



EDCTP

EDCTP Update

February 2019

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Highlights

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Recently published

[Strategic Research Agenda](#) (version 3 - February 2019)

The Strategic Research Agenda is prepared with scientific and strategic advice from the Scientific Advisory Committee. The document provides the basis for the EDCTP Secretariat to propose the annual work programme of the following year to the General Assembly. The SRA outlines the key research and capacity gaps for diseases within the EDCTP scope and ranks them in terms of priorities. It aims to help researchers and other partners better understand current EDCTP research priorities.

[EDCTP quarterly Newsletter, Vol. 14, nr 1, January 2019](#)

The January Newsletter features

- the introduction by Michael Makanga focusing on the EDCTP portfolio development;
- an article by Jean Marie Habarugira on the activation of the emergency funding mechanism in September 2018 and the ensuing seven-day call as part of the European response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- an article by Lara Pandya (EDCTP Strategic Partnerships Officer) and Dr Thomas Nyirenda (EDCTP Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Development Manager) on the last three EDCTP high-level meetings on the assessment of African health research systems and the next EDCTP programme.

- A short portrait of the EDCTP Finance team and short bios of the new members of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

A [short animated video](#) summarizing the why, what and how of the EDCTP programme.



EDCTP: the power of sharing science

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Survey: help us improve our newsletters!

EDCTP publishes two newsletters:

- a **quarterly Newsletter** which is published in print and highlights the EDCTP programme. The Newsletter is sent to subscribers by mail;
- a **monthly Update** which is published electronically and highlights events, publications and other activities of relevance to EDCTP and its stakeholders. The Update is sent to subscribers via email.

Both publications are also available on the EDCTP website in PDF format.

Currently, we are evaluating both newsletters. We would appreciate your feedback. Please take a moment (5 minutes or less) to [answer the questions of this survey](#).

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Recently signed projects

Mobilisation of research funds in case of public health emergencies (2018)

- **MobEBO-DRC** | Coordinator: Professor Manfred W. Weidmann
Mobile point-of-care diagnostic testing for Ebola virus disease in DRC

Clinical trials to reduce health inequities in pregnant women, newborns and children - 2017

- **BabyGel** | Coordinator: Prof. Andrew Weeks
A cluster randomised trial to evaluate the effectiveness of household alcohol-based hand rub for the prevention of sepsis, diarrhoea and pneumonia in Ugandan infants
- **PYRAPREG** | Coordinator: Dr Kassoum Kayentao
Efficacy and safety of a newly registered artemisinin-based combination (pyronaridine-artesunate - Pyramax®) for the treatment of uncomplicated malaria in African pregnant women

Senior Fellowships (2017)

- **PUMBA**: Fellow: Dr Derseree Archary
Effect of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) on immune responses systematically and mucosally in healthy individuals in the CAPRISA 082 study (PrEP Underlying Mucosal-immunity Before/After)

Career Development Fellowships 2017

- **Mal-Brain Study** | Fellow: Dr Symon Kariuki
Impact of RTS,S/AS01 vaccine and insecticide-treated bed nets on neurobehavioural impairment and school participation in children from rural Kenya
- **MOSAIC** | Fellow: Dr Charissa C. Naidoo
The longitudinal microbiome of South African tuberculosis patients, symptomatic culture-negative controls and healthy household contacts, and its association with treatment outcome

EDCTP-GSK Senior Fellowships for co-morbidities between poverty-related diseases and non-communicable diseases (2017)

- **CaDERAL** | Fellow: Dr Andre P. Kengne
Cardiometabolic diseases risk evaluation and reduction in African people living with HIV infection

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Projects

CHAPAS-4 | second-line paediatric ART | recruitment started

In December 2018, the EDCTP-funded CHAPAS-4 clinical trial coordinated by Dr Mutsa Bwakura-Dangarembizi, (College of Health Sciences, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe) has started recruitment of in total 1000 children with HIV who need to switch from first-line treatment to second-line treatment. Recruitment in Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe is now well under way. Children living with HIV, 3-15 years of age, with a viral load of >400 copies/ml, and failing first-line ART treatments will be included in the study.

