



TUBERCULOSIS RESEARCH
ADVANCEMENT CENTER



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 / 2024

UC TRAC funding is provided by NIH/NIAID, award P30AI168440.

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UC TRAC INTRODUCTION

The UCSF-UC Berkeley Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center (UC TRAC) provides research resources and infrastructure to foster, elevate and support TB research and provide exceptional mentorship and training to early stage investigators, and established investigators new-to-TB. By creating a program that helps new researchers navigate the unique difficulties of working on this formidable pathogen and that fosters multidisciplinary collaborations, UC TRAC aims to increase the vibrancy of TB research in the Bay Area and throughout the campuses of the University of California, and globally.

Administrative, Developmental, Clinical and Basic Science Cores offer services, resources, and funding opportunities to achieve the goals of the program, including consultation services, pilot awards for ESIs, voucher “accelerator awards” for new-to-TB and ESIs, mentorship for ESIs, a fellowship program for global ESIs, and access to a Community Advisory Board for community-centered input from study design to results dissemination.

With funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), University of California, San Francisco partners with University of California, Berkeley to join the inaugural cohort of six Tuberculosis Research Advancement Centers (TRACs).

Award number P30AI168440.

The UC TRAC project period runs June 1 - May 31 each year. Activities captured for the reporting period occur between April 1 - March 31 each year.



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UC TRAC Y₂ OVERVIEW

ADMINISTRATIVE CORE / OVERALL

FUNDED PROGRAMS

UC TRAC leverages NIH/NIAID 5R25AI147375 to co-fund the TB RAMP program and a majority of pilots in order to invest TRAC funding toward expanding new programs, such as CAB, Global Fellowship, Accelerator Awards, and the Data Catalogue. **Chart 1** demonstrates the funding ratio of Year 2 investments if we include UC TRAC and TB RAMP 5R25AI147375 co-funded activities during the project period.

Chart 2 describes the funding ratio of strictly UC TRAC funded programs in Year 2. Note considerable investment diverted toward establishing the Data Catalogue in Year 2, while the Global Fellowship Program is staggered to begin Year 3 and did not draw on the Year 2 budget.

Chart 3 provides a projection for Year 3 costs, including a reduced budget for Data Catalogue and inclusion of the Global Fellowship Program budget. The projection does not include co-funding with TB RAMP.

