

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



**E D C T P**

## **EDCTP Update**

September 2020

Supported by the  
European Union



### Highlights

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### **EDCTP 2020 Prizes - Nominate candidates**

EDCTP invites nominations for its 2020 Prizes. Take this opportunity to nominate excellent researchers or an outstanding research team working in sub-Saharan Africa within the scope of the EDCTP programme.



## Call for nominations

Scientific Leadership Prize – €10,000

Outstanding Female Scientist Prize – €20,000

Outstanding Research Team Prize – €50,000

Dr Pascoal Mocumbi Prize – €50,000

### SUBMIT A NOMINATION

Nominate before **29 October 2020**

Visit [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org) for more information

Use the easy forms available for each prize and send them in via [prizes@edctp.org](mailto:prizes@edctp.org) by Thursday 29 October 2020 at 17:00 CET.

EDCTP intends to award four international prizes dedicated to the promotion of scientific research, improved health and Africa-European collaboration. The prizes recognise outstanding individuals and research teams from Africa and Europe who have made significant achievements in their field. Additionally, the awardees will have made major contributions to strengthening clinical research capacity in Africa and supporting South-South and North-South cooperation.

### 2020 EDCTP prizes

\* **Scientific Leadership Prize** - €10,000: Awarded to excellent world-class scientists in sub-Saharan Africa up to 50 years of age working on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected infectious diseases (NIDS) in the scope of the EDCTP2 programme.

\* **Outstanding Female Scientist Prize** - €20,000: Awarded to excellent world-class female scientists in sub-Saharan Africa and working in the scope of the EDCTP2 programme.

\* **Outstanding Research Team Prize** - €50,000: Awarded to outstanding research teams in sub-Saharan Africa and Europe working on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected infectious diseases (NIDS) in the scope of the EDCTP2 programme.

\* **Dr Pascoal Mocumbi Prize** - €50,000: This prize is named after Dr Pascoal Mocumbi, the first High Representative of EDCTP A, in special recognition of his significant contribution to the development of EDCTP as an international collaborative research partnership. It is to be awarded to senior scientists, policy-makers or advocates for health and research, from anywhere in the world.

Visit the [EDCTP website to see who won the prizes before](http://www.edctp.org).

The Prizes are part of the EDCTP programme which is supported by the European Union under Horizon 2020, its Framework Programme for Research & Innovation.

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## Prof. J. Mphahlele appointed to SA advisory committee on vaccines

The South Africa MRC Vice-President for Research, Professor Jeffrey Mphahlele has been appointed by the South African Minister of Health to serve on its newly formed [Ministerial Advisory Committee on Vaccines](#).

Prof. Mphahlele is a leading virologist and the former Head of the South African Vaccination and Immunisation Centre (SAVIC) (2005 to 2014) at Medunsa. He is also a Vice-Chair of the [EDCTP](#) Board.

The committee will advise the Ministry of Health on all matters pertaining to the coronavirus vaccine development and roll-out - from monitoring and reporting on progress on candidate vaccine studies, to advising on purchasing options and capacity to potentially manufacture vaccines in future.

Mphahlele: "The world is nervous about equitable and fair access to COVID-19 vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccines should be treated as a global public good for the rich and poor countries alike".

In addition, Prof. Mphahlele serves on another ministerial committee, the National Advisory Group on Immunisation (NAGI) and is also a Board Member of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), Vice Chairperson of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R), and Founding Board Member of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

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## Recently signed grants

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

- **ImmunoCoV** | Coordinator Dr Francis Ndungu | Host immune responses to SARS-CoV-2: correlating kinetics with the natural history of infection
- **ITAIL-COVID-19** | Coordinator: Dr Mathieu Ndounga | Integrated testing approaches and intensive laboratory training as strategy against SARS-CoV-2 spread in Brazzaville

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

- **SToolL4TB** | Coordinator Dr Alberto Garcia Basteiro | Evaluating a new stool-based qPCR for diagnosis of tuberculosis in children and people living with HIV

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

- **AfriEthique** | Coordinator Prof. Francine Ntoumi | A European-African network for strengthening the ethics capacity for clinical research review in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Central Africa, Chad, and the Republic of the Congo

