

**Update** is a monthly newsletter from the  
European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership.



**EDCTP**

*The Power of Sharing Science*

## EDCTP Update

October 2017



Supported by the EU

### World Health Summit - Berlin, Germany

At the World Health Summit in Berlin, Germany, 15-17 October 2017, EDCTP hosted - in collaboration with TDR the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases and the German Society for International Cooperation - a workshop on 'Promoting R&D capacity and manufacturing'. Panellists explored several themes, including: (1) various capacity support mechanisms; (2) SDGs 7, 9 and 17, (3) new public-private partnership models, (4) the need to assess and demonstrate impact of the efforts, and (5) co-funding and joint priority setting with low- and middle-income countries.

Panellists were Geoffrey Banda (Innogen, United Kingdom), Siaka Debe (National Center for Research and Training on Malaria, Burkina Faso), Detlef Böcking (on behalf of the federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany and deputy-representative for Germany in the EDCTP [General Assembly](#)), Jutta Reinhard-Rupp (Merck KGaA Global Health Institute, Switzerland and member of the EDCTP [Scientific Advisory Committee](#)). The session was chaired by [Garry Aslanyan](#), TDR Manager for partnerships and governance, and Ole Olesen, Director of North-North Cooperation of EDCTP.



Left to right: Dr Garry Aslanyan, Dr Detlef Böcking, Dr Geoffrey Banda, Dr Jutta Reinhard-Rupp, Siaka Debe MD, Dr.Ole Olesen.

The main outcomes of the meeting were the following recommendations:

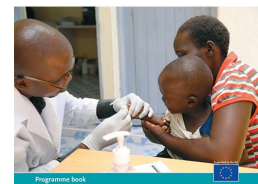
- Effective advocacy and communication efforts to showcase the impact of R&D capacity strengthening should be part of all efforts and programmes.
- Capacity development and strengthening efforts in research should aim at various capacities, including research management, administration and the ones needed for local production in countries in order to facilitate research efforts and their impact.
- Global and local efforts should be better synchronised to avoid additional pressure on those implementing R&D capacity- and production-related programmes (e.g. harmonisation of funders policies, use of documented and accepted good or best practices, etc.).

## EDCTP at ECTMIH - 16-20 October 2017

EDCTP was the Gold sponsor of the [10th European Conference on Tropical Medicine and International Health](#) (ECTMIH2017) which took place in Antwerp, Belgium from 16-20 October 2017. Approximately 1500 researchers and other delegates participated in the lively and well-organised conference which offered an intensive and rewarding programme. The EDCTP information booth in the exhibition area was well visited, especially by researchers from sub-Saharan Africa.



EDCTP session on  
Development, validation and implementation of  
diagnostic tools in resource-limited settings  
19 October 2017 | 15:30-17:00 | Corilla 5



Under the title 'Development, validation and implementation of diagnostic tools in resource-limited settings' EDCTP contributed an organised session (19 October 2017) to the programme. Speakers were Dr Sarah Gabriël (University of Ghent, Belgium), Dr Novel Chegou (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), Dr Malik Coulibaly (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH / West African Health Organisation, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), and Dr Marleen Boelaert (Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium).

The session was chaired by Dr [Tine Verdonck](#) (Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium) and Dr [Ole Olesen](#), EDCTP Director of North-North Cooperation. The symposium was organised by Dr [Michelle Helinski](#), EDCTP Project Officer and [Gabrielle Breugelmans](#) (North-North Networking Manager).

## Union meeting: 2017 in Mexico - 2018 in The Netherlands

- On behalf of EDCTP Senior Project Officer [Dr Monique Rijks-Surette](#) attended the [48th Union World Conference on Lung Health](#) in Guadalajara, Mexico from 11-14 October 2017. The theme for the meeting was 'Accelerating Towards Elimination' and was attended by delegates from over 100 countries. Moreover, she represented EDCTP at the annual meetings for [TB Alliance](#) stakeholders, the [Stop TB Partnership Working Group on New Drugs](#), the [Foundation for New Diagnostics](#) (FIND) as well as the [Aeras TB vaccines](#) stakeholder reception.
- The [49th Union World Conference](#) on Lung Health will take place in The Hague, The Netherlands from 24 to 27 October 2018. It will bring together researchers, global advocates, scientists, healthcare professionals, students and community members working on all aspects of lung health.

The conference theme is [Declaring Our Rights: Social and Political Solutions](#). It highlights that to eliminate tuberculosis and achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals requires a coordinated public health response driven by the human rights of each individual. The conference will be hosted by [KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation](#) and the city of The Hague.

