

NOLA TB TIMES

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Welcome to Wetmore Clinic

For the first time in years, tuberculosis (TB) case rates in Louisiana are lower than the national average (2.6 cases per 100,000 persons in LA in 2014 and 3 per 100,000 persons in 2013 vs. 3.0 per 100,000 persons in USA in 2013). Louisiana TB Control Program operates via 9 Regional offices based on proximity of parishes. Region 1 comprises Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes. This region reported a case rate of 5.4 per 100,000 persons in 2014, which is higher than the rest of regions in Louisiana and the national case rate. Growing HIV epidemic, crowded living conditions in inner city neighborhoods, homelessness, incarceration, substance abuse, migration and foreign birth are some of the major epidemiologically-related contributors to new tuberculosis diagnoses in Region 1.

At the Wetmore Clinic on Tulane Avenue in New Orleans, we serve adult and pediatric patients who have a recent diagnosis of TB infection or disease. The clinic serves individuals referred to us from various local University hospitals (inpatient and emergency room settings), local primary care clinics, community health clinics, private practices, shelters, and immigration services. We provide comprehensive TB management involving diagnosis, counseling, treatment, and prevention. The clinic offers on-site blood work performed by an experienced RN (for pre-TB medicine labs, TSPOT.TB testing, drug levels and HIV testing when indicated). GeneXpert MTB/RIF diagnostic test (TB as well as rifampin resistance) is available through the clinic. Locally, Tulane University Hospital also provides GeneXpert for timely TB diagnosis.

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“I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end.”

- Abraham Lincoln

From Ross Klingsberg, MD



Clinic

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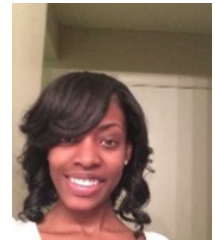
Children Activity Area



Patient Room

TB Clinic Staff

Brittany Kimbrough



Disease Intervention Specialist 1

Time at Clinic: 4.5 months
"Every day is a second chance."

Zelda Taylor, RN

Time at Clinic: 7 years
"Encourage one another daily and treat others as you want them to treat you."

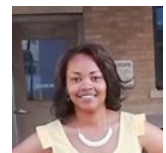
Joseph Porter (Mr. Joe)



X-Ray Technician, charts and record keeper

Time at Clinic: Since 1985!

Tina Johnson

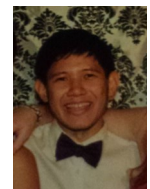


Security Officer
Time at Clinic: 4.5 years

"Message for the community is to have an annual checkup."



Editor: Jerry Wang, MPH&TM Candidate 2016, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine



Welcome to Wetmore Clinic

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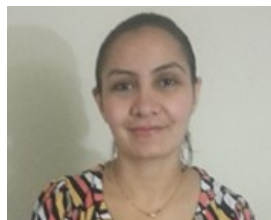
We have a sputum collection room, a chest X-Ray machine and an expert X-Ray technician, stock of TB medicines available to our patients free-of-charge, and a range of TB experts available to provide the most detailed TB management plan for both adults and children.

We collaborate with the University Medical Center New Orleans, Tulane University Medical Center, Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, and industry leaders (one example, Oxford Immunotec, Inc.) to conduct evidence-based research and provide education to our students and local physicians.

The staff physicians have weekly clinics and are available for consultation as needed. Our disease intervention specialists, who are community experts, are actively involved in identifying cases, providing directly observed therapy on-site and in-field, and conduction of comprehensive contact investigations.

