

EDCTP Update

April 2021



Highlights

- **10th EDCTP Forum – Call for Abstracts** (under Upcoming events)
- **EDCTP-funded trial of R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine shows 77% efficacy**
- **EDCTP and AIGHD launched a global roadmap for tuberculosis vaccine development**

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EDCTP-funded trial of R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine shows 77% efficacy

Positive results from an EDCTP-funded clinical trial in Burkina Faso, published as a preprint with [The Lancet](#), demonstrate that the malaria vaccine candidate R21/Matrix-M is safe, immunogenic and has an efficacy of 77%, exceeding the WHO goal of 75% efficacy for malaria vaccines.

Dr Michael Makanga: *"We congratulate the Multi-stage Malaria Vaccine Consortium on these highly promising results from the Burkina Faso trial of R21. This study represents a key advance in the clinical development of the R21 malaria vaccine towards licensure, and an important step closer to malaria control and elimination."*

Read [the EDCTP message](#).

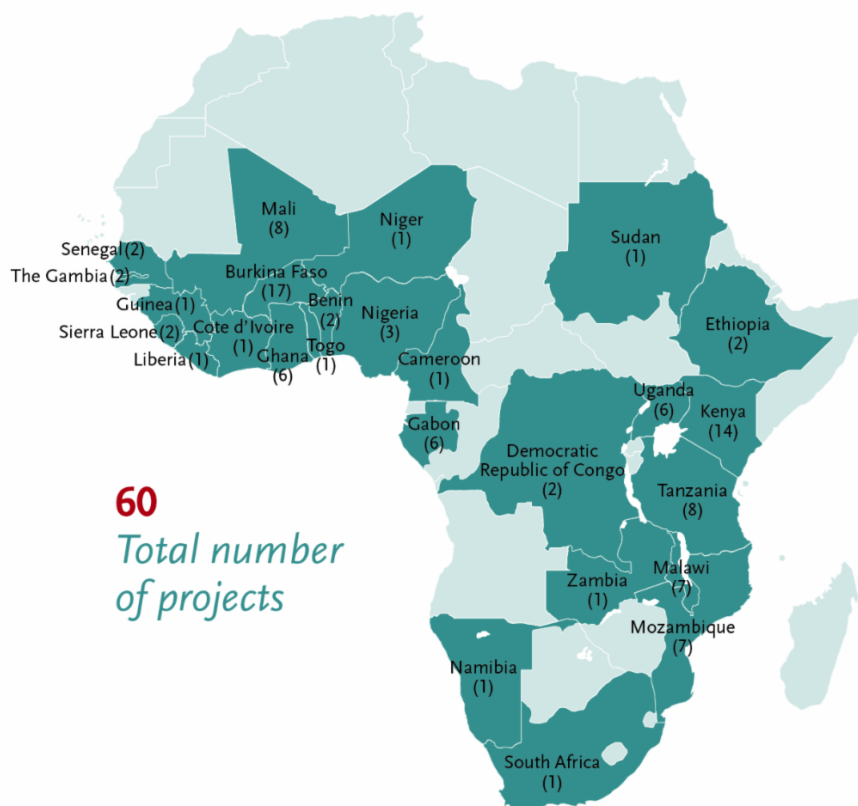
World Malaria Day 2021

On World Malaria Day 2021, EDCTP joined all partners in the 'Zero Malaria – Draw the Line Against Malaria' campaign. Towards malaria research & development, EDCTP has invested more than €150 million to support a portfolio of 60 research projects conducted by African-European consortia and research fellows in Africa.

Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director: *"We must not waver in our efforts to control and steadily move towards malaria eradication, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges. The recent exciting results from the clinical development of the R21 malaria vaccine in Burkina Faso bring us a step closer to a highly effective malaria vaccine. We remain committed to supporting the development of new and improved products for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment, as well as product-focused implementation research to ensure that these products reach the populations that need them most."*

Read [the EDCTP message](#).