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

- **EIMT-GM** | Fellow Dr Nikita Naicker | Evaluating the impact of metformin on *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* growth in macrophages
- **HIVDR-MIT** | Fellow Dr Benjamin Chimukangara | Monitoring of HIV drug resistance in South Africa and innovative approaches to HIV drug resistance testing
- **MAL-Malaria** | Fellow Dr Kolapo Oyebola | Investigating artemisinin resistance in Nigerian isolates of *Plasmodium falciparum*
- **SchiIP** | Fellow Dr Patrice Mawa | Exploring immune responses in primary and more advanced *Schistosoma mansoni* infection and treatment of preschool-age children using Aurora spectral flow cytometry

### [EDCTP Career Development Fellowships - 2018](#)

- **CWGSMDRT-TB** | Fellow Dr Bugwesa Z. Katale | Clinical application of whole-genome sequencing in multidrug resistance tuberculosis patients in Tanzania

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## Recent events

### **CONCVACT | Dr Michael Makanga on steering committee | September 2020**

CONCVACT - the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Consortium for COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials, [launched by the African Union Commission](#) - aims to bring together global vaccine developers, funders, and African organisations that conduct clinical trials. CONCVACT aims to remove critical barriers to clinical trial research in Africa.

The consortium members include the World Health Organisation, the Africa Academy of Sciences' Clinical Trials Community, Institut Pasteur, the African Vaccine Regulatory Forum, AUDA-NEPAD (the African Union development agency), and the African Medicines Agency.

Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP Executive Director) accepted the invitation to serve on the steering committee of the consortium to help lead efforts to achieve the objectives of CONCVACT.

### **AERAP | Conference on Africa-EU R&I partnerships | 9-10/09 2020**

The African-European Radio Astronomy Platform (AERAP) organised a virtual conference with as topic 'A new era for Africa-EU Science and Innovation Partnerships - Africa, Horizon Europe and Development Cooperation' on 09-10 September 2020. On the first day, Dr Michael Makanga participated as a speaker in the session on 'COVID-19: Africa-EU cooperation and response'.

### **Meetings**

EDCTP management and staff are involved in cooperation meetings:

**Dr Thomas Nyirenda** (EDCTP Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager) participated in the weekly AFTCOR (Africa Task Force for Corona Virus) meetings organised by Africa CDC. He also joined the WHO meeting on 'Responding to double epidemic of Malaria and COVID-19' on 2-4 September. On 16 September, he participated

in the meeting on 'Strengthening the Clinical Trials Regulatory and Ethics environment' organised by the African Academy of Sciences in connection with the Clinical Trial Community database. He participated also in the Bi-monthly WHO Malaria-COVID coordination work group.

**Prof. Moses Bockarie** (EDCTP Director of International Cooperation Africa) attended the following meetings:

- WHO-AFRO Regional Committee meeting - 25/08 2020
- the Bio Africa 2020 meeting - 26-28/08 2020
- the First Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Committee on Traditional Medicine for COVID-19 - 18/09 2020

**Ana Lucia Weinberg** (EDCTP Strategic Partnerships Officer) presented EDCTP to advisors and assistants of German Members of Parliament as part of a training organised by DSW on EU instruments to fight PRNDs - 03/09 2020.

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## Project news

### **IMPPACT | Article on Evidence & Policy | September 2020**

The EDCTP-funded IMPPACT project (Maximising the public health impact of interventions to control malaria in pregnancy through the translation of EDCTP-funded evidence-based global policies to country-level policies and plans - CSA-MI-2014-276) coordinated by Dr Jenny Hill has recently published: Justin Parkhurst, Ludovica Ghilardi, Jayne Webster, Jenna Hoyt, Jenny Hill, Caroline A. Lynch: [Understanding evidence use from a programmatic perspective: conceptual development and empirical insights from national malaria control programmes](#). Evidence & Policy.

