



Call for Symposium Proposals

Theme:

Inclusive research methods: Redressing exclusion through methodological innovation

The Union World Conference on Lung Health 2026 invites symposium proposals that highlight methodological advances in the design and implementation of tuberculosis (TB) research and care programmes. We welcome contributions that demonstrate how methodological innovation can improve access, inclusion and reach by ensuring interventions are responsive to community and health system needs.

Background

The potential of many efficacious TB clinical innovations to meaningfully advance TB elimination depends on their successful implementation in local contexts. Ensuring that interventions work in practice requires close partnership with communities and governments so that approaches align with lived realities, policy priorities and health system capacities.

Implementation science is increasingly recognised as essential to delivering effective TB innovations. However, there is still some disconnect between the rhetoric of what it *can offer* and what *it does in practice* in grounding the delivery of TB innovations, through supporting their successful integration within local systems and community priorities. This theme focuses on methodological innovations that help bridge this gap, particularly those that:

1. Enable the inclusion and meaningful participation of populations critical to achieving optimal TB outcomes, but who are often underserved or absent from research; and
2. Use adaptive, iterative designs to identify and respond to community and health system delivery needs.

Why a focus on redressing exclusion through methodological innovation at the Union Conference 2026?

TB thrives through dynamics of exclusion, marginalisation and disenfranchisement. Research that aims to end TB must therefore intentionally include people and communities pushed to the edges of health and social systems. Learning from research practices in Brazil and

elsewhere that have effectively included everyone and led to enhanced local engagement will elevate our methodological capacity and confidence to conduct implementation science, which guides the delivery of locally effective, inclusive and socially safe research, for TB and global health more broadly, and TB care.

Symposium focus areas

We welcome proposals addressing (but not limited to):

1. Intellectual leadership reflecting on the value, impact and effectiveness of inclusive research practices (methods and ethics) to support improved access and reach for communities affected by intersecting vulnerabilities. For example, the necessity of responsive approaches to support social safety of community-wide screening. Reflections need not be grounded within TB-related work but should be framed to demonstrate the learning for TB research.
2. Characterising the transformative effects of approaches that are accountable to communities in responding to community and health system priorities in the design of TB interventions in research. Embedding iterative learning in the development and delivery of community-centred interventions. For example, screening programmes to deliver more inclusive and accessible care.
3. Transferrable learning from methodological and ethical innovations within TB research and care to deliver integrated community-centred healthcare more broadly.
4. Responsive implementation science: Examples of studies that identify and incorporate community and health system priorities into TB intervention design and delivery within local systems, and demonstrate accountability to communities.
5. Inclusive research practices: Research leadership about how to integrate methodological and ethical approaches into TB research to improve access, reach and engagement for communities affected by intersecting vulnerabilities.
6. Transferrable methodological innovations: Learning from TB research methodologies that can strengthen integrated, community-centred healthcare more broadly.

Proposal guidelines



Each symposium should be 90 minutes, with 3–4 presentations (15 minutes each) and structured discussion time. Please submit the symposium through the symposium submission system using the structure provider on the platform.

Proposals must clearly state:

1. Symposium title.
2. Rationale and objectives.
3. Suggested speakers and affiliations. Diversity across geography, gender, career stage, and discipline is strongly encouraged.
4. Expected outcomes and contributions to advancing the implementation science methodological practices for improving TB and health outcomes.

Proposals involving early-career investigators, low- and middle-income country-based researchers, people affected by TB/community advocates, or interdisciplinary teams are especially welcome. Proposals that explicitly include engagement with South American contexts as well as international settings will be prioritised.

Expected outcomes

Through this symposium theme, the Union Conference 2026 aims to:

- **Highlight the importance of methodological innovation in addressing exclusion** as a core determinant of inequitable TB outcomes, and strengthen recognition of inclusive, community-responsive approaches.
- **Promote interdisciplinary** advanced methodological practices that integrate community priorities and health system realities in the design and delivery of TB interventions.
- **Showcase innovative methodological approaches** including participatory methods, adaptive designs and socially safe practices that improve access, reach and engagement among underserved and marginalised communities.
- **Stimulate new research and methodological inquiry** into how implementation science can more effectively include populations often missing from TB research and respond dynamically to local system constraints and opportunities.



- **Support the development and scaling of more context-sensitive, inclusive and community-centred TB programmes**, informed by methodological advances that strengthen equity, accountability and local relevance across diverse settings.