

## Goodbye 2008, welcome 2009



**Professor Charles Mgone,**  
EDCTP Executive Director

2008 has been a very fulfilling year that saw many achievements with the EDCTP programme. None of these would have been realised without the hard work, dedication and commitment of all our partners who have continued to work alongside us in our battle against poverty-related diseases. For this we show our sincere gratitude and appreciation. We also thank very much all members of the various EDCTP constituents who have tirelessly worked very hard to bring us to where we are today. Nevertheless, the past and the present are but stages for the future, and as we say goodbye to 2008, we welcome 2009, which promises to be as busy or even busier than 2008 as far as EDCTP is concerned. May I therefore take this opportunity to wish you all a prosperous 2009.

For EDCTP, 2009 will begin with an all-constituents meeting in February to plan on the future strategy of the Partnership beyond 2010. This very important meeting will bring together our network officers, policy makers and scientific advisors to discuss on various issues ranging from the scientific research agenda to the governance of EDCTP.

We also all look forward to meet you all at the Fifth EDCTP Forum in Arusha, Tanzania, later in the year on 12-14 October. Since EDCTP forums have now become major platforms for discussions on poverty-related diseases in Africa, I would encourage all our partners to bookmark this event. This will be a great opportunity not only to share our experiences, but also to plan for the future. I sincerely look forward to meet you then.

## Events

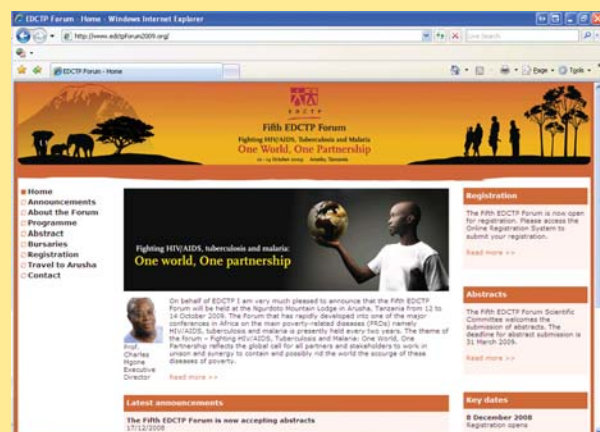
### The Fifth EDCTP Forum is now accepting abstracts

The Fifth EDCTP Forum Committee welcomes the submission of abstracts on clinical research in HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The Fifth Forum, which will take place from 12 to 14 October 2009 in Arusha, Tanzania, has rapidly developed into one of the major conferences in Africa on the main poverty-related diseases. It

offers a unique opportunity for reviewing the ongoing clinical research on poverty-related diseases, networking and planning for future research. Accepted abstracts will be presented in plenary, parallel or electronic poster sessions. There will be a limited number of bursaries, especially for young researchers from Africa.

EDCTP grantees and collaborators are especially encouraged to submit abstracts.

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**The Fifth EDCTP  
Forum website**

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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](http://www.edctp.org)) and in print in English for distribution mainly in sub-Saharan Africa.



Persons who wish to receive the print format should subscribe on the website ([www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org), click on Newsroom).



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### Abstract categories and deadline

Abstracts can be submitted in the following categories:

- HIV/AIDS
- Tuberculosis
- Malaria
- Cross-cutting issues (including Capacity Development, Networking, Ethics & Regulatory Affairs).

The deadline for abstract submission is **31 March 2009**. All submitted abstracts will be reviewed on EDCTP relevance and scientific quality by the Forum Scientific Committee. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the review before 31 May 2009. Authors whose abstracts have been accepted will receive further instructions for preparing their presentations.

EDCTP invites persons involved in clinical research on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria to visit the Fifth EDCTP Forum website ([www.edctpforum2009.org](http://www.edctpforum2009.org)). The Forum website will keep you updated on all developments relating to the Forum and how to register. All persons wishing to attend the forum are encouraged to register online.

