TB Modelling and Analysis Consortium

Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the latest TB Modelling and Analysis Consortium (TB MAC) newsletter, with information for TB modellers, epidemiologists, and decision-makers. This newsletter contains details on discussion groups, the next TB MAC seminar, general modelling short course applications and papers from our community.

Discussion groups

We would like to build on our successful TB Modelling and Analysis seminar series, where we propose to set up a small number of “online topic-focused modelling discussion groups”. The aim of these groups would be to bring the community together around TB modelling topics of mutual interest to share knowledge and expertise.

The groups would be open to all modellers, from early career researchers who might appreciate being able to discuss current issues they have in their modelling and the opportunity to make links to other modellers, to more senior modellers who might like to pitch an idea and get friendly input (and of course these groups could overlap).

These online groups will be very flexible, so could be anything from just a one-off meeting on a topic of interest, to a more regular discussion group on that topic. Longer term groups could decide (for example) to write a commentary, or work collaboratively on a modelling question of joint interest, but that would be entirely up to the group members. In the first instance we would aim for each group to include at least one TB MAC Steering Committee member to facilitate the discussion, and logistics (calls) would also be supported by TB MAC.

Initial example suggestions from the TB MAC Steering Committee for discussion groups include:

- Modelling TB vaccines,
- The potential impact of AI on TB modelling,
- An early career researchers support group.

We very much would welcome other ideas for topics that you might have.

Please reply to this email if you would (a) be interested in joining a discussion group on these topics, and if so which, or (b) if you have other topic suggestions. We will set up an initial discussion for topics for which there is sufficient interest.

Join our next TB MAC seminar: Gang Qin on Assessing the health and economic effects of introducing Vaccae vaccination in China [22nd February 0900-1000 GMT]

TB MAC would like to invite you to join us for a seminar on Health and economic impacts of introducing

Vaccae vaccination in China, given by a member of the TB MAC community, Gang Qin on the 22nd February 0900-1000 GMT. See below for more details on the seminar, presenters and how to join.

Seminar summary:

According to the WHO, approximately 10.6 million individuals developed active TB in 2022, resulting in 1.3 million deaths. Given these alarming figures, there is an urgent need for new tools, such as vaccines, to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with TB. Vaccae, a post-infection vaccine, has shown promising results in phase III clinical trials, with a demonstrated 54.7% effectiveness in preventing latent TB infections from progressing to active TB. This is particularly significant in China, where two-thirds of TB cases stem from the reactivation of latent infections. Introducing Vaccae as a vaccination strategy among China's ageing population holds considerable potential. However, there is still uncertainty surrounding its impact on public health and the most effective implementation methods. Therefore, the purpose of our presentation is to evaluate the broader health and economic effects of implementing Vaccae vaccination at a population level. The findings of this assessment will offer invaluable insights for policymakers when making informed decisions about TB control.

Presenter bios:

Dr. Gang Qin is an associate professor at the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics within Nantong University's School of Public Health. Additionally, he serves as a senior consultant at the Department of Infectious Diseases in the Affiliated Hospital of Nantong University. Dr. Qin's primary research areas encompass infectious disease epidemiology, mathematical modeling, viral immunology, and the study of emerging diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV, and SARS-CoV-2. He is particularly enthusiastic about developing modeling frameworks that empower decision-makers to utilize epidemiological data when making impactful choices. Dr. Qin possesses extensive expertise across various study designs, including cohort studies, randomized controlled trials, and modeling studies. Moreover, he boasts specialized knowledge in health economics pertaining to the prevention of infectious diseases.

Joining details:

The seminar will take place online on the 22nd February 0900-1000 GMT, dial-in details:
https://lshtm.zoom.us/j/97805442781?pwd=aU9iUllGRXM0Z1hrdnNrZ1hURVFrQT09
Meeting ID: 978 0544 2781
Password: 229457

Click below to add the event to your calendar and ensure you don't miss out!

Apple Google Office 365 Outlook Outlook.com Yahoo

General modelling short course: Introduction to infectious disease modelling and its applications

Mathematical modelling is increasingly applied to predict the future incidence and control of infectious diseases. This two week intensive course introduce professionals working on infectious diseases to this exciting and expanding area. The emphasis of the courses is on developing a conceptual understanding of the basic methods and on their practical application. The course has been running successfully for many years at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and is organised jointly with the UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England)

Course dates: 17th -28th June 2024

Course fee:

Full fee: £2952

LMIC: £1476

The courses are designed for individuals interested in expanding their knowledge of the techniques for analysing and interpreting epidemiological data on infectious diseases and for predicting the impact of control programmes, including medical and health professionals, policy makers, veterinary scientists, health economists, medical statisticians and infectious disease researchers. Participants may join either in person or remotely. Further details about the course content and an application form are available at: https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/short-courses/infectious-disease-modelling

Papers:

Beeler Asay et al calculate the cost-effectiveness of expanded TB infection testing and treatment in Lynn City, Massachusetts, USA

Jinyi et al estimate global, regional, and national mortality of TB attributable to alcohol and tobacco from 1990-2019

Xu et al model the feasibility of achieving the End TB Strategy goals in China with an age-heterogeneous population

Jordan et al estimate the prevalence of TB infection among foreign-born Canadians

Otunuga et al analyse the impact of treatment on an HIV/AIDS and TB co-infected population under random perturbations

Brooks et al develop a framework to estimate the economic cost of missing a patient with TB in the Indian context

Odongo et al estimate the cost-effectiveness of adding household contact investigation to a passive case-finding strategy in Southwestern Uganda

Gosce et al evaluate the economic impact of novel M.tb-specific antigen-based skin tests for detection of TB infection

Emery et al estimate the contribution of subclinical TB disease to transmission

For more information on TB MAC, or to get involved, please contact any of the TB MAC Committee, visit www.tb-mac.org or email us directly at tb-mac@lshtm.ac.uk.

Best wishes,

Richard, Finn, Christina and the TB MAC Committee

www.tb-mac.org

tb-mac@lshtm.ac.uk

GDPR compliance

In line with the new European data protection regulations (GDPR), we would like to make sure that you still want to hear from us and keep receiving the newsletter. Subscription to the newsletter means we have your name, email and organisation details stored in a private mailing list. If you no longer like us to keep this information or no longer wish to receive newsletters please click on unsubscribe below. Should you choose not to unsubscribe we will take this as your acceptance to continue receiving newsletters from us.

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