

EDCTP Update

February 2021



Highlights

- **A milestone on the road to EDCTP3**
- **Co-investing with the GHIT Fund and the Botnar Foundation**
- **Gender perspective in research ethics review** (under project News)

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A milestone on the road to EDCTP3

On 23 February 2021, the European Commission announced its proposal to set up 10 new

[European Partnerships](#) between the European Union, Member States and/or industry under the new Framework Programme for Research and Development, Horizon Europe (2021-2027).

One of these envisaged candidate partnerships is the successor programme EDCTP3. The [legal instrument](#) has also been published. The European partnership is defined as a Joint Undertaking (based on art. 187 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) and called **Global Health EDCTP3**:

"Global Health EDCTP3: This partnership will deliver new solutions for reducing the burden of infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, and strengthen research capacities to prepare and respond to re-emerging infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa and across the world. By 2030, it aims to have progressed to license at least two new health technologies tackling infectious diseases, and to have supported at least 100 research institutes in 30 countries to enable effective and rapid research response to develop health technologies against re-emerging epidemics."

See also the articles in the online magazine Science|Business:

- [Commission begins work on €10 billion in new R&D partnerships](#) also discusses EDCTP3.

GHIT and EDCTP co-invest in schistosomiasis treatment access

GHIT – the Japanese-based Global Health Innovative Technology Fund – and EDCTP co-invest an additional €7.8 million in the Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium's treatment access programme for schistosomiasis in preschool-aged children. This ADOPT programme prepares for the large-scale access and delivery of the Consortium's novel paediatric medication. The additional investment of €2.1 million by GHIT will run for two years (2021-2023), while the investment of €5.7 million by EDCTP will run for five years (2021-2025).

[Read the news item](#) (25/02 2021).



Summary of achievements 2014–2020

The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership

Supported by the
European Union



A suitcase-sized laboratory for rapid detection of SARS-COV-2 in Africa

In cooperation with several African universities, a study led by virologist Dr Ahmed Abd El Wahed, Leipzig University, found that a small, mobile laboratory fitting in a suitcase delivers test results that are almost as good as a PCR test and are delivered in nearly real-time. EDCTP supported the clinical evaluation with a COVID-19 Emergency grant of €500,000.

“Detection and isolation of infected cases remain an important part of the [COVID-19] response. Unfortunately, the number of tests in sub-Saharan Africa is low in comparison to other countries. One of the reasons is the need for highly sophisticated and expensive real-time PCR equipment. To overcome this, we have developed a solar-powered portable lab for the rapid detection of SARS-CoV-2. Using a molecular assay, it takes only 15 minutes to get a result, with an accuracy of approximately 94% in comparison to real-time PCR.” *Dr Ahmed Abd El Wahed, study coordinator, Leipzig University.*

[Read the news item](#) (11/02 2021).



The BRCCH and EDCTP partner on a new joint COVID-19 initiative

The Botnar Research Centre for Child Health (BRCCH) and EDCTP jointly support three multi-institutional, multi-country collaborations for research to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Three collaborative projects are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with research to improve the surveillance and management of COVID-19. The projects are a result of a synergistic Collaboration Initiative by EDCTP and the BRCCH to drive interdisciplinary efforts to combat global health challenges amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read the press release](#) (08/02 2021).

Recent events

Science|Business | Workshop and report on HERA | 23/02 2021

In September 2020, the European Commission proposed creating a new agency, the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA).

The private network and media organisation Science|Business, aiming to bring together industry, research and policy, organised the workshop ['The future HERA: What is at stake?'](#) on 12 January 2021. The workshop discussed the new proposal including how HERA should be organised, what it should do, and how it should be funded. Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP's Executive Director, was one of the experts invited to contribute, particularly to the panel on 'HERA in the European and international health ecosystems: how will it fit?'. It envisaged a discussion around the governance of the Agency, the relation between HERA and other instruments in place at the European (e.g. ECDC, EMA, EDCTP) and international (e.g. BARDA, CEPI, WHO) levels and the possible reshuffling of health competences between the EU and the Member States.

