Texas-northeastern Mexico community in Spanish and English. Led by Dr. Belinda Reininger and Lisa Mitchel-Bennett. <https://www.tusaludsicuenta.org/>
- Brownsville Housing Authority, EnVision Podcast available through social media channels. Invited expert and bilingual guest. Round table discussion with moderator Ms. Patricia Valenzuela to discuss community concerns about COVID-19 infections, re-infections, recovery and relationship to flu. Hosted by Andres Guerra, Public Relations and Marketing. 9/23/2020
- 2015-present **Diagnosis of unknown type 2 diabetes, HIV and other health conditions in medically underserved study participants attending TB clinics.** TB patients and their close contacts are in the 25% percentile lower socioeconomic strata of the Texas-Mexico border communities. Through our research studies we are immediately contributing to providing health information to these participants.
 - We find that at least 35% were not previously aware of having T2D.
 - We contribute to the identification of new HIV-positive cases.
 - We share with physicians from the Mexican TB clinics our clinical findings (e.g. complete metabolic panel, complete blood count and differential) to assist on the prescription of TB drugs that have liver and renal toxicity.
- 2021-10 **Guest speaker.** “The elderly, diabetes and tuberculosis: Lessons from studying these vulnerable populations”. Virtual seminar. UTHouston, School of Public Health in Brownsville. 20th Year Celebration Series. Brownsville, TX Oct 27, 2021
- 2020-12 **Guest speaker.** “Tuberculosis en diabetes y la tercera edad”. Primer Foro Internacional de Tuberculosis 2020. Invited by Dr. Esperanza M. García-Oropesa. 1er Congreso Internacional de QFB en el marco de la XX Semana Académica de QFB. Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas Unidad Académica Multidisciplinaria Reynosa-Aztlán in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. (virtual conference). Dec 1, 2020.

Community service- beyond the Texas-Mexico border

- 2023-present **Member.** Oversight/Scientific Advisory Committee. International Center for the Advancement of Research and Education (iCARE). Texas Biomedical Research Institute. San Antonio, TX
- 2023-10 **Guest panelist.** Blanca Restrepo with: Jordi Torrelles and Marcel Yotebieng. Advancing science and diplomacy through international Research collaborations. Fireside chat organized by Texas Biomedical Research Institute. Oct 31, 2023. San Antonio, TX
- 2021-2024 **Member.** Oxford Immunotec US Customer Advisory Board. Perform consulting services to Oxford Immunotec company, a producer of in-vitro diagnostic assays for tuberculosis.

ACADEMIC SERVICE (past 5 years)

Academic Service: SPH, across all campuses:

- 2025-present SPH Epidemiology - Centralized admission’s committee member
- 2024-present CEPH Accreditation working group for Epidemiology. Member. UTH-SPH
- 2023-11 **Reviewer,** EHGES Preliminary exam, UTH-SPH
- 2021 **Peer review.** 3-year peer review committee for Dr. M. Lee
- 2015-present **Admissions Faculty Lead,** UTH-SPH-Brownsville campus representative

Academic Service: SPH, Brownsville campus:

- 2021-present **Committee member,** Brownsville student scholarship award committee
- 2019-2023 **Faculty representative,** Brownsville Regional Dean’s Action Council Committee, UTH-SPH

Academic Service: Grant reviewer (past 5 years)

- 2024-12 Forum Staff Scientist pilot grants. Reviewer. Texas Biomedical Research Institute. San Antonio, TX
- 2024-03 Reviewer, NIH, Topics in Infection and Immunity. Special emphasis panel. 2024/05 ZRG1 IIDB-L (02) M
- 2023-09 Reviewer, Wellcome Trust. Early career award round. London, UK
- 2023-07 Reviewer, NIH, Ad-hoc. Topics in drug discovery and diagnostics in infectious diseases. 2023/10 ZRG1 DCAI-M (02)M
- 2023-05 Reviewer, IN-TRAC internal pilot grant program, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio, TX

- 2022-11 Reviewer, NIH, Ad-hoc. Infectious Diseases and Immunology (F07A) Fellowship panel. PA-21-048, PA-21-049, PA-21-050, PA-21-051, PA-21-052
- 2022-05 Reviewer, NIH, Ad-hoc. 2022/05 ZAI1 CD-A (M1) PAR21-304: Brazil Regional Prospective Observational Research in Tuberculosis (RePORT) (U01)”