Abstract and session submissions open January 2018. Registration opens March 2018.

## EDCTP Alumni Network on its way

On 3 and 4 October 2017, EDCTP launched its research leadership network for its fellows. More than 70 former and current EDCTP Fellows came to Johannesburg, South Africa. Michael Makanga: "The start of this network was heart-warming. The fellows immediately took ownership of the idea and enthusiastically explored its possibilities."

They were joined by representatives of the EU delegation to South Africa, the Department of Science and Technology (South Africa), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency, the World Health Organisation Regional Office for Africa (WHO-AFRO) and Special

Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO TDR), African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), as well as representatives of the EDCTP Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Regional Networks of Excellence.



**EDCTP Alumni Network Launch**  
Fostering excellence and collaboration  
in the next generation of researchers  
14 October 2017, Johannesburg, South Africa

The main objective of the two-day workshop was to introduce the Fellows to an online interactive platform which will enable the growing number of EDCTP Fellows to learn more about completed and active projects and easily network with each other.

The EDCTP comprehensive fellowship scheme supports individual researchers in sub-Saharan Africa and promotes career development as well as scientific leadership and excellence. During the first and second programmes of EDCTP (up to and including 2016), 102 fellowships have been awarded.



Download programme booklet

The workshop was organised by the EDCTP Africa Office supported by the EDCTP Communications team, and Finance and IT officers.

## Recent publications

### EDCTP October Newsletter



### Recent other publications

- **BMC Medicine 2017 15:192 | REMOX Consortium | [Spot sputum samples are at least as good as early morning samples for identifying Mycobacterium tuberculosis](#)** Michael E. Murphy, Patrick P. J. Phillips, Carl M. Mendel, Emily Bongard, Anna L. C. Bateson, Robert Hunt, Saraswathi Murthy, Kasha P. Singh, Michael Brown, Angela M. Crook, Andrew J. Nunn, Sarah K. Meredith, Marc Lipman, Timothy D. McHugh, Stephen H. Gillespie  
Email author and On behalf of the REMOX TB Consortium
- **EDCTP | [Annual Report 2016](#)**
- **EDCTP | [EDCTP1 programme portfolio](#)**
- **EDCTP | Public versions of meeting documents of The the The EDCTP website**
- **MMV | [Business Plan 2017-21](#)**
- **PATH - DSW | [Going further together: the case for European Union partnership with Africa on regulatory harmonization](#)**  
(Paper commissioned by Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung)
- **WHO | [Global tuberculosis report 2017](#)**

Topics include:

- partner ships with African initiatives
- Co-infections and co-morbidities
- Research capacity development
- Calls & grants

## ASTMH 2017 and other upcoming events

**EDCTP at ASTMH 2017 | Baltimore MD, USA, 5-9 November 2017** | In partnership with the Wellcome Trust, EDCTP will contribute to the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene's annual conference (ASTMH 2017) a sponsored symposium.

The symposium (session 130) has the title: 'Challenges and opportunities of conducting clinical trials in pregnant women and future infants in resource-limited settings'. It takes place on 8 November 2017, in Room 341/342 (Level 300) from 08:00-09:45. It will be chaired by Dr Pauline Beattie (EDCTP) and Professor Mike Turner, Wellcome Trust.

The presentations will be by:

- **Ruth Faden** (Berman Institute of Biomedical Ethics, Johns Hopkins University, USA): 'Social, ethical and legal implications of research



- in pregnant women during the Zika outbreak';
- **Khátia Munguambe** (University Eduardo Mondlane & Centre for Health Research of Mozambique (CISM), Mozambique): 'Community engagement in the context of clinical trials on reproductive health' and child health'.
- **Victor Mwapasa**, College of Medicine-University of Malawi, Malawi: 'Practical challenges with implementing studies involving pregnant women in an African setting with high HIV and malaria prevalence';
- **Rose McGready**, University of Oxford and Shoklo Malaria Research Unit, Thailand 'Effects of malaria and other tropical infections on maternal and child health'.

#### EDCTP | Johannesburg, South Africa, 29 November - 01 December 2017

EDCTP organises for grantees the last Financial and Project Management Training of this year. The objective of this 2-day training workshop is to provide trainees with the knowledge and financial management skills required to enable them to improve

financial accountability and transparency in their respective institutions. The training will be provided by Andoulie Barry (Director of Finance and Administration) and Dr Ole Olesen (Director of North-North cooperation), and Dr Pauline Beattie (Operations Manager) with support from Jane Coloma-Egelink (Grants Finance Officer).

