

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



EDCTP Update

July 2018

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E D C T P

Highlights

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EDCTP 2018 Calls for proposals - two more will open in August

02/08/2018 [Ethics and regulatory capacities](#)

06/08/2018 [Career Development Fellowships](#)

Call for experts - EDCTP Scientific Advisory Committee

EDCTP | Scientific Advisory Committee | Call for experts |

EDCTP is calling on high-level experts from across multiple fields and sectors to apply for membership of its Scientific Advisory Committee from January 2019. EDCTP is looking for up to seven new members. The Scientific Advisory Committee is the principal scientific and strategic advisory group to EDCTP. [Applications are requested by 30 September 2018.](#)

Recently signed projects

Grant agreements have been signed for the following projects that resulted from the 2016

EDCTP Calls for proposals:

[Career Development Fellowships 2016](#)

- **EBOV-RDT-ROC** | Fellow: Dr Misaki Wayengera Receiver operator characterisation of novel EBOV/MARV-GP epitopes using 2014-2015 Sierra Leonean Ebola patient samples at the NICD BSL-IV.
- **ECIP**: Fellow: Dr Sylvie Kwedi
An innovative collaboration model between the national TB control program and informal healthcare providers to detect additional cases of TB in Cameroon
- **EDIIMark2**: Fellow: Dr Boris K. Tchounga
Epidemiology, diagnosis algorithms and prognostic role of immunologic and inflammatory markers among HIV-2-infected individuals in West Africa.
- **FERDAR**: Fellow: Dr Moustapha Mbow
A prospective cohort study to assess the feasibility of enrolling and retaining adolescents at risk of HIV infection from hotspots in Kampala Uganda
Uganda National Health Research Organisation (UNHRO), Entebbe, Uganda

The first project signed resulting from the 2017 Calls for proposals:

[Targeting control and elimination of Neglected Infectious Diseases \(NIDs\) through product-focused implementation research \(2017\)](#)

- **FibroScHot**: Project coordinator: Dr Shona Wilson
Impact of increased praziquantel frequency on childhood fibrosis in persistent schistosomiasis morbidity hotspots

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Mapping funding for international post-graduate training in Africa

joint effort by [TDR](#) (Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases) and EDCTP to map external funding for post-graduate training in Africa resulted in a publication in *Globalization and Health* (2018): Terra Morel, Dermot Maher, Thomas Nyirenda and Ole F. Olesen: [Strengthening health research capacity in sub-Saharan Africa: mapping the 2012-2017 landscape of externally funded international postgraduate training at institutions in the region](#). It is an initial mapping exercise to guide key stakeholders on future directions of external funding of international postgraduate training (Master's and PhD) in health research at institutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

Authors note that there are challenges in collecting complete and consistent data from all funders. They recommend standardized data collection complementing related initiatives such as the [World RePort](#). Data is needed to inform a strategic dialogue between funders and key stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa to increase the impact of international funding on developing health research capacity in sub-Saharan Africa.

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Accra meeting on African national health research systems

In collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO), EDCTP organised a successful first meeting on assessing African national health research systems in Accra Ghana, from 09-10 July 2018. The Ghana Health Service of the Ministry of Health Ghana, hosted the kick-off meeting.

The meeting brought together policymakers and health professionals from African countries that are members of the EDCTP Association. The delegates included also strategic partners in the African Union and regional economic communities.



A main objective was to prepare for a survey of the national health research capacities in the 17 African EDCTP member countries. Government institutions will conduct this assessment through implementation of the NHRS barometer, an assessment tool developed by WHO AFRO. Thirty-four health professionals were prepared to complete NHRS assessment questionnaires in the African EDCTP member countries. The questionnaire was fine-tuned in the discussions.

To facilitate the survey activities, EDCTP had the English questionnaire translated in French and Portuguese. A detailed report on the meeting will be published soon.

EDCTP will work closely with African government entities and WHO AFRO to develop a conceptual framework for the development and strengthening of national health research systems (NHRS) in sub-Saharan Africa. EDCTP intends to present the results of the survey during an event in the context of the 68th session of the WHO-AFRO Regional Committee meeting in Dakar, Senegal on 31 August 2018.

The Dakar high-level meeting will bring together representatives from governments, including policy makers (African ministers and their technical team representatives), regional bodies that deal with health and research, regulators, and strategic partners committed to strengthening national health research systems in Africa. It provides an opportunity to discuss the conceptual framework for assessing the national health research systems in Africa and the results of the pilot survey.

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EDCTP at AIDS2018

AIDS2018 | 22nd International AIDS Conference | 23-27 July 2018 |

The massive AIDS2018 conference was held in the RAI Amsterdam exhibition and congress centre in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

EDCTP was hosted in the European Commission booth where several Directorates displayed materials. On Thursday morning, Dr Magda Moutaftsi (EDCTP Strategic Partnerships Officer) presented EDCTP's projects to promote clinical data sharing in the speakers corner of the booth.



