

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



**E D C T P**

# **EDCTP Update**

October 2020

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## Highlights

- **Published: full presentation of EDCTP2 portfolio of grants**
- **Gender mainstreaming for ethics committees**
- **EDCTP joined GloPID-R the funders alliance on epidemic research**

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## Published: full presentation of EDCTP2 portfolio of grants



### **EDCTP portfolio: Collaborative clinical R&D**

The seventh year of implementation of the second EDCTP programme presents an opportune time to share an overview of progress and achievements so far.

EDCTP2 occupies a distinct global niche. Global early-stage drug discovery and intervention development have made much progress. However, increasingly, later-stage evaluation of interventions has become a bottleneck.

These phase II and III clinical trials and post-licensing phase IV trials) are essential to ensure a smooth introduction of new interventions and to generate evidence on their performance in real-life settings - information needed for national policymaking.

### **EDCTP2 portfolio: fellowship programme**

Capacity development is a core EDCTP activity, complementing its support for clinical trials and product-focused implementation research.

EDCTP2's competitive fellowship scheme supports researchers in sub-Saharan Africa in all stages of their careers.

Effective capacity development requires a long-term perspective, an integrated system-wide approach, and strong partnerships with host countries to ensure sustainability.

Guided by these principles, EDCTP is making a lasting contribution to the capacity of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to undertake high-quality clinical research - to the benefit of the research community, ethics and regulatory bodies, policymakers and populations.





## EDCTP2 portfolio: Clinical research capacity

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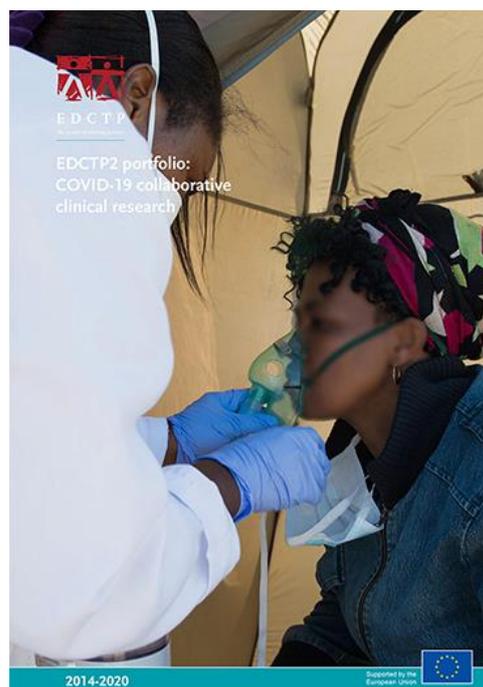
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## EDCTP2 portfolio: COVID-19 collaborative clinical research

EDCTP has activated its emergency funding mechanism to support 22 international partnerships helping countries in sub-Saharan Africa prepare for and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

The research community globally has rapidly mobilised to gather information on SARS-CoV-2. Much of this information will be relevant to sub-Saharan Africa, but there are several reasons why specific data from the region are required: biological response, demographics, testing and control measures.

Moreover, EDCTP-funded consortia for epidemic preparedness also contribute to the pandemic response in sub-Saharan Africa



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## Recently signed grants

### Mobilisation of funding for COVID-19 research in sub-Saharan Africa - 2020

- **ANTICOV** | Coordinator: Dr Nathalie Strubb-Wourgaft | Preparation of an open-label, randomised, comparative, adaptive, multi-country study to test the safety and efficacy of new therapeutic strategies against standard of care in mild SARS-CoV-2 patients in resource-constrained settings
- **COREP** | Coordinator: Prof. Till Winfried Baernighausen | Determining the epidemiological parameters of COVID-19 through sero-surveillance with dried plasma spots and nested household transmission studies in rural Kenya and South Africa
- **periCOVID-Africa** | Coordinator: Dr Kirsty LeDoare | Understanding COVID-19 infections in pregnant women and their babies in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, The Gambia and Mozambique.

