



EDCTP Update

August 2021



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Upcoming events

Tenth EDCTP Forum: programme at a glance

The Tenth EDCTP Forum will take place from 17 to 21 October 2021 and will be hosted virtually from Maputo, Mozambique. The Forum provides an international platform for the presentation and discussion of cutting-edge research addressing the burden of poverty-related infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa and the capacity development and networking activities that support this goal.

You will now find the <u>programme at a glance</u> on the Forum website, which provides an overview of the various days and sessions. The main programme runs from 18 to 20 October 2021, featuring plenary presentations by keynote speakers, scientific sessions of oral and poster presentations, and sponsored symposia. On Thursday 21 October, there will be additional workshops and symposia. Sunday 17 October provides a preview and introduction to Mozambique and to the Forum.

Registration for the Forum is open and free. For more information please visit the forum website. We look forward to your participation!







EDCTP session at UNGA76 Science Summit

EDCTP will organise a virtual meeting entitled *EDCTP*: an *EU-Africa partnership advancing global health research and cooperation*, which will take place on 22 September 2021. This EDCTP session aims to advance the broader discussion on how to ensure sustained support and advancement along the continuum of product development for infectious diseases, including scale-up, implementation and access in sub-Saharan Africa and globally, in the pursuit of achieving the health-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The event will be part of the second edition of the Science Summit around the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA76). Please visit the session website for more information on the <u>programme and registration</u>.

Call for experts – WHO Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins on Novel Pathogens (SAGO)

The World Health Organization (WHO) issued an open call for experts to serve as members of the new WHO Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (SAGO). The SAGO will advise WHO on technical and scientific considerations regarding the origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, and will be composed of a wide range of experts acting in their personal capacity. SAGO will also guide WHO on next steps for understanding the SARS-CoV-2 origins. Interested applicants can <u>submit their completed applications</u> (expression of interest, CV, and DOI) by 10 September 2021. Experts from the African continent are especially encouraged to apply.

Recommendations from the EDCTP/ECRIN session on clinical trial infrastructure and capacity building in Africa

The European Clinical Infrastructure Networks (ECRIN) and EDCTP hosted a session on clinical trial infrastructure and capacity building in Africa at the Africa-Europe Science and Innovation Summit on 17 June 2021. This session brought together key global health actors to collectively discuss lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the next steps towards the comprehensive mobilisation of all stakeholders for building sustainable clinical research preparedness and response capacities.

The session led to the development of eleven concrete recommendations. These recommendations have been integrated in the consultation of the Advisory Group on Research and Innovation for Africa-Europe Cooperation, who will assist the European Commission with advice on how best to boost cooperation between the two continents through research and innovation.

For more information, please read the <u>article</u> about the session and the list of <u>recommendations</u>.

Recent events

International webinar Conflict of interest in health research | 16/08 2021

On 16 August, Dr Michael Makanga (EDCTP Executive Director) took part in a panel 'Reflections on conflict of interest in health research' together with Dr Lindiwe Makubalo (Deputy Director, WHO AFRO), Dr Ahmed Ogwell Ouma (Deputy Director, Africa CDC), Prof Paul Ndebele (Senior Research Regulatory, George Washington University). The panel talked about strengthening institutional capacity to manage, reduce or eliminate conflict of interest in health research in sub-Saharan Africa, and was part of the international webinar 'Conflict of interest in health research' organised by the University of Cape Town. The <u>recording of the webinar</u> is available online.

Bio Africa Convention 2021 | 23/08 2021

Prof. Moses Bockarie (EDCTP Director of International Cooperation Africa) was a speaker on the topic of Diversity in Clinical Trials at the Bio Africa Convention on 23 August 2021. The Convention's theme was Advancing Africa's Biomanufacturing Value Chains Through Innovation. More information is available on the Bio Africa Convention website.

71st session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa | 24-26/08 2021

EDCTP was represented by Dr Leonardo Simão (High Representative Africa), Prof. Moses Bockarie (Director of International Cooperation Africa) and Dr Thomas Nyirenda Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Development Manager) at the Seventy-first session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, which was held in a virtual format from 24 to 26 August 2021. The virtual session was held under Special procedures for the conduct of the virtual session of the Regional Committee for Africa. The <u>agenda, documents and recording of the session</u> are available online.

