

Online information session CDF call



EDCTP

European & Developing Countries
Clinical Trials Partnership

Michelle Helinski, EDCTP
Via Zoom, 9 July 2020



How to make the most out of this session

- Please switch off your video
- Please mute your microphone
- Please ask any questions you may have in the chat box (be mindful your questions may be addressed at a later stage during the presentation)



Content of today's session

1. Introduction to funders
 2. The Call: scope and eligibility criteria
 3. Evaluation procedures
 4. Tips for preparing your application
 5. Questions and Answers
-

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Introduction to EDCTP, Novartis, Fondation
Botnar

EDCTP –Words of Welcome



Prof. Moses Bockarie

*Director of International Cooperation
(Africa) & Head of Africa Office*

EDCTPs team today



Evangelia Boufardea
Grants System Officer



Andreia Coelho
*Administrative Support
Officer*



Jean Marie Vianney
Habarugira
Project Officer



Dr Michelle Helinski
Project Officer



Dr Pauline Beattie
Operations Manager



EDCTP

Who we are

The **European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)** is a public-public partnership between institutions mandated by national governments in Europe and sub-Saharan Africa, and supported by the European Union.



EDCTP

Our vision

To reduce the individual, social and economic burden of poverty-related infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, by supporting collaborative research to develop accessible, suitable and affordable medical interventions.



EDCTP

Our mission

To enhance research capacity and accelerate the development of new or improved medical interventions for the identification, treatment and prevention of poverty-related infectious diseases, including emerging and re-emerging diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, through all phases of clinical trials, with emphasis on phase II and III trials.

EDCTP public-public partnership

14 European Countries

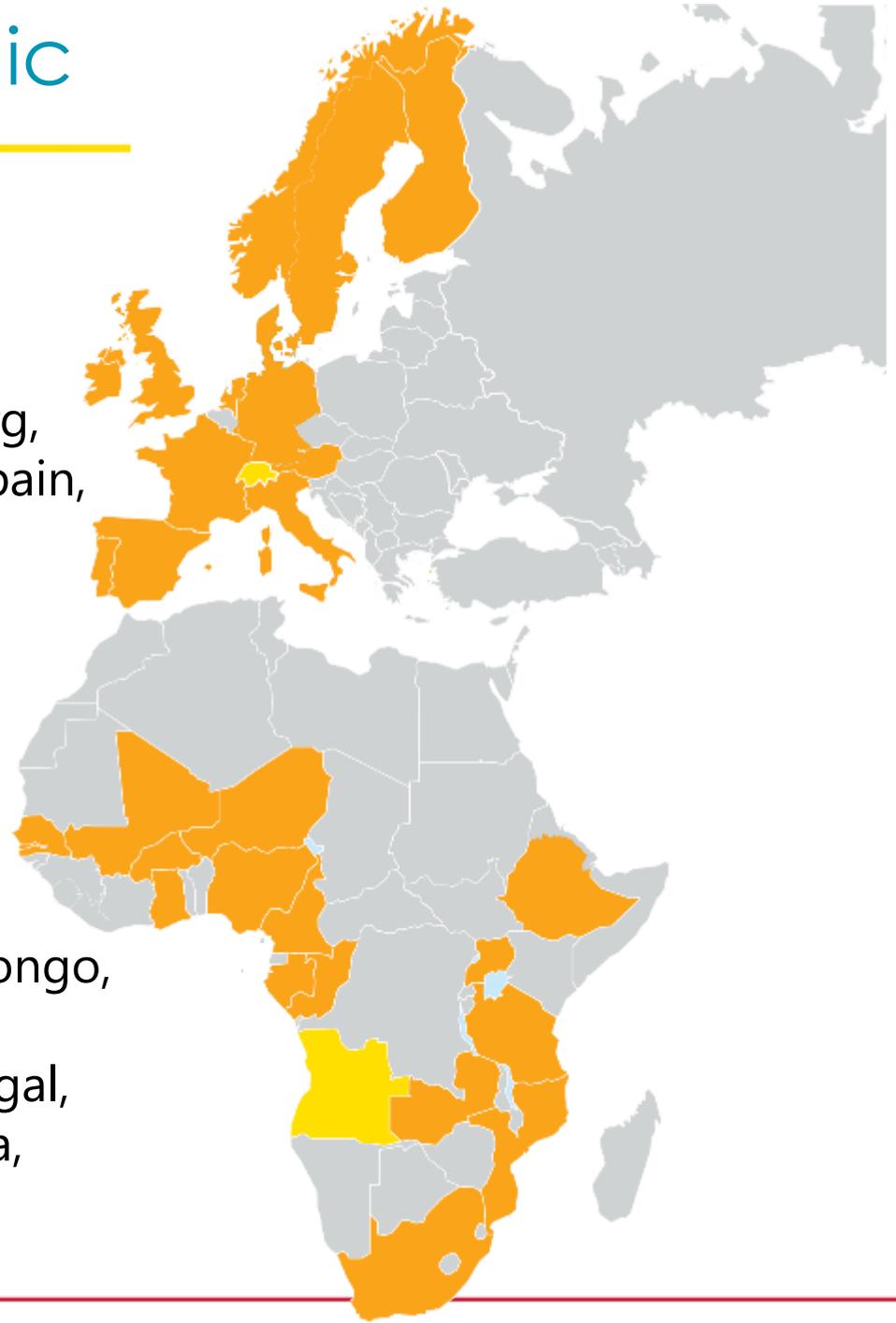
Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom

2 Aspirant Members

Angola, Switzerland

16 African Countries

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Rep of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia



Scope of EDCTP2 programme

- **Promoting networking, coordination, alignment, collaboration** and integration of national research programmes and activities on poverty-related diseases, including neglected ones, at scientific, management and financial level;
- **Supporting clinical trial research and related activities** on poverty-related diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other poverty-related diseases, including neglected ones;
- **Fostering capacity development for clinical trials and related research** in developing countries, in particular **in Sub-Saharan Africa**, through grants for: **career development of junior and senior fellows**, promoting mobility, staff exchange grants, research training networks, strengthening ethics and regulatory bodies, mentoring and partnerships at individual or institutional or regional level.

Diseases in EDCTPs scope

In the EDCTP2 programme, "*poverty-related diseases (PRDs)*" include:

- HIV/AIDS,
- malaria,
- tuberculosis
- Neglected infectious diseases (NIDs): dengue/severe dengue; rabies; human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness); leishmaniasis; cysticercosis/taeniasis; dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease); echinococcosis; foodborne trematodiasis; lymphatic filariasis; mycetoma; onchocerciasis (river blindness); schistosomiasis; soil-transmitted helminthiasis; Buruli ulcer; leprosy (Hansen disease); trachoma; yaws
- diarrhoeal infections,
- lower respiratory infections,
- Emerging infectious diseases of particular relevance for Africa, such as Ebola, yellow fever, Lassa fever and COVID-19.

