

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



E D C T P

EDCTP Update

January 2020

Supported by the European Union



Highlights

- **[EDCTP supported first World NTD day!](#)**
- **[Nominate candidates for 2020 EDCTP Recognition Prizes!](#)**
- **[Funding opportunities](#)**

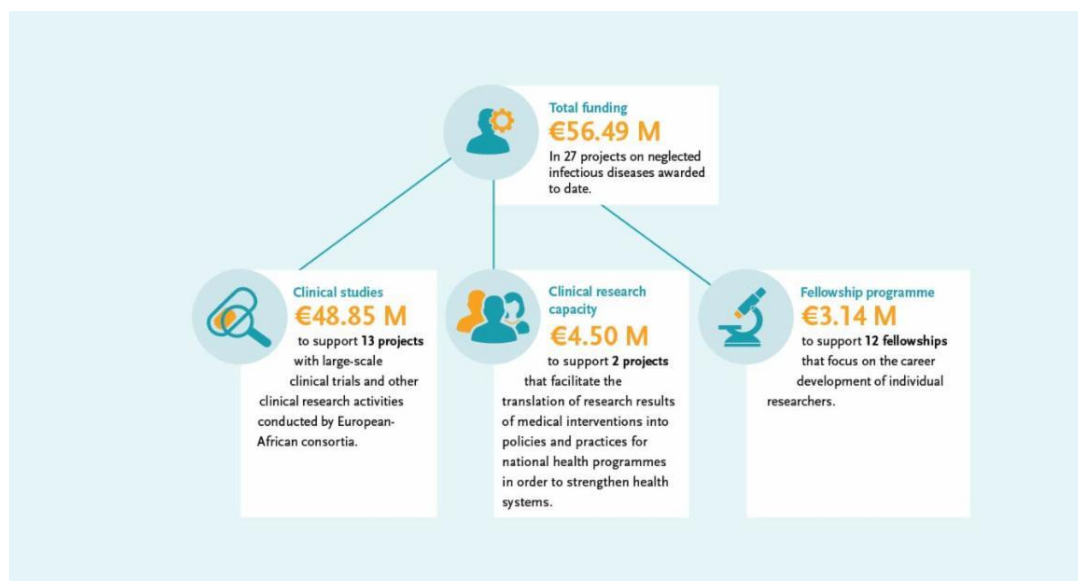
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First World NTD Day! The fight to end Neglected Tropical Diseases

EDCTP together with [more than 300 other organisations supported the first World NTD Day held on 30 January 2020](#), It is meant as a call to action to sustain the efforts against the Neglected Tropical Diseases, named for the limited attention they have received for too long and closely linked to poverty and inequality. The last decade has seen substantial progress towards the targets set in the WHO NTD road map but despite successes much work has still to be done while funding remains inadequate in relation to the actual burden of these diseases.

Since the launch of its second programme in 2014, which is supported by the European Union under Horizon 2020, EDCTP has invested €56.49 million in 27 NTD projects in sub-Saharan Africa.



See also the [EDCTP press release on the occasion of the first World NTD Day](#).

See also a [presentation of EDCTP-funded projects related to NTDs](#).

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EDCTP is hiring: project officer at the The Hague office

We are looking for a Project Officer to be based at the EDCTP office in The Hague. The Project Officer will be a member of the Calls and Grants team and will be responsible for the management and development of EDCTP's funding portfolio, including managing the external peer review of applications submitted to EDCTP, contract negotiation, monitoring and evaluation of EDCTP projects, as well as contributing to EDCTP's funding strategy, policies and publications. **Deadline 28/02 2020**

[More information](#)

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Nominate candidates for the EDCTP 2020 Prizes !

EDCTP will award four prestigious international prizes dedicated to the promotion of scientific research, improved health and African-European collaboration.

These prizes are presented to outstanding individuals and research teams, especially from sub-Saharan Africa and Europe.

They will be announced at the tenth EDCTP Forum in Mozambique in October 2020.

Nominate candidates before Thursday 16 April 2020 at 17:00 CET.

[More information on our website.](#)

The prize for the Outstanding Research Team 2018 was awarded to CHAPAS studies team (Children with HIV in Africa - Pharmacokinetics and Acceptability of Simple

antiretroviral regimens), a large research group that accomplished over more than a decade several crucial HIV paediatric and adolescent treatment trials.



