TB was first identified in 460 BCE by Hippocrates and initially named “phthisis,” which means “consumption” in Greek. Throughout history, TB has had many names, including “white plague.” However, since Dr. Koch’s discovery, “tuberculosis” became the more common medical term.

**NOTES:** MDR-TB: Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, TB-HIV: Tuberculosis and HIV Co-infection, XDR-TB: Extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis

Robert Koch discovered TB using the microscope.

1895 Development of key diagnostic: the tuberculin skin test.

1921 BCG vaccine introduced.

1936 Solid culture first used to identify TB.

1943 First anti-TB drug discovered: Streptomycin.

1952 First anti-TB regimen used: Streptomycin, PAS, Isoniazid.

1963 Rifampin and Capreomycin discovered.

1974 British Medical Research Council trials added Rifampin and Pyrazinamide.

1980 Liquid culture developed.

1994 Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course (DOTS) program began.

1998 Rifapentine approved.

2009 iLED microscope, line probe assay developed.

2010 MTB/RIF rapid test for TB receives CE IVD marketing.


2012 FDA approves Bedaquiline, the first new anti-TB drug since Rifapentine in 1998.

2014 Clinical trials begin on PaMZ, the 3-drug cocktail that could shorten treatment for TB, including MDR-TB.

One Day We Hope to Have...

- A tool that can diagnose TB and MDR TB within 24 hours for children, adults, and HIV-infected individuals
- A shorter treatment regimen that can cure TB in 10 days or less that will also work with antiretroviral drugs
- A vaccine that can prevent new TB infections or recurrences of the disease