Activities supported under EDCTP2

Research & Innovation Actions (RIA)	Coordination & Support Actions (CSA)	Training & Mobility Actions (TMA)	Other activities
Multi-centre clinical trials that are conducted by research consortia involving both European and African research teams, with integrated capacity development and networking elements.	Support of activities that strengthen the enabling environment for conducting clinical trials and clinical research, including ethical review and regulatory capacity.	Fellowships that focus on the career development of individual researchers or research team members.	Non-call specific e.g. trainings, communication and dissemination, advocacy, networking and outreach activities
Either 100% EDCTP funding (RIAs) or ≤50% EDCTP funding (Strategic RIAs; with ≥50% cofunding from other funders)	100% EDCTP funding	100% EDCTP funding	100% EDCTP funding



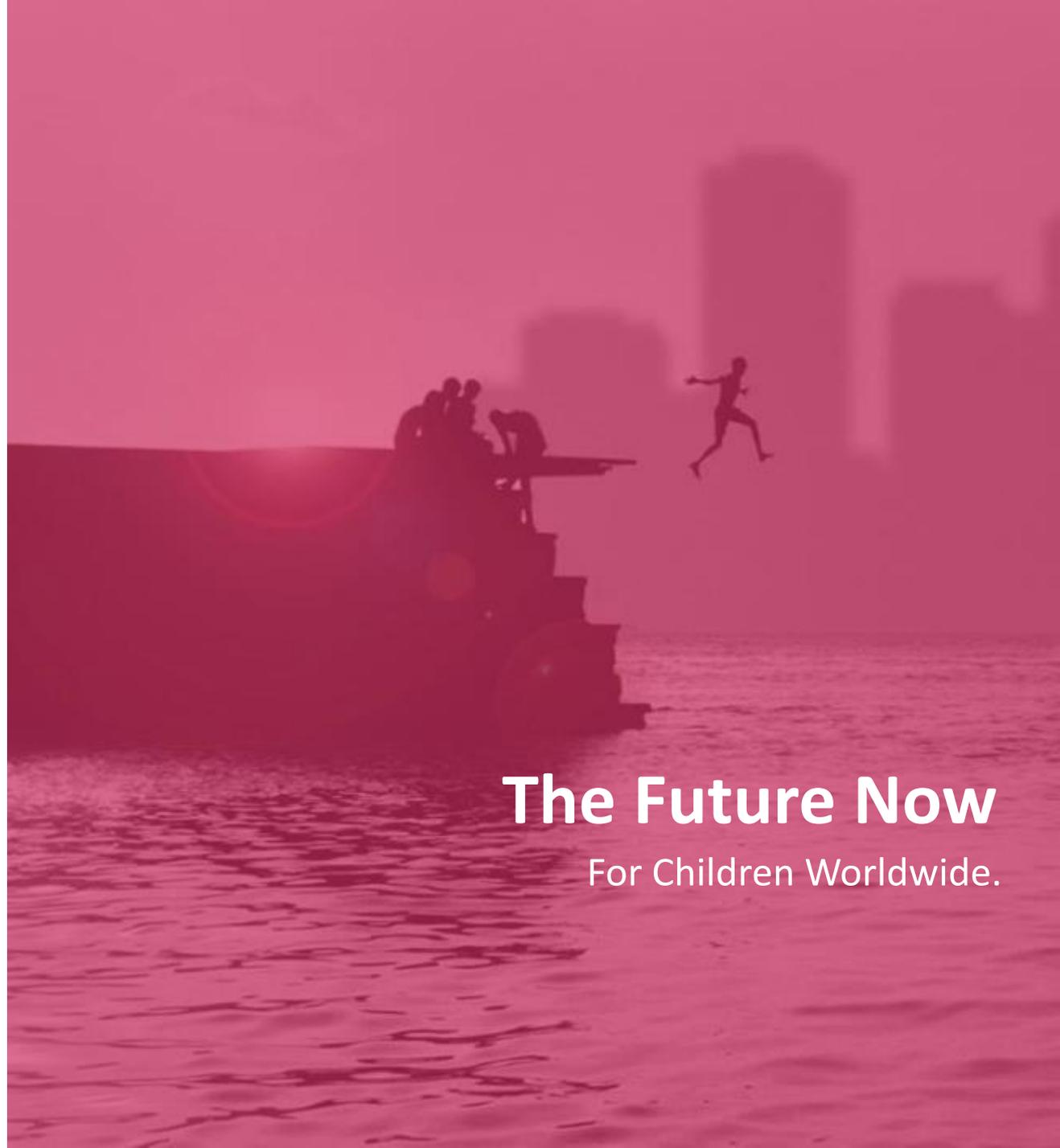
Racey Muchilwa, Head Sub Saharan Africa

**Online information
session CDF call**

fondation
BOTNAR

Beatrice Schibler

09 July 2020



The Future Now

For Children Worldwide.

Who we are

- * A philanthropic foundation established in 2003.
- * Based in Basel, Switzerland.
- * Creating a better tomorrow for all children by investing in emerging solutions today.
- * Core purpose of improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people in growing urban environments globally.
- * Continuing the Botnar family's philanthropic legacy through the foundation strategy and targeted legacy investments.
- * Equal partnering with recipient institutions.