The map below shows the total number of EDCTP-funded malaria projects involving 104 research institutions in in sub-Saharan countries.



EDCTP and AIGHD launched a global roadmap for TB vaccine development

On 20 April 2021, EDCTP and the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD) launched the Global Tuberculosis (TB) Vaccines R&D

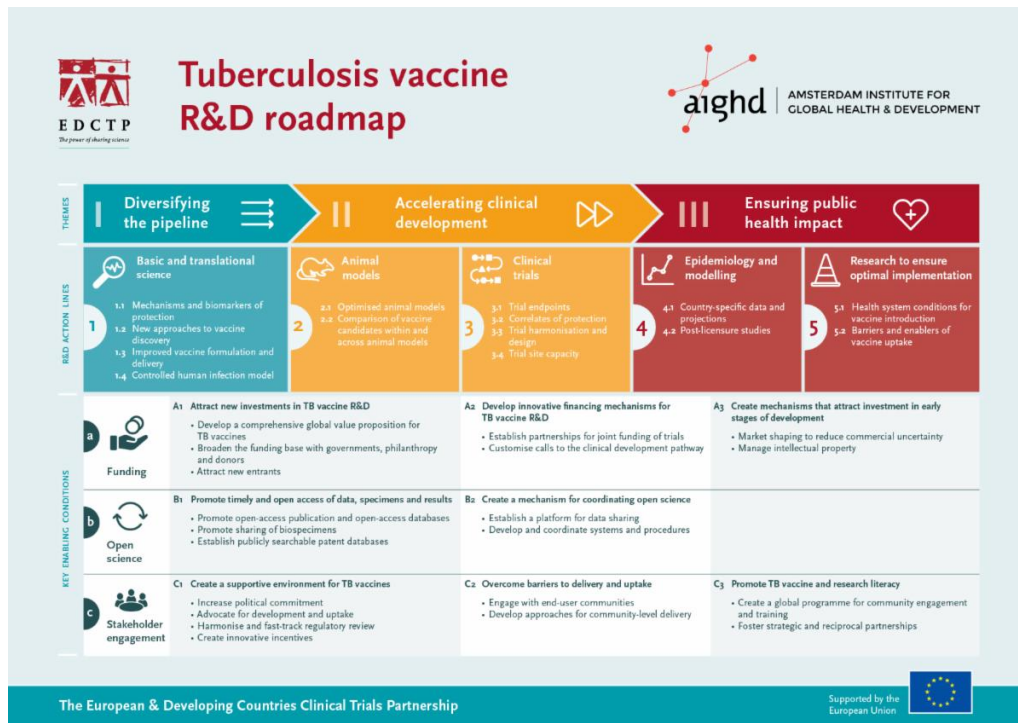
Roadmap at the Virtual Global Forum on TB Vaccines. It identifies priorities for the development and implementation of new TB vaccines with the aim to coordinate and accelerate global action. The project was carried out in close collaboration with the World Health Organization.

"This roadmap reflects a collective analysis by end-users, implementers, regulators, funders, manufacturers, and researchers of the barriers in TB vaccine R&D and the actions we need to take to overcome them. For COVID-19, a collective effort has brought a tremendous acceleration of vaccine development. Let's show we can do this for TB as well."

Prof. Frank Cobelens, Chair of the Executive Board, AIGHD

Read [the EDCTP message](#).

Download the summary [Global roadmap for research and development of tuberculosis vaccines](#) (PDF).



Recent events

Paediatric Regulatory Network meeting | 14–15/04 2021

The [WHO Paediatric Regulatory Network](#) is a global paediatric network supporting the availability of quality-assured medical products for children. It facilitates communication, collaboration, training, and regulatory harmonisation across the development, registration and pharmacovigilance of paediatric medical products.