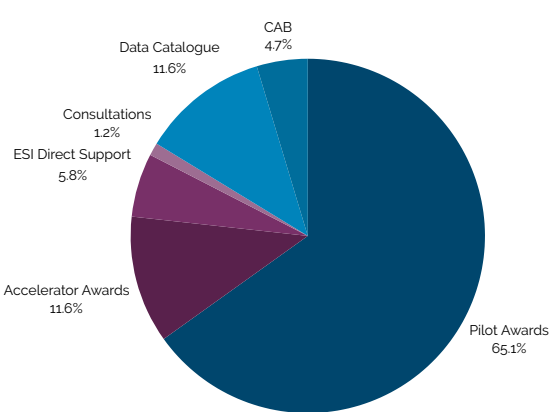


Chart 1: Year 2
UC TRAC and TB RAMP Funded Programs

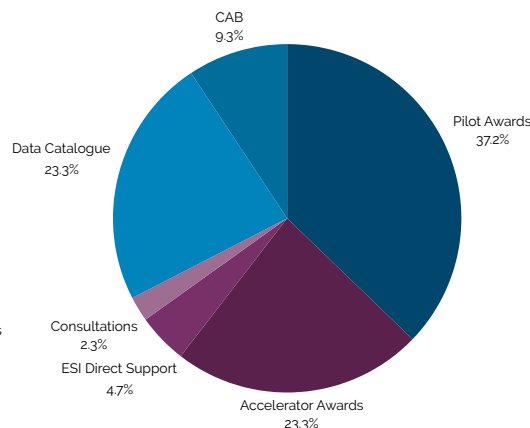


Chart 2: Year 2
UC TRAC Funded Programs

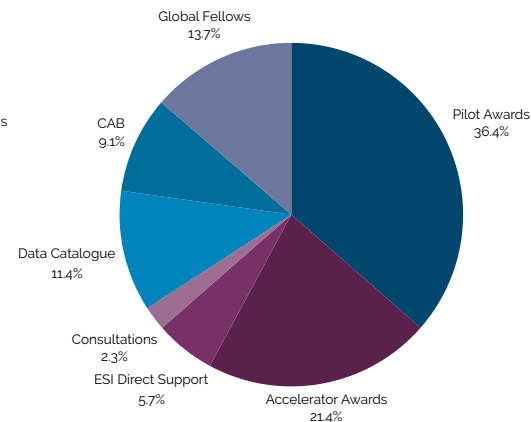


Chart 3: Year 3
UC TRAC Funded Program Projections

NEW PROGRAMS

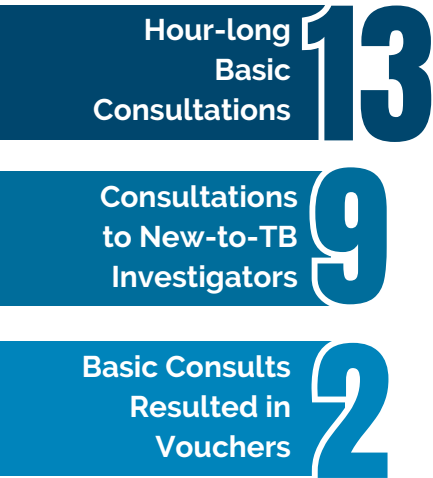
UC TRAC launched **one new program in Year 2**, and is in process of launching two additional programs in Year 3. The Community Advisory Board (**UC TB-CAB**) officially launched in January 2024 and will work with UC TRAC ESIs in its first year, with plans to expand to all UC TRAC investigators as capacity of the members grow. UC TRAC is hoping to build interest among the TRAC cohort to expand the services to other TRACs in the coming years.

The UC TRAC **Data Catalogue** will fully launch in Year 3 and we anticipate interest to collaborate with other TRACs to follow in coming years. The second program to launch in Year 3 (June 2024) is the **Global Fellowship Program** for ESIs with a UC TRAC mentor.

UC TRAC Y2 OVERVIEW

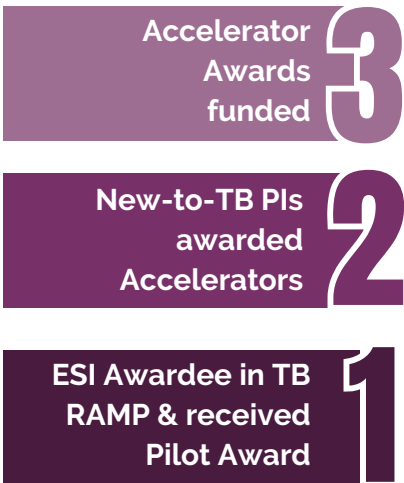
BASIC SCIENCE CORE

CONSULTATION SERVICE



The UC TRAC Basic Core provided **thirteen hour-long consultations** to individuals and groups, including seven UCSF, two UC Berkeley, and six external investigators. **Nine of the thirteen consultation requests were generated by new-to-TB investigators, two of which later applied for and received Accelerator Awards.** The consultations have led to multiple awards, award prospects and collaborations. The success of this offering builds on existing networks of the directors and their pursuit to engage new collaborations in multidisciplinary TB research. The Basic Core Consultation Service demonstrates a budding interest among established, but new-to-TB investigators to engage in tuberculosis research and is a testament that TRAC services are attracting established investigators into the field.

ACCELERATOR AWARD



The Basic Core granted **three Accelerator Awards** (formerly known as the Voucher Program) during the project period. Accelerator Awards provide ESIs and New-to-TB investigators funding support for 8-12 weeks of 1.0 FTE salary for a BSL-3 trained research associate to support the investigators research. **Two of the awards were granted to New-to-TB investigators** who initially accessed the Basic Core Consultation Service before applying. **One ESI was awarded, who later enrolled in TB Research And Mentorship Program (TB RAMP) and received a pilot award** funded by TB RAMP 5R25AI147375. The Accelerator Award is committed to funding novel approaches that may not receive other funding opportunities and results from the first award will be included in the ESI’s R01 resubmission in July 2024.

