

### Dr Ruth McNerney



Dr Ruth McNerney (PhD) is a research scientist who has worked on tuberculosis (TB) for nearly 30 years. She works at the forefront of translational research, with a particular interest in diagnosis and drug resistance. Although primarily a biological scientist she bridges disciplines and also engages in policy issues relating to the production and uptake of *in vitro* diagnostic technology in developing countries. More recently she worked on harmonizing the regulation of medical devices and *in vitro* diagnostics and developing a road map for local manufacture of IVD in Africa. She has authored over 100 scientific articles and six book chapters and is an experienced lecturer and supervisor of post graduate students. She has an international reputation as an expert in TB and is frequently invited to contribute at international meetings and workshops. She was formerly a Senior Lecturer at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and holds an honorary position as Associate Professor in the Division of Pulmonology Medicine at the University of Cape Town. Until moving to Cape Town in 2015 she was a Director of TB Alert, the UK's and national and international TB charity. She was also an advisor to the All Party Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS and contributed to the report 'A Treatment Timebomb: The Long view of Access to HIV Medicines in the Developing World'. She was a member of the scientific advisory committee for the All Parliamentary Advisory Group on TB and been a member of various WHO expert committees. She has written on TB and HIV for The Guardian newspaper (UK), appeared in a BBC TV Horizon program on antibiotic resistance and had interviews broadcast by various local and international TV and radio stations.

### Erica Lessem



As Director of the TB/HIV Project at Treatment Action Group (TAG), Erica Lessem advocates for improved services and technologies to prevent, diagnose, and treat TB and HIV. In this role, Erica supports research activists across the world, and works closely with developers and policymakers to catalyze TB research and ensure that it responds to the needs of affected communities. Previously, Erica worked on HIV behavioral research studies, supported efforts to end sex trafficking in South Asia, volunteered for the Baltimore City Needle Exchange Program, was a grant writer for the TB Alliance, conducted press relations as an Urban Fellow in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and helped create the Republic of Georgia's first peer support group for breast cancer survivors. Erica received Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Psychology from Georgetown University, and her Master of Public Health as a Sommer Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public health.