### **TRIAGE-TB | Additional NIH grant for TB diagnostics | 07/09 2020**

Stellenbosch University was recently awarded a R128 million grant by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) to investigate new tuberculosis diagnostic and predictive tests in a multi-national research study. The award is in addition to the R65 million grant from EDCTP for the [TRIAGE-TB project](#) for 'Field evaluation of a point-of-care triage test for active tuberculosis' coordinated by Prof. Gerhard Walzl.

More in [the Stellenbosch news item](#)

### **BCA-WA-ETHICS | September 2020**

The BCA-WA-ETHICS project (Building capacities in gender mainstreaming for ethics committee members from Senegal to West Africa) published its second newsletter in French, English and Portuguese. [See the project website](#)

### **PANDORA-ID-NET | Publication on Congo Chikungunya outbreak | 13/09 2020**

The PANDORA-ID-NET's Chikungunya taskforce published [Chikungunya Outbreak in the Republic of the Congo, 2019-Epidemiological, Virological and Entomological Findings of a South-North Multidisciplinary Taskforce Investigation](#).

From the conclusion: "The PANDORA model of South-North cooperation and the ONE HEALTH approach to tackle the CHIKV outbreak in RoC was successful allowing a fast, innovative and functional investigation and giving rapid and prompt insights into the outbreak's dynamics. This paves the way for further collaborations among the involved stakeholders for short-, medium- and long-term epidemic response and preparedness plans."

### **DATURA | Kick-off meeting | 14-15/09 2020**

The kick-off meeting of the DATURA project (Determination of adequate tuberculosis regimen in adults and adolescents hospitalised with severe HIV-associated severe immune suppression) took place from 14-15 September 2020 by teleconference with more than 30 participants from 4 continents. The group included clinicians specialising in infectious and pulmonary diseases, all extremely busy these days managing COVID-19 cases in their own facilities.

The DATURA project is part of the EDCTP2 programme (RIA2018-CO-2515) supported by the European Union and Inserm-ANRS. The project also benefits from co-financing from Inserm-ANRS (ANRS 12424), which has enabled it to implement the trial in two Asian countries.

Under the combined leadership of Dr. Paula Munderi, Chair of the project steering committee, and of the two project coordinators, Dr. D. Laureillard and Pr. FX Blanc, the meeting aimed to finalise and validate the project protocol and other key documents.

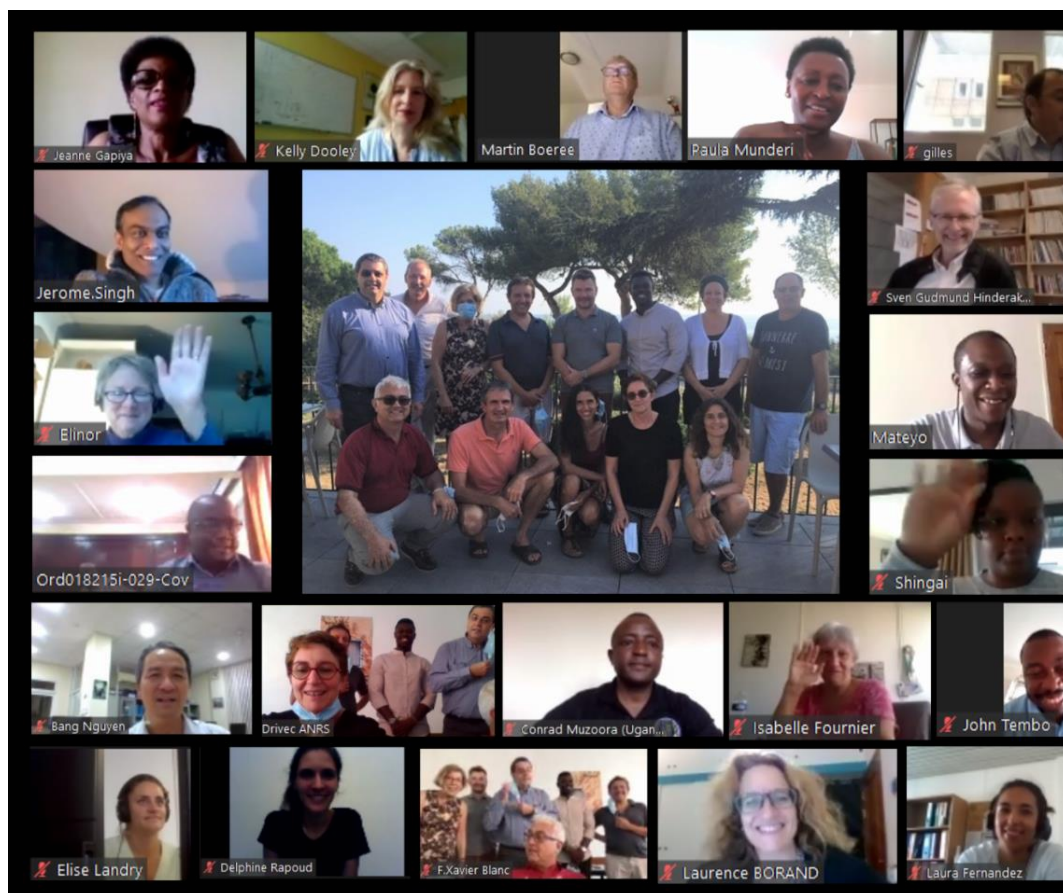
The group included project partners from 4 different African regions (Cameroon, Guinea, Uganda and Zambia), 2 European countries (France and Norway) and 2 Asian countries (Cambodia and Vietnam) as well as 5 external experts (from North America, Europe and Africa) and the community representative (from Africa) of the Project Steering Committee, the representatives of the Inserm-ANRS-sponsor and the EDCTP project officer.

