

Executive Director's Note



The EDCTP Secretariat is happy and proud to release the July 2008 issue of the EDCTP Newsletter. In the Newsletter, I am glad to introduce to you new members of the staff who have joined us recently. The expanding Secretariat is attributed to the increased activities. In the Newsletter, we are also glad to inform you that we have launched on 30 July further calls on malaria vaccines and treatment, support of ethics review and Senior Fellowships. This will be followed by hosting of a stakeholder's meeting on TB Diagnostics later in September. Please check our website for developments on these matters. Additionally, there is information on various EDCTP constituencies' meetings and on our visits to EDCTP funded institutions in Kenya and Uganda.

Professor Charles Mgone,
EDCTP Executive Director

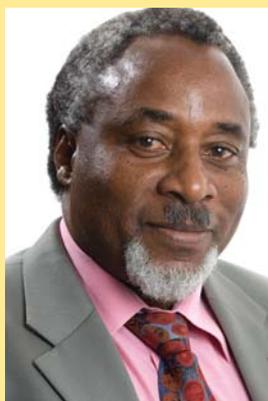
News about EDCTP Governance

Appointments

**Dr Andrew Kitua succeeds
Dr Simon Agwale as new DCCC chair**

EDCTP gives a warm welcome to Dr Andrew Kitua, who took up the position of DCCC chair in April 2008 in the place of Dr Simon Agwale who has completed his term as the Chairperson.

Dr Kitua graduated in medicine at the Università Statale di Milano, Italy and attained a Masters degree in epidemiology at the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. After he attained a PhD in clinical epidemiology at Basel University in Switzerland, he became the first Tanzanian and African Director of the Ifakara Health Research and Development Centre in Tanzania. Currently, Dr Kitua is the Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research, Tanzania. He has extensive work experience in public health and has published widely, especially in the area of malaria epidemiology, vaccine, clinical trials and health systems research. He was member of the Foundation Board of the Global Forum for



Health Research (2000-2005), and currently member of the WHO/TDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) among others.

On accepting the position of DCCC chair, Dr Kitua said: "The DCCC is the African strategic engine of the EDCTP partnership. I feel greatly honoured for being elected as a Chairperson of this very important Committee. It is a challenging responsibility and one for which I am ready to spend my time and energy, because any step

forward makes the South and in particular Africa a stronger participant and a leader in solving its health problems. I have great confidence in the ability of the DCCC team to meet the challenges ahead and in achieving the EDCTP vision. I am proud to be on the driving seat of this singular train taking African populations to a healthier future."

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The EDCTP Newsletter is available in three languages namely English, French and Portuguese. It is available in electronic format on our website (www.edctp.org) and in print in English for distribution mainly in sub-Saharan Africa.



Persons who wish to receive the print format should send their request including a postal address to the EDCTP Secretariat (info@edctp.org).



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Supported by the EU DG Research

EDCTP welcomes new staff members



Anabela Atanásio

Senior Networking Officer

Anabela Atanásio Alves is a Portuguese international criminal lawyer with extensive experience in building and

maintaining high level networks, especially in the fields of rule of law and criminal justice. Anabela has extensive experience in the field of international criminal law having worked for the United Nations as legal adviser to judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Court, for nearly seven years. As a Senior Networking Officer, Anabela is in charge of supporting the European Network of National Programmes (ENNP) and managing the Joint Programme Activities Calls.



Kevin Burke

Financial Assistant

Kevin is originally from Scarborough (Toronto), Canada. He worked in a financial capacity for a third

party administrator in Seattle, Washington, moving on to a spirits distribution company after relocating to the Netherlands. Prior to joining EDCTP, he worked as an accounts assistant for a payroll management firm in Rotterdam, primarily handling invoicing and payroll-related duties. As the financial assistant, Kevin is responsible for accounts receivables and payables supporting functions.



Caroline Bijkerk

Travel Coordinator

Caroline obtained her Bachelor of Business Administration in Tourism & Leisure Management at the Saxion University in

Deventer, the Netherlands. Her career in the travel industry started at the Amsterdam Tourist and Convention Board where she worked in the Marketing & Development department. As the EDCTP travel coordinator, Caroline is responsible for organising in-house meetings as well as events held abroad.