On 23 February 2021, [Science|Business published the report](#). The EDCTP Executive Director spoke on the need for international partnerships: "Makanga argued that HERA should build partnerships around the world and set up "flexible mechanisms" to drive a mix of public and private finance into pandemic preparedness and response capabilities, which are costly and require long-term funding to be effective." (p. 14)

ISNTD | d3 2021 conference | 24-25/02 2021

The important conference ISNTD 'd3 2021, organised by the International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases on 24-25/02 2021 focused on 'Drug discovery, development & diagnostics for neglected tropical disease'.

The opening panel session on 24 February, chaired by Andrew Jack, Global Education editor at the Financial Times, was dedicated to 'Rethinking financial incentives for drugs and diagnostics for Neglected Tropical Diseases'. The panel comprised Dr Hayato Urabe (Senior Director, Investment Strategy, Portfolio Development & Innovations, GHIT Fund); Dr Olawale Ajose (Head of Access, Neglected Tropical Diseases, DNDi); Margo Warren (Government Engagement & Policy Manager, Access to Medicine Foundation); and Dr Pauline Beattie (Operations Manager, EDCTP).

 ISNTD Retweeted



ISNTD @ISNTD_Press · 24 Feb

Optimism pervades as we conclude the first panel at ISNTD d³ 2021 on rethinking financial incentives for drugs and diagnostics for Neglected Tropical Diseases! A huge thank you to our panelists [@Margo_E_Warren](#) [@AtMIndex](#) [@DNDi](#) [@hayato_IMO](#) [@GHITFund](#) [@fthealth](#) [@FT](#) [@EDCTP](#)



EDCTP | Knowledge Hub: webinar on protocol development | 25/02 2021

Following the success of the first EDCTP Knowledge Hub webinar held on 30 November 2020, which was focused on data management and data sharing, EDCTP and The Global Health Network (TGHN) organised a second webinar on 25 February 2021. It received high interest and engagement from grantees and others alike. The event was attended live by over 350 participants from across the globe. EDCTP and TGHN were once again delighted by this response.

Distinguished chairs and guest speakers from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sweden), the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Switzerland), the European Medicines Agency (the Netherlands), MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit (Uganda), and the SADTAP Health Research Institute (Zimbabwe) contributed to the discussion.

Overall, panellists and participants welcomed the EDCTP Knowledge Hub and found the protocol development toolkit to be a good resource containing practical guidance and templates, all together in one place.

A recording of the webinar, together with the questions and answers and a short report, will be made available soon on the event page. We encourage you to continue to provide any feedback you may have through the feedback form on the EDCTP Knowledge Hub.

See the [EDCTP Knowledge Hub event page](#).

Project news

Enhancing Ethics in Sudan | Research ethics course for investigators

The Sudanese Network of Research Ethics Committees, an initiative funded by EDCTP and launched in 2017, reported on one of its deliverables, an 'Online Research Ethics Course for Investigators'. The course was developed by the Programme for Improving the Ethical Review System in Sudan, a collaboration between the University of Khartoum, the Al-Neelain University, and the Federal Ministry of Health. Some of the content was adapted from materials of the [Middle East Research Ethics Training Initiative](#).

The [self-paced course is intended to provide a foundation for investigators](#) in conducting research on human subjects. It is divided into nine modules. When candidates have studied the nine modules, they have the option to complete the course by taking a test and gaining a certificate (80% good answers). Since its launch, in December 2018, the online course has been completed by 180 investigators; 118 of whom also passed the exam.

The project was called [Enhancing Ethics in Sudan](#) (Improving ethical review process in Sudan through capacity building of National Regulatory Authorities) and coordinated by Dr Shaza Abbas (University of Khartoum, Sudan).

The photo below: Revising the national guidelines of Research Ethics (2017) - A Panel of 12 research ethics experts representing the Federal Ministry of Health, the Medicine and Poisons Board, the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, research ethics experts from four universities and one international expert.



UNIVERSAL | Project launch | 03/02 2021

The EDCTP-funded project UNIVERSAL, a European-African clinical research partnership, was officially launched on 03 February 2021.

It is coordinated by Professor Carlo Giaquinto ([President of the Penta Foundation](#)) and involves 15 partners from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Mali, the Netherlands, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Zimbabwe.

The project aims to develop two antiretroviral formulations for children living with HIV and to speed up their availability at low cost for low- and middle-income countries. Read the [press release](#).