Professor Diana Gibb (CHAPAS study team) explains that "the growing number of children taking ART, coupled with increased detection of ART treatment failure, has increased the number of children needing to switch from their first-line ART treatment to second-line treatment. This raises the question of whether current second-line treatment for children failing first-line treatment is optimal in terms of maximising children's health gains and minimising toxicity from the treatment long-term.

The current WHO-recommended second-line ART for children failing standard first-line treatment is not ideal, as it is based on a fixed dose combination drug which needs to be taken as whole pills, mini-pill pellets or an unpalatable liquid, and interacts with anti-tuberculosis (TB) drugs. Many children suffering from HIV also develop TB, strengthening the need to investigate new second-line ART treatments.

CHAPAS-4 aims to evaluate the pharmacokinetics and acceptability of second-line ART treatments. Pharmacokinetic studies will investigate what happens to the drug in the children's bodies and will investigate the optimum dosing schedule for second-line treatment. Acceptability questionnaires will investigate whether the children find the CHAPAS-4 second-line treatment medicines easier to take than their first-line treatment."

For earlier CHAPAS trials see [also](#). The CHAPAS studies team, led by Prof. Diana Gibb (Programme leader of the Paediatric programme of trials and cohorts at the MRC Clinical Trials Unit, United Kingdom), received the [EDCTP Prize for Outstanding Research Team](#) at the Ninth EDCTP Forum in September 2018.

MTBVAC 202 | candidate TB vaccine phase IIa trial | first enrolment

The EDCTP-funded MTBVAC in Newborns study enrolled the first of the 99 healthy newborns who will be included in this phase IIa study of a new candidate TB vaccine.



Photo: Courtesy TBVI/MTBVAC.

The MTBVAC 202 trial is conducted in the Western Cape, South Africa by the South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI), University of Cape Town. The project is coordinated by Dr Ingrid Murillo of the biopharmaceutical company Biofabri S.L. The BCG-naïve, HIV-unexposed newborns will carefully followed up over a 12-month period. Dr Ingrid Murillo explains that this

study is an important step forward in the development of MTBVAC and hopefully will build the bridge to the efficacy trial, the next MTBVAC challenge.

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See also [MTBVAC in Newborns: kick-off meeting in South Africa](#) and the [TBVI website](#)

PrEPVacc | consortium meeting | 11-13 February 2019

A good year into its programme, the PrEPVacc study is recruiting participants in all study sites (Mozambique South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda) for their registration cohorts in order to determine HIV incidence. This in preparation of the clinical study of the combination effect of two DNA-MVA- or DNA- Env protein HIV-1 vaccine regimens with pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). The EDCTP-funded, EUR 15 million study is coordinated by Professor Jonathan Weber of Imperial College, United Kingdom. Dr Johanna Roth, EDCTP Project Officer, represented EDCTP at this second annual meeting of the consortium. The meeting was hosted by the Mozambican partner, the Instituto Nacional de Saúde (INS). Part of the programme was a visit to the study site in Mozambique, the Centro de Investigação em Saúde da Polana Caniço (CISPOC). Dr Edna Viegas, the Scientific Director of CISPOC, received the participants.

See also the [EDCTP web page](#)

EMPIRICAL | launch meeting | 21-22 February 2019

The EDCTP-funded EMPIRICAL project had its launch meeting in Lusaka Zambia on 21-22 February 2019. The project - Empirical treatment against cytomegalovirus and tuberculosis in severe pneumonia in HIV-infected infants: a randomized controlled clinical trial - aims to evaluate whether empirical treatment against cytomegalovirus and tuberculosis improves survival of these infants.

The project is coordinated by Dr. Pablo Rojo from Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre (Madrid, Spain). EMPIRICAL started on 1 February 2019 with a budget of almost EUR 7,7 million and will run for five years. The objective of the launch meeting was to establish consensus among the partners on mission, vision and operational plan for the project.

