



E D C T P

# EDCTP Update

March 2019

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## Highlights

- [127 million invested in TB research](#)
- [Funding opportunities](#)
- [Second WHO Africa Health Forum](#)

## Contents

- [World TB Day 2019](#)
- [Recently signed projects](#)
- [Projects](#)
- [Recent events](#)
- [Funding](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Upcoming events](#)

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## World TB Day 2019: EDCTP TB investments at €127 million

Our investments in tuberculosis research have risen to EUR 127 million under the second EDCTP programme.

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director commented: "Tuberculosis, a preventable, treatable and curable disease, continues to disproportionately blight the lives of the poor and vulnerable, and its drug-resistant strains present a global threat.

EDCTP has maintained a high priority for TB research & development of new and more patient-friendly treatment strategies, as well as transformative diagnostics and vaccines, while paying special attention to the vulnerable populations at highest risk of TB.

The European Union and its member states continue to play an important role in TB research. Part of that response is supported by the African-European partnership EDCTP."

[Read more on the EDCTP website](#)

[Back to top](#)

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## Recently signed projects

[Clinical trials to reduce health inequities in pregnant women, newborns and children - 2017](#)

- **ASAAP:** Coordinator Dr. Oumou Maiga-Ascofare

Clinical evaluation of artesunate + amodiaquine + atovaquone - proguanil tri-therapy for malaria treatment in African children

See also the news on the EDCTP website: [ASAAP clinical study of malaria treatment for children has started](#)

- **EMPIRICAL:** Coordinator Dr Pablo Rojo  
Empirical treatment against cytomegalovirus and tuberculosis in severe pneumonia in HIV-infected infants: a randomised controlled clinical trial

#### [Treatment innovations for poverty-related diseases \(2017\)](#)

- **WANECAM-II:** Coordinator: Prof. Abdoulaye Djimdé  
A phase II and III clinical trial programme to assess safety, efficacy and transmission-blocking properties of the new antimalarial KAF156 combined with a new formulation of lumefantrine in children and adults with uncomplicated *Plasmodium sp.* malaria in West and Central Africa

#### [Senior Fellowships \(2016\)](#)

- **CoNAIPS:** Fellow Dr Francis Ndung'u  
Determining correlates of naturally acquired pre-erythrocytic immunity to *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria in an experimental human challenge model

#### [Senior Fellowships \(2017\)](#)

- **IMARI Africa:** Fellow Dr Jonny Peter  
Immune-mediated adverse drug reactions in African TB HIV endemic settings
- **TB-SPEC:** Fellow Dr Catherine Riou  
Deciphering the immunological signature of the TB spectrum from infection to disease  
See also [message on the University of Cape Town website](#)

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

- **HASA:** Fellow Dr Barbara Castelnovo  
Diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases and geriatric syndromes in the HIV ageing population in sub-Saharan Africa

#### [EDCTP-TDR Clinical Research and Development Fellowships \(2017\)](#)

- **Ongeri:** Fellow Dr Micah Oyaro Ongeri (University of Nairobi, Kenya) hosted at the International Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), United Kingdom.

[Back to top](#)

### **PRAVA TB | Kick-off meeting in Namibia | 16-18 January 2019**

The University of Namibia hosted the kick-off meeting for the new EDCTP-funded project PravaTB, which officially started on 1 January 2019. The coordinator of the consortium is Reto Guler (University of Cape Town). Chief principal investigator of the clinical trial is Friedrich Thienemann (University of Zürich), local Principle Investigator in Cape Town is Sandra Mukasa (University of Cape Town). Other project partners include Robert J. Wilkinson (Imperial College London), Claudia Schacht (LINQ Management GmbH, Germany), Gunar Günther and Emmanuel Nepolo (University of Namibia).

"The consortium will implement a proof-of-concept clinical trial to evaluate whether statins, widely used cholesterol-lowering drugs, could be repurposed as a drug for host-directed drug therapy (HDT) in tuberculosis. The goal is to show that by adding statins at the end of standard TB therapy, fewer patients will develop chronic lung disease after a tuberculosis episode. This would result in a much higher quality of life and ultimately in less recurrent tuberculosis.

In addition to the clinical trial, capacity building for the University of Namibia is an important part of the Prava TB project, with activities planned to train clinical, laboratory and administrative staff."



### **PREDICT-TB | second annual meeting | South Africa, 25-26 March 2019**

The second annual meeting of the PREDICT-TB project - cofunded by EDCTP, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and NIH - took place in the rural setting of the Robertson winelands in the Western Cape, South Africa, on 25 and 26 March 2019.

Prof. Gerhard Walzl, the coordinator of the project: "The project brings together advanced tuberculosis clinical trials professionals, point-of-care test developers and expert grant management experience in a study that evaluates biomarker-driven tuberculosis treatment shortening strategies.

The advanced imaging modality, 18 fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography / computerized tomography (PET/CT), is used to identify patients with low risk for poor

treatment outcomes, who are then stratified into standard or shortened treatment arms in a proof-of-concept study. Ultimately, PET/CT would be replaced by easily measurable blood signatures to facilitate stratification into different risk groups. EDCTP Project Officer, Dr. Daniel Weibel, also participated in the meeting.