### Paediatric drug formulations for poverty-related diseases - 2019

- **DPP** | Coordinator: Dr W.R.J. Taylor | Developing paediatric primaquine

### Strategic actions on product-related implementation research - 2019

- **TRiAD Study** | Coordinator: Prof. Kogieleum Naidoo | Triage test for all oral DR TB regimen: T2RIAD study

### Strategic actions supporting large-scale clinical trials - 2019

- **MTBVACN3** | Coordinator: Ms Ingrid Murillo | MTBVAC in Newborns: Randomised, double-blind controlled phase 3 trial to evaluate the efficacy, safety and immunogenicity of MTBVAC administered in healthy HIV-unexposed uninfected and HIV-exposed uninfected newborns in tuberculosis-endemic regions of sub-Saharan Africa

### Diagnostic tools for poverty-related diseases - 2018

- **XACT-III and XACT-IIIB** | Coordinator: Prof. Keertan Dheda | A randomised control trial to evaluate a scalable active case-finding intervention for tuberculosis using a point-of-care molecular tool (Xpert Omni)

### Capacity development to facilitate delivery and uptake of new or improved medical interventions in African health systems - 2018

- **SAVING** | Coordinator: Prof. Margaret Gyapong | Building capacity to address implementation challenges for sustainable access and delivery of new vaccines in Ghana

### Ethics and regulatory capacities - 2019

- **AccessAfrica** | Coordinator: Dr Rosemarie de la Cruz Bernabe | Improving post-trial access arrangements in clinical trials in sub-Saharan Africa

- **ASCEND** | Coordinator: Mr Adam Mitangu Fimbo | Moving Tanzania's clinical research medicines regulatory capacity to the next level: Fostering medicine quality, safety and GCP clinical trials
- **BERC-Africa** | Coordinator: Mrs Delese Darko | Building and enhancing regulatory capacity in Africa
- **SEA-RAFES** | Coordinator: Dr Fabien Taieb | Strengthening and enhancing the "Réseau Africain Francophone d'Ethique en Santé".

#### [EDCTP Senior Fellowships - 2018](#)

- **BuildRCTBCG** | Fellow: Dr Victoria Nankabirwa | Career strengthening for improved randomised controlled trials in Uganda

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

- **ESKAPE-TB** | Fellow: Dr Suventha Moodley | The influence of tuberculosis treatment on the emergence of antimicrobial resistance amongst the ESKAPE bacteria
- **IRTBHC** | Fellow: Dr Martha Zewdie Gebeyehu | Characterisation of innate and adaptive immune responses to mycobacterial antigens in household contacts of tuberculosis patients.
- **MeMoF** | Fellow: Dr Herbert Itabangi | Metabolic and molecular ecological evolution of opportunistic pulmonary fungal co-infections
- **PHARMABIOME** | Fellow: Dr Nicholas Ekow Thomford | Pharmacomicrobiomics in malaria-HIV co-infection (MHC) treatment outcome: finding causal therapeutic variation in artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) and antiretroviral therapy (ART) in a Ghanaian population
- **TIMELY** | Fellow: Dr Oghenebrume Wariri | Evaluating the contribution of sociodemographic characteristics and geographic access to immunisation service points on timeliness and delays of infant vaccinations in The Gambia.

#### [EDCTP-AREF Preparatory Fellowships - 2018](#)

- **FCGR-HIV** | Fellow: Dr H. Lamptey | Determining the role of Fc gamma receptor (FCGR) gene polymorphisms in HIV infection progression and treatment outcomes in Ghanaian adults using next-generation sequencing.

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## EDCTP joined GloPID-R

EDCTP joined the [GloPID-R funders network](#) on (re-)emerging infectious diseases as a member-observer. EDCTP will be represented by Dr Pauline Beattie, the EDCTP Operations Manager.

The GloPID-R network is an alliance bringing together research funding organisations on a global scale to facilitate effective and rapid research of a significant outbreak of a new or re-emerging infectious disease with epidemic and pandemic potential.