BCA-WA-ETHICS | Publication and conference | February 2021

The latest output of the BCA-WA-ETHICS project is '[The ethicist's practical guide to the evaluation of preclinical research from a sex and gender perspective](#)'. It aims to guide research evaluators in National Research Ethics Committees (NRECs) and Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) on how to take sex and gender perspectives into consideration when they evaluate preclinical research protocols. This will contribute to the credibility, generalisability, and validity of the envisaged health research and thus its equitable impact.

The guide contains a three-step Sex and Gender Analysis Framework for the evaluation of preclinical research. It offers a set of questions to ask when evaluating preclinical research, as well as a set of exercises to help ethicists and scientists affiliated with NRECs and IRBs test their application of the Framework's guidelines.

On 10 February 2021, [BCA-WA-ETHICS](#) (Building capacities in gender mainstreaming for ethics committee members from Senegal to West Africa) organised the virtual conference 'Lumière Du Sud: Établir des alliances pour l'Agenda 2030 avec les femmes scientifiques africaines' [Light from the South: Establishing alliances for the 2030 Agenda with African women scientists] to promote the contributions of African women scientists to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Watch the [recorded meeting](#).



ASAAP | Second annual meeting | 15/02 2021

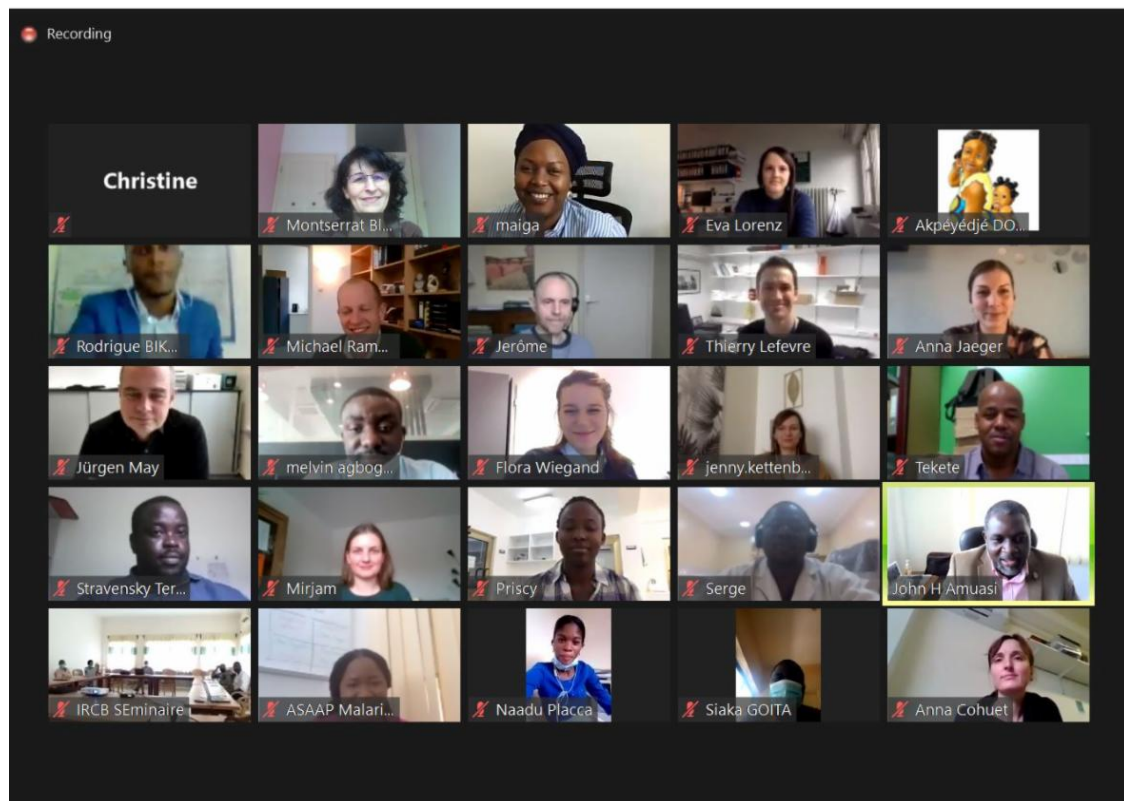
The ASAAP consortium held its second Annual Meeting on 15 February 2021. The project is coordinated by Dr Oumou Maïga-Ascofaré of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana). It evaluates the safety, tolerability, and transmission-blocking activity of a novel triple therapy, combining artemether with lumefantrine and atovaquone-proguanil (also known as Malarone).