Mary Jane Coloma-Egelink

Grants Financial Assistant

Born in the Philippines, Mary Jane Coloma-Egelink obtained her Bachelor of Science in

Accountancy at La Salette University in Santiago City, Philippines. She has previously worked as a Management Accounting Assistant at Dao Heng Bank Inc in Philippines, as a Bookkeeper at CFCA (Christian Foundation for Children and Aging), and after she moved to the Netherlands, she worked for the Royal Danish Embassy. As the EDCTP Grant Financial Assistant, Mary Jane deals with daily grant financial activities including budgets, financial reports and updates of donations on the project database.



Christian Geib

Project Officer

Christian Geib was born in Caracas, Venezuela and holds German citizenship. He obtained his Bachelor of Law

(LLB) at the universities of Bremen, Oldenburg and Groningen. During and following the studies he has worked at the German Parliament, the Ministry of Defense, in banking, a transportation law firm and in the management of a major retail company.



Danielle Roordink

Networking Officer

Danielle completed her study in Nutrition and Health at Wageningen University in 2004, with a Master Thesis on

women's health in rural areas of Bangladesh. Previously, she has worked for the World Food Program (WFP) in Rome as a temporary consultant for the nutrition department, and later at the Netherlands organization for Health research and Development (ZonMw). As a Networking Officer, Danielle provides administrative support to the General Assembly, including regular updates on EDCTP activities and performance.



Dr Waley Salami

Operations Manager

Waley Salami is a medical doctor with specialisation in clinical pharmacology and clinical research management.

He studied at the University of Port Harcourt in Nigeria, the Katholieke University in Nijmegen and the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Waley has been working in clinical research management since 1990, covering various therapeutic areas like malaria, anti-infectives, CNS, oncology, genetic and cell therapy. Before joining EDCTP he was a Global Trial Manager at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, where he was responsible for managing large, multi-centre international clinical trials.



Gail Smith

Senior Administration Officer

Gail Smith was born in Cape Town, South Africa. She obtained an Honors Degree in Social Sciences at the University

of the Western Cape, where she also worked as administrator for a number of years. Prior to her joining EDCTP she was extensively involved in non-government organizations where she used her skills as administrator as well as counseling people from the impoverished communities of the Cape Flats area. Gail joined the EDCTP team at their Africa Office in April 2008 where she manages the administrative and operational functions of the office.



Sabina Stanescu

Administration Officer

Born in Romania, Sabina Stanescu became a Dutch resident in 2004 and graduated European Studies at

the University of The Hague in 2007. To consolidate her studies, Sabina completed a six months internship at The European Patent Office in The Hague, where she gained valuable experience in an international working environment. She joined EDCTP in January 2008, and as an Administration Officer she deals with operational procedures and support for the Calls & Grants team.



News about calls and grants

Calls open for application

On 30 July 2008, EDCTP launched the following calls:

Clinical trials, capacity development and networking in Malaria vaccines development

- Deadline: 30 November 2008
- Available funds: EUR 6.5 million

Clinical trials, capacity development and networking in Malaria treatment

- Deadline: 30 November 2008
- Available funds: EUR 6.0 million

Senior Fellowship

- Deadline: 30 November 2008
- Available funds: EUR 1.2 million

Establishment and strengthening of African National Ethics Committees or Institutional Review Boards

- Deadline: 30 November 2008
- Available funds: EUR 500,000

Who can apply?

Malaria vaccines, malaria treatment and ethics:

Participants in a proposal must be from at least two publicly-funded institutions from the EDCTP EEIG Member States (see full list below) and at least two sub-Saharan African institutions. The project coordinator must be employed by a not-for-profit institution and must be a resident of either an EDCTP-EEIG Member State or a sub-Saharan African country. Preference will be given to proposals where the project coordinator is a sub-Saharan African national based in Africa.

Senior Fellowships:

Sub-Saharan African researchers with a MD and/or PhD degree, with a proven record in research and at least 3 years post doctoral experience. Candidates should be based at a sub-Saharan African Institution that is conducting clinical trials.

For more details on these and other eligibility criteria, please consult the call texts available on <http://www.edctp.org>.

TB diagnostics

Additionally, EDCTP has allocated € 8 million to support clinical trials that will lead to development of simpler, cheaper and more accurate TB diagnostic tools. A TB diagnosis stakeholder meeting will be held on 7 October in Paris with the aim of identifying research gaps and funding priorities. This meeting will be hosted by the Pasteur Institute. For detailed information and for more information on participating, please consult our website regularly: www.edctp.org.