Where we invest

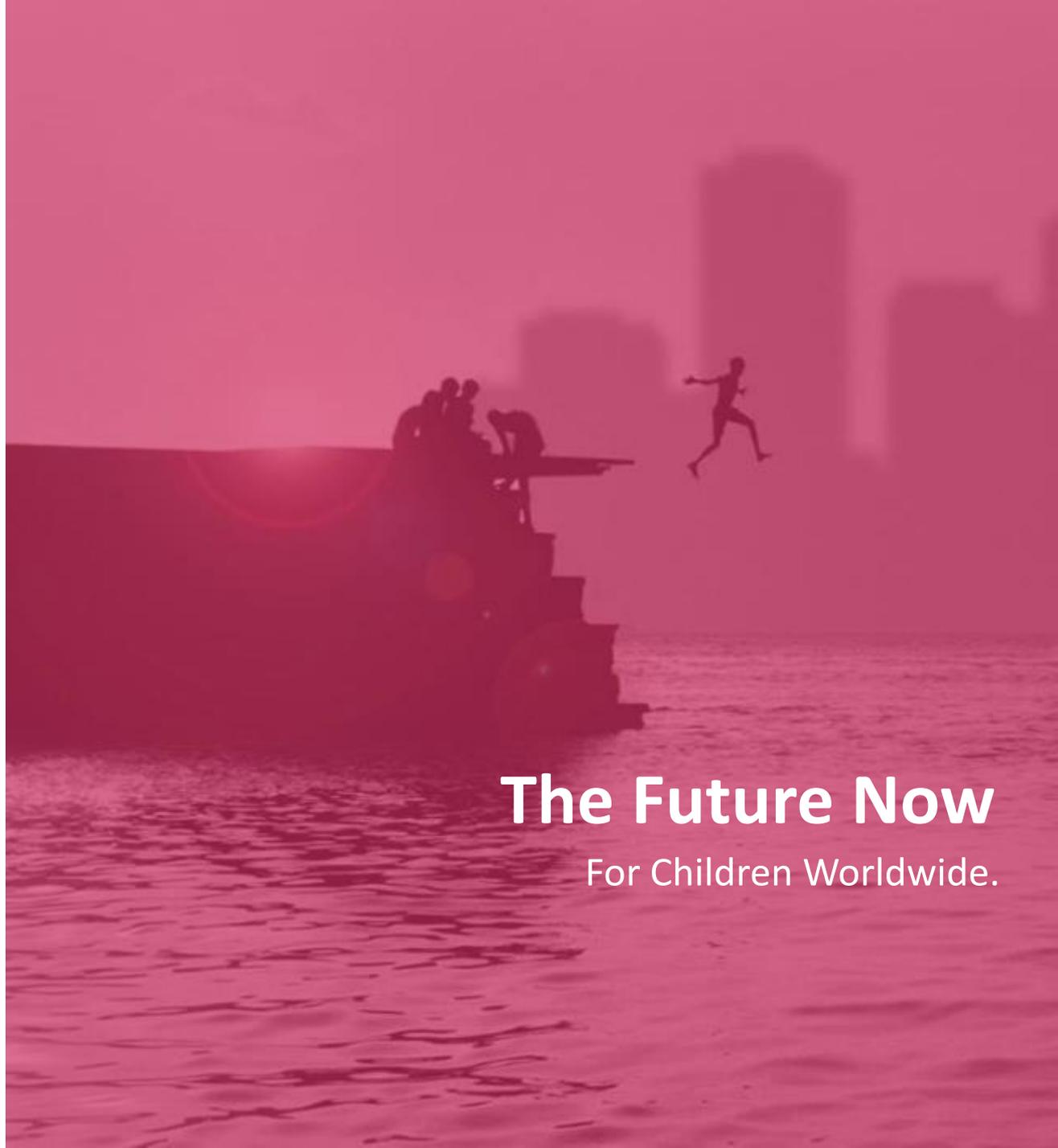
Selected four impact themes as the core areas where our funding allocation is made:

- * Artificial intelligence for child wellbeing
- * Cities fit for children
- * Research for children
- * Promoting new ideas



foundation
BOTNAR

foundation
BOTNAR



The Future Now

For Children Worldwide.

EDCTP Fellowship programme

EDCTP-AREF Preparatory Fellowships

Objective: to enhance the competitiveness of up-and-coming post-doctoral sub-Saharan African scientists and clinicians aspiring to receive international/ regional/ national fellowships or grant support.

Clinical Research and Development Fellowships

Objective: to offer researchers and key members of clinical research teams the opportunity to acquire technical and project skills in clinical R&D through placement in pharmaceutical companies, PDPs and CROs.

Career Development Fellowships

Objective: to support early and mid-career scientists to develop their individual clinical research skills, providing an opportunity for talented scientists to establish themselves as independent researchers and team leaders.

Senior Fellowships

Objective: to support experienced researchers to advance themselves as leaders in clinical product development and closely related fields while also training and mentoring junior researchers.

Senior Fellowships Plus

Objective: to support capacity development of potential African research leaders and to mentor junior researchers with emphasis on hands-on research training linked to clinical trial activities conducted in sub-Saharan Africa.

EDCTP2 Fellowships

2014-2019

By type



- Senior Fellowships, 39 grants
€19.20 M
- Career Development Fellowships, 69 grants
€10.07 M
- Clinical R&D Fellowships, 15 grants
€1.40 M
- EDCTP-AREF Preparatory Fellowships, 7 grants
€0.43 M

By gender



81

Male fellows



49

Female fellows

EDCTP2 Fellowships

2014-2019

By country

Mali

- 1 fellow
- 2 fellows
- 1 fellow

Senegal

- 1 fellow
- 2 fellows

Burkina Faso

- 3 fellows
- 2 fellows
- 1 fellow

Cote d'Ivoire

- 1 fellow

Ghana

- 5 fellows
- 5 fellows
- 1 fellow

Nigeria

- 4 fellows
- 2 fellows
- 1 fellow

Cameroon

- 3 fellows
- 1 fellow

Gabon

- 2 fellows
- 1 fellow

Namibia

- 1 fellow

South Africa

- 13 fellows
- 15 fellows
- 1 fellow

Botswana

- 2 fellows

Sudan

- 1 fellow

Uganda

- 7 fellows
- 12 fellows
- 1 fellow

Tanzania

- 4 fellows
- 6 fellows
- 2 fellows
- 1 fellow

Mozambique

- 1 fellow

Zambia

- 1 fellow
- 2 fellows

Ethiopia

- 1 fellow
- 1 fellow
- 3 fellows

Kenya

- 2 fellows
- 8 fellows
- 1 fellow

Malawi

- 1 fellow

Zimbabwe

- 1 fellow
- 1 fellow
- 1 fellow
- 1 fellow

Senior Fellowship

Career Development Fellowship

Clinical R&D Fellowship

EDCTP-AREF Fellowship

EDCTP Alumni network

- The EDCTP Alumni network and its online platform for former and current EDCTP fellows were created to support the networking of African researchers, bringing them together in various phases of their career.
 - The Alumni network platform makes publicly accessible the professional profiles of current and former EDCTP fellows and facilitates their collaboration, including in working groups on HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected or emerging infectious diseases.
-

EDCTP Alumni network

<https://edctpalumninetwork.org/>

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About the EDCTP Alumni Network

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The call text and eligibility criteria

Career Development Fellowships in poverty-related diseases and child and adolescent health: TMA2020CDF

- **Type of action:** Training & Mobility Action (TMA)
- **Close date:** 05 August 2020, 17:00 CEST (Amsterdam time)
- **Call budget:** €3.75 million
- **Expected number of grants:** 16-25
- **Budget:** €150,000 per proposal (3-year duration)

Aim of the Call

For many young scientists in developing countries the transition from doctoral qualification to becoming an established, independent researcher is very difficult due to a lack of sustainable research funding and limited access to established research networks.