The extensive experience of the external members of the PSC, particularly in the field of high dose rifampicin (Pr. M. Boeree, Netherlands), anti-TB and ARV drug-drug interactions (Pr. K Dooley, USA), ethics (Pr. J.A Singh, South-Africa), HIV research (Dr. P. Munderi, Uganda) as well as of the community representative (J. Gapiya-Niyonzima, Burundi) and experts from the DATURA team in TB treatment (Pr. N. Véziris, France), immunology (Pr. L. Weiss, France) and pharmacology (Dr. G. Peytavin), was crucial to revising both the protocol and the information forms for the trial participants.

The presence of Prof. F. Bonnet, the fifth external expert and the coordinator of the INTENSE-TBM project of the EDCTP2 programme opened the way for potential future collaboration between the two projects, generating synergy that will benefit both projects.

The validated documents will now be submitted to the Data and Safety Monitoring Board and finally used to start the ethical review process in each participating country in the last quarter of 2020. Depending on country-specific approval timeframes, the plan is to start the inclusion process in the trial in June 2021.





DATURA online kick-off meeting.

### **SMERT | Project concluded | 2017-2019**

The SMERT project "Streamlining health research ethics review and medicines regulation in Tanzania" has successfully concluded. The SMERT project brought together four institutions in Tanzania: National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) through its Mbeya Medical Research Centre and National Health Research Ethics Committee (NatHREC), Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute - Kilimanjaro Christian University Medical College and Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA), supported by the University of St Andrews, as the European partner.

The two-year SMERT project (2017-2019) led by Dr Nyanda Elias Ntinginya (NIMR) achieved success in the following ways:

1. Training to equip researchers and members of ethics committees in Tanzania with skills to effectively and timely assess the ethicality of research protocols. As a result, the median time to approval of research protocols by Institutional Research Ethics boards (IRB) has been reduced from 120 days to 32 days.

A Bioethics curriculum was established at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College (KCMUCo) to train all postgraduate medical and biological sciences students, and also for continuing professional education. Two more Tanzanian Universities (University of Dodoma and Mzumbe University) have adopted the curriculum for training their students. Furthermore, a short ethics training course curriculum was developed and is hosted by NIMR and after accreditation, NIMR will make the course freely available online as a resource for refresher training of members of research and clinical trial ethics committees across Tanzania.

## 2. Strengthening infrastructure and human resource for research ethics

The aim was to effect rapid submission, review and feedback of research ethics applications to NIMR headquarters through NatHREC. To this effect an electronic system was developed through which research protocols will be submitted, reviewed and feedback given. Furthermore, rapid reporting on the safety of medicines and vaccines during clinical trials at TMDA was initiated through development of an electronic system that will expedite reporting of Adverse Drug Events (ADEs) arising during the trial of new medicines.

SMERT also supported the enhancement of the ADE system for post-registration medicines and increased awareness of the importance of reporting ADEs by the community. As a result, ADE reporting quadrupled since 2019, SMERT's second year of implementation.

3. Harmonising health research ethics review and medicines regulation in the East African community. SMERT's achievements on research ethics review will feed into the East African Health Research Commission's work to harmonise the research ethics review and medicines regulation across the East African Community. The project highlights the importance of robust procedures that are open to public scrutiny so that the investigator has confidence in their administration and research participants are confident that their welfare is both valued and safeguarded.

"The deliverables of SMERT and its offspring project-ASCEND are timely, particularly in the era of health emergencies arising from novel diseases where rapid research evidence is needed to guide clinical management and public health measures" - Dr. Wilber Sabiiti (SMERT Investigator- University of St Andrews).





### **IMPROVE-2 | 64% of recruitment target achieved | September 2020**

IMPROVE-2 is the study (flanking the EDCTP-funded study IMPROVE) on 'Intermittent preventative treatment with dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine and single-course azithromycin for malaria, sexually transmitted and reproductive tract infections in HIV-infected pregnant women in Kenya and Malawi.

The study (recruiting specifically HIV-infected pregnant women) is a 2-arm, individually-randomised, multi-centre, placebo-controlled superiority clinical trial. It compares the safety and efficacy of daily cotrimoxazole (CTX) plus monthly dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (DP) versus daily CTX plus monthly placebo-DP (control arm) to reduce malaria and the adverse effects of malaria in 898 (449 per arm) HIV-infected pregnant women on dolutegravir (DTG)-based ARTs. The study is being conducted in 8 hospitals in Kenya and Malawi in high SP-resistance areas with a high prevalence of malaria. Both the mother and baby will be followed for 6-8 weeks after delivery.

Despite delays due to changes in the WHO and country-level policies for the first-line ARTs in women of childbearing age and pregnant women, and the further disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the trial has reached the 50% recruitment milestone and by 9 September 2020, 575 women have been recruited (64.0% of the target of 898). The study is using the COVID-19 infection prevention control guidelines implemented by KEMRI in Kenya and the CoM in Malawi. It is estimated that recruitment will now be completed by March 2021 latest, and the last participant to be followed up by mid-October 2021.

### **AIDCO | Kick-off meeting of COVID-19 study | 25/09 2020**

AIDCO (RIA2020EF-2961: Important data on COVID-19 profile in Africa) held its kick-off meeting on 25 September. The study is coordinated by Prof Ayola Akim Adegniko from the Centre de recherches médicales de Lambaréné (CERMEL), Lambaréné in Gabon, with partners from Ethiopia, Gabon, Germany, the Netherlands, Senegal, Mozambique, and Portugal.

### **NEW PROJECT WEBSITES**

[LAMP4Yaws](#) (Clinical evaluation of a loop-mediated isothermal amplification test for *Treponema pallidum pertenuis*: A diagnostic tool to support yaws eradication)

[SeroSelect-TB](#) ((Evaluation of the feasibility, accuracy, and effect of a rapid point-of-care serological triage test for active TB in high burden, HIV-endemic African settings: a multi-centre, parallel-group, randomised, controlled trial)

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

Two EDCTP Senior Fellows were successful in obtaining grants under the EDCTP Emergency Call 'Mobilisation of funding for COVID-19 research in sub-Saharan Africa'.

### **Dr Francis Ndungu**

Dr Francis Ndungu (African Research Collaboration for Health Ltd/ KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya) was awarded an EDCTP Senior Fellowship in 2018 to study individuals who are seemingly resistant to malaria infection, to identify immune responses correlating with protection against infection.



Recently, Dr Ndungu received an EDCTP emergency fund grant for the ImmunoCoV study. The ImmunoCov project aims to validate antibody-based tests for COVID-19 in an African population, and also provide detailed data on the evolution of immune responses and their association with viral reproduction and symptoms.

Working with European industrial and academic collaborators, researchers from Kenya are evaluating a range of technologies for detecting different types of antibody recognising different SARS-CoV-2 proteins, as well as antibody-secreting cells. IgM antibodies, for example, may be markers of current infection while IgG antibodies could be indicators of past infection. The project will also assess methods for analysing different classes of T cell, which have the potential either to boost or to dampen down immune responses to the virus.

In the second strand of the project, researchers will track cohorts of symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infections. The project will use the validated tests to assess antibody and T-cell responses during the course of infection and recovery, and will also monitor clinical symptoms and levels of virus.

As antibody responses take time to appear, the project is also using RNA sequencing technologies to identify genes that are activated early in infection and are associated with the development of protective immunity, symptoms and viral load. This work is focusing on genetic markers of innate immune response - early, non-specific protective responses.

Finally, the project will also generate monoclonal antibodies based on antibodies from COVID-19 survivors with the strongest viral neutralisation abilities. These will have potential use as therapeutics.

### **Dr Dawit Wolday**

Dr Dawit Wolday (Associate Professor of Medicine, Mekelle University College of Sciences, Mekelle, Ethiopia) received an EDCTP Senior Fellowship grant in 2017 to evaluate two new options for rapid and simplified diagnosis of visceral leishmaniasis, an important neglected infectious disease in East Africa.



differences.

Recently, Dr Wolday received an EDCTP emergency fund grant for the Profile-Cov project. It is recruiting a cohort of COVID-19 patients in Ethiopia and undertaking a detailed study of the dynamics of immune responses, comparing results with those from a cohort recruited in the UK. The Profile-Cov team has previously discovered that immune responses in healthy people in Ethiopia differ markedly from those seen in other populations - probably due to differing environmental exposures, rather than genetic

Given the limited capacity for molecular testing in Ethiopia (and in sub-Saharan Africa more generally), diagnosis is likely to depend on rapid point-of-care diagnostic tests. Although many tests are now available, they vary significantly in their sensitivity and specificity. It is unclear which would be most appropriate to use in sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, different tests may be needed at different stages - for example, to detect initial infections, to monitor response to treatment, and to confirm cure.

The Profile-Cov project will assess the performance of promising diagnostic tests identified in a large-scale global evaluation being coordinated by the Foundation for Innovative Diagnostics (FIND). These will include both antigen tests (detecting viral proteins) and antibody tests (detecting SARS-CoV-2-specific antibodies). The results from the rapid diagnostics will be compared with those from 'gold standard' molecular testing.

### **Dr George Kyei**

Dr George Kyei is a Senior Fellow conducting the H-CRIS study on the 'Identification of Novel HIV Reactivation Agents: Towards Building Translational HIV Cure Research Infrastructure in Ghana. With the emergence of the global novel Coronavirus pandemic, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), University of Ghana became the institute leading the laboratory response to the pandemic in Ghana. His institute, NMIMR is the largest centre in Ghana for testing for the novel Coronavirus (SARS-COV2) using the real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction assay.

The Department of Virology, where the H-CRIS project is based, is the lead Department carrying out the testing for COVID-19 suspected samples and contacts. Since February 2020, the department mobilized its entire staff, including all personnel of the H-CRIS team to join hands in the laboratory testing for suspected COVID-19 patients. Members of the H-CRIS team have therefore been involved in every aspect of the laboratory response: from optimizing testing protocols, receiving and testing suspected samples and organizing the laboratory data for the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service to provide updates on cases for the nation.

The first two cases of COVID-19 were confirmed on 12th March 2020. Currently our lab receives an average of 1500 samples daily for testing. The labs are well equipped, and there are adequate human resources to match the load of tests that need to be performed. Currently there are three laboratory teams that work on rotation in 12 hourly shifts. Thus, our labs are engaged in testing 24 hours, 7 days a week. Members of the H-CRIS team continue to play indispensable roles in the laboratory response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, the Dr Kyei serves as the head of the data team at NMIMR.