The aim of the meeting was to share paediatric regulatory information, updates and achievements, discuss where the network's interactions can help national regulatory authorities, how to optimise the use of regulatory reliance for paediatric medicines, and how to promote good practices and inventive solutions to overcome regulatory challenges. EDCTP Project Officer, Ms Michelle Nderu, participated in the Paediatric Regulatory Network meeting held from 14–15 April 2021.

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

The Virtual Global Forum on TB Vaccines took place from 20–22 April 2021. EDCTP was one of the sponsors and Dr Michael Makanga spoke at the opening session; he closed his speech in the following way:

"The future orientation of EDCTP will have more focus on late-stage clinical trials and product-focused implementation research. This will require increased global collaboration and flexible funding modalities. TB research including TB vaccine R&D remains in the high priority category.

We remain committed to open science, promoting highly collaborative R&D and bidirectional capacity development to accelerate vaccine R&D in the context of Sustainable Development Goals.

We all need to recognise the importance of achieving new TB vaccines in the context of global efforts to end TB and consider lessons learnt from the current COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to hearing the scientific progress that has been achieved in recent years that will be presented at the Forum."

The Virtual Global Forum programme included 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](#)

A special session was dedicated to the presentation of the final Global TB Vaccine R&D Roadmap as commissioned by EDCTP to the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD).

For more information on the Global TB Vaccine R&D Roadmap, see the [EDCTP message mentioned above](#) and the [EDCTP event web page](#).

Recently signed grants

[Innovative approaches to enhance poverty-related diseases research – 2020](#)

- **VL-INNO** | Coordinator Dr Fabiana Alves | Next-generation diagnostics and oral treatment for visceral leishmaniasis in Eastern Africa: transforming patient care through innovation

[Strategic actions to maximise the impact of research on reducing disease burden, in collaboration with development cooperation initiatives – 2020](#)

- **LeishAccess** | Coordinator Dr Jorge Alvar | African leishmaniasis: From clinical research to access

[Career Development Fellowships – 2020](#)

- **CETH** | Fellow: Dr Bey-Marrie Schmidt | Strengthening community engagement in TB and HIV vaccine trials in South Africa
- **SCONE** | Fellow: Dr Joseph N. Siewe Fodjo | "Slash and Clear" for onchocerciasis control and epilepsy prevention

[Treatment innovations for poverty-related diseases – 2017](#)

- **SINDOFO** | Coordinator: Dr Jana Held | Phase II multicenter clinical trial of a ferroquine + MMV253 short regimen for the treatment of malaria

[Senior Fellowships Plus – 2019](#)

- **EGSAT** | Fellow: Prof. Alfred Amambua-Ngwa | *Plasmodium falciparum* tolerance to antimalarial drugs in West Africa: Molecular determinants and evolutionary dynamics (Emerging genomic selection and antimalarial tolerance in Africa)

[Career Development Fellowships – 2019](#)

- **PEST4MEN** | Fellow: Dr Joseph Matovu | Peer-led HIV self-testing to improve HIV and linkage to HIV care among men in two fishing communities in rural Uganda: a pilot intervention

Project news

DiTECT-HAT | HAT Elimination ceremony in Côte d'Ivoire | 25/03 2021

The official ceremony to announce the WHO validation of the elimination of human African trypanosomiasis in Côte d'Ivoire took place on 25 March 2021 in Abidjan, in the presence of the Minister of Health and the French ambassador.

EDCTP2 contributed to HAT elimination through the [DiTECT-HAT](#) diagnostics project, led by Dr Veerle Lejon (IRD, FRANCE). In 2017, it initiated the creation of a passive surveillance network consisting of eight serological screening centres

and two centres for diagnosis and treatment in the endemic foci of Bonon and Sinfra in Côte d'Ivoire.

The importance of setting up such networks for passive screening is underlined by an [article describing the medical pathway of the first patient included in the trial](#) (see also the video below). A second article describing the results of the trial has been submitted and is under peer review.