Dr Mutsa Bwakura, Prof. Diana Gibb (team leader), Dr Cissy Kityo, Dr David Burger (and in the back: Prof. Tanner and Dr Simão, EDCTP High representatives for Europe and Africa, respectively)

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EDCTP's projects can be explored online

EDCTP online project portfolio

The vast majority of the [EDCTP2 project portfolio can now be explored online](#). The portfolio contains the Collaborative R&D projects 2014-2019 (RIA grants; [also published separately as PDF](#)) and the Fellowship studies 2014-2019 TMA grants; [also published separately as PDF](#)).

The ethics and regulatory projects 2014-2019 will be added in a few months. In time, the portfolio will be also be updated with the upcoming grants.



Pan-African Clinical Trials Alliance

Also available now as online publication is the report on the EDCTP - Pan-African Clinical Trials Alliance Workshop '[Towards consolidation of clinical trial regulation, oversight and registration in Africa](#)'.

The workshop was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 19-20 March 2019 and is one of the contributions to the continuing efforts of the WHO PACTA initiative.

In 2010, WHO established the Pan-African Clinical Trials Alliance (PACTA). The alliance is to bring together African national regulators and ethics professionals with the aim of harmonising the regulation, registration, and ethics approval processes for clinical trials in Africa.



Public Portal of EDCTP2 grants

The [EDCTP public project portal](#) which offers an overview of key data on all EDCTP grants has been improved. The portal has been upgraded with new search fields and export options, such as as the possibility to search by country, by organisation and filter by role, i.e. coordinator or participant.

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Recent events

PolicyCures | Presentation of G-FINDER report 2019 |30/01 2020

On 30 January 2020 - World NTD Day - Policy Cures presented the 2019 G-FINDER report in Brussels, Belgium, hosted by Politico Europe.

The 12th G-FINDER report **Neglected disease research and development: Uneven progress** tracks public, private, and philanthropic funding of basic research and product development (R&D) for global health priorities.

The core focus of the project is neglected disease R&D funding. Neglected diseases are diseases that predominantly affect low- and middle-income countries and for which products are needed, but there is insufficient commercial incentive to stimulate R&D. The report is written by Policy Cures with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. On behalf of EDCTP, Lara Pandya (Strategic Partnerships Officer) attended the presentation.

Take-aways from the Policy Cures announcement of the release:

- Global funding for basic research and product development for neglected diseases in 2018 topped the US\$4 billion mark for the first time - the highest level ever recorded by the G-FINDER survey.
- The increase from 2017 funding levels was both the largest real annual funding increase on record, and the first time ever that funding has grown for three consecutive years. Growth was driven by record high investment from MNCs, as

well as big funding increases from HIC governments - particularly the US, UK and EC - and multilateral funders.

- The growth in industry investment contributed to a dramatic increase in funding for clinical development & post-registration studies, which also reached a record high in 2018.

Read the [2019 G-Finder report](#)

For the data behind the report see the new [G-FiNDER data portal](#)

For a fact sheet highlighting the important funding contribution of the European Union through Horizon 2020 and EDCTP, [click here](#)

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Recently signed projects

[Career development fellowships - 2018](#)

- **DetI-MTTT** | Fellow: Dr Ndong Ignatius Cheng | Determining the impact of scaling up mass testing, treatment and tracking on malaria prevalence among children in the Pakro subdistrict of Ghana
- **MTI-Plus** | Fellow: Dr David Kateete | Insight into the role of the microbiome in pulmonary tuberculosis in Kapala, Uganda

[EDCTP Senior Fellowships - 2018](#)

- **ASYMALE** | Fellow: Dr Makhtar Niang | Mobile nucleic acid testing of asymptomatic Plasmodium infections for malaria elimination
- **Blood-CHMI Trans** | Fellow: Dr Ally Olotu | Adaptation of blood-stage transmission-blocking malaria interventions in endemic countries
- **LoRTISA** | Fellow: Dr William Worodria | Management of lower respiratory tract infections in sub-Saharan Africa

[Diagnostic tools for poverty-related diseases - 2018](#)

- **PreFIT** | Project coordinator: Prof. Frank Cobelens | Predicting the future: incipient tuberculosis

[Strategic action for overcoming drug resistance in malaria - 2018](#)

- **PAMAFRICA** | Project coordinator: Dr Tim Wells | Portfolio approach to developing the next generation of malaria treatments for Africa

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Projects

TRIAGE TB | project kick-off meeting | 15/11 2019

The EDCTP-funded project TRIAGE-TB had its official kick-off meeting in Cape Town, South Africa on 14-15 November 2019. The aim of the project is to validate in the field a

rapid point-of-care triage test for active tuberculosis that can be conducted without the support of a laboratory. The study is coordinated by Prof. Gerhard Walzl of Stellenbosch University, South Africa.