Recently signed grants

Addressing gender and diversity gaps in clinical research capacity at the EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence – 2020

- TALENT | Coordinator: Prof. Souleymane Mboup | Creating a gender sensitive platform for clinical research in WANETAM
- CaFe-SEA | Coordinator: Prof. Pontiano Kaleebu | Capacity building for female scientists in East Africa

 WISE | Coordinator: Prof. Francine Ntoumi | Strengthening gender capacity in clinical research within CANTAM network

Ethics and regulatory capacities - 2020

- PREP-EPID | Coordinator: Prof Dr Kouanda Seni | Strengthening research and operational capacities for outbreaks and epidemics management in sub-Saharan Africa
- **CDAE** | Coordinator: Dr Hesborn Wao | Capacity Development of Applied Epidemiologists in Eastern Africa Region
- IDEA Fellowship | Coordinator: Prof. Dr Peter Olupot Olupot | Consortium for Development of Sustainable Research Based Fellowship Training on Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Biostatistics in Africa
- SCEPRESSA | Coordinator: Prof. Gideom Mutie Kikuvi | Strengthening capacity for epidemic preparedness and response in sub-Saharan Africa
- TEDOER | Coordinator: Dr Ernest Kenu | Training of Epidemiologists in Disease Outbreaks and Epidemic Response in sub-Saharan Africa
- CECaBI | Coordinator: Dr Louis Penali | Cote d'Ivoire Ethics Capacity Building Initiative
- FETP-CV | Coordinator: Prof. Mohsin Sidat | Master in field epidemiology training for Portuguese-speaking West African countries

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

- Core-NB | Coordinator: Prof. Stefan Niemann | Collision of three global pandemics: the effect of tuberculosis and HIV on the epidemiological, clinical, virological and immunological trajectory of COVID-19 in Botswana and Namibia
- PERFECT Study | Coordinator: Dr Joseph Fokam | Diagnostic performance of molecular and serological tests of SARS-CoV-2 characterised specimens from COVID-19 individuals in West and Central Africa: the PERFECT study (PERFormance Evaluation of COVID-19 tests)

EDCTP Regional Networks - 2020

- TESAIII | Coordinator: Dr Francisco Saúte | Trials of Excellence in Southern Africa III
- CANTAM3 | Coordinator: Prof. Francine Ntoumi | Central African Network on TB, HIV/AIDS and Malaria 3
- WANETAM3 | Coordinator: Prof. Souleymane Mboup | West African Network for Tuberculosis, AIDS and Malaria 3

<u>Career Development Fellowships in poverty-related diseases and child and adolescent health – 2020</u>

- Campylobacteriosis | Coordinator: Dr Chika Felicitas Nnadozie | Investigating the multiple risk dimensions associated with Campylobateriosis – a key poverty-related disease of Soutch African urban source water environments
- EndPAMAL | Coordinator: Dr Bernard Kanoi | Systematic prioritization and initial characterization of *Plasmodium falciparum* vaccine antigens against pregnancy associated malaria
- CoVAT | Coordinator: Dr Ernest Wandera Apondi | Development and deployment of lateral flow antigen test for COVID-19

Project news

Europe-Africa research partnership launches HIV vaccine clinical trial in three African countries

The first volunteers have been vaccinated in Lusaka, Zambia, in a Phase I HIV vaccine trial (HIV-CORE 006) led by a consortium of researchers in Africa and Europe. The trial will

evaluate the safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity of an HIV vaccine candidate known as HIVconsvX. This novel vaccine construct comprises three immunogens that target vulnerable regions common across most HIV variants. The trial is sponsored by the Globally Relevant AIDS Vaccine Europe-Africa Trials Partnership (GREAT)2 consortium and is supported by EDCTP, with co-funding from IAVI and Oxford University. Please read the full article on the IAVI website.

Start of typhoid vaccine trial in Ghana

A large typhoid vaccine trial has commenced in Agogo, Ghana. The Ghana study is a randomised controlled trial that will generate data on safety and efficacy and population-level protection. The trial will be monitoring children aged between 9 months to 15 years in the Asante Akim North and Central districts for three years. It is part of the EDCTP-funded THECA project with clinical trials into a typhoid conjugate vaccine (Typbar-TCV®) in Ghana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This project complements three trials supported by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – two in Asia and one in Malawi. Read more

Short documentary on trypanosomiasis

Minayegninrin Koné, a PhD student who conducts research within the EDCTP-supported DiTECT-HAT project, features in a <u>short documentary</u> on sleeping sickness (trypanosomiasis) in Cote d'Ivoire. The DiTECT-HAT project (Diagnostic Tools for Human African Trypanosomiasis Elimination and Clinical Trials) seeks to validate the performance of diagnostic tools and algorithms for early and rapid diagnosis. The video is part of a series featuring ten young African scientist from ten different countries.

