

EDCTP update is a monthly newsletter from the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership.



E D C T P

The Power of Sharing Science

EDCTP update

June 2017



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News

Mundo Sano joins forces with EDCTP

The Mundo Sano Foundation and EDCTP created a partnership to leverage research funding for clinical and product-focused implementation research in neglected diseases and soil-transmitted helminthiasis.

The agreement was signed by Dr Silvia Gold, chairperson of the Mundo Sano Board of Directors, and Dr Michael Makanga, Executive Director, in Madrid, Spain on 16 June 2017.

[Read more](#)



Left to right: Ana Lúcia Cardoso (EDCTP), Irene Tato (MS), Michael Makanga (EDCTP), Silvia Gold (MS) and Sandra Martin Moran (MS).

Information day on EDCTP at MESRI in Paris

Collaborations in EDCTP projects

Researchers from **France** collaborate with a total of **14 European countries** and **28 sub-Saharan African countries** in EDCTP projects.



Today, 30 June 2017, the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and Aviesan Sud (part of the National Alliance for Life and Health Sciences dedicated to research and partnership with countries in the South) held an **information event on EDCTP2** (information in French) at the ministry in Paris, France.

EDCTP was represented by **Dr Michael Makanga** (Executive Director) who talked about EDCTP's research strategy and the role of French research in the programme. **Prof Marcel Tanner** (EDCTP High-

Representative North) offered the meeting his conclusions after the round table session which also included one of the other speakers, Dr Line Matthiessen, Acting Director of the health Directorate, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission. **Dr Ole Olesen** (EDCTP Director North-North Cooperation) also attended.

AMBITION-cm phase III clinical trial launched in Botswana



Almost twenty per cent of HIV-related deaths are directly attributable to cryptococcal meningitis (CM). The AMBITION-cm project was developed to evaluate a new treatment course. In January 2017, the EDCTP grant agreement for the study with a total value of almost €10 million was signed. The AMBITION-cm project is coordinated by Dr Joseph Jarvis of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom.

On 30 and 31 May 2017, the project was launched at a kick-off meeting in Gaborone, Botswana in which EDCTP Project Officer, [Dr Christy Comeaux](#), also took part. [Read more](#)



Congratulations to Professor Sir Alimuddin Zumla on receiving knighthood

Professor Alimuddin Zumla, Professor of Infectious Diseases and International Health at University College London was honoured in the United Kingdom for services to public health and protection from infectious disease with a Knighthood (KBE) in Her Majesty The Queen's 2017 Birthday Honours List. EDCTP warmly congratulates Sir Alimuddin Zumla.

"This highly-deserved honour reflects his sustained commitment, persistent passion, and effective actions to make this world a better place", said Professor Catherine Hankins, chair of the EDCTP [Scientific Advisory Committee](#) on which Professor Sir Alimuddin Zumla is an active, highly valued member.

Call for experts - EDCTP Scientific Review Committees

EDCTP invites independent experts to assist with the evaluation of proposals and monitoring of projects carried out under EDCTP. We welcome applications from potential experts at any time. [See who contributed as reviewer for EDCTP calls for proposals in 2016 and 2015](#)

Interested? Experts can apply individually or organisations may recommend experts from their own organisation or from other bodies. Recommendations should include the names and professional affiliations of the recommended experts.

[More information on application or recommendation on the EDCTP website!](#)

Senegal: IRESSEF launched

On 19 June 2017, Senegal launched its new Institute for health Research, Epidemiological Surveillance, and Training (Institut de la recherche en santé, surveillance épidémiologique et de formation, [IRESSEF](#)). At the [opening ceremony](#) (video), presided over by the president of Senegal, His Excellency Mr Macky Sall, Dr Michael Makanga was one of the invited speakers.



Speakers at the ceremony (left to right): Chargé d'Affaires Martina Boustani (USA), John C. Martin (GILEAD), Prof. Francois Dabis (ANRS), Prof. Souleymane Mboup (IRESSEF), His Excellency the President of Senegal Mr Macky Sall, Dr Michel Sibidé (UNAIDS), Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP), and Prof Umberto d'Alessandro (MRC-The Gambia).

The Opening ceremony was part of a scientific symposium (19-20 June) on partnerships for public health: 'Building partnerships to advance surveillance responses to disease threats, laboratory quality management systems and access to quality diagnostics, and public health research in Africa'. See the programme [brochure](#) (PDF). [Michelle Nderu](#), EDCTP Project Officer also attended to contribute to a panel on financing public health priorities.



Panel on financing public health priorities in Africa.



EDCTP Project Officer Michelle Nderu

As part of a day of four satellite meetings on 21 June 2017, the **WANETAM Network of Excellence** had its kick-off meeting for its second phase on 21 June 2017. WANETAM, the West African Network of Excellence for TB, AIDS and Malaria is one of the original four EDCTP networks created to build capacity for clinical trials on HIV, TB and malaria. The network started its activities on 31 July 2009 and, coordinated from IRESSEF, enters now a new phase .

