Valerie Mizrahi is professorial director of the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and a Fellow of UCT. She also directs the SAMRC/NHLS/UCT Molecular Mycobacteriology Research Unit, an extramural research unit of the South African Medical Research Council, and also co-founded and co-directs the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence for Biomedical TB Research, a virtual research and training centre co-hosted by three universities in South Africa. She was an International Research Scholar of the HHMI from 2000-2010, and a Senior International Research Scholar of the HHMI from 2012-2017. Her research focuses on aspects of the physiology and metabolism of Mycobacterium tuberculosis of relevance to TB drug resistance, mycobacterial persistence and TB drug discovery. She has published more than 150 original research articles, reviews and book chapters in the fields of physical-organic chemistry, enzymology, mycobacterial genetics, physiology and biochemistry, and TB drug discovery. As an internationally recognised leader in TB research, Valerie holds an “A1” rating from the National Research Foundation of South Africa. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, African Academy of Science and Royal Society of South Africa, an Associate Fellow of The World Academy of Science, and a Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa. Her major awards include the 2013 Christophe Mérieux Prize from the Mérieux Foundation and Institut de France, the Order of the Mapungubwe (Silver) in 2007 from the State President of South Africa, the 2017 Platinum Medal from the South African Medical Research Council, the 2018 Harry Oppenheimer Fellowship, the 2006 Gold Medal of the South African Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the 2000 Unesco-L’Oréal For Women in Science Award (Africa & Middle East). She has served on numerous advisory boards, including the SABs of K-RITH, the TB Alliance, New Medicines for Tuberculosis (NM4TB) and Innovative Medicines for TB (IM4TB) (Lausanne) and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (Trieste). She currently serves of the Discovery Expert Group of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the SAB of Keystone Symposia, the Board of Governors of the Tres Cantos Open Lab Foundation, and the Science Interview Panel of the Wellcome Trust. Valerie has played a major role in biomedical research capacity development in South Africa. She has supervised or co-supervised more than 65 postdoctoral and postgraduate students. She has also mentored and sponsored many other early-career researchers through leadership of, or participation in, various institutional and national initiatives. Most of her trainees have remained actively involved in biomedical research and some have moved into senior positions at institutions in South Africa and abroad.

4th ANNUAL UW TUBERCULOSIS SYMPOSIUM

Innovations to help end the TB epidemic; a new vision for the 21st century

Monday, September 16, 2019
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Orin Smith Auditorium, Building C
South Lake Union Campus
8-8:30am Continental breakfast

8:30-8:40 TRTC Introduction, Thomas Hawn (UW)

Session I

8:40-9:40 Keynote: “Tackling big questions in tuberculosis: a TB biologist’s view from South Africa” Valerie Mizrahi (University of Cape Town)

9:40-9:55 TRTC trainee award: “BCG-induced T cells shape Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection before reducing the bacterial burden” Jared Delahaye (SCRI)

9:55-10:10 TRTC trainee award: “TGFβ restricts T cell function and bacterial control within the tuberculous granuloma” Ben Gern (SCRI)

10:10-10:20 Break

10:20-10:50 Open discussion

10:50-11:20 “TB Vaccines in Development: Correlates of Protection and Lessons From Clinical Trials” Rhea Coler (IDRI)

11:20-11:35 TRTC trainee award: “The Risk of Tuberculosis Disease in Children After Close Tuberculosis Exposure: An Individual Participant Meta-analysis of 46 Cohort Studies” Leo Martinez (Stanford)

11:35-11:50 TRTC trainee award: “A transcriptional signature derived from a mouse contained infection model of TB identifies human LTB+ individuals at low risk of progression to active disease” Fergal Duffy (SCRI)

11:50-12:00 Open discussion

12:00-1:00 Lunch

Moderator: Adrienne Shapiro (UW)

Session III

1:00-1:30 “TB Control Interventions in India; Progress and Prospects” Puneet Dewan (Independent Public Health Consultant)

1:30-1:45 TRTC trainee award: “Tuberculin skin test induration diameter and risk of progression to active tuberculosis” Jorge Ledesma (IHME)

1:45-2:00 TRTC trainee award: “Resistance to Mtb infection is associated with monocyte fatty acid transcriptional programs” Jason Simmons (UW)

2:00-2:10 Open discussion

2:10-2:40 Break

Session IV

2:40-3:10 “TB Surveillance in the Age of Surveillance Capitalism” Peter Small (Rockefeller Foundation Fellow)

3:10-3:40 “Targeting persistent populations in TB drug discovery” Tanya Parish (IDRI)

3:40-4:10 “IFN-γ independent markers of Mtb exposure” Chetan Seshadri (UW)

4:10-4:30 Open discussion and wrap-up