[Read the news item](#)

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## Project news

### **DiTECT-HAT | Publications | 14/09 & October 2020**

The DiTECT-HAT study (Diagnostic tools for human African trypanosomiasis) coordinated by Dr Veerle Lejon (IRD, France) produced two publications:

- [Analytical sensitivity of loopamp and quantitative real-time PCR on dried blood spots and their potential role in monitoring human African trypanosomiasis elimination](#)  
Experimental Parasitology Vol 219, December 2020.
- [The complex health-seeking pathway of a human African trypanosomiasis patient in Côte d'Ivoire underlines the need of setting up passive surveillance systems](#)  
PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases, 14/09 2020.

See also [the project website](#)

### **ASAAP | Site initiation and first patient-volunteer enrolled | 24/09 2020**

The ASAAP project - Clinical evaluation of antimalarials tri-therapy with atovaquone-proguanil for treatment of uncomplicated malaria in African children - is coordinated by Dr Oumou Maiga-Ascofare of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana. Partners in the consortium are from Benin, Burkina Faso, France, Gabon, Germany, and Mali.

The study got underway with a site initiation visit on 24 September 2020 at CERMEL, Gabon. The first patient has been enrolled on Monday 26 October 2020.

See also [the project website](#).

### **ITAIL-COVID-19 | Kick-off meeting | 24/09 2020**

This project is funded under the EDCTP COVID-19 emergency call. ITAIL-COVID-19 (Integrated testing approaches and intensive laboratory training as strategy against SARS-CoV-2 spread in Brazzaville) is coordinated by Dr Mathieu Ndounga of the Fondation Congolaise pour la Recherche Médicale (FCRM), Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, with partners from Belgium, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. For more information on the project see the [press release on project and kick-off meeting](#) and the [project website](#).

### **AIDCO | Project kick-off meeting | 25/09 2020**

On Friday, 25 September 2020, the AIDCO project (RIA2020EF-2961: Important data on the COVID-19 profile in Africa). It is funded under the EDCTP COVID-19 emergency call.

The online kick-off meeting started with a welcome address by project coordinator Prof. Adegnika. Then, all six participating institutions were presented: CERMEL (Lambarene, Gabon), DMP-USS (Libreville, Gabon), IRESSEF (Dakar, Senegal), (AHRI, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), LUMC (Leiden, the Netherlands) and ITM-UKT (Tuebingen, Germany.)

The core presentation by Prof. Ayola Akim Adegnika explained the rationale, the context and the main objectives of the AIDCO project. He also shared information on the progress made with critical tasks including finalising the protocol, the various grant and consortium agreements, ethics approvals obtaining, data management plan, and standard operating procedures.

The various work packages presented were:

WP1: Project management and coordination - CERMEL

WP2: Personal protective equipment - RARS/IRSESSEF

WP3: Data Management - CERMEL

WP4: Biobanking - AHRI

WP5: Clinical and virological data - DPM-USS / LUMC

WP6: Capacity building - LUMC

WP7: Dissemination - EKUT

### **PEP4LEP | Project newsletter | October 2020**

The PEP4LEP project (Chemoprophylaxis for leprosy: comparing the effectiveness and feasibility of a skin camp intervention to a health centre-based intervention. An implementation trial in Mozambique, Ethiopia and Tanzania) published a newsletter, which inevitably signalled a global issue: "Unfortunately, many of the project activities had to be paused during the past half-year."

Nevertheless, "On 22nd July 2020, Tanzania started conducting skin camps in alignment with the national COVID-19 measures, taking COVID-19 precautions... The first three camps were set up to identify challenges and train the teams on conducting skin camps.

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In total, 1,144 contacts were screened and 1,028 of them received SDR-PEP. During the skin camps, five new leprosy patients were identified and referred to receive treatment. Additionally, 259 people were diagnosed with other skin diseases for which they either received treatment or were referred for specialised care. All of the activities were performed in good cooperation with the community leaders and community members."

