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**World Health Summit
Regional Meeting**
Coimbra, Portugal | 19-20 April 2018

FCT
Fundação
para a Ciência
e a Tecnologia

EDCTP-FCT session on
**Networking the networks: Maximising
impact by strengthening collaboration,
capacity and quality of clinical research in
sub-Saharan Africa**

20 April | 14:00-15:30 | WS17, Sala Almedina (Room C2D)



Supported by the
European Union



Networking the networks: Maximising impact by strengthening collaboration, capacity and quality of clinical research in sub-Saharan Africa

Background

Significant investments have been made by a diverse set of global health initiatives to accelerate the development and uptake of new products for infectious diseases and to strengthen research capacity in resource constrained settings, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Although these investments support valuable activities, they sometimes lack coordination and alignment between funding agencies, donors and/or national governments. Often this has resulted in a failure to integrate such activities into national health systems resulting in reduced effectiveness of new products and poor sustainability of the built capacities and competences. There is an urgent need to ensure greater coordination, mobility and linkage between the research, policy and development aid communities. A concerted effort is required, which takes into account the complementarity of capacity strengthening and clinical research activities being supported by different funders, to align, integrate, simplify coordination and maximise the impact of these.

Objectives of the session

The objectives of the session are to:

1. present existing networks in sub-Saharan Africa that promote capacity strengthening and quality clinical research in the field of infectious diseases;
2. discuss ways that greater coordination can be achieved between global health initiatives and funders supporting capacity strengthening and clinical research in low-and-middle-income countries;
3. provide recommendations on how existing networks can complement each other, including on potential opportunities/synergies for future collaboration.

Agenda

Co-chairs:

Dr Leonardo Simão, EDCTP High Representative for Africa

Prof. Paulo Ferrão, President of the Board of Directors, FCT, Portugal

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| 14:00-14:10 | Welcome
Leonardo Simão, EDCTP High Representative for Africa
Paulo Ferrão, President of the Board of Directors, FCT, Portugal |
| 14:10-14:25 | EDCTP Networks: Achievements and future direction
Eusébio Macete, Manhiça Health Research Centre, Manhiça Foundation, Mozambique |
| 14:25-14:40 | Networking the Networks to strengthen research capacity
Mahnaz Vahedi, WHO-TDR, Switzerland |
| 14:40-14:55 | Strengthening bioethics committees in the Lusophone African region
Maria Rosário Oliveira Martins, Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (IHMT), University NOVA of Lisbon, Portugal |
| 14:55-15:10 | The importance of collaborative research in sexual and reproductive health
Marleen Temmerman, Aga Khan University, Kenya |
| 15:10-15:30 | Discussion & closing remarks
Leonardo Simão, EDCTP High Representative for Africa
Paulo Ferrão, President of the Board of Directors, FCT, Portugal |

About EDCTP

The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) is a public-public partnership between countries in Europe and sub-Saharan Africa, and supported by the European Union. EDCTP funds clinical research to accelerate the development of new or improved drugs, vaccines, microbicides and diagnostics against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as well as other poverty-related infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on phase II and III clinical trials. The EDCTP programme is supported under Horizon 2020, the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

www.edctp.org

About FCT

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia is the Portuguese public agency that supports science, technology and innovation, in all scientific domains, under responsibility of the Ministry for Science, Technology and Higher Education. FCT's mission is to continuously promote the advancement of knowledge in science and technology in Portugal, attain the highest international standards in quality and competitiveness, in all scientific and technological domains, and encourage its dissemination and contribution to society and to economic growth. FCT pursues its mission through the attribution, in competitive calls with peer review, of fellowships, studentships and research contracts for scientists, research projects, competitive research centres and state-of-the-art infrastructures. FCT ensures Portugal's participation in international scientific organisations, fosters the participation of the scientific community in international projects and promotes knowledge transfer between R&D centres and industry.

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