Earlier, on 24 July, from 6:30-8:30 PM, EDCTP held an animated [reception for stakeholders](#), grantees and other interested parties with Prof. Glenda Gray (CEO and President of the South African MRC) as one of the speakers.



On Thursday 26 July, EDCTP and the South African Medical Research Council, held a symposium on ['Breaking down barriers: HIV interventions in sub-Saharan Africa'](#) with a strong panel of speakers. The session was co-chaired by Prof. Catherine Hankins (Deputy Director for Science, Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development) and Prof. Quarraisha Abdool Karim (Associate Scientific Director of CAPRISA, South Africa).



From left to right: Glenda Gray, Prince Bahati, Andrew Kambugu, Francis Bompert, Lynn Morris, Janneke van de Wijgert, Catherine Hankins and Quarraisha Abdool Karim

On the final day of the conference, former US President Bill Clinton delivered a keynote address on the final day of the conference calling for heads of state to attend the UN High-Level Meeting on TB which takes place in September. [Read more on the Union website](#)

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Innovative Europe? Time for a new EU innovation strategy

On 05 June 2018, the 2018 Science | Business framework conference took place in Brussels, Belgium. The aim of the conference was to debate the policies and programmes Europe will need for a prosperous future, including an important engine for future growth: research and innovation.

Main topics in the plenary sessions were research and innovation in the new European Union budget, mechanisms for financing innovation, and how Horizon Europe clusters can support achieving the United Nation's sustainable development goals.

With financing research and innovation as central topics, the conference was attended by the Commissioner responsible for the EU budget, Günther Oettinger and Werner Hoyer, the President of the European Investment Bank. Other speakers included Christian Ehler, three-term MEP who is a member of the crucial European Parliament's Committee for Industry, Energy and Research; Prof. Mariana Mazzucato (University College London, UK), who is the special advisor on mission-driven science and innovation to Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research and Innovation, European Commission; Jean-Eric Paquet, Director-General of the DG Research and Innovation, European Commission; and Phil Mjwara, the Director General of the South African Department of Science and Technology.

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, was one of the panel speakers for the workshop 'Open to the world? How to make Horizon Europe more international?'. Furthermore he was part of the panel in the afternoon session on 'What's our mission? What goals should we set for the next Framework Programme? Other speakers were: Prof. Mariana Mazzucato, Christian Ehler, Ilkka Niemelä, President of Aalto University (Finland) and Dr Heinz Seyringer, (CEO of V-Research, Austria).

[Read more](#)



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Projects

MTBVAC | Kick-off meeting in Cape Town, SA | 6 June 2018 |

The kick-off meeting of the EDCTP-funded project MTBVAC in Newborns took place in Cape Town, South Africa on 6-7 June 2018. The candidate TB vaccine MTBVAC was developed by researchers from the University of Zaragoza, Spain, and the Institut Pasteur in Paris, France. The project, coordinated by Ingrid Murillo of the biopharmaceutical company Biofabri S.L. includes a phase IIa dose-defining safety and immunogenicity trial of candidate TB vaccine MTBVAC in South African newborns while at the same time building research capacity to support vaccine efficacy trials in sub-Saharan Africa.

[Read more](#)

REECAO | Ethics review network in West Africa | 2 July 2018

First results of REECAO project, a research ethics network for West Africa ([Read more](#)) and a [tribute to the late Professor Ogobara Doumbo](#), its coordinator.

WHO AFRO-TDR-EDCTP | Implementation research | 30 grants |

WHO Regional Office for Africa with TDR (the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases) and EDCTP have announced 30 small grant awarded to scientists from across Africa for implementation research on infectious diseases of poverty. EDCTP's contribution to this joint investment was directly supported by Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom. [Read more](#)

EXIT-TB | Translating research into policy for TB screening | 4-5 July 2018

EXIT-TB, the large project to study how to scale up "evidence-based multiple focus integrated intensified TB screening to end TB in the East African Region" had its consortium kick-off meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, on 4 and 5 July 2018. The project is coordinated by Dr Esther Ngadaya of the National Institute for Medical Research of Tanzania. EDCTP Project-Officer, Michelle Nderu participated in the meeting.



Dr Esther Ngadaya_speaking at the meeting (Photo: courtesy of EXIT-TB]

EDCTP invested almost EUR 3 million in the project which receives an equal amount of African and European co-funding from: the University of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), the Centre for Global Health Research - KEMRI (Kenya), the University of Bergen (Norway), the Institute of Endemic Diseases - University of Khartoum (Sudan), the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (Tanzania), the National Institute for Medical Research (Tanzania), and the Infectious Diseases Institute - Makerere University (Uganda).

