

TB SEMINAR

Friday, January 28th 2022, 1@2PM

zoom

Meeting ID: 814 301 0609

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Dr. Anurag Bhargava

“TB and undernutrition: recognizing and addressing the Elephant in the room”



Anurag Bhargava was trained in Internal Medicine at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and in Epidemiology at McGill University. He is currently Professor of Medicine at Yenepoya Medical College, Mangalore, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Medicine at McGill University, and Associate Member of the McGill International TB Centre. He is a member of the National Technical Working Group on TB and Comorbidities, WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on In-Vitro Diagnostics (SAGE-IVD), Strategic Technical Advisory Group on TB (STAG-TB) for WHO South East Asia region, and the scientific advisory committee of RePORT India Consortium.

Dr. Bhargava has 31 years of clinical experience working at all levels of healthcare in India, and ran a TB treatment service in a non-profit organization in one of India's underserved region for 10 years. His research interests include tuberculosis, nutrition, and acute febrile illnesses. He has documented the impact of nutritional status on mortality in a large cohort of rural patients with TB, estimated the proportion of TB incidence in India attributable to adult undernutrition, and reanalyzed the socio-medical experiment in TB control at the Papworth village settlement (1918-43). Dr. Bhargava led the development of the Guidance Document on Nutritional Care and Support for Patients with TB in India, and co-developed a mobile application to aid nutritional care and support for patients with TB. Currently he is involved in leading the RATIONS trial, a large cluster-randomized trial which seeks to document the effect of improving nutrition on TB incidence in household contacts and on TB mortality in patients with TB.

In many high TB-burden countries, chronic undernutrition at the population level and disease-related undernutrition in patients is the elephant in the room which is only slowly being recognized for its importance in TB care and prevention. Dr. Bhargava will illustrate the long known but strangely forgotten interactions between undernutrition and tuberculosis also through references to his own research over the last one and half decades. He will also discuss the implementation of the RATIONS (Reducing Activation of Tuberculosis through Improvement Of Nutritional Status) trial of food support being conducted in eastern India, report on some of the preliminary results, and the way forward.