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## **EDCTP Resources and news**

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Gates Foundation on COVID-19**

[Gates Foundation | COVID-19 - A global perspective | 2020 Goalkeepers report](#)

#### **Global Preparedness Monitoring Board | 2nd report**

The Global Preparedness Monitoring Board released its second report on September 14, 2020: [A World in Disorder](#)

"The report emphasizes that COVID-19 took advantage of a world in disorder: the pandemic was slowed where sufficient resources, cooperation and organization were applied, but thrived where there was disarray, division and poverty. The GPMB warns that we cannot afford to be unprepared again when the next pandemic hits."

### **WHO Africa | Protocol for phase III clinical trials of herbal medicine for COVID-19**

The Regional Expert Committee on Traditional Medicine for COVID-19 formed by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the African Union Commission for Social Affairs, has endorsed a protocol for phase III clinical trials of herbal medicine for COVID-19 as well as a charter and terms of reference for the establishment of a data and safety monitoring board for herbal medicine clinical trials.

Prof Marcel Tanner (EDCTP High Representative Europe and Prof. Moses Bockarie (EDCTP Director of international cooperation Africa) are on the expert committee. Dr Thomas Nyirenda (EDCTP Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Development Manager) was involved as a member of the Africa CDC Task Force in authoring the guideline for African member states towards registration of COVID-19 herbal medicine clinical trials.

[More information](#)

### **ISGlobal | Annual report 2019 | September 2020**

[ISGlobal Annual Report 2019 'A bountiful harvest after a big effort'](#)

### **Research professional | Interview with Dr Michael Makanga | 10/09 2020**

Research professional interviewed Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP Executive Director) [Europe-Africa R&D partnership waits while EU debates](#) (only for subscribers).

### **BMJ Global Health | Editorial practices | 20/09 2020**

[Article processing charges are stalling the progress of African researchers: a call for urgent reforms](#) by Juliet Nabyonga-Orem, James Avoka Asamani, Thomas Nyirenda, and Seye Abimbola |

BMJ Global Health 2020;5:e003650 - Editorial

### **Nature Medicine - News | Role of African researchers in tackling COVID-19**

Adepoju, P. [COVID-19 puts health research to the test in Africa.](#)

Nat Med 26, 1312-1314 (2020). Prof Moses Bockarie (EDCTP) was one of the informants interviewed.

### **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: [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 -Â 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

- [Annual report 2019 Steering the portfolio for impact](#)
- 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

### **NIH | Analysis of Existing Datasets (Infectious Diseases) | Deadline: 16/10 2020**

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support projects that utilise open-access data, alone or in combination with other datasets, to address knowledge gaps in basic and/or clinical research in infectious diseases. The primary objective is to invite applications that seek to answer novel scientific questions by using data in NIAID's Bioinformatics Resource Centers BRCs. Research projects may propose combining data from other data repositories, including private user-generated data but must use data in the BRC. Projects focused on influenza, Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB), antimicrobial resistance and malaria are encouraged although projects based on other pathogens relevant to NIAID will be supported.

[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](#)

### **DAAD | Research Stays for Univ. Academics & Scientists | Deadline: 15/11/2020**

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.

[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](#)

### **NIH | Translational Research in Maternal and Paediatric Pharmacology and Therapeutics | Deadline: 10/12/2020**

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to encourage applications that will perform basic, translational and clinical research to (1) advance the understanding of underlying mechanisms of drug action; (2) discover and develop novel therapeutics; (3) enhance the usage of existing drugs or drug repurposing for safer and more effective treatment for pregnant women, lactating women, neonates and children. The overall goal is to improve drug safety and efficacy for maternal and paediatric precision therapeutics.

[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

### **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](#)

### **AREF | Essential Grant Writing Skills Workshop | Deadline 28/10 2020**

The Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF) AREF is calling for applications from active, emerging health-researchers in Sub-Saharan Africa to participate in its sixth Essential Grant Writing Skills Workshop. This fully on-line programme for up to 6 participants will be held over eight 3-hour sessions during the weeks of 14 December 2020 and 4 January 2021.

[More information](#)

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

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