With this introductory newsletter, please meet our physicians and staff at the Wetmore Clinic in New Orleans. We believe that TB elimination in Louisiana is a worthy goal and an achievable goal with an active networking and collaboration with our community partners. Send us a request for your monthly newsletter from the Region 1 Wetmore TB Clinic and let's begin a partnership to end TB in Louisiana. We want your interesting TB cases, ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely,
Gayatri Mirani, MD
Wetmore Clinic TB Fellow (2015-2016)
Email: gmirani@tulane.edu
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6th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70119
Clinic Ph: 504.826.2063
Fax: 504.826.2052

Important People to Note in LA TB

Louis Trachtman, MD, MPH

Medical Director,
Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program
504.568.5048
Email:

Louis.Trachtman@LA.GOV

With TB Program: "on and off" 45 years!
"The study of and progress made in the detection, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of tuberculosis in recent years has been both very interesting and very challenging. We know tuberculosis can be eliminated as a public health threat in Louisiana in our lifetimes. But it will still take the diligence and attention of the medical profession, the allied health professions, and the community at large to make this happen! Let's do it!"



Charles DeGraw

State TB Controller
TB Control Section
Office of Public Health
Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals
504.568.5015
Email:

Charles.Degraw@la.gov

Time: TB Controller for Louisiana since 1974
"My greatest accomplishment is that I survived Katrina and Rita."



Maureen S. Vincent, CLSS

Clinic Coordinator/Patient Navigator
504.568.4581
Email: MVince@lsuhsc.edu
TB Hotline: 504.638.7053
Time at Clinic: 5 years
"Judge not lest ye be judged."



Wetmore Foundation, Keta Thornburg

Director
504.779.1888

Our TB Clinic Physicians

Juzar Ali MD; FRCP(C); FCCP

Chief Medical Officer
LSU Health Sciences Center, Section of Pulmonary
Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical
Medicine
Director (Clinical): Region 1, OPH; Metro– Wetmore TB Clinics

Available: Tuesdays, from 9 am - noon

How long at the clinic: Since 1991

"TB is a patient—public health preventable and curable medical condition with social and societal overlap and challenges. We use direct care, direct observed therapy (DOT) and we need to connect the DOTS too by coordinating care at all levels."



Maggie Silio, MD, MPH

Pediatric TB Specialist
Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics,
Section of Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Tulane University School of Medicine
How long at the clinic: Started in 1993 as a pediatric infectious diseases fellow and became a staff physician in 1995.

Available for pediatric cases: Tuesdays 9 am - noon

"Our clinic space may give you pause but if you have tuberculosis this is the best place to be for your treatment. We are very caring and nurturing and will keep close tabs on you and your family while going through the treatment."



Ross Klingsberg, MD

1430 Tulane Ave. Box 8509
New Orleans, LA 70112
Email: ross.klingsberg@tulane.edu
Ph: 504.400.4316

Associate Professor of Medicine
Pulmonary Diseases, Critical Care, and Environmental
Medicine

Tulane University School of Medicine

How long at the clinic: Since August 2013

Available: Every other Monday of the month from 1 pm - 4:30 pm

"Working together can stop the spread and cure TB."



Jeff Percak, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Tulane University School of Medicine

How long at the clinic: Since 2014

Available: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month,
9 am - noon



TB Clinic Staff

Chris Brown

Chris.brown@la.gov
Region 1 TB Program Manager
Disease Intervention Specialist 4
Time at Clinic: 5 years
“Treat everyone with respect and kindness.”



Shanika Green

Disease Intervention Specialist 3 (Surveillance)
Time at Clinic: 9 Years of Conquering Tuberculosis
“TB can happen anywhere, in any community. Exposure can happen at school, at work, at home, while traveling, or anywhere that people are in close contact with one another. This is why TB prevention is a public health priority for the nation.” -Dr. Jonathan Mermin, Director, National Center for HIV/AIDS



Lynn Riley

Disease Intervention Specialist 2
Time at Clinic: 6 years
“Michelle Obama, ‘Success is not about the money you make, but the difference you make in somebody’s life.’ ”
Likes to do arts and crafts in her spare time.

Contact Us

Send us your updates, TB vignettes, and thoughts. Join our listserv. Email: gmirani@tulane.edu

Wetmore Clinic
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6th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70119

Clinic: 504.826.2063
TB Hotline (Ms. M. Vincent): 504.638.7053

Helpful links:
dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1005

www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/tb
www.cdc.gov/tb/

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE