

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



**E D C T P**

## **EDCTP Update**

August 2020

Supported by the European Union



### Highlights

- **[EDCTP3 - Draft proposal published](#)**
- **[EDCTP-funded study priMe receives EUR 30 million loan from EIB](#)**
- **[DSW policy paper: Unleashing Africa's Research Excellence](#)**

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## TREATS consortium launches COVID-19 study

A major TB study currently underway and aimed at investigating methods to reduce TB prevalence and infection in Zambia and South Africa will soon begin testing for COVID-19 using existing mobile TB testing facilities in the Bwacha - Ngungu community of Kabwe in Zambia.

The EDCTP-funded TREATS-COVID study coordinated by Dr Kwame Shanaube, will harness support from within the existing (also EDCTP-funded) TREATS study consortium. It is led by Zambart, a leading African research group, with European partners KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), and support from the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), Sheffield University, Oxford University and Delft Imaging.

The 18-month study will be nested within the ongoing TREATS study to measure the prevalence and spread of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) in Zambia working with one urban community with a target population of 28,000. The country has recorded 11,345 confirmed cases with 282 COVID-19 deaths (classified as 89 confirmed COVID-19 deaths and 191 COVID19 associated deaths), and two deaths pending classification as of 25 August 2020.

Read the [full TREATS press release](#)

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## EDCTP Annual Report 2019 published

*We can say with confidence that we are on track to meet our programme objectives. The ground is being laid not only for the introduction of new or improved medical interventions but also for national health research systems."*

Dr Michael Makanga, Executive Director



[EDCTP Annual Report 2019 - Steering the portfolio for impact](#) (Complete online report)

[Summary version of the Annual Report 2019](#) (PDF)

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## Draft proposal for third EDCTP programme published

On 05 August the European Commission published its [draft proposal for the Global Health Partnership EDCTP3](#). It gives the rationale and details of the third EDCTP programme, envisaged as one of the Partnerships under the upcoming Research and Innovation Framework Programme, Horizon Europe.

The objectives of the programme are:

- **Health interventions:** Evaluate new or improved health interventions against poverty-related infectious diseases and their interaction with non-communicable diseases.
- **Collaboration and capacity development:** Increase EU-Africa collaboration to build capacity to conduct clinical trials and implementation research according to ethical principles and regulatory standard.
- **European coordination:** Improve coordination, alignment, and integration of European national research programmes.
- **South-South collaboration:** Enhance scientific collaboration and international cooperation across sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Partnership building:** Increase international cooperation with public and private partners.
- **EU cooperation:** Increase interaction with other EU initiatives, including those linked to development assistance.

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## EDCTP3/Global Health Programme Africa consultation report

On 05 May 2020, member states of the African Union and relevant stakeholders, including grantees and scientific advisers outside Africa, were invited to participate in an online survey about the future orientation of the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP).

- The online survey form was completed by 150 people. Responses were received from 26 countries in Africa, 12 countries in Europe and one in America.
- Among the 130 participants who responded to the question about expertise in global health research, 59 indicated expertise in Epidemiology, 59 in Clinical trials, 58 in Public health, and 49 in Biomedical research.
- Political will and awareness through education were perceived as the most important drivers for advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Africa.
- Among the 115 participants that responded to the question about the benefit of EDCTP association membership, 89 (77.4%) considered membership to be beneficial to their countries.

[Read more in the report](#) by independent consultant Dr Michael Kahn.

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## DSW policy paper: Unleashing Africa's research excellence

The German [Global Health organisation DSW](#) published a new policy paper on the need to support global health research in Africa. At the European level, DSW focuses "on EU-Africa relations, advocating for a healthy and sustainable future free from poverty-related and neglected diseases thanks to global health research and innovation and where everyone can decide over their own body by securing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all."

[The policy paper stresses the need for Unleashing Africa's Research Excellence - Maximising Global Health R&I in Africa-EU Development Cooperation](#) "Global health research and innovation (GH R&I) is critical for Africa's prosperity - but health and health research are chronically underfunded across the continent."

EDCTP is mentioned as an example of successful R&I collaboration:

"a partnership of European and African countries and the EU to support the clinical development of effective, safe, accessible, suitable and affordable medical interventions for HIV & AIDS, TB, malaria and other PRNDs. Between 2014 and 2019, EDCTP awarded 605 million euros in grant funding, contributing to collaborative clinical research, strengthening epidemic preparedness, training hundreds of African researchers, and supporting research ethics review and regulatory affairs in 24 sub-Saharan African countries. Africa-EU cooperation was also critical to produce essential tools such as a vaccine against Ebola." DSW urges to support an ambitious EDCTP successor programme.

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## Sir Alimuddin Zumla receives 2020 Mahathir Science Award



On 18 August 2020, [the Mahathir Science Award Foundation and the Academy of Sciences Malaysia announced](#) that Professor Sir Alimuddin Zumla is the recipient of the 2020 Mahathir Science Award. It is the most prestigious international science award for tropical sciences.

Sir Alimuddin is Professor of Infectious Diseases and International Health at University College London, and a Consultant Infectious Diseases Physician at the UCL Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in London, the United Kingdom. The Mahathir Science Award comprises a gold medal, a certificate and \$100,000.

Professor Moses Bockarie, EDCTP Director of International Cooperation (Africa) and Head of Africa Office:

*"EDCTP warmly congratulates Professor Sir Alimuddin Zumla on this honour. He is a most valued contributor to the EDCTP partnership. He has served on the EDCTP Scientific Advisory Committee as Vice-Chair from 2014-2016 and participated in several EDCTP-funded projects. He has a major impact beyond academia."*

See also [EDCTP news item](#).

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## Recently signed grants

### [Mobilisation of funding for COVID-19 research in sub-Saharan Africa - 2020](#)

- **AIDCO** | Coordinator Prof. Ayola Akim Adegnika | Important data on COVID-19 profile in Africa
- **BCG-COVID-RTC** | Coordinator Dr Christine Stabell-Benn | BCG vaccine to reduce absenteeism due to infectious diseases of health workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. A multi-centre randomised controlled trial
- **CSIGN** | Coordinator Dr Michael Marks | COVID surveillance intensification in Ghana Network
- **Profile-COVID** | Coordinator Dr Dawit Wolday | Rapid diagnostic profiling of SARS-CoV-2 in the context of persistent immune activation in sub-Saharan Africa
- **RE-BCG-CoV-19** | Coordinator: Dr Andreas Diacon | BCG revaccination for healthcare workers in SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

- **TraCE** | Coordinator: Prof. Linda-Gail Bekker | Transmission of COVID-19 in crowded environments
- **TREATS-COVID** | Coordinator: Dr Kwame Shanaube | Understanding the epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 and the interrelation of COVID-19 with TB and HIV in Zambia

EDCTP organised a webinar for all grants funded under the COVID-19 emergency call in August during which the coordinators presented all projects.

#### [Ethics and regulatory capacities - 2019](#)

- **ZHRSSP** | Coordinator Prof. Victor Chalwe | The Zambia Health Research Systems strengthening project: working towards a harmonised regulatory framework

#### [EDCTP Career Development Fellowships - 2019](#)

- **2020 - RVA Nanokit** | Fellow: Dr Margaret Japhet | Improving paediatric diarrhoea management through development of nanoparticle-based rotavirus diarrhoea diagnostic kits and viral diarrhoea awareness to reduce diarrhoea morbidity/mortality

#### [AREF/EDCTP Preparatory Fellowships - 2019](#)

- **AGBBU** | Fellow: Dr Francis Zeukeng | Developing advanced Genomics and Bioinformatics skills and application to uncover route of transmission of Buruli ulcer in Africa
- **CyToVac** | Fellow: Dr Gyaviira Nkurunungi | How does exposure to helminths alter vaccine responses: employing cytometry by time-of-flight (CyToF) technology for high-resolution immunophenotyping of cellular pathways underpinning helminth-induced immunomodulation

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## Recent events

### **CONCVACT | online information meeting | 12/08 2020**

On 12 August 2020 Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) held an online information meeting on the Consortium for COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials ([CONCVACT](#)).

This initiative is part of the effort to make sure that clinical research on COVID-19 candidate treatments and vaccines involves African researchers and African populations. This is important in view of global genetic diversity of populations but also to make use of the large pool of African research talent. Moreover, as Prof. Salim Abdool Karim said, "Taking part in the global effort means having a seat at the table in a coalition of the willing."


Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP Exec. Director) expressed EDCTP's "full support" for the initiatives and showed the many ways in which the initiative "speaks to the core of our mission". Prof. Pontiano Kaleebu (Director of MRC/UVRI and the LSHTM Uganda Research Unit, Head - Pathogen Genomics, Phenotype and Immunity Programme) in his presentation and Dr Eusebio Macete (Director of the Manhica Health Research Centre, Mozambique) in his question, both pointed out the value of the EDCTP-funded Networks of Excellence. They coordinate the [Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical](#)




[Research](#) (EACCR2) and the [Trials of Excellence in Southern Africa](#), (TESA2), respectively. Dr Macete urged not to overlook the cross-border Networks of Excellence as they are already established.


Asked who should get involved, Prof Salim Abdool Karim, urged all research sites to get involved reminding everyone that "We are looking for capacity for efficacy trials." Basic epidemiological data has to be available but CONCVACT will support sites in checking their capacity. He urged all research sites which are ready to begin. "This virus is in charge; it is running ahead of us. We do not have the luxury of time. Speed is the defining feature of this epidemic."

**Information session on the Consortium for COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials (CONCVACT)**

 **Topic**  
Introduction to the CONCVACT and how clinical trial sites can join the CONCVACT network

 **Date:** Wednesday, 12 August 2020  
**Time:** 12:00-13:30 East African Time

Register and connect to the training through this link:  
[https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJYvf--orD0pGtDrvLJ4\\_T8qM10FeEHJHTHH](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJYvf--orD0pGtDrvLJ4_T8qM10FeEHJHTHH)

 French interpretation will be provided during the training




**Speakers**

Chair	Co-chairs	
 Dr. John Nkengasong, Director, Africa CDC	 Prof. Salim Abdool Karim, Director, CAPRISA	 Prof. Samba Sow, Director General, Center for Vaccine Development in Mali
 Prof. Pontiano Kaleebu, Director, MRC/Uganda Virus Research Institute and LSHTM Unit	 Dr. Nicaise Ndembi, Senior Science Advisor, Africa CDC	<b>Representatives from Partners (WHO, AU NEPAD, AVAREF, AAS, EDCTP, AVAC), Member States, Agencies (BMGF, CEPI, GAVI) and other Stakeholders</b>

[Webinar slides here](#)

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## Project news

### EXIT-TB | Publication | 20/03 2020

EXIT-TB is coordinated by Dr Esther S. Ngadaya from National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with partners from Ethiopia, Kenya, Norway, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.

The project conducts 'Translation research into policy and practice: scaling up evidence-based multiple focus integrated intensified TB screening to end TB in the East African Region'.

A paper was published: Mohammed H, Oljira L, Roba KT, et al. Burden of tuberculosis and challenges related to screening and diagnosis in Ethiopia. J Clin Tuberc Other Mycobact Dis. 2020;19:100158. [doi:10.1016/j.jctube.2020.100158](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jctube.2020.100158)

### PREV\_PKDL | General publication | 07/07 2020

Prof. Paul Kaye (University of York) published an interesting article on Pharmaphorum: '[Expanding research capacity into neglected tropical diseases](#)' about the

PREV-PKDL project 'Clinical development of a therapeutic vaccine for prevention of post-kala azar dermal leishmaniasis'. The EDCTP-funded project (EUR 8 million) is coordinated by Dr Sophie Houard from the European Vaccine Initiative.

### **PREGART | video Presentation of project | 05/08 2020**

The PREGART study published a [video presenting the project](#). The study - Safety and efficacy of dolutegravir and EFV400 for pregnant and breastfeeding women: a randomised non-inferiority clinical trial - is coordinated by Dr Birkneh Tadesse (Hawassa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) with partners from Italy, Sweden, and Uganda.



Safety and efficacy of Dolutegravir and EFV400  
for pregnant and breastfeeding women  
a randomized non-inferiority clinical trial



### **PREGART institutional project presentation**

EDCTP funded the study under its 2017 Call 'Clinical trials to reduce health inequities in pregnant women, newborns and children'. For [all projects of this call](#) see here.

### **PAMAfrica | Factsheet published | August 2020**

The PAMAfrica consortium - co-funded by EDCTP with more than EUR 21 million - pursues a 'Portfolio approach to developing the next generation of malaria treatments for Africa' is coordinated by Dr Tim Wells (Medicines for Malaria Venture) with partners in Burkina Faso, Gabon, Germany, Mozambique, Spain, Switzerland, and Uganda.

A short and comprehensive [fact sheet was published](#) in August 2020.

### **priMe | consortium secures important risk sharing loan from EIB | 28/08 2020**

The [European Investment Bank \(EIB\) agreed a EUR 30 million risk-sharing loan](#) with Vakzine Projekt Management GmbH (VPM, a subsidiary of the Serum Institute in India). VPM coordinates the priMe project, a multicentre phase III double-blind, randomised, controlled study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of VPM1002 in comparison to BCG, coordinated by Dr Leander Grode (VPM). Signature of the contract for the 'Sub-Saharan Africa TB and HIV mitigation programme (2019-0311)' between EIB & VPM took place on

27 August during a live online event.  
See the [VPM press release](#)

### **MIMVAC | Consortium partner Sanaria | August 2020**

Consortium partner Sanaria, part of EDCTP-funded MIMVaC Africa, is a [recipient of the 2020 Patents for Humanity award from the US Patent and Trademark Office](#). This prestigious award is given annually to entities whose patents cover innovations that address long-standing development challenges.

The EDCTP-funded (almost EUR 12 million) MIMVaC Africa study is a multilateral initiative to foster the clinical development of effective malaria vaccine candidates in Africa. It is coordinated by Dr Sodiomon Sirima [part of EDCTP's substantial investment in malaria vaccine research](#)

### **New project websites**

The following projects have launched websites:

[ASAAP](#) (Clinical evaluation of antimalarials tri-therapy with atovaquone-proguanil for treatment of uncomplicated malaria in African children)

[DIAGMAL](#) (Phase III evaluation of an innovative simple molecular test for the diagnosis of malaria in different endemic and health settings in sub-Saharan Africa)

[COAST-Nutrition](#) (Childrens oxygen administration strategies trial-Nutrition)

[PROTID](#) (Randomised Controlled Trial of Preventive Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus)

[PYRAPREG](#) (Efficacy and safety of a newly registered artemisinin-based combination (pyronaridine-artesunate - Pyramax®) for the treatment of uncomplicated malaria in African pregnant women)

[WANECAM-2](#) (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)

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## **EDCTP Fellows in times of COVID-19**

### **Michael Frimpong - COVID-19 response in Ghana**

Dr. Michael Frimpong is a Career Development Fellow in Ghana working on a project to develop a rapid molecular diagnostic test for Buruli ulcer in rural endemic communities. As part of the COVID-19 response, he is the leader of the Mobile Laboratory platform for COVID-19 testing. Through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ghana Revenue Authority, The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ GmbH and the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research, Dr Frimpong's team recently deployed a mobile van laboratory for COVID-19 testing in hotspots of Ghana. This is aimed at increasing Ghana's capacities to test for SARS-CoV-2 infections in areas with no testing capacity with an increased turnaround time.





Dr. Frimpong explaining how the mobile testing platform works to the President of Ghana



The team working inside the mobile van laboratory. The lab is fitted with a glovebox for inactivation and RNA extraction, a suitcase lab with a real-time PCR machine for amplification.

### **Moses Masika - Clinical research on COVID-19 infection in Kenya**

Dr Moses Masika is a Career Development Fellow who studies 'Emerging and re-emerging arboviral infections in Nairobi, Kenya'. As many others, he is involved in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He had several sessions on national and international TV, radio and social media to educate the public on COVID-19. As lab-manager and co-investigator, he has been setting up PCR testing for COVID-19 at the Kenia AIDS Vaccine Initiative (KAVI) Institute of Clinical Research at the University of Nairobi. The group is conducting a study on 'Clinical, epidemiological and immunological characteristics of COVID-19 infection in Kenya'. Moreover, he has been consulting with several private companies on COVID-19.

### **Marisa Klopper - A screening app for the COVID-19 response in South Africa**

Dr Marisa Klopper is a Career Development Fellow working on a study of 'The role of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*' compensatory mutations in metabolic fitness via the structure and function of mycolic acids' at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

Currently, she is involved in "a project that aims to develop a screening app that will listen to the patient's cough in addition to the usual symptom/risk check, to improve the determination of risk of COVID-19, with a view to prioritise patients at higher risk to receive a lab test. This is important as currently in South Africa only sick people, and people above 55 years of age are tested (i.e. asymptomatic contacts of COVID-19 cases will not be tested). This may very well result in perpetuation of the epidemic, as early case identification is virtually impossible."

"The work is based on our TB work, still in progress and showing promising results, even with our currently small sample size. In principle, the project is funded by the SAMRC.

### **Stellah Mpagama - COVID-19 response and research in Tanzania**

Senior Fellow Dr Stellah Mpagama (Kibong'oto Infectious Diseases Hospital, Siha-Kilimanjaro, Tanzania) conducts a project to strengthen research capacity for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases control in Tanzania. Her research team was initially engaged in a local team for arranging the Infection Prevention Control measures for the Kilimanjaro region prior to COVID-19 epidemic in our country. The team was also engaged in preparation of the training materials for the front-line health care providers.

She and her team also submitted a proposal for clinical characterization of the COVID-19 and received an expedited ethical clearance. The team managed to collect 281 COVID-19 data, data entry and cleaning is already finalising. "We will analyse data and create algorithms for guiding management. Two manuscript will be developed and published hopefully within 6 months.

## **EDCTP Alumni Network Platform**

Check out [the Alumni Network website](#).

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## **EDCTP Resources and news**

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **First Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP) Certification in Africa**

The first GFGP certification in Africa was achieved by the Institute of Primate Research, Kenya. The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) and PwC Kenya (GFGP certification body) supported the Kenyan-based Institute of Primate Research to be the first organisation in Africa to be certified under the Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP)

international standard.

The GFGP standard is the world's first international standard in grant management, developed by the African Academy of Sciences' Global Grant Community through extensive consultation with grantees from across Africa and with support from some of the world's largest public and private sector funders such as EDCTP.

The Global Grant Community (GGC) is a financial platform of the African Academy of Sciences whose mission is to connect funders with trusted grantees through digitising, standardising and de-risking the due diligence process for both funders and grant receivers. [For more information visit the GGC website](#)

## EDCTP SUCCESSOR PROGRAMME

New DSW position paper see above: [Unleashing Africa's Research excellence: Maximising global health R&I in Africa-EU development cooperation](#)

### **PDP and Global Health Organisations' Position Paper**

The global health organisation DSW published a position paper on the EDCTP successor programme: [EDCTP3 Position paper - Call for a dedicated R&I instrument for diseases of poverty under FP9: building on the success of EDCTP](#) The paper is supported by 15 global health and product development partnerships.

## EDCTP RESOURCES

- Report: [Consultative meeting for the development of a roadmap to further strengthen the National Health Research Systems \(NHRS\) in Africa](#)
- Policy document: [EDCTP Strategic Research Agenda - version 4 - July 2020](#)
- Guidance material: [Online Information session on the Career Development Fellowship call](#) (slides; PDF)
- Report: [EDCTP and Africa CDC workshop: Collaborating to improve gender-related and regional disparities in research funding](#)
- Report: [Independent evaluation of Sida's support to projects in the scope of the EDCTP2 programme](#)
- [The added value of EDCTP to Africa](#) brochure shows how EDCTP contributes to the process of achievement of the African Union; the creation and retention of a new generation of African scientists; the strengthening and harmonisation of enablers of high-quality and ethical clinical research; and the provision of safe medical interventions.
- [The added value of EDCTP to Europe](#) brochure shows how EDCTP contributes to delivering on EU commitments to tackle global challenges; enabling greater scale and scope in the European Research Area; boosting scientific excellence and Europe's global competitiveness in research and innovation; and developing the evidence base for national and international policy-making.
- The [EDCTP2 project portfolio can now be explored online](#). The portfolio offers short summaries of EDCTP-funded projects with a focus on the challenge addressed and the impact aimed for. 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. The portfolio will be updated with future new grants.

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

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## Funding opportunities

### **MRC UK | Clinical Research Training Fellowship Pre-Doctoral | Deadline: 02/09 2020**

The fellowships support clinicians, including (but not limited to) medics, surgeons, dentists, clinical psychologists, public health specialty trainees, allied health professionals, nurses, midwives and veterinarians, to undertake a PhD or other higher research degree.

Applications are welcome across all areas of the MRC's remit to improve human health. Applications may range from basic studies with relevance to mechanisms of disease to translational and developmental clinical research, and may address research questions from disease-specific mechanistic hypotheses through to research in priority areas such as population health, public health and molecular pathology as outlined in MRC's strategic plan.

Applications addressing global health issues resulting in primary benefit to those living in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), or those proposing interdisciplinary approaches are also welcomed. [More information](#)

### **MRC/DFID African Research Leader scheme 2020 | Deadline: 08/09 2020**

The UK Medical Research Council and the UK Department for International Development announce a further call for proposals for the prestigious African Research Leader awards. 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; PI) should be supported by an enthusiastic local research environment and by a strong linkage with a UK partner (i.e. the UK Co-Investigator; Co-I). [More information](#)

### **Mobile Health: Technology and Outcomes in LMICs | Deadline: 24/09 2020**

Mobile Health: Technology and Outcomes in low- and middle-income countries supports exploratory and developmental research to study the development, validation, feasibility and effectiveness of innovative mobile health (mHealth) interventions or tools specifically suited for LMICs. The overall goals of the programme are to catalyse innovation through multidisciplinary research that addresses global health problems, develop an evidence base for the use of mHealth technology to improve clinical and public health outcomes, and strengthen mHealth research capacity in LMICs.

In the context of this program, mHealth includes the use of mobile and wireless devices (cell phones, tablets, etc.) to improve health outcomes, health care services and health research. The developed or adapted mHealth technology can include external hardware or software components for mobile or wireless devices. New or emerging technology, platforms, systems or analytics should be incorporated.

[More information](#)



### **United Kingdom | Global Effort on COVID-19 Health Research | Deadline 28/09 2020**

The Global Effort on COVID-19 (GECO) Health Research is a new cross UK government funding call aiming to support applied health research that will address COVID-19 knowledge gaps. The focus is on understanding the pandemic and mitigating its health impacts in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). The call prioritises are epidemiology, clinical management, infection control and health system responses.

The call is supported by the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) through the NIHR and the Medical Research Council (MRC), which is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The funds form part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment. Support will be available to address the impacts of COVID-19 in LMICs for research which has a direct and primary focus on improving health in LMIC countries. This call will be run as a series of calls - i.e. three consecutive rounds of the call will take place on a rolling basis.

[More information](#)

### **6TH Call for postdoctoral fellowships Science by women | Deadline 30/09 2020**

The [Women for Africa Foundation](#) is launching the [6th call for fellowships of the program Science by Women](#), aimed at selecting 19 senior African women scientists to be integrated in 19 top research Spanish centres in the following areas: health and biomedicine, agriculture and food security, water, energy and climatic change.

Considering the exceptional challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic, some of the fellowships are focused on the research and innovation carried out by African women scientists from the diverse and interdisciplinary approaches. So far 57 fellows have enjoyed six-month research stays which have contributed to enhance their leadership in scientific research and technology transfer.

The program's ultimate goal is to enable African women researchers to play a leading role in the transition of Africa to a knowledge-based and innovation-led economy. The Women for Africa Foundation is a private entity aimed at contributing to the sustainable development of Africa through the drive of its women.

### **The Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) - PhD fellowships | Deadline 1/10/2020**

The Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) awards PhD fellowships of two to three years to outstanding junior scientists worldwide who wish to pursue an ambitious PhD project in basic biomedical research in an internationally leading laboratory.

The peer-review selection process evaluates the applicant's achievements, as well as the scientific quality of the project and host laboratory. The process is highly competitive, with less than 10% of applicants receiving a fellowship.

[More information](#)

### **DAAD | One-year research grants | Deadline 31/10 2020**

The [German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\) offers one-year research grants to foreign doctoral candidates](#) and young academics and scientists with an opportunity to carry out research and continue their education in Germany. There are funding programmes for various qualification phases and stages in a career. The grants also promote the exchange of experience and networking amongst colleagues. The primary aim of this programme is to promote research projects within the context of doctoral programmes.

### **DAAD | Research Grants - Doctoral Progr. in Germany | Deadline 31/10 2020**

DAAD research grants provide young foreign academics and scientists with an opportunity to carry out research and continue their education in Germany. There are funding

programmes for various qualification phases and stages in a career. The grants also promote the exchange of experience and networking amongst colleagues.

[The aim of this grant programme is to support doctoral projects in Germany.](#)

### **DAAD | Research Stays in Germany | Deadline 31/10 2020**

DAAD grants provide foreign academics and scientists with an opportunity to carry out research and continue their education in Germany. There are funding programmes for various qualification phases and stages in a career. The aim of this particular programme is to support [short-term research stays](#) and thus promote the exchange of experience and networking amongst colleagues.

### **Fogarty | Emerging Global Leader Award LMICs | Deadline: 4/11 2020**

The Fogarty Emerging Global Leader Award aims to provide research support and protected time to a research scientist from a low- or middle-income country (LMIC) who holds an academic junior faculty position or research scientist appointment at a LMIC academic or research institution. Applications are invited from LMIC research scientists from any health-related discipline who propose both critically needed career development activities and a research project that is highly relevant to the health priorities of their country.

[More information](#)

### **UKRI GCRF/Newton Fund | Agile Response call to address COVID-19**

Proposals are invited for short-term projects addressing and mitigating the health, social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak in countries identified on the OECD DAC list of ODA recipients<sup>1</sup>.

This call is funded through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and the Newton Fund. These Funds address global challenges through disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and strengthen capability for research and innovation within both the UK and developing countries, providing an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need. These Funds form part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment.

[More information](#)

### **Harnessing Data Science for Health Discovery and Innovation in Africa (DS-I Africa)**

The NIH Common Fund's Harnessing Data Science for Health Discovery and Innovation in Africa (DS-I Africa) program will leverage existing data and technologies to develop solutions to the continent's most pressing clinical and public health problems through a robust ecosystem of new partners from academic, government, and private sectors. The DS-I Africa program will invest \$58 million over five years to support: data science and innovation research hubs focused on key health problems; data science training programs; research projects that examine ethical, legal and social implications of data science research in Africa; and development of an open data science platform and coordinating centre. These funding opportunities will be open to African academic and other non-profit organisations in partnership with private sector, government, NGO, and other research partners (from Africa or other parts of the world). The data science training program funding opportunity will also be open to U.S. applicants in strong partnership with African institutions.

[Explore the programme](#) and see below

### **DS-I Africa Virtual Symposium Platform | Free access | July-November 2020**

As a part of the launch of this new program, NIH is hosting an online-only, Virtual Symposium Platform in the summer of 2020 that is free, open to anyone interested, and interactive.



This platform will include information about the funding opportunity announcements and engage participants in robust scientific sessions that examine the state of data science in Africa. It will also include tools that facilitate networking across disciplines, sectors, and geographies.

The Virtual Symposium Platform will be open from July through November 2020 with several online events and networking tools available to participants during that time frame, such as: keynote videos from leaders in health and data science; interactive panel discussions about the funding opportunities and other relevant topics; and a networking platform that allows participants to meet and interact with each other.

[More information](#)

## COURSES

### **AuthorAID | Research and proposal writing in the sciences | Start date: 8/09/2020**

AuthorAID offers online courses in research writing and proposal writing, which are free-to-enrol for researchers in developing countries.

\* This online course is managed by the AuthorAID programme since 2011; it has been completed by several thousand researchers from all around the world

\* Make new research connections with hundreds of researchers from around the world via interactive discussion forums

\* Receive expert advice from an international team of experienced guest facilitators

\* Learn with instructional materials designed for researchers from the South and grounded in a neutral point of view

[Read more](#)

### **Fogarty International Centre | Global Infectious Disease Research Training | Deadline 28/10 2020**

The Global Infectious Disease (GID) research training programme addresses research training needs related to infectious diseases that are predominantly endemic in or impact upon people living in developing countries. The training programmes include a variety of research training options to match the needs of the developing country institution.

Programme focus on a major endemic or life-threatening emerging infectious disease, neglected tropical disease, infections that frequently occur as a co-infection in HIV infected individuals, or infections associated with noncommunicable disease conditions of public health importance in LMICs. The ultimate goal is to build a critical mass of researchers and support staff to conduct independent infectious disease research in developing country institutions.

[More information](#)

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*EDCTP Communications thanks the colleagues who provided information for this Update.*

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