The objectives of this Call are:

1. **to promote retention** of postdoctoral researchers and postgraduate medical researchers in the clinical or field research areas of sub-Saharan Africa;
2. to equip the fellows to **establish themselves as independent researchers** with the ability to establish their own research teams at host institutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

Scope of the call- part I

- The purpose of this Call for Proposals is to **support early- to mid-career researchers** (“fellows”) by providing them with opportunities to **train and develop their clinical research skills**.
- Proposals should **enhance the ability of the fellow to design, plan and execute** clinical biomedical and/or social science/ethics research projects within the scope of the EDCTP2 programme (including covid-19) and its cofunders.

Scope of the call – part II

- Proposals should include an **independent research activity** to be conducted by the fellow and a clear description of the skills that will be acquired by carrying out the research.
- Individuals targeted by this Call for Proposals should have a **track record of publications** in peer-reviewed journals in their chosen area of research; a **mentor** at their host organisation who is an internationally recognised scientific leader working in sub-Saharan Africa; and a **career development plan** as part of the research proposal.
- Applicants must also show how their proposals will address geographical and gender imbalances in areas of sub-Saharan Africa that are highly burdened with MCAH problems but are still weak in attracting research grants.

Scope of the call – part III

- Proposals for an EDCTP Career Development Fellowship must be submitted by the prospective fellow in conjunction with and on behalf of their **proposed host organisation** (hereinafter 'the applicant legal entity').
- The grants are awarded to the host organisation with the **explicit commitment** that this organisation offers appropriate conditions for the career development fellow to direct and manage its funding for the duration of the fellowship.
- Fellows can only be funded once under this grant scheme.
- The **maximum duration** of the proposed action is **36 months**, with a foreseen start of the action no later than 1 October 2021.
- Proposals from **women** are encouraged.

Expected Impacts

Projects funded under this Call for Proposals should:

- contribute towards the achievement of SDG3 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages'
- promote **career progression** of researchers in Africa
- encourage **entry and reintegration** of African scientists trained abroad and
- enable the **retention** of postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers in their respective research fields and that the researchers **develop into independent researchers and team leaders** at host institutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

Ultimately these grants will contribute to the generation of a critical mass of clinical or field/social science/ethics researchers and institutional research capacity in sub-Saharan Africa.

What diseases are in scope?- EDCTP

In the EDCTP2 programme, “poverty-related diseases (PRDs)” include

- HIV/AIDS,
- malaria,
- Tuberculosis,
- Neglected infectious diseases (NIDs): dengue/severe dengue; rabies; human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness); leishmaniasis; cysticercosis/taeniasis; dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease); echinococcosis; foodborne trematodiasis; lymphatic filariasis; mycetoma; onchocerciasis (river blindness); schistosomiasis; soil-transmitted helminthiasis; Buruli ulcer; leprosy (Hansen disease); trachoma; yaws
- diarrhoeal infections,
- lower respiratory infections,
- emerging infectious diseases of particular relevance for Africa, such as Ebola or yellow fever,
- Due to the extraordinary global crisis of COVID-19 that is also affecting African countries, this topic should also be considered by applicants.
- Co-infections and co-morbidities associated with diseases in the scope are included

What diseases are in scope?- Fondation Botnar and Novartis

The remit of the call is expanded beyond the EDCTP standard remit to incorporate the focus areas of two organisations that provide cofunding: Fondation Botnar and Novartis.

- Fondation Botnar will co-fund this call for proposals conducting **research in the area of child and adolescent health and wellbeing**. Fondation Botnar encourages research proposals aimed at improving the wellbeing of adolescents suffering from PRDs (e.g. mental health, malnutrition) through the development, validation and/or implementation of new solutions. In keeping with its strategy and approach, Fondation Botnar wishes to support applications **aiming to exploit scalable and sustainable Artificial Intelligence and digital technologies** in urban environments.
- Novartis International AG aims to co-fund this call for proposals conducting research **in the area of maternal and child health on the interaction between PRDs and non-communicable diseases** (NCDs, including e.g. sickle cell disease). The contribution from Novartis aims to address a shortage of suitably trained mid-career researchers in sub-Saharan Africa working on maternal and child health in the context of a growing double burden of infectious diseases, malnutrition, and child and maternal mortality, in addition to emerging challenges of NCDs.



Q: We are inquiring about the specific area of funding (study population) for this call. Are adult populations eligible as we note that the call seems to be addressing MCAH?

A: Although MCAH is mentioned specifically other age groups can be studied and are in scope of this call.

Applicants should justify the choice of study population and should take into consideration sex and gender differences in the research



Q: Does this programme accept applications for animal model/pre-clinical research of poverty associated infectious diseases?

A: EDCTP's scope is on clinical and implementation research. Therefore applications focusing solely on animal models are outside the scope.

Pre-clinical research (such as basic laboratory research) may be considered to fit the scope where it is clear that the questions being addressed have direct clinical relevance. We advise that you include some elements into the proposal that clearly establish the link with the clinic to make sure the proposal can be competitive.



Q: I am planning a malaria study which has a covid-19 component incorporated. Will this still be eligible given that EDCTP had done some rapid funding of COVID-19 related research recently?

A: Yes as per the call text: *Due to the extraordinary global crisis of COVID-19 that is also affecting African countries, this topic should also be considered by applicants.*

Type of study



Q: What types of research studies can be funded under this call and can the studies be part of a larger study that is already funded?

A: Studies supported under the Career Development Fellowship (CDF) scheme must be new and discrete research and training activities conducted by the fellow that are not already funded elsewhere.

The CDF may comprise a sub-study of or be embedded/linked to a larger study that is already funded. However, the CDF must cover new and specific activities that are not already funded in the larger study. The relationship between the CDF and the larger study must be explained clearly in the EDCTP application. EDCTP may request the full details of the related study to verify no overlap in funding

Type of study



Q: Are specific study designs eligible, i.e. would systematic reviews and ethnographic (qualitative) research methods be considered?

A: Yes – different research methods are in scope as long as they serve as an appropriate methodology to answer a research question in line with the scope of the call.

The reviewers will evaluate how well a proposal aligns with the purpose of the call and the review criteria.

Systematic reviews on their own are unlikely to fulfil the call scope (three-year fellowship)

Type of study



Q: I am interested in responding to the call and I am wondering whether it is restricted to human clinical trial studies only or even epidemiology or surveillance is acceptable?

A: The call text states that the purpose of the call is for fellows to train and develop their clinical research skills and later on it defines this as clinical biomedical and/or social science/ethics research projects within the scope of the EDCTP2 programme.

An epidemiological or surveillance type of study could be considered to be in scope as long as it covers one of the funders diseases of interest and aims to answer a research question; this will be evaluated by the reviewers.

Eligibility criteria – Call text - I

A proposal/application will only be considered **eligible** if:

1. its content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the topic/contest description for which it is submitted;
2. it complies with the eligibility conditions for participation set out below, depending on the type of action:

- The applicant must be a legal entity established in sub-Saharan Africa (the applicant legal entity).
- The fellow must be employed or have guaranteed employment by the applicant legal entity (the host organisation) where they intend to remain working for a minimum of two years after the expiration of the grant.