The virtual meeting of the ASAAP project was attended by 45 investigators, including representatives from Pharmalys Ltd. (clinical monitoring and quality assurance tasks). Dr Montserrat Blázquez-Domingo, EDCTP Senior Project Officer, took also part in the meeting. Its main objective was to provide progress updates, particularly on the pilot study conducted in Lambaréné, Gabon. Also discussed were the preparations for the main clinical study and its ancillary sub-studies to be conducted in four recruitment centres in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Mali.

The start of the pilot study had to be postponed from June to October 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pilot study has recruited 100% of the sample size (60 adults/adolescents) and the study team expects to complete the follow-up of the last participant by 26 February 2021. After evaluation of the data by the Data and Safety Monitoring Board, the go/no-go decision to progress to the main trial will be taken by early April 2021.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, the consortium has made good progress on capacity building and training activities. Overall, achievements in terms of project milestones and deliverables in years 1 and 2 were considered satisfactory.

The EUR 7.6 million project is funded by EDCTP, and co-funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany and the French Institute of Health and Medical



MiniMox | Kick-off meeting | 16/02 2021

The MiniMox 'moxidectin for all' project recently gathered representatives from all participating organisations at a virtual kick-off meeting held on 16 February 2021. The meeting objectives were to discuss the work packages, timelines, and EDCTP's expectations. The administrative, financial, and communication management plans for the project were also presented.

Running from January 2021 to June 2024, the project aims to develop the first paediatric formulation of moxidectin for the poverty-related filarial disease, onchocerciasis. This formulation may also have the potential for better management of other neglected infectious diseases disproportionately affecting children in low- and middle-income countries. Annual mass administration of ivermectin over the decades has controlled onchocerciasis in some regions, but alternative strategies are required for elimination across Africa.

Moxidectin is a new medicine in 2mg tablet form, approved in 2018 by the United States Food and Drug Administration for treatment of onchocerciasis of adolescents (≥ 12 years old) and adults. The project aims to develop a formulation of moxidectin for young children and others unable to swallow the 2mg tablets.

The consortium is managed by the Luxembourg Institute of Health and led by Dr Michel Vaillant. Scientific leadership is also contributed by Dr Sally Kinrade, Medicines Development for Global Health, United Kingdom.

Other project partners are the University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana; the University of Strathclyde, UK; Universitätsklinikum Bonn, Germany; and the Centre for Research on Filariasis and other Tropical Diseases, Cameroon. A representative from the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases at WHO, which has championed the moxidectin development program for many years, is also a much-valued contributor to this project.

TB TRIAGE+ | Trial start in Lesotho | February 2021

On 16 February 2021, the TB TRIAGE+ project team announced the launch of the accuracy clinical trial on the evaluation of new triage tests (CRP and CAD4TB) for the diagnosis of tuberculosis. The first patient has been enrolled at the study site in Butha-Buthe in Lesotho

by the SolidarMed team.

More information about the project on the [project website](#) and in the [EDCTP online project profile](#).

PREV_PKDL | Flow cytometry capacity building in Africa

Knowledge sharing and capacity building are key to advance scientific research and innovation. One of the main objectives of the EDCTP-funded PREV_PKDL project (EUR 8 million) is to strengthen immunology research capacity in East Africa by promoting the development of a flow cytometry Centre of Excellence. The project PREV-PKDL (Clinical development of a therapeutic vaccine for prevention of post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis) is coordinated by Dr Sophie Houard ([European Vaccine Initiative](#), Heidelberg, Germany).

To achieve this goal, flow cytometers were installed at the four African sites (IEND, Sudan; KEMRI, Kenya; University of Gondar, Ethiopia; University of Makerere, Uganda) and flow managers identified, to create a nucleus of highly skilled experts able to foster further local research and training in their own countries.

In 2020, within the flow cytometry training programme provided by the University of York to the African partners in the PREV_PKDL project, collaboration has been established with the CREDO project to extend the training to colleagues at the Institut National de la Recherche Biomédicale (INRB) located in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The CREDO project is funded by the Belgian federal government through the Directorate General of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid. It was launched by the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp. It aims at improving the health of the Congolese population through building capacity for research in new and (re-)emerging diseases.

