SVI's Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Shapping Community Voices in Research

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY | Vietnam Institute

"The CAB gives us a seat at the table and the confidence to speak about what people affected by TB actually experience." **- CAB Member**

About Us

The Sydney Vietnam Institute (SVI) Tuberculosis Community Advisory Board (CAB) is a community-led advisory platform that brings together people affected by TB, caregivers, community representatives, and advocates to strengthen the quality, ethics, and impact of tuberculosis programmes in Vietnam.

Established to ensure research remains responsive to community priorities and lived experiences, the SVI TB CAB works across the research lifecycle, from study design and implementation to dissemination and policy translation.







What We Do

The SVI TB CAB supports researchers, research institutions, and communities by:

Improving Research Design

- Reviewing study concepts and protocols
- Identifying community priorities and concerns
- Advising on participant-centred approaches

Supporting Ethical Program Practices

- Reviewing consent forms and stakeholder materials
- Identifying potential risks and barriers to participation
- Strengthening transparency and accountability

Enhancing Study Implementation

- Providing feedback throughout program delivery
- Supporting participation and retention strategies
- Ensuring programs remain responsive to community needs

Disseminating Program Outcomes

- Translating outcomes into community-friendly formats
- Supporting policy dialogue and advocacy
- Promoting uptake of evidence among affected communities

"I am proud. As a part of CAB, I can turn my pains and lessons I learned during previous TB treatment to bring about the positive changes to treatment journey of other TB patients."

CAB Member

Scan QR code to watch our CAB video

Playing Critical Role in Success of Major TB Research Programs

The SVI TB CAB has supported community engagement activities across the full research cycle, including protocol development, participant-facing materials, implementation planning, and dissemination. Through these contributions, the CAB has helped strengthen the design, conduct, and community relevance of major national and international TB research initiatives, including:

Clincal Trials:

- STEP-TB Trial
- SUCCESS-V
- FLIRT Trial
- PHOENIx Trial
- SSTARLET Trial
- CRUSH-TB Trial
- ASTEROID Trial

Research program:

- SAPPHIRE TB Program
- SUCCess-VI

The CAB's work has contributed to the successful development and funding of research programmes supported through:

These investments reflect the growing recognition that meaningful community engagement is essential to the design, implementation, and impact of high-quality clinical and implementation research. Through its connections with the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) and the Tuberculosis Trials Consortium (TBTC), the SVI TB CAB helps ensure that community perspectives are integrated into TB research conducted in Vietnam and across international research networks.



Strengthening Community Engagement Capacity, Practices and Evidence

The CAB is more than an advisory mechanism. It is a platform for building the skills, confidence, and relationships needed for meaningful collaboration between communities, researchers, and program staff.

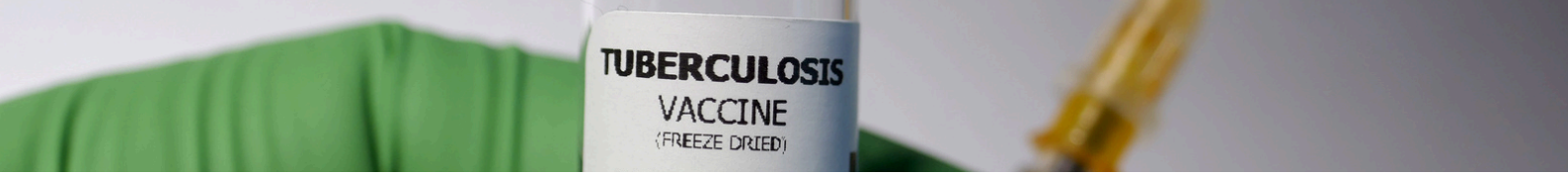
CAB members strengthen their capacity in:

- TB knowledge and health literacy
- Community engagement and advocacy
- Leadership and public speaking
- Ethical practices and participant rights
- Communicating community priorities

Researchers and programme staff strengthen their capacity in:

- Meaningful community engagement
- Accessible and inclusive communication
- Understanding the lived experiences of people affected by TB
- Integrating community perspectives into program planning and implementation
- Building equitable and accountable partnerships

Beyond supporting community engagement in practice, the SVI TB CAB also contributes to the evidence base on how community engagement can be implemented effectively in TB programs and research. Through collaborations across the ACTG and TBTC networks, SVI researchers are generating empirical evidence on how Community Advisory Boards can be established, sustained, and integrated into decision-making processes. This work is helping to strengthen the science and practice of community engagement in TB and inform more effective models of partnership between communities, researchers, and health systems.



WHY INVEST IN THE SVI TB CAB?

Supporting the SVI TB CAB means investing in:

- Sustainable community engagement infrastructure in Vietnam
- Capacity strengthening of TB-affected communities
- Ethical and person-centred TB research
- Stronger links between Vietnamese communities and global research networks
- Innovation and evidence generation on effective community engagement models
- Research become more relevant, acceptable, equitable, and impactful

Beyond individual studies, the SVI TB CAB serves as a platform for strengthening the role of affected communities in shaping the future of TB research, policy, and practice.





Selected Publications

- ***Trinh-Hoang D, et al.*** *How Community Advisory Boards Shape Tuberculosis Research: A Relational Analysis. Accepted for publication in the* ***Journal of Community Systems for Health*** *(JCSH).(Forthcoming)*

- ***Trinh-Hoang D, Bernays S.****"They (researchers) don't have to justify their presence, why do we have to justify ours?": The Political Economy of Community Advisory Boards in Tuberculosis Research.* ***Social Science & Medicine*** *(2026). Available at: https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0004437*

- ***Venkatesan N, Faust L, Lobo R, Enkh-Amgalan H, Kunor T, Sifumba Z, et al.*** *Fighting tuberculosis hand in hand: A call to engage communities affected by TB as essential partners in research.* ***PLOS Global Public Health*** *(2025). This international consensus statement outlines key principles and priorities for meaningful community engagement in TB research and calls for stronger mechanisms to support the participation of people affected by TB throughout the research process. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0004437*

Together, this body of work positions SVI as a leading contributor to the emerging science and practice of community engagement in TB research.

Contact us

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