**More information on abstract submission on the Fifth EDCTP Forum website:**  
[www.edctpforum2009.org](http://www.edctpforum2009.org)

## News about EDCTP Governance

### Tender of EDCTP hosting agreement in Europe and Africa

EDCTP's Europe and Africa offices are currently hosted by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) in The Hague, the Netherlands, and by the South Africa Medical Research Council (MRC) in Cape Town, South Africa. Both hosting institution agreements in Europe and Africa will be retendered for the second period of the EDCTP which commences after 15 September 2010. It is envisaged that the hosting period will be for a minimum of 5 years with the possibility of extension.

Formal expressions of interest are now being invited from suitable candidate hosting institutions in both continents. Applications must be supported by a formal mandate from the Government of the hosting institution's country to host EDCTP. In addition to physically hosting the offices of the Secretariat the hosting institutes are expected to promote the objectives and achievements of the

EDCTP programme through political, advocacy and networking support.

Activities which the hosting institutions are expected to carry out include:

- Providing operative and administrative support for the EDCTP Secretariat
- Facilitating the capacity building and strengthening activities of the EDCTP
- Ensuring effective publicity and promotion of EDCTP's aims and achievements.

#### How to apply

The application process is described in detail on the website which EDCTP has set up for this tender ([http://www.edctp.org/Tendering\\_process.539.0.html](http://www.edctp.org/Tendering_process.539.0.html)). Suitable applicants will be shortlisted and the final decision will be made after site visits to the candidate institutions have been conducted in the third quarter of 2009.

**Closing date for applications:**  
**30 June 2009**

## Focus on EDCTP Grantees

### Project Partners database increases interactivity

Project Partners is EDCTP's web-database that promotes networking and collaboration between European and African scientists. With currently 150 members, Project Partners is an increasingly efficient tool for creating new partnerships across the world. In order to improve the performance of Project Partners, EDCTP recently conducted a survey among its registered members to compile problems and queries arising from its use and, likewise, suggestions to improve the programme.

Respondents to this survey suggested that EDCTP create a more dynamic environment and promote interactivity amongst Project Partners. In consequence, EDCTP has modified some aspects of Project Partners that you can see at [www.edctp.org/Project\\_Partners.154.0.html](http://www.edctp.org/Project_Partners.154.0.html). The search tool has been simplified and now produces more accurate search results. Furthermore, all active members will receive a notification when a member initiates or updates their registration with Project Partners with a short email. In this way, members will always be aware of any change in memberships to the programme and are actively provided with an opportunity to explore potential collaborations.

#### Project Partners

EDCTP's networking tool to develop and promote networking between European and African partners.



We would like to thank all who responded to the survey and will keep on evaluating the Project Partners search tool. If you would like to share your views, opinions and queries in this regard, please feel free to contact Ms Patricia Saez at [saez@edctp.org](mailto:saez@edctp.org). Your contribution is highly considered.

### Pan-African Clinical Trials Registry

The HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (ATM) Clinical Trials Registry, an African initiative funded by EDCTP, is preparing to become the principal register for all clinical trials conducted in Africa. Up until now the register has been focusing on trials on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The ATM Registry will now be extended to include all clinical trials that are conducted in Africa and to be attain WHO primary registry status. Plans are also underway to integrate ethical review, regulation and registration of clinical trials in Africa.

The ATM registry is a searchable database of all HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria trials conducted in Africa. The ATM registry contains information on trials that are both in preparation and ongoing. Once a trial which was prospectively registered in the ATM registry is complete, the information for that trial will remain in the database, ensuring that over time the ATM registry will be a comprehensive database for all completed and ongoing trials in Africa. The ATM registry is well-placed to becoming the primary register for the African region and will transfer all trial information to the World Health Organization (WHO) International Clinical Trials Search Portal on a quarterly basis. Collaborative relationships with other relevant trial registers will be closely fostered.

