Focus on . . . XDR-TB

The most surprising part about the recent news item of an airline traveler with drug resistant TB is not that he is US born, or that the case is primary resistance in an immune competent host, but that it has taken this long for the world to take notice of a global problem that has been devastating millions of lives for decades.

Drug resistant strains are a direct result of global health policies that have dispensed drugs to low-resource countries without arming them with the most basic technology and infrastructure needed to combat TB. In the most affected countries, the only laboratory diagnostic tool available is the 100-year-old spu...