Vitality | Kick-off meeting | January 2020

The project Vitality held its kick-off meeting last week in Harare, Zimbabwe. The project 'Vitamin D for adolescents with HIV to reduce musculoskeletal morbidity and immunopathology: an individually randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial' is coordinated by Prof. Rashida Ferrand of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

EDCTP Project Officer Dr Johanna Roth attended the meeting. The EUR 3.9 million grant was awarded under the 2018 Call for proposals '[Advances in product development for effective prevention, treatment and management of co-infections and co-morbidities](#)'.

Shigoravax | website launched | 21/01 2020

The ShigOraVax study is coordinated by the European Vaccine Initiative and will collect essential data to advance the development of vaccines against Shigella, a key cause of diarrhoeal disease in low-income countries.

The project website has been published in January 2020. See for a [project description](#). See for a related [EVI LinkedIn post](#)
[Go to the Shigoravax website](#)

LAMP4Yaws| Press release LSHTM | 30/01 2020

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine highlighted the recent EDCTP grant for yaws diagnostics on World NTD Day: [£2.5 million funding to examine effectiveness of new diagnostic test to tackle Yaws](#)

The project 'Clinical evaluation of a loop-mediated isothermal amplification test for *Treponema pallidum pertenuis*: A diagnostic tool to support yaws eradication' is coordinated by Dr Michael Marks of LSHTM.

DiTECT-HAT | Newsletter Issue 5 | 30/01 2020

The DiTECT-HAT project - Diagnostic tools for human African trypanosomiasis - published its fifth newsletter. See the [project description](#) in the EDCTP online portfolio. Find the [newsletter here](#).

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Funding opportunities

Open EDCTP calls for proposals

The following EDCTP Calls for proposals are still open for applications.

[Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowships \(CRDF\) - Joint call with WHO/TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases 2019](#)

Open to application: 30 October 2019

Deadline for application: 28 February 2020

[Vaccines against Lassa virus disease - Joint call with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations \(CEPI\)](#)

Open to application: 02 November 2019

Deadline for application: 07 April 2020

[Senior Fellowships Plus](#)

Open to application: 06 November 2019

Deadline for application: 18 February 2020

Please note | The EDCTP website offers guidance for grant application: a page with FAQs on Calls and a Guidance page with [Templates, guides and policies](#).

Other opportunities

COR-NTD | Four Calls for research on NTDs | Deadline 07/02 2020

The Neglected Tropical Diseases Support Center (NTD-SC) at The Task Force for Global Health shares four requests for proposals on research to address neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). With these calls, the NTD-SC seeks proposals that are nested within national programs and which establish a foundation for integrating NTD-related activities into national health systems. Projects will be funded with UK aid through the UK Department for International Development via the NTD-SC, which serves as Secretariat for the Coalition for Operational Research on NTDs (COR-NTD).

[More information](#)

GHIT Fund | 12th Request for Proposals | Deadline 28/02 2020

The GHIT Fund released its 12th Request for Proposals for the Hit-to-Lead Platform to support drug discovery and development process to address malaria, tuberculosis, Chagas disease, and Visceral leishmaniasis.

[More information](#).

AAS | DELTAS Africa Phase II Call | Deadline 28/02 2020

DELTAS Africa invites applications for health-, social-, and sustainable development-focused, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary scientific programmes aligned to the initiative's strategic areas and key outcomes - taking into consideration pressing local, national and regional research needs, resources, priorities and existing capacity. This flexible approach is intended to encourage innovation by supporting alternative activities and processes, within the remit of the initiative.

[More information](#)

Leprosy Research Initiative | Call for proposals | Deadline 28/02 2020

The [Leprosy Research Initiative](#) (LRI) is pleased to announce a call for proposals for funding commencing in 2021. LRI funds research with a focus on leprosy - including research applications combining leprosy with other neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) or other diseases that share cross-cutting issues with leprosy. [Read more.](#)

AiBST | Call for applications | Deadline 29/02 2020

The African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology published a [Call for applications](#) for 10 MSc scholarships in Genomics & Precision Medicine. The scholarships are funded by EDCTP via the TMA2018SF-1508 grant to Prof. Collen Masimirembwa.