[Read the newsletter on the NLR website.](#)

### **LiberHetica | Press release | October 2020**

LiberHetica - Increasing the ethics capacity of oversight for clinical trials in Liberia by establishing European-African collaborations that facilitate the implementation of efficient processes, harmonised procedures, standardised guidelines and educative training programs- held its first Annual Meeting on 01 October 2020.

Subsequently, a press release on the project was published: [Africa and European Union to improve research ethics capacities in Liberia.](#)

See also [the project website](#)

### **PREPARE | Consortium Meeting 2 | 01/10 2020**

The key objectives of this meeting were to provide an overview of the activities in the first year to the wider consortium and to discuss the steps in the next period 2 of the project. The PREPARE Consortium meeting was well attended by project consortium members and their wider teams. Dr Debora Bade (Project Officer) participated on behalf of EDCTP.

From the Meeting Summary:

Prof. Philippa Musoke reported for WP2 that the study team successfully gained full approval for WP2 including a risk management plan for the study running during COVID. WP2 has officially started recruitment for the study and EMR has been implemented. The associated MRC-funded Tdap study has started recruiting.

On WP3, Dr Stephen Cose reported that ethics approvals for all sites have been gained. Samples for the biobank are going to be sent to the UK, except for Ugandan samples which are being analysed in Uganda. The Italian Journal of Paediatrics accepted a paper by Prof. Alberto Berardi for WP3.

On WP4, Prof. Paul Heath reported that the protocol for WP4 had been drafted and would be submitted for SOMREC review in November 2020.

The WP5 presentation by Dr Per Fischer mentioned that the WP5 MinervaX trial has been brought forward and is due to start in South Africa at the end of October 2020, and in Uganda in Q2 2021. Full approvals for the study in South Africa have been received and all systems are ready for the study to start.

Harriet Itiakorit (WP6) reported successful stakeholder engagement meetings, including a Community stakeholder meeting, a National stakeholder meeting and the National Drug Administration meeting.



PREPARE: study staff at Kawempe Hospital

### **Re-BCG-CoV-19 | Kick-off meeting | 07/10 2020**

The RE-BCG-CoV-19 grant consortium (BCG revaccination for healthcare workers in SARS-CoV-2 pandemic) is coordinated by Dr Andreas Diacon (TASK, South Africa). The consortium initiated the BCG for COVID-19 trial on the 4th May 2020.

From the message: "In a reversal from the norm we hosted our kick-off meeting online on 7 Oct 2020, 6 months into the project! The trial is looking at the effect of BCG revaccination for healthcare and frontline workers in South Africa in the COVID-19 pandemic. BCG vaccination results in trained immunity, we hypothesise this may have a protective effect against COVID-19."

The consortium includes the following partners:

- TASK Foundation - project coordinator, responsible for trial conduct
- Uppsala University - statistical analysis and modelling
- Radboudumc - academic support and networking among BCG trials globally
- Fundación Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Aragón - development of a lung organoid model of SARS-CoV-2 infection

"The kick-off meeting was an opportunity for all partners to introduce themselves, highlight their roles in the consortium and report on their progress towards the objectives of the grant. The partners have all made significant headway in this, most notably with the

conduct of the clinical trial and modelling of the data. Recruitment for the trial is almost complete and our first participants are reaching the 6-month follow-up visit. (ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT04379336)"

"While the data is still pouring in, early data indicate a high prevalence of latent TB infection (50%) and a higher than expected incidence of SARS-CoV-2 exposure before study enrolment among our study population. We look forward to ongoing collaboration within the consortium and to forging new links with other BCG trials being conducted globally."

### **BCA-WA-ETHICS | gender mainstreaming in ethics committees | update**

BCW\_WA-ETHICS (Building capacities in gender mainstreaming for ethics committee members from Senegal to West Africa) is an EDCTP-funded project, coordinated by the University of Zaragoza (Spain), the Ministry of Health and Social Action (Senegal), and the Institute for Health Research, Epidemiological Surveillance and Training (Senegal).

The project aims to build the capacities of the Senegalese National Research Ethics Committee (SNREC) affiliates in sex- and gender-sensitive protocol evaluation strategies. This is expected to increase and promote the production of science that considers the different needs and experiences of women, men, and gender minorities.

In addition to SNRECs' strengthening in gender mainstreaming approaches, BCA-WA-ETHICS strives to increase the visibility and representation of West African scientists and women scientists because they face a myriad of challenges that render their progress at the same rate as their male counterparts difficult.

From the update:

"This is why in March of 2020, BCA-WA-ETHICS initiated a qualitative study to explore the gendered barriers and opportunities of West African women scientists to build and consolidate their careers in biomedical, clinical, and socio-epidemiological research. The findings of this study are expected to facilitate the formulation of policy and programmatic recommendations to enhance the career prospects of cis- and trans-women scientists in West Africa."

### **Wider context: African women scientist**

"In mid-2020, BCA-WA-ETHICS Coordinator, Dr Guillermo Z. Martínez-Pérez, received a € 9,900 grant by the Spanish La Caixa Foundation to implement the project "Innovating from the South: African Women Scientists and the 2030 Agenda" (Nurdelsur). EDCTP collaborates in this grant through the project BCA-WA-ETHICS."

"Nurdelsur will be a platform for the promotion of BCA-WA-ETHICS key gender mainstreaming promotion outputs. Specifically, this initiative aims to shed light on the contributions of African female scientists to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to encourage reflection on the disparity and inequality in opportunities between African female and male scientists in Africa and the diaspora."

"Nurdelsur involves a series of conferences and workshops in the Spanish cities of Barcelona, Lleida and Zaragoza. Some of the confirmed #Nurdelsur speakers include BCA-WA-ETHICS beneficiaries Jeanne Rolande Dacouagna (Senegal-Euskadi), Iolanda Evora (Cape Verde), Gefra Fulane (Mozambique), Josiane Tantchou (Cameroon), and Morenike Folayan (Nigeria)."

"In the framework of Nurdelsur, a video production highlighting the contributions of African women scientists to the Agenda 2030 will be presented. Also, a **'White Paper on gender mainstreaming harmonisation in West African NRECs'**, one of the most important outputs of BCA-WA-ETHICS, will be published in early 2021 and presented at a

#Nurdelsur conference in Barcelona, at the Ministry of Health and Social Action of Senegal, and the Benin National Health Research Ethics Committee (BNHREC). "

"This publication will include a section specially dedicated to proposing culturally-congruent recommendations to enhance the visibility, inclusion, and representation of African female scientists. In this regard, Prof. Flore Gangbo, President of the BNHREC, and Charlotte Chacou Ale, a Beninese gender and research ethics expert that collaborates with the BNHREC, have confirmed participation as speakers in Nurdelsur and are, under the guidance of the BCA-WA-ETHICS Gender Mainstreaming Secretariat, currently adapting BNHREC procedures with a gender lens, and leading the writing of the 'White Paper on gender mainstreaming harmonization in West African NRECs'."

For more information [visit the project website](#).

To register for the Nurdelsur events, [go here](#) (only in Spanish and Catalan).

### **PEOPLE | Positive first results in leprosy study at annual meeting | 15/10 2020**

"The number of new cases of leprosy decreases in *M. leprae*-exposed people who take a one-off dose of the antibiotic rifampicin, as prophylaxis. This is confirmed by preliminary results of the PEOPLE study, presented at the annual consortium meeting."

The EDCTP-funded PEOPLE study – Post-exposure prophylaxis for leprosy in the Comoros and Madagascar – is led by the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) in Antwerp in collaboration with the national leprosy control programmes and partners from Comoros (Damien Foundation), Madagascar (CICM, Fondation R. Follereau), France (INSERM, Genoscreen), the Netherlands (LUMC) and Brazil (Fiocruz), and funded by the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP).