The consortium includes the University of Lincoln (UK), Stichting Katholieke Universiteit-Radboudumc (The Netherlands), Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (France), Programme PACCI (Cote d'Ivoire), Makerere University (Uganda), University of Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe), HerpeZ Limited (Zambia), Fundación Privada Instituto de Salud Global Barcelona (Spain), Université de Bordeaux (France), Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine/Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme, (UK) Centro de Investigacao em Saude de Manhica (Mozambique), Penta Foundation (Italy), Eduardo Mondlane University/Hospital Central de Maputo (Mozambique).

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Photo: courtesy of EMPIRICAL.

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Recent events

AAS | ReMPo Africa| 21-22 February

The African Academy of Sciences organised a [global stakeholder workshop](#) for its Research Management Programme in Africa (ReMPro Africa). Dr Ole Olesen, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation Europe, represented EDCTP at the workshop.

[From the event book:](#)

"ReMPro Africa began in 2016 with the launch of a process to develop standards for Good Financial Grant Practices (GFGP). Members of the African Organization for Standardization unanimously voted in favour of adoption of the Final Draft African Standard for the GFGP in June 2018, and the GFGP became a new international standard, ARS 1651:2018. The next stage is to develop an international standard for Good Research Management Practice (GRMP) mirrored on the GFGP process."

Africa CDC and WHO AFRO | Ebola virus disease vaccine | 21-22 February

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director attended the meeting organised by Africa CDC and WHO AFRO 'on Ebola virus disease vaccine availability and use' in Addis Ababa at the African Union headquarters on 21-22 February 2019. EDCTP was one of the collaborating partners, together with GAVI, CEPI, US-CDC, and China CDC.

EDCTP | Financial and project management training | 28 February - 01 March

EDCTP organised its Financial and project management training for grantees in Entebbe, Uganda, from 28 February to 01 March 2019. Project coordinators and financial managers from Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda participated. The training is conducted by Abdoulie Barry, Director of Finance and Administration, and Dr Ole Olesen, Director of International Cooperation Europe, supported by Sayma Siddiqui (EDCTP Grants Finance Officer).

Recent publications

- **CAPRISA** | [Newsletter February 2019](#)

Happy to repeat this message: "We congratulate Dr Desh Archary, a scientist in the mucosal immunology laboratory at CAPRISA, who was awarded a 5-year Senior Fellowship Grant for €500,000 through ...EDCTP."

- **TDR** | [eNewsletter February 2019](#)
- **MRC UK** | [AMR research - your update from the UKRI initiative](#)
- **IAS** | [Berlin to host 11th IAS Conference on HIV Science in 2021](#)
- **CROI** | [The CROI conference program is now available on the conference](#)
- **DSW** | [DSW nEUwsletter - February 2019](#)
- **AVAC** | [Announcing the 2019 AVAC Advocacy Fellows](#)

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Funding

EDCTP Calls for proposals

The following 2018 calls for proposals are still open:

- [EDCTP Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowships](#) closes 7 March 2019

See also the TDR parallel call for proposals:

- [Clinical Research and Development Fellowships](#) closes 7 March 2019

MRC UK/GCRF/NHS | Global Maternal and Neonatal Health | 2019

From the pre-call announcement: "The purpose of the call is to address the burden of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in low and middle-income countries (LMIC), by funding high-quality proposals across the spectrum of basic to applied research. Awards will support multidisciplinary research, build and strengthen research partnerships, and promote capacity building in global maternal and neonatal health research. Applications are particularly encouraged from principal investigators based at organisations in LMIC, as well as from eligible research organisations based in the UK working in equitable partnership with LMIC colleagues." Call opens 16 January and closes 24 April 2019

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MRC/DFID | African Research Leader scheme 2019 | Open date 17 Jan 2019

From the pre-call announcement: "This MRC/DFID jointly funded scheme aims to strengthen research leadership across sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by attracting and retaining exceptionally talented individuals who will lead high-quality programmes of research on key global health issues pertinent to SSA. The African Research Leader (ARL) should be supported by an enthusiastic local research environment and by a strong linkage with a UK partner."