Small grant programme

In July 2008 the Small Grants Programme enters its second round. Examples of proposals that will be considered in the context of this programme are requests for funding that:

1. Complement funding for grants that have already been awarded from EDCTP or other organisations
2. Support networking activities that are relevant to the mission of EDCTP.

Applications from existing EDCTP funded projects are highly encouraged. In exceptional cases bursaries may be available to attend scientific meetings, or to cover relevant travel and training expenses within the EDCTP scope of activities. The EDCTP secretariat reserves the right to determine whether or not a proposal falls within the scope of EDCTP and is eligible under this scheme. Further details are available on our website.

Available funds: A maximum of € 50,000 per application

Deadline of application: Applications are welcome at any time but will only be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Next deadline: 15 September 2008.

Identification and strengthening of Joint Programme Activities

EDCTP launches its second round for calls for proposals for Joint Programme Activities. The key objective of this Joint Programme Activities call is to integrate European Member States' activities in sub-Saharan African on the three poverty related diseases (PRDs) of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria where these are relevant to EDCTP's own remit. EDCTP encourages European Member States and their researchers to collaborate with other Member States in their national research activities on the three PRDs and offers a financial contribution to improve integration and coordination.

Funding is available for existing and ongoing projects as well as new initiatives as long as the added value of the EDCTP contribution can be clearly demonstrated. It is essential when submitting proposals to this call that applicants identify one or more projects or activities not funded by EDCTP, which involves or is sponsored by one or more European Member States. The proposal should aim to link these activities with other similar projects, or indeed link them with projects currently funded by EDCTP, in order to increase overall integration of European Member States' activities. The € 5 M funding available aims to support initiatives within the scope of the EDCTP programme, namely the acceleration of clinical trials on HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis interventions in sub-Saharan Africa through

- Integration of Member States' National Programmes
- Strengthening of north-south partnership
- Coordination and networking of African researchers
- Creation of sustainable capacity building in Africa.

Available funds: A minimum of € 5,000,000 in total and up to € 300,000 per proposal
Deadline of application: applications are accepted on a rolling basis. The next round closes on 5 December 2008

Funded projects

EDCTP is pleased to announce funding of the following projects:

Clinical Trials



Dr Tomás Hanke

Building capacity of infant HIV-1 vaccine clinical trial centres in Nairobi, Kenya and Fajara, The Gambia

Call Title: Capacity building in preparation for the conduct of preventive HIV vaccine trials

News about calls and grants

Financial guidelines, budget forms and FAQs

EDCTP has recently reviewed its financial guidelines and budget form, and has drafted a number of documents to help applicants complete their budget forms. These changes and the new documents apply to all projects for which the contract was signed after 1 June 2008. Please see below which documents apply to your project:

Grant signed before 1 June 2008

- Follow the financial guidelines and fill out the budget form sent to you by your Project Officer (these are no longer available on the EDCTP website).

Grant signed after 1 June 2008

- Follow the Financial Guidelines for EDCTP grants April 2008 (available on the EDCTP website)
- Use Work Packages budget application form (available on website)
- An Instruction for budget forms and Example of salaries and wages computation are available on the EDCTP website to assist you in filling out your budget form.

To help applicants in managing all financial aspects of their application, EDCTP has published a document containing Frequently Asked Questions on financial requirements on its website.

Focus on EDCTP grantees

New Project Profiles available

The EDCTP Project Profiles database is nearing completion after 15 new profiles have been added. The Project Profiles database contains summaries for all EDCTP-funded projects, and a range of search options to find any selection of projects requested. In the database, each project has its own summary, with an additional factsheet on the project in PDF that is easy to print. The profiles that have been added are:

Project Profiles

An online database containing summaries on EDCTP funded projects



Davis Nwakanma

High throughput methods for endpoint determination in antimalarial intervention trials

Esperança Sevens

Intensive safety monitoring of anti-malarial and anti-retroviral drugs used during pregnancy in Manhiça

Idefayo Adetifa

Improving diagnosis of latent tuberculosis infection and TB disease for assessing risk factors for TB progression and interventions against LTBI