**The Science Forum South Africa | Pretoria, South Africa 7-8 December 2017** | The **SFSA** aims to start "igniting conversations about science". Eager to build on the success of 2015 and 2016, SFSA2017 will again serve as a large, open, public platform for debating the science and society interface. Information in French [here](#).

## Calls for Proposals

Currently, EDCTP has three calls for proposals that are open to applications.

- [Targeting control and elimination of NIDs through product-focused implementation research](#) - closes on 2 November
- [Ethics and regulatory capacities](#) - closes on 21 November
- [Career Development Fellowships](#) - closes on 21 November

Soon the following calls for proposals will open:

- [Senior Fellowships](#) - opens on 3 November
- [EDCTP-GSK Senior Fellowships for co-morbidities between poverty-related diseases \(PRDs\) and non-communicable diseases \(NCDs\)](#) - opens on 3 November
- [EDCTP-TDR Clinical Research and Development Fellowships](#) - opens on 9 November.

Moreover, please note the joint call with WHO-AFRO and TDR, managed by WHO-AFRO. **It closes on 30 November 2017.**

- [Call for applications: Joint WHO-AFRO/TDR/EDCTP Small Grants Scheme for implementation research on infectious diseases of poverty](#). This is a joint initiative between TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) and the World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Office for Africa, who have a mutual interest in strengthening the capacity for health research in developing countries. The call reflects a commitment to increasing the level of implementation research in order to deliver high quality and cost-efficient health care solutions to people in resource poor settings.

More funding opportunities:

- **TRANSVAC | Open call for applications for vaccine development support** | Transvac is a collaborative infrastructure project funded by the European Commission, currently under Horizon 2020. The project is a joint effort of leading European groups working in the field of vaccine development, and is coordinated by the [European Vaccine Initiative \(EVI\)](#). TRANSVAC is designed to accelerate vaccine development by enhancing European vaccine research and training, and increase sustainability of EC vaccine projects by implementing a permanent research infrastructure for early vaccine development. The current [call for applications](#) was launched on 15 October 2017.

## Call for participants! Workshop in Portuguese on grant proposal writing

EDCTP is [calling for applications](#) from researchers interested in a workshop on EDCTP Calls for Proposals and grant proposal writing. The workshop will be conducted in Portuguese and aims at Portuguese-speaking scientists from sub-Saharan Africa in early stages of their career. It will be hosted by the Manhica Health Research Centre (CISM) in Maputo, Mozambique from 29-31 January 2018.

[Chamada de participantes / Call for participants](#)

Deadline for submission: 17 November 2017

## Call for proposal! Conference management company for Ninth Forum

EDCTP requests proposals from conference management companies regarding conference services for the Ninth EDCTP Forum. The Forum will be held at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, Portugal during the week of 17-21 September 2018.

Services to be provided include:

- Provision and management of a secure and user-friendly registration system for online registration of delegates from across the globe and processing of online payments;
- Abstract management from submission through to programme development and printing;
- Conference website design and content management;
- Identification of suitable and reasonably priced hotels and making block booking for delegates; and
- Provision of secretarial support, as required, to the EDCTP Forum Organising Committee during the Forum.

The EDCTP Forum is an international conference held every two years in Africa or Europe. The Ninth EDCTP Forum is expected to bring together 700 researchers and policy-makers principally from Europe and Africa. The EDCTP Forum in Lisbon is hosted by EDCTP and the Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal. The conference language is English.

For more information on submission of a proposal, please check our website [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org) or contact Ms Andreia Coelho, EDCTP Administrative Support Officer, [coelho\[at\]edctp.org](mailto:coelho[at]edctp.org), during office hours on Tuesday-Friday, 9.30-17.30.

## Call for experts! EDCTP seeks more expert reviewers

EDCTP is looking for new experts to join its pool of reviewers. Independent experts play an important role in the evaluation of proposals and assist with the evaluation of proposals and monitoring of ongoing EDCTP projects. We welcome applications from experts from across the EDCTP scope and currently we are seeking experts from the following disciplines:

- Pharmaceutical product development
- Neglected infectious diseases
- Clinical trial and implementation research methodology (including biostatistics).

Interested? Experts can apply individually or organisations may recommend experts. More [information on application](#) and see the list of experts who assisted EDCTP in [2015](#) and [2016](#).

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