[Short item on the website](#) of the EDCTP regional network of excellence EACCR (East African Consortium for Clinical Research).

IGORCADIA | Training Programme in Diagnostics Research | 11 July 2018

Mandella King (Liberia) followed the Training programme in diagnostics research organised as part of the EDCTP-funded project IGORCADIA. He wrote a vivid post on his experience for the ISGlobal blog 'Health ISGlobal' under the title: ['Living in the Real World: My Experience as a Physician Assistant to Conduct Research on Infectious Diseases in Liberia'](#).

DiTECT-HAT | June 2018 Newsletter |

DiTECT-HAT, published its [second newsletter](#) (in French). The EDCTP-funded project on diagnostic tools for Human African Trypanosomiasis seeks to validate the performance of diagnostic tools and algorithms for early and rapid diagnosis of *Trypanosome brucei gambiense* / Human African Trypanosomiasis in three contexts: passive case detection; post-elimination monitoring; and assessing therapeutic response. The newsletter highlights a mid-term meeting of all consortium partners in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire, 6-8 March 2018 and many activities in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinée.

NIFTY | Kick-off meeting | Kilifi, Kenya, 2-3 August 2018 |

The EDCTP-funded NIFTY study (Non-inferiority of fractional-doses trial for #yellowfever vaccine), led by Prof. Philip Bejon (Univ. of Oxfor, UK, and KEMRI-Wellcome, Kenya), has its kick-off meeting in Kilifi, Kenya on 02-03 August 2018.

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Recent events

EDCTP | Training on management of EDCTP2 grants | 12 July 2018 |

A one-day workshop on financial and project management of EDCTP2 grants. The workshop was held in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 12 July 2018. Similar workshops have been held over the last three years in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than 400 project and financial managers from recently funded EDCTP2 projects have been trained in the specific rules and elements of good grant management in EDCTP.

This was the first time that the workshop was held in Europe; it attracted 55 participants. During the workshop, key elements of the EDCTP2 model grant agreement, the financial guidelines for EDCTP2 projects, consortium agreements and rights and obligations of project participants were presented and discussed.

EDCTP | Grant proposal writing workshop | Côte d'Ivoire | 16-18 July 2018

In collaboration with ISGlobal (Barcelona Institute for Global Health), the Pasteur Institute of Côte d'Ivoire, and the Swiss Centre for Research in Côte d'Ivoire, EDCTP organised a workshop on EDCTP Calls for Proposals and grant proposal writing. The workshop was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 16-18 July 2018. Approximately 40 early-career researchers from French-speaking countries in sub-Saharan Africa participate in the workshop.

[Read more](#) and see also the [item on the website of ISGlobal](#)



Photo credit: ISGlobal

EDCTP | Information event | Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 17 July 2018 |

The Pasteur Institute of Côte d'Ivoire in collaboration with EDCTP and the Swiss Centre for Research in Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS) held an information event for researchers at the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny (Abidjan) on 17 July 2018, 0900-11:30.

[Read more](#)

FRS-FNRS | A. Gagna & Ch. Van Heck Prize | Prof. S Kaufmann |

Prof Stephan Kaufmann received the A. Gagna & Ch. Van Heck Prize from the Belgium National Research Fund (FRS - FNRS) in recognition of his and his team's work on the immunology of tuberculosis in the development of novel intervention measures against the disease. [Read more](#)

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Funding and training opportunities

EDCTP | Two Calls for proposals to open | 02 and 06 August |

- 02/08/2018: [Ethics and regulatory capacities](#)
- 06/08/2018: [Career Development Fellowships](#)

IAS 2018 Research-For-Cure Academy | Call for applications |

The 'Towards an HIV Cure initiative' of the International AIDS Society (IAS), in partnership with Sidaction, France, and the South Africa Department of Science and Technology, is organizing the [2018 Research-for-Cure Academy, 31/10 - 02/11/2018, in South Africa](#). The Academy will award fellowships to approximately 25 talented early to mid-career investigators and clinical scientists who are conducting HIV research in resource-constrained settings.

Application deadline: 12 August 2018, 23:59 CET

UK Joint Global Health Trials scheme | Call for proposals 9 |

The UK Department for International Development (DFID), the UK Medical Research Council (MRC), the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and Wellcome trust announced (9 July 2018) the launch of the ninth call for proposals under this initiative to fund global health trials. Carefully look into timelines! Outline proposal deadline for global health trial research grants - 13 September 2018 (16:00 BST)

[Read more](#)

NIH Fogarty International Centre | Open Calls for proposals |

[Fogarty Emerging Global Leader Award](#) | For LUMIC researchers; see eligibility rules.