Although leprosy is often considered a disease of the past, this bacterial infection continues to affect many persons worldwide. In the PEOPLE study, ITM and its partners are evaluating different preventive treatment strategies. The aim is to stop the disease in two highly endemic countries: the Comoros and Madagascar.

From the update:

"Midway through the four-and-a-half-year project, the annual consortium meeting took place virtually on 15 October with all involved parties. The various partners informed each other about the progress of the study despite the COVID-19 pandemic, including the challenges and possible solutions, the training opportunities and the scientific output."

"In highly endemic villages 102,174 persons provided informed consent to be screened for skin diseases and 410 new leprosy patients were clinically diagnosed. Initial scientific findings show a greater decline in the number of new cases of leprosy after 1 year in contacts receiving a single dose of rifampicin. In future years, we will learn the best approach to identify those contacts who benefit most."

"In this study, a low complexity diagnostic test is applied for the first time in a large-scale field study for the screening of contacts for (past) infection with *M. leprae*. Also, external quality controls for the detection of *M. leprae* were performed in the four molecular diagnostic laboratories involved in the study and showed 100% correct results. Thanks to the new Deeplex Myc-Lep sequencing assay, the researchers will soon be able to compare the 'fingerprints' of leprosy bacilli in the samples of the PEOPLE study to trace transmission chains. An anthropological study informed an optimised approach for acceptance and effectiveness of the interventions."

See also [the project website](#).

### **ShigOraVax | Annual Meeting | 14/10 2020**

The first annual meeting of ShigOraVax - Early clinical development of an oral Shigella vaccine through phase II study in Africa - was successfully held via a three-hour teleconference on 14 October 2020 with representatives from all project's partners.

The project is led by Dr Sophie Houard (European Vaccine Initiative, Germany) with partners from Burkina Faso, India, The Netherlands, Sweden, and Zambia.

Partners presented achievements of the first year of the project. These include:

- the ethical approvals for an epidemiological study to estimate Shigella incidence in Burkina Faso and Zambia (registry number NCT04312906 on [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov));
- the start of the recruitment in community centres in Zambia and the preparation of the corresponding study sites;
- capacity building at the African sites was ensured by online training courses successfully organised by the CIDRZ (Zambia) and GRAS (Burkina Faso) teams;
- status of the GMP production of the ShigOraVax oral vaccine candidate;
- progress on the establishment of immunological assays for the assessment of immune response to ShigOraVax; and
- preparation of the phase Ia/ Ib trial in The Netherlands and Burkina Faso.

See also [the project website](#).

### **INTENSE-TBM | Annual meeting | 19/10 2020**

The INTENSE-TBM consortium - Intensified tuberculosis treatment to reduce the high mortality of tuberculous meningitis in HIV-infected and uninfected patients - held its annual meeting on Monday 19 October 2020. EDCTP was represented by Project Officer Shingai Machingaidze.

The progress of preparations for trial recruitment was discussed. Protocol training was conducted in Ivory Coast; for Madagascar and South Africa, this is expected to be done in November 2020, and Uganda in January 2021.

Ivory Coast, Madagascar and South Africa will likely begin recruitment in November 2020; Uganda is still awaiting ethics and regulatory approval and may only begin recruitment in January 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in delays across the board and the consortium will continue to work to mitigate these as they arise.

See also [the project website](#).

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## **EDCTP Resources and news**

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- Dr John Nkengasong (director of Africa CDC) et alii, [COVID-19 vaccines: how to ensure Africa has access](#) A comment in Nature, 06 October 2020.
- The European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) recently released the report [Fit for purpose: The EU's role in global health in the era of COVID-19](#).