More information:

- at the PREV PKDL website: [PREV PKDL and CREDO projects join forces to strengthen flow cytometry capacity in Africa](#)
- in the ITM press release on the launch of the CREDO project: [ITM and Congolese partners join forces to prevent and combat emerging disease outbreaks](#).

INTENSE-TBM | Trial recruitment of first two patients | February 2021

The EDCTP-funded project INTENSE-TBM (EUR 9.3 million) is coordinated by Prof. Fabrice Bonnet (University of Bordeaux, France) and evaluates 'Intensified tuberculosis treatment to reduce the high mortality of tuberculous meningitis in HIV-infected and uninfected patients. The project runs for 60 months and has started on 01 January 2019

"I am very happy to announce the inclusion of the first two patients in the INTENSE-TBM trial, one in Antananarivo and one in Abidjan. Several years of work have now been rewarded by the implementation to hospital teams and patients of an efficient clinical research environment which will allow us, I hope, to conduct this trial under the best conditions for the benefit of patients who need it most. We look forward to South Africa and Uganda joining us in the coming days."

See also [the project website](#) on this update.

FEX-g-HAT | Second annual meeting | February 2021

Launched in June 2020, the FEX-g-HAT project 'Capacity development to facilitate the delivery and uptake of fexinidazole for the elimination of human African trypanosomiasis' has had a challenging but rewarding start.

Despite the challenging environment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the teams continued to work on the ambition of the project, i.e. to facilitate the delivery and uptake of fexinidazole in the health systems of Angola, Central African Republic, DRC, Guinea and South Sudan, in view of the elimination of HAT.

Training of health care providers was carried out focussing on serological screening, updating new HAT treatment guidelines and pharmacovigilance, to support improved detection and early treatment of *T.b. gambiense* (g-HAT). Activities to ensure effective tracking and to facilitate access to fexinidazole were also undertaken. Furthermore, 26

focal points for three regional pharmacovigilance centres in the DRC have been trained.

The project is funded by EDCTP with EUR 2.2 million; it is coordinated by Dr Florent Mbo of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (Geneva, Switzerland).

EDCTP Fellows in times of COVID

Dr C.G. Banda - PENETRATE study

Career Development Fellow Dr Banda is conducting a study on 'Impact of standard antiretroviral therapy on the pharmacokinetic profile and placental penetration of piperazine administered as dihydroartemisinin-piperazine for intermittent preventive treatment of malaria among HIV-infected pregnant women in Malawi'. Data collection is completed and the database is locked; data analysis is ongoing and will be completed in the first quarter of 2021.

EDCTP congratulates him with follow-on funding: he has been a Wellcome Trust International Training Fellowship as of September 2021. The new study will build on [the work he did on ART-antimalarial drug interactions in pregnant during the EDCTP fellowship](#).

Dr Willy Ssengooba - MDRTBTx-Monitor study

Career Development Fellow Dr Ssengooba conducts a study to evaluate 'alternative bacteriological measures of response to therapy during the initial 16-weeks of MDR-TB treatment'. Moreover, he is contributing to COVID-19 pandemic control.

"From the early COVID-19 case notifications in Uganda, I have been involved in aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic control. Under my department, I have contributed to writing concepts and proposals and to the creation of the COVID-19 biobank at the School of Biomedical Sciences. Furthermore, the Mycobacteriology (BSL-3) laboratory, of which I am the Scientific Director, has been at the forefront of sample management for the rapid community assessment of COVID-19.

Recently, I was contacted by the national COVID-19 laboratory task force headed by the Commissioner National Health Laboratory and Diagnostic Services/ CPHL and Prof. Joloba Moses, to conduct the verification study of the Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test and the training to apply Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 testing at Uganda's border points. I successfully conducted the verification exercise and presented the results to the team on 10 May 2020. I was tasked to join the team as a technical expert to set up the Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 testing at Malaba border point, which I did on 11 May 2020, and also at the Mutukula border point on 15-16 May 2020.

Our analysis of this experience and other aspects of COVID-19 are in an advanced stage of peer-review for publication. On 26 May 2020, I received a request from the Commissioner National Health Laboratory and Diagnostic Services to conduct a biosafety assessment and training at ELEGU border point which I completed on 27 May 2020. We have submitted 3 COVID-19 related articles for publication.