Eligibility criteria – Call text - II

- The applying fellow must:
 - be a resident of or be willing to relocate to a sub-Saharan African country;
 - be either a graduate in a subject relevant to the EDCTP2 programme, with a PhD and up to five years' relevant postdoctoral research experience, or a medical doctor with up to five years' research experience;
 - have at least one publication in an international peer-reviewed journal;
 - not have been funded under this fellowship scheme before.
- The requested EDCTP2 contribution per action shall not exceed EUR 150,000. This includes indirect costs of 25%.
- The maximum fellowship duration shall be 36 months.

Eligibility criteria – Call text - I

A proposal/application will only be considered **eligible** if:

1. its content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the topic/contest description for which it is submitted;
2. it complies with the eligibility conditions for participation set out below, depending on the type of action:

- **The applicant must be a legal entity established in sub-Saharan Africa (the applicant legal entity). The entity must be registered in SSA.**
- **The fellow must be employed or have guaranteed employment by the applicant legal entity (the host organisation) where they intend to remain working for a minimum of two years after the expiration of the grant. The support letter must demonstrate commitment to employ the fellow during and for a minimum of two years after the fellowship**

Host organisation



Q: I am at the moment based as a postdoc fellow in Australia. I am Malawian by resident, and I would like to apply for the fellowship program. Is there a room to host by my current university in Australia with frequent trips to the study country?

A: No this is not possible, as the host legal entity must be established in sub-Saharan Africa and the fellow is expected to be based in and working in the institution in sub-Saharan Africa

Host organisation



Q: How many participating organisations can I have on my application?

A: Just one, the host organisation

Host organisation



Q: For this fellowship programme a supporting letter from the host organisation is a requirement. What statements must be included in such a letter to be acceptable?

A: The support letter must include the following points:

- confirmation that the fellow is a current (or prospective) employee of the host organisation (details of contract duration should be included);
- confirmation that the host organisation (employer) supports this fellowship application;
- confirmation that the fellow is fully eligible in accordance with the criteria as set out in the 'call text';
- confirmation that the fellow will be supported with a leave of absence for the duration of the fellowship;
- confirmation that the fellow has the ability to successfully undertake the training he/she is applying for;
- details on how the fellowship will enhance the career development of the fellow;
- explanation of how the proposed training will strengthen the host organisation's capacity to conduct clinical research upon return of the fellow;
- confirmation that the fellow will have a similar position at the host organisation once the fellowship has been completed for a minimum of two years after the expiration of the grant.



Q: Should I be employed by the host institution to apply for this grant scheme?

A: No, you do not need to be employed at the host institution at the time of application submission, but you must be a resident of or be willing to relocate to the host institution in a sub-Saharan African country during the duration of the fellowship. Furthermore, if your application is successful the host organisation must employ you during the fellowship and for two years post fellowship.



Q: Is there room for researchers who want to set up their own lab as opposed to being attached to any given university?

The host organisation must be a legal entity established in SSA as per the eligibility criteria. This is not by definition a university although this is often the case. The legal entity will be reviewed for their capacity to support the fellowship and the fellow must be employed or have guaranteed employment by the legal entity where they intend to remain working for a minimum of two years after the expiration of the grant

Host organisation and place of work



Q: I am from Country A but am based in Country B. I have identified a suitable Mentor who is based in Country C. I would like to carry out my work in Country A with the host institution based in Country C where the mentor is. Is this allowed or I would limit my chances of success?

A: The host organisation to sign the contract will be based in Country C yet the work would be performed in Country A. Please note that all funds would go to the host in Country C and therefore on a practical level this may be very difficult to do. Also one of the objectives of the fellowship is *'to equip the fellows to establish themselves as independent researchers with ability to establish their own research teams at host institutions in sub-Saharan Africa'*. The latter part may be difficult if you are in Country A doing your research.

Eligibility criteria – Call text - II

- The applying fellow must:
 - **be a resident of or be willing to relocate to a sub-Saharan African country;**
 - be either a graduate in a subject relevant to the EDCTP2 programme, with a PhD and up to five years' relevant postdoctoral research experience, or a medical doctor with up to five years' research experience;
 - have at least one publication in an international peer-reviewed journal;
 - not have been funded under this fellowship scheme before.
- The requested EDCTP2 contribution per action shall not exceed EUR 150,000. This includes indirect costs of 25%.
- The maximum fellowship duration shall be 36 months.



Q: Can a Sub Saharan Africa Permanent Resident (but EU citizen) apply?

A: Anyone can apply regardless of their nationality as long as they are a resident of or are willing to relocate to a sub-Saharan African country

AND

There is a sub-Saharan based legal entity that acts as the host organisation, is the employer of the fellow and guarantees to employ the fellow for a minimum of 2 years post-fellowship.

Eligibility criteria – Call text - II

- The applying fellow must:
 - be a resident of or be willing to relocate to a sub-Saharan African country;
 - **be either a graduate in a subject relevant to the EDCTP2 programme, with a PhD and up to five years' relevant postdoctoral research experience, or a medical doctor with up to five years' research experience;**
 - have at least one publication in an international peer-reviewed journal;
 - not have been funded under this fellowship scheme before.
- The requested EDCTP2 contribution per action shall not exceed EUR 150,000. This includes indirect costs of 25%.
- The maximum fellowship duration shall be 36 months.

Eligibility & research experience - Medical doctors versus PhDs

For this grant scheme, the applicant must not have more than five years research experience at the time of the deadline.

- If you are a medical doctor, you must count the number of years of your research experience from the date of your first medical qualification.
- However, if you are not a medical doctor, then you must count the number of years of your research experience from the date of your PhD.
- If you are a medical doctor who also has a PhD, the years of research experience are counted from the date of your first medical qualification, not from the date when you received your PhD. The years when you were conducting your PhD are counted as research experience.

Eligibility - Degrees and research experience

- Research experience is counted from the date the call closes (5th August 2020). Therefore you must always provide the month and year in which your degree was obtained on your CV
- Degree obtained = date of graduation. Date on your MD/PhD diploma
- Evidence of degrees requested upon invitation, if successful.

Eligibility - Research experience continued

- Part-time research experience should be counted pro-rata. If you took any breaks in your career, in the proposal you will need to explain how you counted your research experience years.
 - You will need to reflect the length of the break(s) and the length of your research experience in the projects in which you were involved (if applicable) in each calendar year.
- Each applicant must explain clearly making reference to their CVs, how they calculated the number of years of research experience.
- **We do not guess. The information provided must be clear.**

Research experience



Q: I graduated my PhD in 2011 and then did a 2 yr postdoc from which I went into NGO employment for 5 years. I am now back in academia and teaching at the University, my question is based on the year post-PhD, am I still eligible?