EDCTP staff at the EDCTP Africa Office contributed to two papers of the Global Burden of Diseases Project, published in *The Lancet* and *The Lancet Global Health*:

- [Measuring universal health coverage based on an index of effective coverage of health services in 204 countries and territories, 1990-2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019](#)  
by GBD 2019 Universal Health Coverage Collaborators.
- [The global distribution of lymphatic filariasis, 2000-18: a geospatial analysis](#)  
by: Local Burden of Disease 2019 Neglected Tropical Diseases Collaborators.

#### GUIDELINES for GOOD EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PRACTICE

- [BRIDGE Statement: Bridging Research Integrity and Global Health Epidemiology: guidelines for good epidemiological practice](#). BMJ Global Health 28 October 2020  
- This is a set of guidelines on good epidemiological practice developed specifically for global health research.
- [Analysis: Bridging research integrity and global health epidemiology \(BRIDGE\) guidelines: explanation and elaboration](#) BMJ Global Health, 28 October 2020.  
- Building on the first, this second paper explains and elaborates on each of the items in the BRIDGE statement.

Former EDCTP project Officer Dr Daniel Weibel co-authored the first publication and Project Officer Dr Johanna Roth co-authored the second one.

#### ESSENCE PUBLICATIONS

EDCTP is one of the funders that collaborate in the [ESSENCE on Health Research initiative](#) which is hosted by TDR for research on diseases of poverty, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Recognising that fragmentation and lack of coordination of funding for health research are not only wasteful but counter-productive, members and partners of the ESSENCE on Health Research Initiative are committed to harmonising and aligning health research and funding to promote better strategic cooperation between partners, particularly among bilateral development agencies and funding organisations.

Recently, ESSENCE published new 'good practice' guidance materials:

- [Five keys to improving research costing and pricing in low- and middle-income countries](#)  
This is an update to the original 2012 version of the document which includes updated policies and approaches to the costing of research in LMICs. The document is available in English, French and Spanish.
- [Seven approaches to investing in implementation research in low- and middle-income countries](#)  
This document is unique in its guidance to how best to invest, nurture and use implementation research for health which is of increased importance in the context of LMIC health system challenges.

For all ESSENCE good practice documents in the series, [see here](#).

## 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 | Workshop Series: Sustaining Global Capacity for Implementation Research for Health in Low- and Middle-Income Countries| Dates: 2-8/11/2020**

A panel of domestic and international experts in global health, research training, implementation research, and related disciplines will explore challenges to and opportunities for advancing implementation research training and capacity development in

low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Sessions will cover the following topics:

- The burden of disease and current research capacity and research training in LMICs and SIDS
- Factors of risk for health: biologic, behavioural, and social risks in LMICs and SIDS
- Current models of successful and sustainable research capacity building programs and their impact
- The infrastructure needed to develop and test implementation strategies
- Current and future opportunities.

[More information](#)

### **NIH 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 an 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](#)

### **NIH Fogarty | Reducing Stigma to Improve HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care in Low- and Middle-Income Countries | Deadline: 12/11/2020**

Reducing Stigma to Improve HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) seeks to stimulate new and impactful research towards the development of stigma reduction interventions leading to better outcomes for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and on the quality of life of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) in LMICs. Proposed collaborative exploratory research is expected to help build the capacity for full research programs by improving the research environment and strengthening LMIC individual and institutional research capabilities in the proposed research areas.

[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. This particular programme aims 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 a 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 the 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.

### **Africa Oxford Initiative | AfOx Travel Grants, 2019+ | Ongoing call**

AfOx Travel Grants support the establishment of new collaborations between researchers in African countries and their collaborators at the University of Oxford. Travel Grants are open to all disciplines and open all year round. So far we have awarded over 100 travel grants to researchers from the African continent and the University of Oxford.

[More information](#)

### **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**

### **Institut Pasteur | MOOC | Register before 09/11 2020**

[Clinical Trials in infectious and tropical diseases](#)

Classes start 21/09 and end 16/11 2020.

**Institut Pasteur | 2nd Edition of the MOOC Malaria | Register before 07/12 2020**

[Malaria](#)

Classes start 19/10 and end 15/12 2020.

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

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