

TBAC quarterly newsletter

ANNUAL TBAC CONVENING HELD AT THE 9TH SA TB CONFERENCE



Pro. Nazir Ismail (left), Prof. Richard Cooke (middle) and Dr. Fareed Abdullah (right).

Persistent gaps in translating TB data into action continue to undermine South Africa's TB outcomes. TBAC's fifth annual convening which has become a key feature on the project's calendar, highlighted these challenges while looking at how better use of data can drive accountability, influence policy and improve TB care.

Every year the convening brings together policymakers, researchers, civil society and community voices to reflect on the progress of the country's TB response.

This year's convening took place at the SA TB Conference under the theme *"Beyond the Dashboard: How TB data can shift power and policy"*, and was centred around TBAC's fifth State of TB in South Africa [report](#), released this year, which draws on data from the End TB public-facing dashboard.

The convening focused largely on the role of data in efforts to end TB, with discussions centred on a growing concern that while TB data systems have improved significantly, the data produced is still not driving action within the health system.

[Read all about the convening here](#)

Communities at the heart of the conference

TB champions and people with lived experience took centre stage at the 9th SA TB Conference, sharing personal experiences as well as their advocacy and community work. Their contributions showed how these voices are increasingly shaping TB outcomes in the country, as speakers emphasised that progress depends not



Dr. Nkateko Mkhondo (far-left), Prof. Mohlopheni Jackson Marakalala (left) and Mabusi Kgwete (middle).

[Find the story here](#)

only on policy and science, but also on communities actively driving awareness, prevention and care.

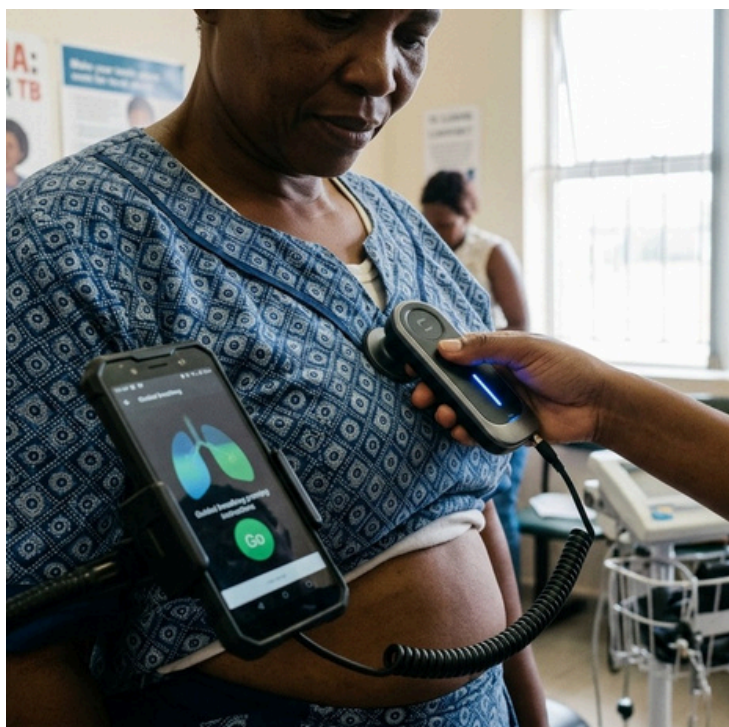
“It is nice to be in this space where you learn about things before they happen, at times when researchers and others are still presenting how these are going to work.”

-Mabusi Kgwete

AI TECHNOLOGY BRINGS TB SCREENING CLOSER TO COMMUNITIES

Could artificial intelligence transform the way South Africa screen for TB?

TBAC spoke to AI Diagnostics about the locally developed technology designed to make TB screening faster and more accessible at primary healthcare and community level. The digital stethoscope uses artificial intelligence to analyse lung sounds and identify people at risk of TB in under three minutes.



“

Instead of requiring people to travel to hospitals or specialist centres, screening can take place at primary healthcare level or in community settings where patients first present.

”

Jamie Arkin, Business Development and Partnerships Lead, AI Diagnostics

READ THE FULL ARTICLE [HERE](#)

South Africa commemorates Youth Day



Hope Kubeka (26), TB and HIV advocate and community leader

Born with HIV and diagnosed with TB at 22, Hope Kubeka has turned his health journey into a mission to support and inspire other young people.

On Youth Day, he reflected on his journey, his work supporting young people in his community and why open conversations about HIV and TB are key to breaking stigma. Kubeka urged young South Africans to prioritise their health, get tested and stay on treatment.

READ THE STORY [HERE](#)

#SITSELE #THETHA #TELLUS #SPEIG

This quarter we feature four stories from our ongoing campaign to help people see how TB affects people's lives, families and communities. These stories highlight the everyday realities of people living with TB and the social impact of the disease. Our campaign amplifies these voices, encouraging people to tell their TB stories and push government to take action and make TB national a priority.



TB champion from the Eastern Cape, Ntombi Gqagqa, shared her TB story on #Thetha



TB champion from Western Cape, Nomvuyo Jamekwane, shared her TB story on #Thetha



TB survivor from Western Cape, Shanolay Theunissen, shared her TB story on #Speig



TB champion from Free State, Ntswaki Mosia-Motaung shared her TB story on #Sitshele

Share your TB story, by scanning this QR code and telling us your TB experience.



Reach out to us - share your thoughts

At TBAC, we would love to hear from you. Share your ideas on TB initiatives that we should cover.

Continue the conversation by visiting our social media platforms or dropping us an email.

And if you want this newsletter again, sign up by sending us an email to info@tbac.org.za

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