A: EDCTP considers research experience to be any professional or academic research activities conducted in the public or private sector. The time spent doing a PhD is counted as research experience for medical doctors. Part-time research experience should be counted pro-rata. Each applicant must explain clearly making reference to their CVs, how they calculated the number of years of research experience.

Research experience



Q: I am writing to ask whether I qualify for this call. I have seen the eligibility - postdocs up to five years after completing their PhD. I completed my Ph.D. on February 3, 2015 (just 5 year) and wanted to be sure that I am eligible to apply. Can you please confirm?

A: We count time from the date the call closes (5 August 2020) which would give you around five and a half years of research experience post your degree. We are very strict in interpreting the maximum of 5 years as we have to make sure we apply the criteria equally to all. So this means that unfortunately you are just not eligible for this scheme.



Q: I would like to submit a proposal to this call. I have just submitted my PhD thesis (for final examination. Am I eligible?

A: Please note that only people that have a PhD (or MD) at the time the call closes (deadline is 5 August) are eligible for this call. So whether you are eligible for this criteria depends whether you have defended your thesis and have your degree by this date. If not, then unfortunately you are not eligible yet for this scheme.

Experience



Q: One of the requirement states that the applicant must be a graduate in a subject relevant to the EDCTP2 programme. My PhD degree is in Cell Biology. The knowledge I gained during my PhD is the basis for my current research interest which is to develop novel antibiotics targeting genome stability of pathogens that cause neglected tropical diseases; kindly clarify if I meet this requirement?

A: Please note that it is up to the reviewers to assess whether your background and research experience is a good fit with your proposed fellowship proposal so we advise you to make your case as to how your skills are transferable. In addition, make sure the proposal contains a clear link with clinical biomedical research as the call text mentions clinical biomedical and/or social science/ethics research projects within the scope of the EDCTP2 programme and your proposal will be assessed as whether it is a good fit to this.



Q: Is some level of post-doctoral experience a requirement? Or is it just from 0-5 years?

A: Assuming you obtained your PhD degree and are not a medical doctor, there is no requirement to have some level of postdoctoral experience, as long as you have your PhD degree obtained by the call deadline. Reviewers may consider you at an early stage in your career if you would have just obtained your PhD and it would be good to try and make your proposal as competitive as possible.

Eligibility criteria – Call text - II

- The applying fellow must:
 - be a resident of or be willing to relocate to a sub-Saharan African country;
 - be either a graduate in a subject relevant to the EDCTP2 programme, with a PhD and up to five years' relevant postdoctoral research experience, or a medical doctor with up to five years' research experience;
 - **have at least one publication in an international peer-reviewed journal;**
 - not have been funded under this fellowship scheme before.
- The requested EDCTP2 contribution per action shall not exceed EUR 150,000. This includes indirect costs of 25%.
- The maximum fellowship duration shall be 36 months.



Q: Having some relevant publications in the area of my proposal is not clear to me. Must the listed publications exactly address the proposal's topic?

A: There is no requirement that the publications exactly match the proposal's topic. However, what must be clear from the application is that with the applicant's existing skill set and any additional trainings identified, including the supporting environment of the host organisation and the mentor, the applicant can successfully complete the project. This will be assessed by the reviewers.

Eligibility criteria – Call text - II

- The applying fellow must:
 - be a resident of or be willing to relocate to a sub-Saharan African country;
 - be either a graduate in a subject relevant to the EDCTP2 programme, with a PhD and up to five years' relevant postdoctoral research experience, or a medical doctor with up to five years' research experience;
 - have at least one publication in an international peer-reviewed journal;
 - **not have been funded under this fellowship scheme before.**
- The requested EDCTP2 contribution per action shall not exceed EUR 150,000. This includes indirect costs of 25%.
- The maximum fellowship duration shall be 36 months.



Q: I am a holder of a career development fellowship from EDCTP ending this year. Can I submit an additional application for this grant scheme?

A: No. Fellows can only be funded once under this grant scheme.

Eligibility criteria – Call text - II

- The applying fellow must:
 - be a resident of or be willing to relocate to a sub-Saharan African country;
 - be either a graduate in a subject relevant to the EDCTP2 programme, with a PhD and up to five years' relevant postdoctoral research experience, or a medical doctor with up to five years' research experience;
 - have at least one publication in an international peer-reviewed journal;
 - not have been funded under this fellowship scheme before.
- **The requested EDCTP2 contribution per action shall not exceed EUR 150,000. This includes indirect costs of 25%.**
- **The maximum fellowship duration shall be 36 months.**



Q: What is meant by “The requested EDCTP contribution per action should not exceed EUR 150,000? Does this mean a budget line activity can not exceed this amount?

A: It means that the total budget of the application, including indirect costs, cannot exceed 150,000 euro.



Q: Is there a percentage limit on salary costs?

A: There is no limit but costs are expected to be in line with salaries provided to researchers at their career level and in line with the activities and time commitment described.



Q: Requesting for more information about pro-rata funding. I am planning to return to Africa so I have to apply for funding to cover both my salary and project costs. The salary takes a big chunk of the money. Therefore, I am considering to apply for salary for only 27 months - what is the maximum funding I can apply for i.e would it be 100K or 150K?

A: It is expected that you adjust the budget pro-rata.



Q: I would like to confirm if the call is able to fund the actual studies and not individuals. I am aware that the fellowships fund studentships only, would this include funds for the actual studies?

A: The budget for this fellowship is usually divided between funds needed to support the salary of the fellow (and other personnel) and funds spent on the research study proposed. The budget justification section can be used to explain the allocation of costs.



Q: What is the maximum duration of a career development fellowship?

A: The maximum duration of a career development fellowship is 36 months, with a foreseen start of the action no later than 1 October 2021. If you apply for a shorter time period, then you should adjust the budget pro-rata. For example, if you apply for 24 months support then the budget request should be 100,000 EUR maximum.

Mentorship

Individuals targeted by this Call for Proposals should have a **mentor** at their host organisation who is an internationally recognised scientific leader working in sub-Saharan Africa



Q: Is it compulsory to have a mentor for this fellowship programme? Should the mentor be employed at the host institution or would it be acceptable to appoint a mentor at my previous employing organisation?

A: Yes, it is compulsory to have a mentor for this programme. The mentor should be an internationally recognised scientific leader working at the same institution as the fellow in sub-Saharan Africa, who has agreed to provide support and advice during the fellowship. You should upload a letter of support signed by the Mentor, giving details of the support to be provided during the grant. The letter should also indicate the Mentor's input into the preparation of the application.