## News about Calls and Grants

### Calls open for application

#### Joint Programme Activities

The grant aims to fund projects that will identify and strengthen Joint Programme Activities (JPAs) and to contribute to the integration of the national programmes of EDCTP Member States on HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis clinical trials within EDCTP scope. It aims to enhance the activities of researchers investigating the same topic or disease, reduce to duplication of effort and to improve collaborations within or between African institutions.

Available funds: € 5 million  
Deadline of application: 4 June 2009

#### Call for Experts

EDCTP invites applications from individuals wishing to serve on the EDCTP Scientific Review Committee (SRC) or as External Reviewers (ER) on the following subjects:

- Clinical trials for the diseases HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis
- Postgraduate training awards
- Capacity building grants including ethics and establishment of networks of excellence.

**For details on the calls and how to apply, please consult the relevant call texts on the EDCTP website: [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org).**

### Funded projects

EDCTP is pleased to announce funding of the following projects:

Clinical Trials

#### Call Title: Support for the establishment and the strengthening of African National Ethics Committees or Institutional Review Boards

##### Ministry of Health Benin

Support project for the establishment and the strengthening of the Benin

#### Call Title: Support of clinical trials, capacity building and networking in malaria in pregnancy

##### Prof. Clara Menéndez

Evaluation of alternative antimalarial drugs to sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine for intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy (IPTp) in the context of insecticide treated nets

#### Call Title: Senior Fellowships

##### Dr Christian Happi

Validation of new biomarkers for monitoring *plasmodium falciparum* reduced susceptibility/tolerance or resistance to artemisinin derivatives and partner drugs in Nigeria

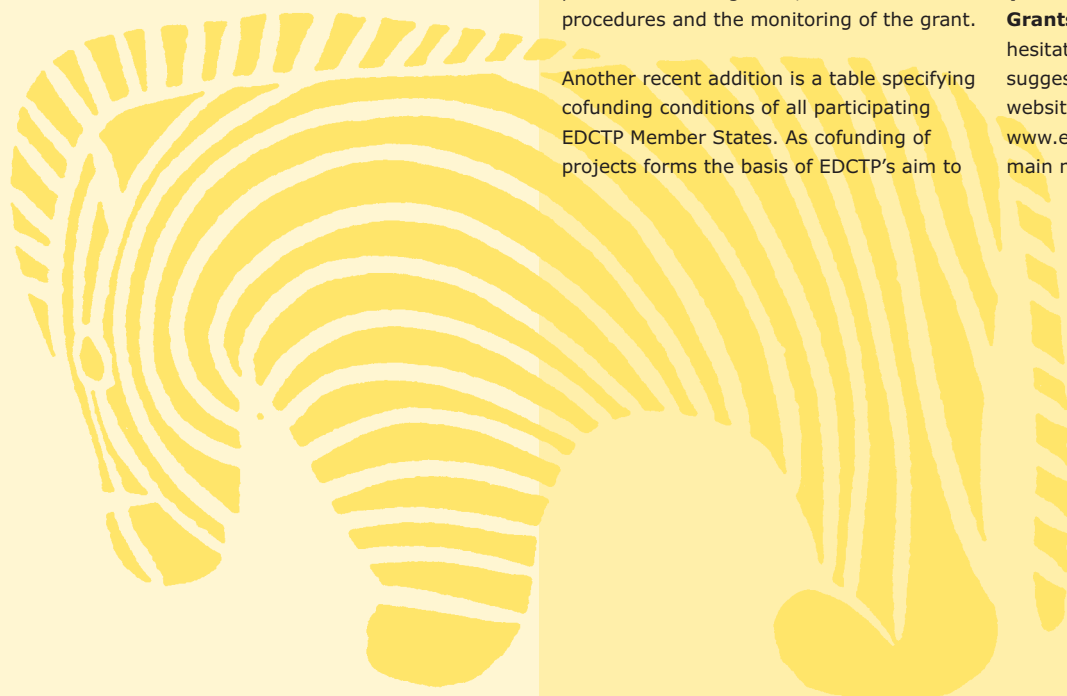
### Calls & grants and cofunding information on EDCTP's website