Within my university, I have worked on studies aiming to determine the optimal number of samples for pooling on Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 and leading the validation of novel methods for TB/COVID-19 coinfection determination."

The photo below: Official opening of the Mutukula border point COVID testing lab.

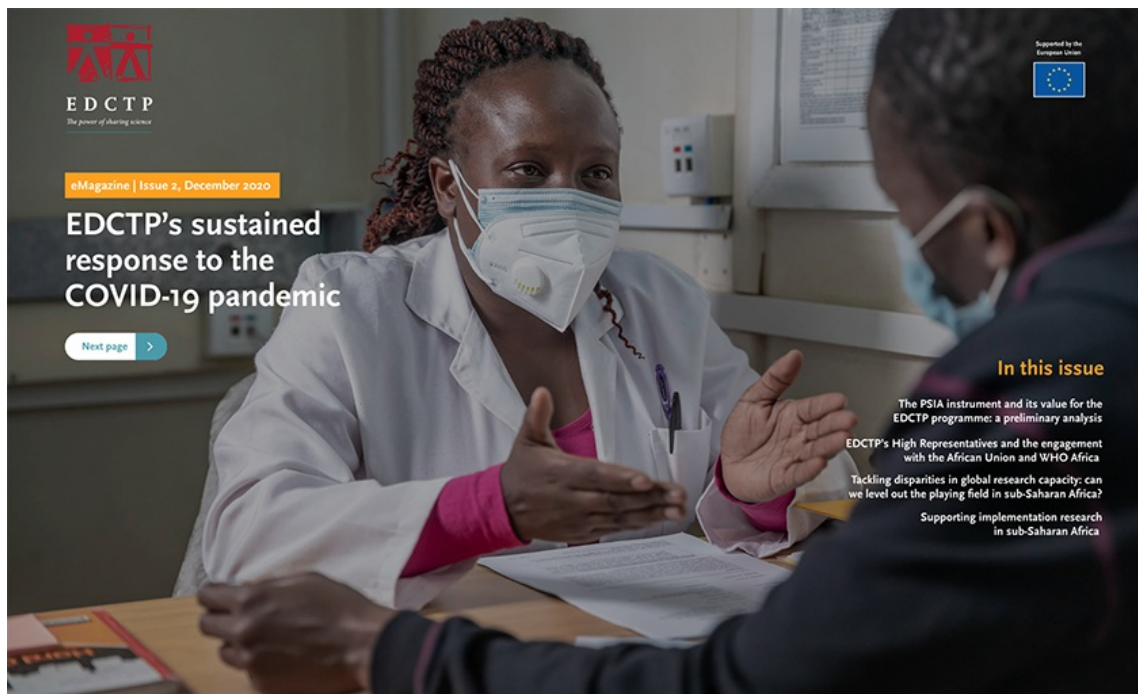


Dr Jean Nachega - Publication

Dr Jean Nachega, a former EDCP1 fellow, is currently Associate Professor of Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Microbiology and Epidemiology at the Graduate School of Pittsburg University (among other academic positions) has published: Jean B. Nachega et al., ['Contact Tracing and the COVID-19 Response in Africa: Best Practices, Key Challenges, and Lessons Learned from Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda'](#), *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* (ahead of print).

Resources





EDCTP | Guidelines for grantees - Progress report

EDCTP Guidelines for grantees on how to best use the online progress reporting facility in EDCTPgrants, EDCTP's grant management system. Go to the publication [Online Progress Report in EDCTPgrants – Guidelines for beneficiaries](#).

Publications

- Prof. Moses J. Bokarie (EDCTP Director of International Cooperation - Africa) wrote a well-received blog post: 'Winning the Global War against Neglected Tropical Diseases' [on the Global Health Now website](#), 16/02 2021.

Funding opportunities

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 100 travel grants have been rewarded to researchers from the African continent and the University of Oxford. [More information](#)

MMV | 19th Call for proposals on drug discovery | Deadline 26/03/2021

MMV welcomes proposals in the following areas:

1. Compounds having activity against *Plasmodium falciparum* blood stages and ideally an inability to select resistant mutants *in vitro* (TCP1);
2. Compounds having activity against *Plasmodium falciparum* liver stages for use in prophylaxis (TCP4);
3. Compounds addressing the key priorities of the malaria eradication agenda (TCP3 and TCP5).