Procedural Manual of the National Health Research Ethics Committee of Senegal

The latest edition of the Procedural Manual of the National Health Research Ethics Committee of Senegal has been launched, incorporating sex and gender considerations. This manual aims to improve the quality of health research conducted in Senegal, taking into account the needs and experiences of different population groups.

This gender-sensitive manual was developed in collaboration with the Gender Mainstreaming Secretariat of the EDCTP-funded <u>BCA-WA-ETHICS project</u>. One of the key activities of BCA-WA-ETHICS is to promote and make visible the contribution of the African women scientists to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to the advancement towards an epidemic-free and discrimination-free World. They hope by sharing the manual, to inspire other national ethics committees integrate sex and gender considerations into their procedures.

S-ROC/Cameroun kick off meeting: Strengthening the regulatory oversight of clinical trials in Cameroon

On 24 June 2021, the S-ROC/Cameroun (Strengthening the regulatory oversight of clinical trials in Cameroon) project kick off meeting took place at the Ministry of Public Health of Cameroon. The meeting was held under the coordination of Professor Louis Njock, General Secretary of the Cameroonian Ministry of Public Health.

During the workshop the role of each participant was presented as well as the project management structure and expected deliverables and milestones. All participants recognise the importance of the project and its necessity to provide the country with a regulatory framework for clinical trials oversight. Senior officials from the Ministry of Health were invited to collaborate with the project in order to ease its implementation.

The S-ROC/Cameroun project is an EDCTP-funded project with the overall aim to strengthen the national system for regulatory oversight of clinical trials in Cameroon, and to establish the platform for the country to be recognised as a NEPAD-AMRH Regulatory Centre of Excellence for clinical trials regulation and training in the French speaking countries of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) community.

Partners are the Direction of Operational Research and the Direction of Pharmacy, Medicine and Laboratory at the Ministry of Public Health of Cameroon as well as MEDRAC-Africa. MEDRAC-AFRICA is a leading consulting company assisting governmental institutions and supporting them in the implementation of capacity strengthening projects.

PUBLICATIONS

Accepted for publication in BMJ Global Health:

<u>Indirect Effects of COVID-19 on Maternal, Neonatal, Child, Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Kampala, Uganda</u>

Jessica Burt, Joseph Ouma, Lawrence Lubyayi, Alexander Amone, Lorna Aol, Musa Sekikubo, Annettee Nakimuli, Eve Nakabembe, Robert Mboizi, Philippa Musoke, Mary Kyohere, Emily Namara, Asma Khalil, Kirsty Le Doare

Lancet HIV 2021; 8: e363-75

<u>Subnational mapping of HIV incidence and mortality among individuals aged 15–49 years in sub-Saharan Africa, 2000–18: a modelling study</u>

Local burden of disease Collaborators (full list in article)

PLoS Negl Trop Dis 15(6): e0009464

Health and economic burden estimates of snakebite management upon health facilities in three regions of southern Burkina Faso

Sayem Ahmed, Guibehi B. Koudou, Maïwenn Bagot, François Drabo, Windtaré R. Bougma, Caisey Pulford, Moses Bockarie, Robert A. Harrison

International Journal of Infectious diseases PERSPECTIVE| volume 110, p54-61, September 01, 2021

<u>Strengthening capacity for clinical research in sub-Saharan Africa: partnerships and networks</u>

Thomas Nyirenda, Moses Bockarie, Shingai Machingaidze, Michelle Nderu, Michelle Singh, Nuraan Fakier, Jean-Marie Habarugira, Pauline Beattie, Lara Pandya, Dominika Jajkowicz, Yazdan Yazdanpanah, Catherine Hankins, Michael Makanga

EDCTP Fellows in times of COVID-19

Dr Misaki Wayengera

In his research as an <u>EDCTP Career Development Fellow</u>, Dr Misaki Wayengera characterised receiver operators of novel EBOV/MARV-GP epitopes using 2014-2015 Ebola patient samples from Sierra Leone. Based on his CDF work, he naturally transitioned to provide his expertise in response to the COVID-19 pandemic since early 2020. Dr Wayengera is chair of the Ugandan Ministry of Health and the national task force's scientific advisory committee on COVID-19. The SAC comprises 15 eminent Ugandan scientists from various backgrounds alongside the WHO country representative and CDC country Director, and operates in eight adhoc committees.