In exceptional cases it may happen that the most suitable mentor is not based at the host institution. In such cases we recommend that the mentor explains in their letter how mentorship will occur, and we recommend that the fellow finds an additional mentor at their host institution. Both support letters can be uploaded as one package in the online application.



Q: Is there a possibility of having two mentors due to the subject matter of interest straddling two scientific disciplines and lack of ONE highly qualified person in both aspects from the host institution?

A: Yes in exceptional cases this is possible if the relevant experience cannot be found in one individual. For the purpose of the application form only one primary mentor can be named but the applicant can explain the need for an additional mentor in their application. In such cases we recommend that the mentors explain in their letters how mentorship will occur. Both support letters can be uploaded as one package in the online application.



Q: Can mentors be people with experience in the general area of the proposal topic but not very specific to the proposal topic itself?

A: We advise you to find the best possible mentor that you can identify. We would expect this person to have some affinity with the area of your proposal to be able to mentor you well. Besides their experience, their commitment to mentor you is also an important factor than can be identified from their support letter. Ultimately it is up to the reviewers of the call to judge this aspect of your application.

3

Evaluation procedures

Evaluation procedure

- Following an admissibility and eligibility check, proposals are evaluated by **external, independent experts**. Proposals are evaluated according to **the criteria Excellence, Impact and Implementation**.
- Each criterion will be scored out of 5. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10.
- For all proposals involving human participants, and/or human tissues, cells or personal data, the evaluation process will include an assessment of ethical issues.

Excellence

- **Fit** with the scope and objectives of the EDCTP2 programme, the EDCTP Association strategic research agenda and the call topic description.
- **Importance, relevance/pertinence and clarity of the objectives.**
- **Soundness of the concept** and credibility of the proposed approach/methodology.
- **Suitability of the candidate**, considering their track record, degree of independence and/or potential, and how the fellowship will further the individual's career.
- Quality of the project and its **fit with the fellow's expertise and career development plan**, including acquired competencies and skills to be developed further.
- **Quality** of the **mentorship** and/or **training plan**.

Impact

- Call specific aspects as listed under 'expected impact' in each individual call.
- The extent to which the outputs of the proposed work would contribute, at the European, African and/or international level, to each of the expected impacts listed in the work plan under the relevant topic.
- Likelihood to result in major advances in the field with the potential benefit of the research to the affected populations.
- **Advancing** the fellow's clinical research skills and career development.
- Contribution to the **development of research independence** and/or scientific leadership.
- Contribution to **strengthening clinical research capacity** at the home or host organisation.
- Effectiveness of the proposed measures to **exploit and disseminate results** generated during the fellowship (including management of IPR), to communicate the fellowship activities, and, where relevant, to manage clinical data.
- **Sustainability and retention of capacity** beyond the end of the grant.

Quality and efficiency of Implementation

- **Quality and effectiveness of the work plan**, including the extent to which the **resources** assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables.
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including **risk** and innovation **management**, and how responsibilities for research data quality and sharing, and security will be met.
- Complementarity of the participants within the consortium, and the extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise.
- Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.
- **Feasibility and appropriateness of the methods** and project management to achieve the objectives within the **timeframe of the grant**.
- **Compliance** with national and international standards of research, Good Clinical Practice, ethics and safety-related issues.
- Participants have the **operational capacity**, to carry out the proposed work, based on the **competence and experience** of the individual participant(s).
- **Suitability** of the fellow's **home and/or host organisation** to support the fellowship project.
- The **intention** of the fellow's home organisation to **develop and commit to a career post-fellowship** or re-integration plan.

(Grant) agreement

- Grant agreement
The legal entity employing the successful fellow ('host organisation') will be required to sign a General EDCTP2 [mono-beneficiary grant agreement with options for fellowships](#).
- Applicant legal entities (host organisations) selected for funding from this Call for Proposals will be required to conclude an employment agreement with the fellows prior to the conclusion of the EDCTP2 grant agreement.

4

The application process including tips on preparing your application

Submission of proposals

- The application must be submitted online via [EDCTPgrants](#)
- We do not accept any other method of submission

- A user account is needed



EDCTP

The Power of Sharing Science

GRANTS



The goal of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) is to reduce the social and economic burden of poverty-related diseases in developing countries, in particular sub-Saharan Africa, by accelerating the clinical development of effective, safe, accessible, suitable and affordable medical interventions for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected infectious diseases.

Find out more about our grant opportunities by registering or signing in below.

If you are experiencing difficulties please contact EDCTP by emailing EDCTPgrants@edctp.org or calling +31 (0) 70 344 08 80.

Existing Users

Please log in to access your account.

Email

Password

Login

[Forgot Password?](#)

New users

Please register with us to create your account using your email address.

Register

[System Help](#)

Resources available

- <https://www.edctp.org/funding/templates-and-guidelines/>

[HOME](#) / [FUNDING](#) / GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS: TEMPLATES, GUIDES AND POLICIES

Guidance for applicants: templates, guides and policies

All templates, guides, reference and legal documents, necessary for an application to EDCTP Calls for proposals will be accessible via this page after the 2020 calls are published on the website.

Please consult these documents thoroughly before sending questions to EDCTP. On a general note of advice, please do not wait to apply until the last days or moments before the call will close.

[Templates](#) [Guidelines](#) [Budget](#) [Legal](#) [Questions](#)

Templates for application

The templates can be used to prepare for the completion of the online application forms.

- [RIA2020 full proposal template](#) (Word)
- [CSA2020ERC Ethics & Regulatory proposal application form template](#) (Word)
- [CSA2020 EDCTP Regional Networks application form](#) (Word)
- [CSA2020E Capacity development emergency response \(Africa CDC\) application form](#) (Word)
- [TMA2020 Career Development Fellowship](#) (Word)
- [Template for essential information regarding clinical studies](#) (Word)

Word template available

The image shows a Microsoft Word document template for an EDCTP Application Form. The left sidebar contains a navigation pane with the following table of contents:

- Title of Proposal
- Table Of Contents
- 1. Administrative Data of Organisation
- 2. Summary Information
- 3. Excellence
- 4. Impact
- 5. References
- 6. Implementation
- 7. Work Plan
- 8. Work Packages
 - List of Deliverables from Work packages, ch...
 - List of Milestones from Work packages, chr...
- 9. Risk Management
- 10. Budget
- 11. Budget Justification
- 12. Supporting Information and Related Applicati...
- 13. Ethics Issues Table
- 14. Declarations
- 15. Attachments
- Appendices

The main content area displays the EDCTP logo (The power of sharing science) and the title 'EDCTP Application Form – TMA Career Development Fellowships'. Below the title, there are three sections with placeholder text:

- Title of Proposal**
«Grant Title»
- Acronym**
«Acronym»
- Coordinator**
«LeadApplicantName»
«LeadApplicantInstitution»
«Lead Applicant Primary Address Country»
«Lead Applicant Gender»

Clinical studies template

Do you intend to conduct a clinical study within this project? Clinical study means any study where human subjects will be recruited and/or have already been recruited and are being followed?