From the website: "The [AiBST Virtual Global Faculty](#) (VGF) was established to provide the African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology with teaching and mentorship support for its MSc programs. AiBST will be offering two MSc programs, MSc in Genomics & Precision Medicine and MSc in Pharmaceutical Medicine, starting in 2020. It will do this through a joint initiative with the Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT). The two programs have been approved by the Zimbabwe Council of Higher Education (ZimCHE)."

There is a second [Call for applications for MSc scholarships in Pharmaceutical Medicine](#). The scholarships are provided for by the International Science Program (ISP) in Sweden. Deadline also 29/02 2020.

MRC | Applied Global Health Research Board | Deadline 07/04 2020

The MRC (United Kingdom) has launched a new research funding Board and invites applications. The new Board will fund global health research that is embedded within local contexts in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Proposals should focus on ideas that will have real world practical application to improve health. Proposals are encouraged to be multidisciplinary. Principal Investigators in LMICs can apply directly to the Board without the need for a UK partner. Applications led by UK PIs must include LMIC co-applicants and be founded upon genuine equitable partnerships.

[More information](#)

Wellcome Trust | International Master's Fellowships | Deadline 14/04 2020

This scheme offers nationals of low- and middle-income countries the opportunity to receive training at Master's degree level. Who can apply? You are a national of a low- or middle-income country; your proposed research focuses on a health priority in a low- or middle-income country; you have sponsorship from an eligible host organisation in a low- or middle-income country.

[More information](#)

Prize | Geneva Health Forum 2020 | Deadline 10/02 2020

Apply for the 2020 Anne Maurer-Cecchini award (20,000 CHF; ceremony at Geneva Health Forum 24-26/03/20). Open to investigators and research groups that completed a clinical or epidemiological study in 2018 or 2019 on one of the NTDs.

[Read more](#)

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Upcoming events

Prof dr Robert Sauerwein | Valedictory lecture | 21/02 2020

Prof. Robert Sauerwein (Radboud University, Netherlands) will give his valedictory lecture on 21 February 2020. [Register before 10 February 2020](#) via <http://bit.ly/3aP2s68>

Prof Sauerwein has had a long association with EDCTP as a grant holder, external expert,

and member of the EDCTP Partnership Board (2010-2012), now the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Prof Sauerwein is currently a member of the PfTBV consortium whose EDCTP-funded project [Rapid evaluation of Plasmodium falciparum Transmission Blocking Vaccine \(PfTBV\)](#) is evaluating a portfolio of three innovative candidate malaria vaccines that aim to block transmission of the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite.

The PfTBV consortium is coordinated by Dr Issaka Sagara from the University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies in Bamako, Mali, with research sites in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia and Mali. Two vaccines were developed by the Statens Serum Institute (SSI, Denmark), the third has been developed and will be produced through the National Institutes of Health in the US which also contributes a large financial investment. Additional co-funding is received from PATH in the US.

Wellcome | Optimmunize conference | 19-21/02 2020

The Optimmunize - Improving the beneficial effects of vaccines' conference, will be held for the first time at the Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, United Kingdom), an focus on research into the broader effects of vaccines on the immune system, and how the use of vaccines may be optimized if these effects are taken into account. It brings together the most excellent speakers from all over the world, at the forefront of this new avenue of research. [More information here.](#)

World Health Summit | Regional Meeting in Kampala, Uganda | 27-28 /04 2020

The first World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Africa will take place in Kampala, Uganda from 27-28 April 2020. The World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2020 will be hosted and organized by Makerere University in partnership with the Government of Uganda.

The central themes of the Regional Meeting 2020 include: The Health of the African Youth, Advancing Technology for Health in Africa, Infectious Diseases and Global Health Security, Stemming the Tide of Non-Communicable Diseases in Low-and Middle-Income Countries, Inter-Sectoral Action for Health.

[More information here](#)

Rwanda | Kigali Summit on Malria and NTDs | 25/06 2020

The "Kigali Summit on Malaria & NTDs" was announced on 28 January 2020. The high-level global summit is taking place on 25 June 2020 and is hosted by the government of Rwanda. The meeting takes place on the eve of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting 2020.

[Read more on the RBM website](#)

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