More information:

- Le Monde Afrique: [La maladie du sommeil officiellement « éliminée » en Côte d'Ivoire](#)
- IRD institutional communication: [L'OMS valide l'élimination de la maladie du sommeil en tant que problème de santé publique en Côte d'Ivoire](#)



BERC-Luso | Report on 2020 Ethics capacity building | April 2021

The project 'Biomedical ethics and Regulatory Capacity Building Partnership for Portuguese-Speaking African Countries' ([BERC-Luso](#)) aims at establishing and developing ethics and regulatory capacities in five Portuguese-speaking African countries (Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé and Príncipe). The main objective is to conduct educational and training activities for the National Ethics Committees (NEC) and National Regulatory Authorities (NRA).

The main activity in 2020 was the training "Biomedical Research and Clinical Trials: Ethics and Regulatory Capacity building" in February in Cabo Verde. During a week of intensive training, 25 trainees from all partner countries learned together about how to leverage action on ethics and regulatory review of clinical trials.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the internship in Portugal envisaged as a practical follow-up to the training, had to be postponed. Digitally, the project kept in frequent contact with the trainees to maintain the positive connection and bond of trust formed in the Cabo Verde event.

BERC-Luso also decided to support the dissemination in Portuguese of trustworthy information and best practices regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and how to cope with it. At a country level, the project also assisted in regards to biomedical research activities, namely through assistance in clinical trial reviews and ethical discussions.

During the past year, the BERC-Luso project has assisted the development of institutional capacity, supporting the partner institutions with relevant data, information, and meetings on a regular basis. More than 30 webinars, meetings

and capacity building contact opportunities have been realised. The topics comprised, among others, the use of community masks against COVID-19, informed consent in pandemic times, clinical research and procedures in pandemic times, innovation and clinical research, principles and procedures in clinical research.

BCA-WA-ETHICS | French language guidance | April 2021

[BCA-WA-ETHICS](#) (Building capacities in gender mainstreaming for ethics committee members from Senegal to West Africa) published the French version of its '[The ethicist's practical guide to the evaluation of preclinical research from a sex and gender perspective](#)' (published earlier in February 2021).

Download the French version published in April 2021: [Guide pratique de l'ethiciste pour l'évaluation de la recherche préclinique dans une perspective de sexe et de genre](#).

SNECFA | Prof. Lazare Kaputé | 12/04 2021

Prof. Lazare Kaptue, President of the National Ethics Committee of Cameroon, passed away on 12 April 2021 after a brief illness. Prof. Kaptue was involved in EDCTP ethics projects including the ongoing SNEFCA (Strengthening National Ethics Committees in West and Central Francophone Africa) project. May he rest in peace.

More information:

Cameroon-info.net: Cameroun: [Décès du Professeur Lazare Kaptué, cofondateur de l'Université des Montagnes](#)

TB TRIAGE+ | Enrolment of the first South African patient | 08/04 2021

The [TB TRIAGE+ project](#) is evaluating new approaches for community-based diagnosis of tuberculosis for hard-to-reach populations in Southern Africa. The project is conducted by a consortium led by Dr Klaus Reither (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute) with funding from EDCTP.

The TB TRIAGE+ Accuracy clinical trial on the evaluation of new triage tests (CRP and CAD4TB) for TB diagnosis has started at the study site in Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa). After the first patient had been enrolled in Lesotho in February, now the first patient in South Africa was registered by the local partner, the Human Sciences Research Council.

Other objectives of the project include the contribution to SARS-CoV-2 testing and the evaluation of new diagnostic tools.

Below are photographs of the team and mobile x-ray unit at the clinical trial site.





PEDVAC-iNTS | Kick-off meeting | 12/04 2021

Invasive non-typhoidal salmonella (iNTS) is an under-recognised poverty-related bacterial disease in sub-Saharan Africa that shows increasing antimicrobial resistance (AMR). No vaccine is currently available, despite an estimated 59,000 deaths (2017) and a 14.5% case fatality rate (particularly in children under five years of age). WHO included the microbes causing iNTS in its high-priority list of antibiotic-resistant pathogens showing a concerning increase in multidrug resistance.