Janneke van de Wijgert

Preparing for phase III vaginal microbicides trials in Rwanda and Kenya

Jennifer Serwanga

Pattern of HIV-induced T-cell response influencing viral load course following HIV infection

Linda-Gail Bekker

Preparing for adolescent HIV vaccine trials in South Africa

Marie-Louise Newell

Impact of HAART during pregnancy and breastfeeding on MTCT and mother's health: the Kesho Bora study

Muhammad Bakari

HIV vaccine trial capacity building in Tanzania and Mozambique by continued exploration of optimal DNA priming and MVA boosting strategies

Paulina Tindana

Strengthening research ethics capacity in Ghana

Phillipe van de Perre

Placebo-controlled trial of the efficacy and safety of infant peri-exposure prophylaxis with lamivudine to prevent HIV-1 transmission by breastfeeding

Richard Hayes

Site preparation and capacity strengthening for trials of vaginal microbicides in Tanzania and Uganda

Rosemary Musesengwa

Building national capacity for research oversight in Zimbabwe

Teresa Katzenstein

ComTru Study

Tomás Hanke

Development of an infant vaccine against mother-to-child transmission of HIV-1 through breastmilk

You can browse these and many other profiles on the EDCTP website: www.edctp.org, and click on the Project Profiles banner

Meetings and Visits

EDCTP site visits to Kenya and Uganda

From 21-25 April 2008, EDCTP made a combined visit to some of the EDCTP supported institutions in Kenya and Uganda. EDCTP conducts site visits in Africa for three main objectives: advocacy, data collection and technical assessment on finance and capacity building. The EDCTP team consisted of Simon Belcher (Director of Finance and Administration), Dr Michael Makanga (Capacity Development Manager) and Professor Walter Jaoko (DCCC member from Kenya). The team had meetings with the scientists and management of the following institutions:

International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) - Mombasa

ICRH is involved in an EDCTP supported project that prepares research institutes in Mombasa and in Kigali, Rwanda for phase III microbicide trials, a trial on the impact of HAART treatment during pregnancy and breastfeeding on mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV, and a project on ICH-GCP capacity building for MTCT trials.

Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) – Wellcome Trust Collaborative Centre, Kilifi

The KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Centre is one of the research centres involved in the East African Clinical Trial Partnership (EACTP): a capacity building network of excellence and training for the conduct of clinical trials in Africa. At the institute, several EDCTP supported research projects are being conducted, including projects on antimalarial piperazine resistance, antimalarial Lumefantrine resistance, on and intravenous artesunate treatment for severe malaria in children.



Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), Entebbe

The Uganda Virus Institute (UVRI) Research Unit on AIDS together with the UVRI/International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) HIV vaccine programme are involved in EDCTP supported projects on capacity building for HIV vaccine trials and a project on finding HIV-induced response that control viral replication. UVRI is also involved in the East African Clinical Trial Partnership (EACTP).

The EDCTP team had separate meetings with the following persons among others: Dr Anderson Kahindi, Provincial Medical Officer for Coast Province; Dr J Othigo, Provincial Obstetrician and Gynaecologist for Coast Province, Dr Marcel ICRH Country Director; Dr Kishor Mandaliya, Chief Provincial Pathologist; Mr. Nzioki Kingola, ICRH Project Manager and

deputy Director; Dr Nibert Peshu Director of KEMRI / Wellcome Trust Research Program (Centre for Geographic Medicine Research - Coast); Professor Kevin Marsh, Scientific Director of KEMRI / Wellcome Trust Research Program; Dr Trudie Lang, Head of the Kilifi Clinical Trial Facility, Dr Leslie Nielsen, IAVI Country Director in Uganda and Professor Edward Katongole Mbidde, Director UVRI.

EDCTP site visit to Ghana

From 2-6 June 2008, EDCTP visited several EDCTP supported institutions in Ghana. The EDCTP team consisted of Dr Pascoal Mocumbi (High Representative), Simon Belcher (Director of Finance and Administration), Dr Michael Makanga (Capacity Development Manager) and Professor David Ofori-Adjei (the DCCC member from Ghana). The team had meetings with the scientists and management of the following institutions:

Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) -Accra

NMIMR is involved in an EDCTP supported project on protection from clinical malaria using the in-vitro *P. falciparum* growth inhibition assay.