Newly signed grants

Call: EDCTP-TDR R&D Fellowships 2015

- **CANTAM2** - Central Africa clinical research Network - Cantam2 Venture, will be coordinated by Prof. Francine Ntouni, Fondation Congolaise pour la Recherche Médicale (FCRM), Brazzaville, Republique de Congo

Call: EDCTP-TDR R&D Fellowships 2015

- **Dr Suzanne Staples** (THINK Tuberculosis and HIV Investigative Network, Durban, South Africa) is hosted by Julius Clinical, Zeist, The Netherlands.

Call: Ethics and Regulatory Capacities 2015

- **Dr Julius Ecuru** (Uganda National Council for Science and Technology) will coordinate the project of the 'Consortium for clinical research regulation and ethics capacity development in Uganda'.
[See also other ethics grants](#)

Call: Career Development Fellowships 2015

- **Dr Agnes Kiragga** (Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI), Uganda) will conduct project LOCATOR or 'Tracing non-retained HIV-positive pregnant women and their babies'.
- **Dr Atinuke Olaleye** (Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State, Nigeria) will conduct a study on IPTp-SP resistance in Nigeria.
- **Dr Marieke van der Zalm** (Stellenbosch University, South Africa) will study 'The impact of pulmonary tuberculosis and other lower respiratory tract pathogens on lung function in young South African children'.

More details

European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Summit



The meeting in Brussels, Belgium on 12 June 2017, was meant as Europe's moment of commitment to the EOSC. The Summit gathered approximately 100 high-level decision makers from ministries of research, universities, research institutions, and other organisations involved in research across Europe. The Summit was convened to provide commitment to the European Open Science Cloud as an open commons for Europe's research and innovation.

Commissioner Carlos Moedas (Research and Innovation) opened the event and outlined his vision for a structure, where "researchers should be able to access all publicly funded research data in a single click".

Dr **Ole Olesen**, Director of North-North Cooperation: "In many aspects EDCTP is taking a pioneering role in regards to the EOSC for clinical trial data. EDCTP requires all research data from the clinical trials it funds, to be openly available and shared with third parties. Therefore we are establishing a portal, or single entry point, that will allow researchers to easily deposit, share and retrieve clinical trial data. Furthermore, EDCTP is taking steps towards the establishment of a new platform that will allow clinical researchers to share and develop clinical trial protocols with feedback from the wider scientific community".

See also Editorial in **Nature**: 'Don't let Europe's open-science dream drift'.

Recent publications

European Commission

Yesterday, on 29 June 2017, the European Commission presented the new Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance.



From the **EC press release**: Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, added: "Antimicrobial Resistance

Publications

- **EARNEST** | Paton N et al.: Nucleoside reverse-transcriptase inhibitor cross-resistance and outcomes from second-line antiretroviral therapy in the public health approach: an observational analysis within the randomised, open-label, EARNEST trial. **Lancet HIV 2017**
- **Partnerships** | Michael Eisenstein: Partnering to promote research where it matters, **PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases**
- **Minister Naledi Pandor (SA)** | **Speech** by Hon. Naledi Pandor, Minister of Science & Technology of South Africa at the **5th World Conference on Research Integrity**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands on 29 May 2017. "Our point of departure should be Africa owning and setting the agenda but fostering strong international partnerships for mutual benefit."
- **Video | HIV therapeutic vaccine** | Clear and interesting video on the work of **Christian Brander from IrsiCaixa**, who is evaluating a possible therapeutic vaccine for a functional cure. See the video **A potential cure for HIV**.
- **WHO | Essential medicines** |: From the WHO website: "The 20th Essential Medicines List, published on 6 June 2017, marks the 40th anniversary of this flagship WHO

already kills thousands and is a significant burden for the society and the economy. It's a threat that no country can tackle alone. We need a truly European research effort to save human lives, animals and the environment."

tool to expand access to medicines. The updated list adds 30 medicines for adults and 25 for children, and specifies new uses for 9 already-listed products, bringing the total to 433 drugs deemed essential for addressing the most important public health needs globally.

TRUST industry & funder meeting

The **TRUST project**, coordinated by **Prof. Doris Schroeder**, Director of the Centre for Professional Ethics at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN, UK), organised an Industry & Funder Workshop, which was held at the Wellcome Trust in London, UK 12-13 June 2017. The workshop brought together funder, industry and civil society representatives to discuss best approaches for ethical north-south collaboration in research. The EDCTP was represented by **Dr Michael Makanga** (Executive Director) and **Dr Michelle Singh** (Project Officer).