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MMV / DNDi | Pandemic Response Box | 29 January 2019

The Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) make 400 compounds available to stimulate research into new drugs for pandemic diseases. The tool is called the Pandemic Response Box and is a "collection of structurally diverse antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal compounds - selected by disease experts - for screening against infective and neglected diseases."

[Read more here](#)

MMV | 17th Call for proposals | Deadline 29 March 2019

The 17th call for proposals of the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) is open, including a Call for African proposals. Two proposals are expected to be funded. See the [Information required for submission of Proposal to Medicines for Malaria Venture's 2nd African Call for Proposals](#)

UNITAID | calls for proposals | deadlines 17 and 23 April 2019

Better tools for the diagnosis and treatment of *Plasmodium vivax* malaria

More than one-third of the world's population - over 2.5 billion people - is at risk of *Plasmodium vivax* (*P. vivax*) malaria - the second most common species of malaria. *P. vivax* occurs in high burden countries but also accounts for over 70% of malaria cases in countries approaching elimination. [Read more](#)

Accelerating impact of long-acting technologies in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)

For the purpose of this call, Unitaid defines 'long-acting products' to mean sustained/extended release products that allow slow absorption of administered drugs maintaining their effects over long periods of time (i.e., over a week for oral products, over a month for injectables and other devices such as implants, patches or rings). [Read more](#)

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Resources

New EDCTP resources

- EDCTP published the [List of experts 2018](#) (PDF download)
We publish an annual list of expert reviewers involved in the review of proposals.

Other EDCTP resources

- [The added value of EDCTP to Europe](#)
- [The added value of EDCTP to Africa](#)
- [Tackling infectious disease in sub-Saharan Africa. EDCTP-funded clinical studies for medical interventions 2003-2018](#)
- [EDCTP Corporate brochure 2018](#)
- [EDCTP Annual Report 2017 - Maintaining momentum](#)

- [Moving forward and consolidating gains for an EDCTP successor programme](#) (Report on EDCTP High-Level meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, 17 September 2018)
- [Engaging African governments to strengthen national health research systems with complementary international cooperation](#) (Report on Dakar High-Level Meeting, 30 August 2018)
- [Development and strengthening of the national health research systems in sub-Saharan Africa](#) (Report on the EDCTP-WHO meeting in Accra, Ghana, 9-10 July 2018)

- [Strategic Research Agenda \(2017 update\)](#)
- [Strategic Business Plan 2014-2024](#)

- [EDCTP2 policy on clinical trials registration, publication and data sharing](#)
- [Acknowledging EDCTP: A guide for grantees](#)
- [Guide financier à l'intention des bénéficiaires](#)
- [Guidance for applicants on preparing full proposals and annex 1 of the grant agreement](#) (available with all 2018 calls). [Back to top](#)

Upcoming events

ICREID | (re-)emerging infectious diseases | 13-15 March 2019

The International Conference on (re-)emerging infectious diseases will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 13-15 March 2019. Free registration for participants from resource-limited settings. More on the [conference website](#).

ECRIN / F-ECRIN | International Clinical Trials Day 2019 | 20 May 2019

In celebration of International Clinical Trials Day, the [European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network](#) (ECRIN) and its French scientific partner [F-CRIN](#) will hold a conference on patient stratification studies in Paris on 20 May 2019. [Registration here](#) (before 3 May 2019).

IAS2019 | Mexico City | 21-24 July 2019

The 10th IAS conference on HIV science will take place in Mexico City, Mexico, from 21 to 24 July 2019. Registration information [here](#) - Join the IAS2019 conversation: [@IAS2019](#) #IAS2019 [Facebook mailing list](#)

ECTMIH2019 | Liverpool United Kingdom | 16-20 September 2019

The [11th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health](#) will take place in Liverpool, United Kingdom, from 16-20 September 2019. Every two years, communities of health professionals, researchers, scientists and students come together from academic, clinical, NGO and industry settings across the world to attend ECTMIH, which is an initiative of the Federation of European Societies of Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH). The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) will host the ECTMIH 2019.

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