School of Medical Sciences, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi

At the KNUST School of Medical Sciences, two EDCTP supported clinical trials on intravenous artesunate for severe malaria in African children and on artemisinin-based combination treatments for pregnant women with malaria are supported.





General Assembly meeting 14-15 May

University of Ghana Medical School, Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital

Korle-Bu Hospital is part of a regional Network of Excellence project on capacity building to prepare West African sites for clinical trials on HIV, TB and Malaria.

The EDCTP team had separate meetings with the Honourable Minister of Health, Republic of Ghana, Major Courage E.K. Quashigah (RTD); Mr Isaac Adams, Officer in charge of health research in Ministry of Health; Dr Joaquim Saweka, WHO Representative to Ghana; Prof. Aaron Lante Lawson, Provost College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana; Prof. A. K. Nyarko, Director Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical research; Prof Christine Ntim-Amponsah, Dean, University of Ghana Medical School; Mr E. Kyerematen Agyarko, Chief Executive Food and Drugs Board (FDB) Ghana; Rev. J.Y. Martey Ag. Deputy Chief Executive (Drugs) FDB Ghana; Professor George Badu Amoah, Chairperson of the Ghana National Ethics Committee; Prof. Ohene Adjei, Deputy Director KCCR; Dr Frank Adae Bonsu, Programme Manager of Ghana national TB control programme; Professor Laud K.N. Okine, Director of Centre for Scientific Research Into Plant Medicine, Accra and other senior officials.

General Assembly meeting 14-15 May

On 14 May the EEIG-EDCTP General Assembly took place in The Hague. At the meeting, of the Assembly approved funding of over € 80 M was approved for various projects on:

- Tuberculosis Vaccines
- Malaria Treatment
- Malaria in Pregnancy
- Malaria Vaccines
- Ethics Review Capacity
- WHO regulatory affairs
- Networks of Excellence
- Senior Fellowships

This decision from the EDCTP General Assembly underpins the commitment of the EDCTP-EEIG Member States and the European Commission in the fight against the three main poverty-related diseases in and for Africa. It also supports African leadership in the Partnership, since among the 26 projects approved for funding 22 have African scientists based in Africa as their principal investigators.

Another highlight of the meeting was the decision to hold a Fifth EDCTP Forum in Arusha, Tanzania in October 2009. Also, GA members were invited to join the EDCTP team on their site visits to develop advocacy between the Member States and African partners.



Joint DCCC ENNP meeting 12 June

Joint DCCC ENNP meeting 12 June

On 12 June the DCCC and ENNP held their fourth joint meeting. The joint meetings are considered one of a kind in terms of ownership of the research agenda by both north and south, and of active participation in identifying priorities and gaps. During the meeting DCCC members expressed their commitment to urge African countries to

honour their pledge of contributing 2% of their health budget to health research and insisting on national budget planners to indicate health research expenditure lines in national plans as an initial step of the process. The meeting discussed cofunding issues, and recommended that EDCTP publish a table clearly indicating cofunding possibilities and requirements of European Member States to help grant applicants who seek cofunding for their research projects.

Events

EDCTP's Fourth Forum report now available

The report from EDCTP's Fourth Annual Forum under the theme 'Building Bridges for Better Health' is now available in print and electronic format. At the forum, stakeholders involved in EDCTP-funded research presented an overview of ongoing clinical trials on HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria in Africa, and identified future priorities. The report summarises presentations and discussion held around the following themes:

- Ongoing clinical trials in Africa
- Clinical trials networks in Africa
- Challenges in building clinical trial capacity in Africa
 - Regulatory and ethics environment
 - Networks of Excellence

Furthermore, forum participants reflected and discussed on the future of EDCTP beyond 2010. The forum was held from 22 to 24 October 2007 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and was attended by around 180 participants from both Europe and Africa.



EDCTP's Fourth Annual Forum report is available in print and on EDCTP's website www.edctp.org.

European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership

EDCTP - Europe Office

P.O. Box 93015
2509 AA The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 70 344 0880
Fax: +31 70 344 0899

EDCTP - Africa Office

P.O. Box 19070
Tygerberg 7505
South Africa
Tel: +27 21 938 0819
Fax: +27 21 938 0569

E-mail: info@edctp.org

Web: www.edctp.org