The overall aim of the EDCTP-funded PEDVAC-iNTS project is to conduct a paediatric phase I/II age de-escalation dose-finding clinical trial in sub-Saharan Africa to advance the development of a novel vaccine (iNTS-GMMA) against iNTS. The project also aims to investigate and monitor the AMR profile in iNTS-causing isolates from a clinical research site in Ghana.

The PEDVAC-iNTS consortium is led by Dr Rino Rappuoli and comprises partners in Germany, Ghana, Italy, and Switzerland. The project held its kick-off meeting on 12 April 2021. The EDCTP Project Officer for the project, Ms Michelle Nderu, participated in the meeting.

PAVIA | Meeting | 19/04 2021

Due to unprecedented R&D efforts, efficacious COVID-19 vaccines are available and being rolled out across the world, including Africa. Different vaccine platforms and formulations are being used and pre-licensure safety data are necessarily limited as regulatory (emergency) approvals have been based on limited numbers of phase II and III trials with limited geographic representation.

Therefore, safety surveillance needs to be an important component of the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out. WHO has issued global guidance for this surveillance and there is an urgent need for countries in Africa to implement such surveillance.

At the same time, pharmacovigilance capacity in many African countries is still developing, as is the alignment with regard to safety surveillance between regulatory authorities and the immunisation and other public health programmes.

To address and discuss these issues, the EDCTP-funded Pharmacovigilance Africa consortium ([PAVIA](#)), organised a webinar on COVID-19 vaccines safety surveillance in Africa on 19 April 2021. Ms Michelle Nderu, the EDCTP Project Officer for the consortium, attended the meeting.

The objectives of the meeting were, first, to inform regulatory authorities, immunisation programmes and public health and clinical professionals from selected African countries about the expected roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines. Secondly, to give information on the minimum safety surveillance requirements and scenarios for safety surveillance. Thirdly, to discuss how COVID-19 vaccines safety surveillance in Africa can best be implemented.

ADOPT | Project launch webinar | 21/04 2021

The [Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium](#) organised a webinar to officially launch the ADOPT project, which is led by Dr Remco de Vruh (Lygature, the Netherlands)

and has partners in Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Kenya, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. ADOPT is to prepare for large-scale access and delivery of the consortium's novel paediatric medication for schistosomiasis. Dr Michael Makanga, EDCTP Executive Director, gave the closing remarks during the launch webinar.

EDCTP and the GHIT Fund (Global Health Innovative Technology Fund) support the implementation programme following their co-investment in the consortium's late-stage clinical development programme. The GHIT Fund provided an additional investment of €2.1 million which will run for two years (2021–2023), while EDCTP will invest €5.7 million over five years (2021–2025).

More information is available in the [Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium news item](#).



SPEAKERS

We celebrate the official launch of the Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium ADOPT program – an implementation research program that paves the way for the introduction of a child-friendly formulation to treat schistosomiasis in preschool-age children.

 Dr. Jutta Reinhard-Rupp Chair of the Consortium Board and Head of the Global Health Institute at Merck	 Nadia Ben Meriem Co-lead of the ADOPT program and Senior Advisor at SCI Foundation
 Dr. Mwelecele Ntuli Malecela Director of the WHO Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases	 Dr. Francis Mugume Schistosomiasis Coordinator, Uganda
 Catherine K. Ohura, MS, PMP CEO & Executive Director of GHIT	 Dr. Sultani Hadley Matendebero NTD Director, Kenya
 Dr. Michael Makanga CEO of EDCTP	 Dr. Aboulaye Meite NTD Director, Côte d'Ivoire

Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium
WEBINAR
21 APRIL 2021
13.00 - 14.30 CEST

PREV_PKDL | Third annual project meeting | 27/04 2021

The [PREV_PKDL consortium](#) is supported by EDCTP with an €8 million grant to clinically develop a therapeutic vaccine for the prevention of post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis. The consortium held its online third annual meeting on 27 April 2021 with representatives from all consortium partners and members of the Scientific and Ethics Advisory Committee participating. The project is led by Dr Sophie Houard of the European Vaccine Initiative, Germany; other partners are from Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and Sudan.

