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“Multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis: Data, dogma, and the making of global health policies”

Drug resistance was observed from the very first time an antibiotic was used against Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Yet, international policies aimed at addressing the global tuberculosis pandemic in the 1990s and early 2000s largely ignored these strains of the bacteria, leading to ongoing transmission, amplification of drug-resistance, and significant mortality. This lecture will explore the historical, political, and economic antecedents to tuberculosis policies in the 1990s with the aim of demonstrating how prevailing dogma superseded data in the formulation of health policies.