[Back to top](#)

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## Recent events

### **EC | EuropeAid InfoPoint presentation on EDCTP | 7 March 2019**

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, presented the EDCTP programme to an audience of EU development aid experts and officials during a DEVCO InfoPoint meeting on 7 March 2019. [More information and livestream video here.](#)



Jan Pähler, Head of Sector Health, DG DEVCO B4 Culture Education Health

### **PACTA | EDCTP PACTA workshop | 19-20 March 2019**

EDCTP organised a two-day workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa on 19-20 March 2019. EDCTP was represented by Dr Leonardo Simão, EDCTP High Representative for Africa, Prof. Moses Bockarie, EDCTP Director of Internal Cooperation (Africa), and Dr Thomas Nyirenda, EDCTP Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Development Manager, who held a presentation on 'EDCTP capacity development support to ethics, regulatory environment, clinical trial registration and related fields'. Close cooperation over the years by stakeholder such as WHO Regional Office for Africa, NEPAD, Cochrane Africa Network, and AVAREF among others, led to the initiative to develop a functional, collaborative and integrative network of organisations, institutions and other agencies involved in the review, approval and oversight of medicine, vaccine and device interventional clinical trials in Africa. This concept is called PACTA. The workshop is a step to further develop this network.



Dr Thomas Nyirenda (EDCTP).

### **OSP3 | Third Global open Source Pharma Conference | 21-23 March 2019**

Dr Ole Olesen, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation for Europe, participated in the OSP3 meeting in Paris. The small meeting (by invitation only) discussed advantages and challenges of using open source (including data sharing) approaches to non-profit development of new medicinal products for poverty-related and neglected diseases. He presented EDCTP's extensive experience with international research collaborations and its new pioneering activities with clinical data sharing and open source clinical protocol building.

[See also the conference website.](#)

### **WHO AFRO | Second WHO Africa Health Forum | 26-28 March 2019**

The second WHO Africa Health Forum was held in Praia, Cabo Verde, 26-28 March 2019. The theme of the conference was 'Achieving Universal Health Coverage and Health Security in Africa: The Africa We Want to See.' EDCTP was represented by Dr Leonardo Simão, High Representative for Africa, who was one of the speakers, Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, and Dr Thomas Nyirenda, EDCTP Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Development Manager.

[More on the website](#)



## Recent publications

- **WHO Regional Office for Africa:** [A Heavy Burden: The Productivity Cost of Illness in Africa](#)
- **NEPAD AMRH initiative:** Short video summarising the inaugural AMRH week which took place in Kigali, Rwanda, 10-14 December 2018. The AMRH initiative is one of the foundations for the establishment of the African Medicines Agency. EDCTP was represented by Dr Leonardo Simão, its High Representative for Africa.



AMRH Week, Kigali, Rwanda 10-14 December 2018

- **Horizon 2020 magazine:** Article published on 06 March 2019 about emergency research preparedness and response, mentioning EDCTP-funded consortia PANDORA and ALERRT, EDCTP and DND: [Preparing for the outbreak: helping research swing into action in central Africa'](#)
- **The Lancet Infectious Diseases:** [Anna Maria van Eijk et alii, Effect of Plasmodium falciparum sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine resistance on the effectiveness of intermittent preventive therapy for malaria in pregnancy in Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
- **The Lancet:** [Building a tuberculosis-free world: The Lancet Commission on tuberculosis](#)
- **CAPRISA** [March Newsletter](#)
- **MMV** [March newsletter](#)
- **AERAS** [Annual Report 2018](#) (Final report)
- **Institut Pasteur** [April Newsletter](#)
- **TB Alliance** [Annual Report 2018](#)

[Back to top](#)



### **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**

[Go to announcement](#)

### **MRC/DFID | African Research Leader scheme 2019 | Closing date 09 April 2019**

"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."

[Go to announcement](#)

### **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](#)

[Back to top](#)

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## **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)

### **New EDCTP resource**

- EDCTP short video on the programme



EDCTP: the power of sharing science

#### Other EDCTP resources

- [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](#)

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### Upcoming events

#### **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).

**European Commission | European Development Days 2019 | 18-19 June 2019**

Europe's leading forum on development since 2006 is organised by the European Commission. The EDD bring the development community together each year to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions. EDD 2019's title is "Addressing inequalities: building a world which leaves no one behind".

[See the website](#)

### **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 mailinglist](#)

### **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.

### **Global Conference on Implementation Science and Scale-Up | 29/06-01/07 2019**

The inaugural Global Conference on Implementation Science and Scale-Up, which will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 29 June - 1 July 2019. The Conference is co-hosted by the Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU), BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health at BRAC University and UNICEF Bangladesh, and is co-sponsored by UNICEF and TDR. The Conference, which is the first of its kind, aims to highlight the importance of Implementation Science (IS) as an emerging global framework for evidence-based programming and policy formulation for social development programmes and to bridge the wide gap that exists between research, policy making and programme design.

[See also the website](#)

### **ICASA 2019 | Intern. Conf. on AIDS and STIs in Africa | 2-7 December 2019**

The 20th ICASA conference is the biggest HIV/AIDS conference in Africa. ICASA2019 will be held in Kigali, Rwanda from 2-7 December 2019. The conference theme "AIDS Free Africa - Innovation, Community, and Political Leadership". "It engages all stakeholders in the Post-SDG Framework, where sustainability of the response in reaching 90, 90, 90 will not be possible if human rights are not a key priority". Abstract submission closes on 30 July 2019.

[More on the website.](#)

[Back to top](#)

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