Speakers at opening session (left to right): Mr Paul Woodgate (Wellcome Trust), Prof Doris Schroeder (UCLan), Mr Thomas Cueni (IFPMA), Dr Nandini Kumar (FERCI), Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP) and Dr Urmilla Thatte (FERCI).

The three TRUST tools in development (i) Global Code of Conduct for North-South collaboration, (ii) **Fair Research Contracting** [FRC] developed by TRUST partner COHRED and (iii) Compliance & Follow-up were presented to all funders & industry in attendance, including WHO-TDR, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Wellcome Trust, MRC-UK, European Commission, DNDi, Sanofi, Roche, GlaxoSmithKline and Boehringer Ingelheim, for feedback, input and refinement.

Recent events

- **19-22 June 2017 | BVGH Africa Pavilion at Bio International 2017 |** At the **2017 Bio International Convention**, Bio Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) hosted for the 3rd time its **Africa Pavilion** bringing African institutions to the bio research and industry event in San Diego, CA, USA. The Africa Pavilion (booth #243) showcased the innovation and life science capabilities of African research organisations and provided networking opportunities for African country delegations. Several EDCTP Regional Networks,

TESA and CANTAM, were represented. The EDCTP High Representative **Dr Leonardo Simão** (EDCTP High



Jim Greenwood, President and CEO of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, opening



Dr Simão, TESA team
(courtesy BVGH)

Representative South) the BVGH Africa Pavilion (courtesy BVGH) represented EDCTP at meetings and at the pavilion.

At the convention BVGH launched its new initiative regarding cancer care in Africa. The **African Access Initiative** (AAI) is to provide affordable, sustainable access to cancer therapeutics, enhance healthcare capacity, and foster cancer research Africa. See also this [article](#) and this [video](#).

7-28 June 2017 | WHO Africa Health Forum | WHO Africa Region convened the **first WHO Afro Health Forum** in Kigali, Rwanda. Under the theme of "Putting People First: The Road to Universal Health Coverage in Africa", the two-day event deliberated on improving health security, progress towards equity and Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and the unfinished agenda of communicable diseases. #WHOAHF

- **Dr Michael Makanga** gave the key note speech for the **session 'Health research, innovation and data for sustainable development'** on the first day of the forum. He stressed the importance of integrating systems and processes to collect, analyse, disseminate and utilise health data in order to set the African health research agenda and what this would mean for funding mechanisms. The forum was also attended by Dr **Leonardo Simão**, the EDCTP High Representative South.



Session panel (from left to right): Mr Henry Bonsu (moderator), Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP), Dr Mary Amuyunzu-Nyamongo (AIHD), Dr. Joseph B. Babigumira (Univ. of Washington), Prof. Pontianu Kaleebu (UVRI).

Upcoming events

- **IAS 2017 | Paris, France, 23-27 July 2017 |** In partnership with **ANRS**, EDCTP will sponsor and organise **a symposium at the International Aids Society conference (IAS 2017)** on 'Coinfections associated with high mortality in severely immunocompromised HIV patients'. EDCTP will also have an information booth. Follow IAS 2017 on twitter: @IAS_conference #IAS2017
- **GES 2017 | Cape Town, SA, 13-16 September 2017 |** EDCTP will be **represented at the conference** by several staff members and have an information booth in the exhibition area of the Global Evidence Summit..
- **EDCTP Stakeholder meeting & SAC meeting | 13-15 September 2017 |** EDCTP will hold a stakeholder meeting on 'Co-infections and co-morbidities' (invitation only) the results of which will inform the discussions on the EDCTP research funding agenda. Following the stakeholder meeting, the EDCTP Scientific Advisory Committee (**SAC**) will convene for its regular meeting on 14 and 15 September 2017.
- **ECTMIH 2017 | Antwerp, Belgium, 16-20 October 2017 |** EDCTP aims to contribute two items to the programme of the European Conference on Tropical Medicine and International Health (**ECTMIH 2017**). Moreover, EDCTP sponsors the conference and it will have an information booth in the exhibition area.
- **ASTMH 2017 | Baltimore MD, USA, 5-9 November 2017 |** EDCTP in partnership with Wellcome Trust will contribute a sponsored symposium to the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene's annual conference (**ASTMH 2017**). The symposium title is: 'Challenges and opportunities of conducting clinical trials in pregnant women and future infants in resource-limited settings'.

Pasteur Institute - Sanofi Awards 2017

Prix Sanofi - Institut Pasteur 2017 | The [call for nominations for the Sanofi - Institut Pasteur Awards 2017](#) is open till 23 of July 2017. Created in 2012, the Sanofi - Institut Pasteur awards honour international scientists whose outstanding research in life sciences contributes to progress in global public health. Scientists are invited to submit their nominations in the 2 following fields: Immunology, and Microbiology & Infection.

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