The ethics review process for the multidimensional, multiparameter phenotyping study is ongoing for each research site in Africa. The Institute of Endemic Diseases (IEND) in Sudan is the first site with all ethics approvals in place. Work is ongoing for the establishment of the flow cytometry centre of excellence that will support the PREV_PKDL studies as well as other research activities in the East African region. A status update was also given on the manufacture of a new ChAd63-KH vaccine clinical lot and the planning of the clinical trial (phase II) in Sudan.

PUBLICATIONS

Profile-COVID | Publications | 16/03 2021

The [Profile-COVID project](#) (RIA2020EF-2905; Rapid diagnostic profiling of SARS-CoV-2 in the context of persistent immune activation in sub-Saharan Africa) is funded under the EDCTP call '[Mobilisation of funding for COVID-19 research in sub-Saharan Africa](#)' and coordinated by Dr Dawit Wolday (Mekelle University, Ethiopia) with partners from Ethiopia, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

The team published results in:

- *The International Journal of Infectious Diseases*: Hiluf Ebuy Abraha, Zekarias Gessesse, Teklay Gebrecherkos, Yazezew Kebede, Aregawi Weldegebreel Weldegiargis, Mengistu Hagazi Tequare, Abadi Luel Welderufael, Dawit Zenebe, Asqual Gebreslassie Gebremariam, Tsega Cherkos Dawit, Daniel Woldu, Gebremedhin, Tobias Rinke de Wit, Dawit Wolday: [Clinical features and risk factors associated with morbidity and mortality among patients with COVID-19 in northern Ethiopia](#)
- *Frontiers in Microbiology*: Dawit Wolday, Geremew Tasew, Wondwossen Amogne, [Britta Urban](#), Henk DFH Schallig, Vanessa Harris and Tobias F. Rinke de Wit: [Interrogating the Impact of Intestinal Parasite-Microbiome on Pathogenesis of COVID-19 in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

NEW WEBSITE

DPP | Developing paediatric primaquine | 25/04 2021

The DPP consortium (Developing paediatric primaquine) is led by Dr W.R.J. Taylor (University of Oxford, United Kingdom) with partners from Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and France. It aims to develop and deploy quality-assured, child-friendly primaquine across a range of doses in optimised regimens for blocking the transmission of *Plasmodium falciparum* and the radical cure of *P. vivax* and *P. ovale*. The project published its [website](#).

EDCTP Fellows in times of COVID



Professor Jean Nachega

Professor Jean Nachega held a 2010 EDCTP Senior Fellowship (among many other roles and positions). His fellowship study evaluated the efficacy of the non-steroid anti-inflammatory drug meloxicam (a Cox-2 Inhibitor) for the prevention of TB-IRIS. He kindly contributed to this informal series of 'EDCTP Fellows in times of COVID'.

"With several of my collaborators from across West, East, Central, and South Africa, I was able to rapidly establish several research and advocacy and

capacity development projects on COVID-19 as soon as the pandemic emerged in sub-Saharan Africa in early 2020.

Working with like-minded and committed individuals like Prof. Sir Ali Zumla (UCL/Zambia), Prof. Jean-Jacques Muyembe Tamfum (INRB/DRC), Assoc. Prof. Nadia Sam-Agudu (IHVN-Nigeria/ Cape Coast Univ-Ghana; University of Maryland Baltimore), Prof. Philippa Musoke (Makerere University, Uganda) and others, I initiated and led several epidemiological, clinical, and operational studies. These resulted in [23 COVID-related publications](#), including research articles, commentary, and perspective articles published in the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, *The Lancet Global Health*, the *New England Journal of Medicine* and others.