EDCTP has recently launched an expanded section on Calls & Grants on its website. This section now contains more detail for persons who wish to apply for a grant as well as EDCTP grantees with ongoing projects. Website visitors will find information on which types of grants are offered and how to apply for these grants. It also describes the process of creating a call, the review procedures and the monitoring of the grant.

Another recent addition is a table specifying cofunding conditions of all participating EDCTP Member States. As cofunding of projects forms the basis of EDCTP's aim to

integrate national research funds, we aim to assist applicants in arranging their cofunding. The table provides information on cofunding conditions per Member State at a glance, and provides links to each of them for more detailed information.

**We invite you to visit the website ([www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org)) and click 'Calls and Grants' in the main menu.** Please do not hesitate to give your feedback and make suggestions for further improvement of the website using the contact sheet (go to [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org) and click 'Contact' in the main menu).



## Meetings and Visits

### Bamako 2008

From 17 to 19 November, EDCTP was one of the partners committed to health for all that were present at the Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali. As a speaker during the sessions and a standholder in the Bamako marketplace, EDCTP joined the discussions on and pledges towards structural capacity development for health research and ownership of research in developing countries. The recommendations in the Call to Action that resulted from the Bamako 2008 meeting are published on the Forum's website [www.bamako2008.org](http://www.bamako2008.org). We wish to highlight some of these recommendations in relation to EDCTP's current activities:

Although capacity development for clinical research should be primarily the responsibility

and requires the commitment of the countries with high disease burden, this needs to be supported by funders. EDCTP continues to support capacity development as a core activity and an indispensable part of its integrated research grants.

Countries with a high disease burden should spend 2% of their health care budget on research. This was emphasised and reiterated at EDCTP's Developing Countries Coordinating Committee (DCCC) meeting prior to the Bamako Forum, and members of the committee will continue to lobby this goal in their respective countries.

### EDCTP visits European Member States

In order to further foster a joint European approach to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, EDCTP has started a series of visits to 'old' and 'new' EU Member States. The meetings offer a unique opportunity to bring together EDCTP representatives, relevant national ministries and research institutions to discuss cross-institutional issues such as agenda setting and cofunding of research on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and working in partnership with African partners.

In 2008, EDCTP visited Member States that are currently represented in the EDCTP Partnership, including The Netherlands, Sweden and Norway. During the meetings, participants explored the ways in which different ministries and institutions were involved in funding research on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and how this could further benefit the common research agenda.

EDCTP has also visited a number of 'new' EU Member States, namely Slovenia, Slovakia and Latvia. The aim of these visits is to raise awareness of EDCTP and see which countries may have an interest in participating in EDCTP after 2010.

EDCTP will continue the Member State visits this year.



His Excellency the president of Mali, Amadou Toumani Touré, at the EDCTP stand

### EDCTP reinforces collaboration at SADC Ministers of Health Summit

EDCTP Africa Office was invited to participate in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Health Ministers Summit that took place in Durban, South Africa, on 11 to 16 November. EDCTP was represented by its South-South Networking Manager who presented the progress made by EDCTP in sub-Saharan countries to senior health officials that gathered for the summit. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is a regional economic community of fifteen African countries of Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. At a regional level SADC is expected to take a leading role in facilitating Member States to

objectively implement social and development programmes.

The officials attending this meeting recommended SADC to identify and work with other funders who have significant research activities in the region. These funders would include those involved in health systems research, epidemiological studies, social science studies, health economics and treatment effectiveness studies. EDCTP will help provide information for clinical trial funding organisations for TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria from the region.

#### European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership

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