1. Clinical trials and clinical intervention studies: studies which meet the broad definition used by the World Health Organization (WHO) for a clinical trial (http://www.who.int/topics/clinical_trials/en/), which includes all studies evaluating the impact of interventions on human participants: "any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes."

Interventions may include drugs, vaccines, cells and other biological products, surgical procedures, radiological procedures, devices including diagnostic devices, behavioural treatments, process-of-care changes, preventive care, or other treatments. Clinical trials at all stages, from Phase 1 to Phase 4, and global health trials are included in this policy.

2. Public health intervention studies: studies in which there is a public health intervention to promote or protect health, or prevent ill-health, in communities or populations rather than individuals.

3. Observational studies: studies in which the researcher assesses outcomes in groups of human participants according to a research protocol, in order to investigate the effects of lifestyle or behaviours, or interventions that are part of routine care and not influenced by the researcher.

If yes, download the template for essential information for proposals including clinical studies; once completed upload 'Completed' clinical studies essential information document as a pdf.

In case of doubt, if you are conducting any study where human subjects will be recruited and/or have already been recruited and are being followed, you must complete this template. Please complete a separate template for each clinical study you plan to conduct.

The template does not apply to studies on previously collected human tissues and samples.

Please note that if you answer no and fail to upload the template but EDCTP considers that you are conducting a clinical study then your application may be considered inadmissible.

Ethics self assessment

If you answer 'YES' to any of the question(s) in the Ethics Issues Table, you must upload a detailed Ethics Self-assessment document that follows the structure and guidance of the H2020 programme on '[How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#)', and which:

- Describes how the proposal meets the national legal and ethical requirements of the country or countries where the tasks raising ethical issues are to be carried out
- Explains in detail how you intend to address the issues in the ethical issues table, in particular as regards:
 - research objectives (e.g. study of vulnerable populations, dual use, etc.)
 - research methodology (e.g. clinical trials, involvement of children and related consent procedures, protection of any data collected, etc.)
 - the potential impact of the research (e.g. dual use issues, environmental damage, stigmatisation of particular social groups, political or financial retaliation, benefit-sharing, misuse, etc.).

Importantly, should you fail to provide an Ethics Self-assessment but EDCTP considers that your proposal involves ethical issues (for example, the study requires ethical approval, involves human subjects, samples or personal data collected from humans) then your application may be considered inadmissible.

Ethical approval



Q: In view of the time it takes to get ethical and regulatory approvals, and in any case to apply for these research approval documents one needs to pay fees. Please confirm if these approvals are compulsory, or I can still complete my application as long as I attach a completed ethics self - assessment document, and indicate the institutions where the approvals will be sought from?

A: This is fine, we do not expect that ethical approvals are already in place as this is contingent on getting the funding. Indeed you will describe in the ethics self-assessment document how you will address all ethical issues including the process for getting the approvals and all other ethical aspects that apply to your proposal. So having the approvals in place at time of submission of your application is not compulsory and you can proceed.

Personal information (including CV) is updated in user profile

- 31.8% complete
- Introduction
- Administrative data of organisation
- Summary Information
- Excellence
- Impact
- References
- Implementation
- Workplan
- Work Packages
- Risk Management
- Budget
- Budget Justification
- Supporting Information and Related Applications
- Ethics Issues Table

Fellow

Title	Dr	Nationality	Netherlander	Country	Netherlands
Forename(s)	Michelle Eva	Gender	Female	Date of Birth	01/01/1900
Surname	Helinski	Organisation	European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)		

Are your CV details in the EDCTPgrants account updated?

All applicants must update their profile to ensure that contact and up-to-date information populates the application form. If the substantially populated information is



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EDCTPGRANTS

Dr Michelle Eva Helinski

Home

My Applications

My Co-applications

My Grants

Manage:
Michelle Eva Helinski

My Details

Basic Information

Update CV

Change Email

Change Password

Contact Us

Logout

System Help

Manage My Details

This section allows you to maintain your personal information.

In [Basic Information](#) you can update personal details such as your name, institution, address and telephone number.

In [Update CV](#) you can edit your CV (last updated 21 November 2019) any changes you make will be shown in your applications.

In [Change Email](#) you can change the email address that we use to contact you (this will also change the address that you use to login).

In [Change Password](#) you can change the password that you use to login.

Other tips

- Address the various questions well, explanations are provided on what elements to consider for each section – use these
- Select a mentor who is active and makes time to provide guidance during the proposal writing to improve on your proposal.
- **Do not wait until the last minute to submit your proposal, there are no exceptions to missing the deadline!**

Tentative timelines

- Submission deadline 5 August
- Review of proposals (remote) experts: Aug and Sep
- Online review meeting to reach a consensus score and ranked list: Nov
- Decision approved by EDCTP Board and communicated to applicants: before 21 December



Q: Should I upload proof of my PhD or medical degree diploma?

A: No, this is not required at application stage. Instead, fellows invited to grant preparation will be requested to share a copy of their diploma(s) as evidence.



Q: I am currently applying while affiliated to a European University, but I am willing to relocate to Africa if I obtain the grant. What do I put in my CV details on EDCTP grants? My current affiliation or the African host organisation?

A: We recommend to put as your affiliation the African host organisation



Q: I am preparing my application for the 'Career Development Fellowships in poverty-related diseases and child and adolescent health" call. Is there a template or application format guidelines on the call document. I might have missed it?

A: Yes templates and guidance are available on our website:

<https://www.edctp.org/funding/templates-and-guidelines/>



Q: Please elaborate more on what I should include in the followings sections on the application form: proposal (5000 words), work plan, work packages, risk management. Especially so as not to duplicate too much information as these sections appear related?

A: Please read the guidance notes for each section to understand what should be covered. This is well explained and if you follow this it should avoid too much repetition.

5

Questions and Answers



Q: Can I spend time getting training outside the EU, and in this case, the USA?

A: It is possible to write your proposal with a training element in the USA. You will have to provide justification in your proposal as to why this institute was selected and what specific training/skills you will receive/develop there to advance your skills and how this then helps you to carry out the independent research activity.



Q: How can we have access to this competitive fellowship specially collaboration is so important, hence though we have a good project idea, unless we include senior professors we couldn't win the fund, so please do you have a consortium of senior supervisors?

A: EDCTP does not facilitate setting up these collaborations; it is expected that the fellow sets these up themselves

Two applications



Q: Can I submit more than one application to increase my chances of obtaining funding?

A: No, you can only submit one application



Good luck with your proposal

Thank you!