Deadline for Letter of Intent: 30 days prior to Deadline for application: 07 November 2018

European Commission | EIC Horizon Prize | Early Warning for Epidemics |

On 26 April 2018, the European Commission launched a [EUR 5 million prize to find the best solution for setting up an early warning system for epidemics using Earth observation data](#) and other kinds of geo-located data to forecast and monitor outbreaks of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, zika, dengue or yellow fever. Deadline for applications: 1 September 2020.

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Resources

New EDCTP resource:

- [EDCTP2 policy on clinical trials registration, publication and data sharing](#) (PDF) EDCTP became a signatory to the [Joint statement on public disclosure of results from clinical trials](#) on 5 July 2017. This policy document sets out the expectations of EDCTP and the requirements that EDCTP grant holders conducting clinical trials and clinical studies must comply with.

Other EDCTP resources:

- [Acknowledging EDCTP: A guide for grantees](#)
- [Strategic Research Agenda \(2017 update\)](#)
- [Strategic Business Plan 2014-2024](#)
- [EDCTP Corporate brochure 2018](#)

TDR - EDCTP | mapping funding for post-graduate training | 31 July 2018 |

Terra Morel, Dermot Maher, Thomas Nyirenda and Ole F. Olesen: [Strengthening health research capacity in sub-Saharan Africa: mapping the 2012-2017 landscape of externally funded international postgraduate training at institutions in the region](#) in *Globalization and Health* (2018) 14:77, 31 July 2018.

TB in Children | Union report | May 2018 |

Ahead of the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis in September 2018, the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease published a report '[Silent epidemic: a call to action against child tuberculosis](#)'. The Union qualifies the neglect of young children with TB by health systems as "a human rights violation".

"In the long run, greater investment in research and development needs to deliver better diagnostics, treatments and an effective vaccine that prevents TB. To be a success, the UN HLM on TB in September 2018 needs to generate concrete action, where governments are held accountable for achieving time-bound targets, for investing in new research and delivering the care to which all children with TB have a fundamental right."

[Original press release](#)

IHTM | Research Fairness report | 15 June 2018 |

The Portuguese Institute for Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (IHMT) published an assessment of its research partnerships using the Research Fairness Initiative tool developed by COHRED ([Council on Health Research for Development](#)). An RFI report provides a comprehensive analysis of the institutional behavior directly related to partnerships. IHMT has been involved in the development of the Research Fairness Initiative and played a key role towards the adoption of the RFI by the Community of Portuguese Language Countries during the meeting of Health ministers in Brasília in April 2018. [Read more](#)

DNDi | Annual Report 2016 | July 2018

DNDi's very informative [2016 Annual Report 'Progress through Partnership'](#) has been published. Prof. Marcel Tanner (EDCTP High Representative Europe) left after 10 years as Chair of the Board of Directors, handing over to Dr Marie-Paule Kieny, former WHO Assistant Director General. Earlier it was announced that as of 01 July 2018, Dr Nathalie Strub-Wourgaft is the [new Director of Neglected Tropical Diseases at DNDi](#).

NASEM | Sharing research results | 10 July 2018 |

The USA National Academies of Sciences Engineering Medicine published a report on sharing biomedical research results: [Returning Individual Research Results to Participants: Guidance for a New Research Paradigm](#) (free PDF download). The report was [discussed in Science](#) by Jennifer Couzin-Frankel, 10 July 2018

PACTR | Redeveloped website of clinical trials registry |

The Pan African Clinical Trials Registry (PACTR), the only WHO-endorsed primary registry for clinical trials in Africa, [upgraded its website](#) to improve the user experience through better navigation, search and ease of downloading search results.

With initial EDCTP funding, PACTR was originally developed in 2006 with a focus on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. In 2009, its scope was expanded to include all conditions and renamed PACTR. Currently, more than 1400 trials are registered. PACTR is based at the South African Medical Research Council and is managed by Cochrane South Africa.

ERA LEARN | P2P | July 2018 |

The ERA-LEARN consortium has been supporting the Public-Public Partnerships (P2P) community since 2009. In July 2018 the consortium has started a new phase that follows up on the previous ERA-LEARN project. [Read more](#)

EC RTD Research & Innovation | Health website | EDCTP |

The Health website of the Directorate General for Research and Innovation has renewed its web page on EDCTP, including a fact sheet. [Read more](#)

Global Health Network | WHO toolkit | Paediatric HIV drug development

A [new online WHO Toolkit](#) was launched to help facilitate and accelerate the process of paediatric HIV drug development. The toolkit is recognised by WHO, Unitaid, Unicef, Medicines Patent Pool, DNDi, PEPFAR and several others.

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Upcoming events

Union | 49th World Conference on Lung Health | The Hague, the Netherlands |

<http://thehague.worldlunghealth.org/>

EDCTP Ninth Forum | Programme (session level) published | Forum website



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