Our studies provided early insights on the COVID-19 epidemiology and outcomes as well as highlighted the effectiveness of national responses across sub-Saharan Africa.

My EDCTP Senior Fellowship and the NIH/NIAID Clinical Scientist Mentored-Career Development Award provided me with the additional research skills and the

experience I needed to become an independent investigator and senior academic physician. With these competencies, I was able to design and implement COVID-19-related studies.

Furthermore, the South-to-South networking and collaborations created across sub-Saharan Africa through [MEPI/AFREhealth](#) (the Medical Education Partnership Initiative and the African Forum for Research and Education in Health) as well as [SACORE](#) (the Southern Africa Consortium for Research Excellence) enabled me to collaborate with other investigators and research sites to quickly implement the ongoing COVID-19 research project on SARS-CoV-2 infection in Pregnant Women and Children in Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, and South Africa.

What I find useful in being an EDCTP Alumnus Fellow is the engagement with international (North-South and South-South) collaborative research networks. Secondly to become familiar with diverse research funding mechanisms and targeting several levels of funding calls and career opportunities. It also brings me in contact with high profile African, European, and American academics."

Short curriculum

Professor Jean Nachega is Professor Extraordinary of Medicine at Stellenbosch University in Cape Town; Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases, Microbiology and Epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh; and Adjunct Associate Professor of Epidemiology and International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

He received his medical degree and specialised in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine at the University of Louvain and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He completed a Master of Public Health in the USA (Johns Hopkins University, 1999) and a PhD at the University of Cape Town. He also completed a fellowship in Biostatistics in AIDS Research at Harvard University.

Prof. Nachega has over 30 years of experience in patient care, teaching, and designing and implementing HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis research and implementation projects funded by NIH/NIAID/FIC, PEPFAR, EDCTP, and Wellcome Trust.

Reference: Complete [list of publications](#).

Resources



[Collaborative clinical R&D](#)
online



[Clinical research capacity](#)
PDF



[Fellowships](#)
online

EDCTP | Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research
The EDCTP Knowledge Hub is an online platform with resources for researchers conducting clinical research in low-resource settings. The platform's tools are designed to help researchers develop research questions into a protocol, adopt

gold-standard clinical data management practices, and support awareness and capacity development around data sharing. The platform is suited to all health research groups and aims to facilitate high-quality clinical research in poverty-related diseases.

Visit the [EDCTP Knowledge Hub](#).

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](#).

EDCTP | Template for Grant Agreement Annex 5 | March 2021

EDCTP published a [Model for the certificate on the financial statements](#) to support grantees in their reporting.

UKCDR & ESSENCE | New resource hub on equity in research partnerships

The [United Kingdom Collaborative on Development Research](#) (UKCDR) and [ESSENCE on Health Research](#) (ESSENCE) launched a [new resource hub to support equity in research partnerships](#).

This hub brings together guidance, tools and principles on equitable partnerships from across the world, including the [TRUST consortium](#) and [COHRED](#). To view the tools please visit: [Equitable Partnerships Resource Hub](#)

TAG | TAG 2020 Tuberculosis Treatment Pipeline Report

The Treatment Action Group (TAG) [2020 Tuberculosis Treatment Pipeline report](#) offers summaries of influential treatment studies and data sets, and updates on new drugs and regimens in clinical development for TB. Among other studies, the report features the EDCTP-funded [Simplici-TB](#) and [PanACEA](#) consortia.

BCG World Atlas | New update – Third edition | Published March 2021

The [BCG World Atlas](#) provides an interactive map with detailed information on current and past BCG vaccination policies and practices for over 200 countries.

Global Coronavirus COVID-19 Clinical Trial Tracker

The [trial tracker is an interactive map offering an overview of COVID-19 clinical trials globally](#). Check out the About and Partners sections: "The COVID-19 Clinical Trial Tracker is headed by Kristian Thorlund, Edward Mills, and Cyrus Mehta with the goal of consolidating COVID-19 trial information. They aim to make vital information easily and widely available to the public, as well as further scientific efforts by helping fellow researchers work efficiently and plan trials."