First a 3-page [Letter of Interest](#) (LOI) needs to be completed. Proposals involving a biological target should also submit the completed [target information template](#).

See [further instructions](#) on how to complete the LOI.

[More information](#)

For Women in Science - Fondation L'Oreal | Sub-Saharan Africa Call for Applications 2021 | Deadline 29/03/2021

- 15 endowments for doctoral students and 5 for post-doctoral students,
- Training in Leadership, Management, Negotiation, and Communication

[More information](#)

MRC UK | Improving health in LMIC countries | Deadline: 14/04 2021

This call will open on 01 February 2021. Apply for funding for research that will benefit the health of people living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Particularly welcome are proposals that combine expertise from more than one sector to meet a global health challenge. There is no limit to the amount of funding one can apply for. Proposals can be of any size, from a small seed-funding proposal to a large-scale programme grant.

You can apply if you are:

- an LMIC-based principal investigator
- a UK-based principal investigator working in partnership with LMIC investigators.

[More information](#)

RSTHM | Small grants Tropical medicine and global health | Deadline 15/04 2021

The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene's small grants programme offers early career researchers and global health professionals based anywhere in the world the opportunity to apply for funding in a topic related to tropical medicine and global health.

The programme funds projects across the research spectrum, including lab-based, clinical, implementation and policy-related research. The aim of the programme is to develop the next generation of global health researchers by providing seed funding to enable them to generate preliminary data to secure follow-on grants and further their careers.

Applications focused on the thematic areas listed in RSTMH's five-year strategy will be prioritised. Anyone in their early career from any nationality based anywhere in the world can apply. Only RSTMH members can receive funding. If successful, applicants who are not already members will be asked to join the Society.

[More information](#)

CEPI | Complementary clinical trials on COVID-19 | Deadline 28/05/2021

CEPI is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity of up to USD140 million, contingent upon the availability of funds. The focus is on clinical trials with the aim to rapidly expand access to and confidence in COVID-19 vaccines by i) generating clinical evidence in special/sub-populations/age groups or ii) addressing clinical development gaps.

Clinical trials which expand access and capacity in low- and middle-income countries are particularly encouraged.

[More information](#)

COURSES

EAPI | online short courses on pharmacovigilance and snakebites | Kenya

The East African Pharmacovigilance Initiative (EAPI) is a partnership between the Pharmacy and Poisons Board and the University of Nairobi funded through the EDCTP-funded EAPI project.

The courses have interactive features like journaling for participants to document their experiences, interactive video content, and interactive text materials. Future content will be expanded to level 3 interactivity, which includes online simulations and practice sessions. The platform also has a forum section for participants.

- The pharmacovigilance (PV) course has three variations: 1) Advanced PV, which is focused on pharmacy professionals working in the PV space; 2) Basic PV course - five modules and tailored to non-pharmacy medical professionals; 3) This course can also be taken by the general public.
- The snakebite course has seven modules that enable the participant to learn more about the prevention and clinical management of snake bites.

[More information](#)

Upcoming events

Virtual Global Forum on TB Vaccines | 20-22/04 2021

The Virtual 6th Global Forum on TB Vaccines will take place from 20-22 April 2021. It provides an important and unique opportunity to review the state of the field, share the latest research findings, and identify new and innovative approaches to TB vaccine R&D, with the end goal of developing and deploying new TB vaccines as quickly as possible.

The Virtual Global Forum program will include presentations and panel discussions focused on progress and key issues in TB vaccine R&D against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sessions will be made available on-demand for registered participants following the Global Forum so that you can view sessions that you were unable to join at the scheduled time.

[More information on the Forum website.](#)

IAS | 11th Conference on HIV Science | 18-21/07 2021

The International AIDS Society organises its biennial scientific conference on 18-21/07 2021. The conference presents the basic, clinical and operational research that moves science into policy and practice.

From the website: "Through its open and inclusive programme development, the meeting sets the gold standard of HIV research featuring highly diverse and cutting-edge studies. IAS 2021 participants can expect a full conference experience via an easy-to-use digital platform that connects researchers, health care providers, advocates and policymakers. Additionally, a local partner hub will convene locally-based experts in the original host city of Berlin, in accordance with local health advice and regulations."

- [Sign up for updates](#)
- [Registration now open](#) (early registration closes 31/03 2021)
- [Scholarship submissions](#) close 04/03 2021

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