UC TRAC Y2 OVERVIEW

CLINICAL & POPULATION HEALTH SCIENCE CORE

CONSULTATION SERVICE

The Clinical Core Consultation Service provided **seven consultations**, resulting in **53.25 hours in service**. The consultation service is becoming a comprehensive “one-stop shop” and is proving to be an essential tool to support planning and cataloguing research activities and lower barriers to conducting high-quality analysis of data for early career and new-to-TB investigators who may otherwise not have access to the expertise of consultants. Newly added consultants include former and current TB RAMP Scholars and at least one new-to-TB investigator.

7 Clinical Consultations Provided

53 Hours of Clinical Consultations

1 New Program Launching

DATA CATALOGUE

New Program Launching! The Clinical Core has employed the services of UCSF’s School of Medicine Technology Services (SOM Tech) to design the data catalogue with initial data sets for the pilot phase by June 2024. We anticipate user testing to wrap and a final datalogue to be deployed by August 2024. Leveraging generative AI, users will be able to curate datasets, establish connections with researchers, and offer innovative opportunities for investigators. We hope this data catalogue will be of interest to the cohort in the **next project year**.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

New Program! The UC TRAC CAB, or **UC TB-CAB**, released a call for applicants in June 2023. Selection criteria, a terms of reference, and oversight structure was finalized by September 2023. **Thirty-four applicants responded across 10 countries**, and **seven applicants were invited to serve on the board**. The inaugural cohort of UC TB-CAB members represent Uganda (2), Zimbabwe (1), Vietnam (2), and United States (2). UC TB-CAB held orientation and elected co-chairs in January and February 2024, and held its first investigator review in March 2024 with a TB RAMP Graduate. UC TB-CAB members will finalize their first review with recommendations in April 2024. UC TB-CAB is eager to build the expertise of its members, connect them with the Global TB CAB, and identify funding opportunities to expand services.

34 CAB Applications Received

7 Active CAB Members

4 Countries Represented on CAB

1 New Program Launched

UC TRAC Y2 OVERVIEW

DEVELOPMENTAL CORE

TB RAMP
Scholars in
Cohort 4

9

UC TRAC-
Funded
Scholars

4

Pilot Award
Applications
Received

14

UC TRAC
funded Pilot
Awardss

\$80K

\$280,000 Total

Pilot Awards
Granted
to ESIs

6

Pilot Awards
Funded by
UC TRAC

2

New
Program
Launching

1

MENTORSHIP

Mentorship and training opportunities are at the core of UC TRAC's activities. To date, the TB Mentorship And Training Program (TB RAMP) has welcomed four cohorts to its program, 19 scholars in total. Cohort 4 is the first to be co-funded by UC TRAC and is our largest yet, **with nine new scholars initiated in September 2023**. TRAC funding allowed TB RAMP to expand its mentoring program to include UCSF-UCB scholars who are not US Citizens or Permanent Residents. In its inaugural cycle, this funding extension facilitated the **enrollment of four UC TRAC-funded scholars who would have otherwise been ineligible to apply**.

PILOT AWARDS

The Developmental Core **co-funded two cycles of pilot awards**, with a third call for applications pending at the time of reporting. UC TRAC leverages its partner program TB RAMP 5R25AI147375 to co-fund a majority of pilots in order to divert funds toward expanding new programs, such as CAB, Global Fellowship, Accelerator Awards, and the UC TRAC Data Catalogue. **Fourteen pilot applications** were submitted during the two cycles and **six awards were granted, totalling \$280,000 in pilot awards**. Of the UC TRAC-funded awards, **two of the six awards were funded via UC TRAC, totalling \$80,000**, with the other four funded by TB RAMP.

GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

New Program Launching! The UC TRAC Global Fellowship Program is designed to invest in **equitable international partnerships** and ESIs who live in and are from LMIC countries with a high burden of TB. The program requires applicants or their in-country mentors to have an active award with an UC TRAC investigator, and for that investigator to serve as their fellowship mentor. **Global Fellows will receive an award of up to \$10,000**. The Developmental Core diverted the equivalent of one pilot award (\$40,000) to cover up to **4 fellowship awards per year**. UC TRAC is grateful to co-fund pilot awards with TB RAMP 5R25AI147375. Calls for applicants have closed at the time of reporting, and the **inaugural cohort of 3 Fellows will be announced in May and begin in June 2024 to align with project year 3**. Fellows will engage in a discussion series focused on cultivating equitable partnerships and leadership skills. Curriculum will be tailored to the interests of these partnerships.