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](#)

TDR | Call for 2nd phase of Post-Graduate Training Scheme | 10/05 2021

TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, supports low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to strengthen capacity for health research through a range of activities, including its Postgraduate Training Scheme. As the Scheme's first phase (2015–2021) comes to an end, the process of selection of universities to participate in the second phase (2022–2026) now starts with this call.

[More information](#)

Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise | Communication Training Workshop | Deadline: 15/05/2021

Are you an African researcher or a clinician working on HIV vaccine research and development (R&D)? Are you interested in learning communication skills to improve engagement with the media and the public? Join us for this 4-day participatory communication workshop.

[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](#)

CEPI | Call for Proposals | Deadline: 31/05/2021

Broadening protection against SARS-COV-2 and new broadly protective Betacoronavirus candidate vaccines – CEPI is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity for the development of vaccines with one of the following attributes:

1. A broadly protective vaccine against new emerging variants and variants of concern of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (BPCoV2), with funding up to 18–24 months to achieve clinical proof of concept (POC).
2. A broadly protective Betacoronavirus (BPBC) vaccine with funding potentially awarded for up to 4 years to demonstrate clinical POC.

[More information](#)

PRIZE

Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize | Infectious diseases – Africa | Deadline 20/08 2021

"The prize carries the ideals and aspirations of a Japanese microbiologist Dr Hideyo NOGUCHI (1876–1928) who fell victim to yellow fever in Africa during his research of the disease. It aims to honour individuals with outstanding achievements in the fields of medical research and medical services to combat infectious and other diseases in Africa, thus contributing to the health and welfare of the Africans and of all humankind. As the challenges caused by Covid-19 is testing for humanity and it reaffirms the special importance of the Noguchi Hideyo Africa Prize. We look forward to receiving your nominations."

[More information](#)

Upcoming events

SPaRCS – UWC | Webinar on pharmacovigilance and oversight | 12/05 2021

In collaboration with the University of the Western Cape, the EDCTP-funded SPaRCS project ([Strengthening pharmacovigilance and regulatory capacities in four Southern African countries](#)) will hold a webinar on 12 May 2021 on pharmacovigilance and clinical trials oversight in sub-Saharan Africa in the era of COVID-19.

The keynote speaker is Dr Helen Ndagije, Director of the Product Safety, National Drug Authority in Uganda. The University of the Western Cape, South Africa, and SPaRCS partners invite all interested to this interactive webinar. It aims to sensitise a broader audience (interested in health systems and public health) to the importance of pharmacovigilance and oversight of clinical trials of medicines and vaccines.

Information about the SPaRCS project will also be shared. SPaRCS aims to strengthen pharmacovigilance systems and clinical trials oversight by National Regulatory Authorities in Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini and Zimbabwe. SPaRCS is coordinated by Dr Hazel Bradley (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) with partners from Eswatini, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

[Register for the webinar](#) (Wednesday, 12 May 2021, 14:00–15:30 South African Standard Time).

EDCTP | 10th Forum – Call for Abstracts | Deadline 12/06 2021

The 10th EDCTP Forum will be held as a virtual meeting hosted from the Joaquin Chissano International Conference Centre in Maputo from 17 – 20 October

2021. The Forum theme – *Equity in research for health* – is at the core of the EDCTP mission.

EDCTP welcomes your engagement and your input in discussions at the Forum about successes and challenges in achieving equity in research, and how best to ensure that research processes and outputs address health inequities.

The [call for abstracts \(oral and poster presentations\) is now open](#). Deadline: 12 June 2021.

Our host partners, the Ministry of Health of Mozambique, through the National Institute of Health, and the Manhica Health Research Centre promise an exciting and interactive meeting experience. We look forward to your participation.

More information on [the 10th Forum web page](#).

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

The International AIDS Society organises its biennial scientific conference on 18–21 July 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](#)

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



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