In addition, Dr Wayengera's research group is developing low-cost, easy to use testing technology platforms for COVID-19. They are working on both an antigen assay premised on agglutination and antibody detection kits based on lateral flow detection (paper strip), all anticipated to cost under USD 1 and deployment at the point-of-care within remote settings.

Dr Wayengera's group has also been involved in pushing for novel small molecule inhibitors of SARS-CoV3 as therapeutics, and have published several papers in international peer reviewed journals.

The group have applied to CEPI to enable rapid production of immunotherapeutics and sub-unit vaccines based on immuno-informatics and their experience in diagnostic R&D, arguing that the same reagents they use could be repurposed to this end. More recently, the team applied to the FIND Diagnostic Accelerator program (ACT-Dx) to devise a low

cost self-administered test kit for COVID-19 to use within LMICs. The team awaits the outcomes of these grant applications.

Dr Wayengera has been captured in various newspapers and radio and TV programmes, disseminating the latest results and insights to the public.

Dr Catherine Orrell

Dr Catherine Orrell is an EDCTP1 fellow who conducted research to explore adherence-failure relationships in a South African antiretroviral delivery site using an electronic adherence device and sparse pharmacokinetic sampling.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the unit Orrell leads at Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town South Africa, has taken on the COVPN5001 and HVTN 405 – two NIH-funded network studies exploring immune response of people with early COVID-19 or just recovering from COVID-19 for vaccine preparatory purposes. In addition, they are a site for the CROWN Coronation study, exploring MMR vaccination in COVID-19 prevention. For the Johnson & Johnson ENSEMBLE vaccine study, the team recruited a cohort of 184 people to the first study, and they have delivered over 20.000 J&J vaccines to South African Health Care Workers through the SISONKE study.

Dr Orrell is Principal Investigator for the AGILE-consortium in South Africa. This consortium is sponsored by the University of Liverpool and its goal is to speed the process of drugs in early phase development for COVID-19 disease. The <u>first study</u> is exploring the use of nitazoxanide (CST 3B).

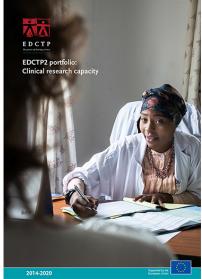
Sequencing COVID-19 strains in Tanzania

Tanzania like many other countries is heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr Shabani Mziray, one of the PhD trainees supported by EDCTP-2 through the REMODEL_TZ consortium, had an opportunity to sequence COVID-19 at Kibong'oto Infectious Diseases Hospital as part his PhD training and informing the preventive strategies to policy makers. Research Capacity Strengthening Programme for Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases Control in Tanzania - also known as REMODEL_TZ - is an EDCTP-2 supported consortium through initial start-up funds to one of the senior research fellows, Dr Stellah Mpagama.

The aim of the REMODEL-TZ consortium is to establish clinical trial capacity focusing in TB/HIV patients that will not only answer an important scientific question of direct patient benefit but also build capacity for laboratory scientists, research trialists and a rapid response infrastructure. The sequencing research at Kibong'oto Infectious Diseases Hospital revealed variants of concern including the B.1.1.7 and 1.351 strains and regionally evolving mutations showing the potential of new waves in the near future. More sequencing is continuing to strengthen the report.

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 | Global Roadmap for TB Vaccines R&D

See the published roadmap (PDF).

For background, read the EDCTP news item.

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 <u>Online Progress</u> <u>Report in EDCTPgrants – Guidelines for beneficiaries</u>.

EDCTP | Template for Grant Agreement Annex 5

Earlier this year, EDCTP published a <u>Model for the certificate on the financial statements</u> to support grantees in their reporting.

ERUDIT | Planning for Financial Sustainability manual

The "Planning for Financial Sustainability" manual – is a Guide for Research Ethics Committees (RECs) in Africa, that was developed by COHRED in consultation with EthiXPERT and the Committee of Bioethics for Health Research (CBRS), Togo. The guide is designed as a part of the implementation of the EDCTP grant ERUDIT. The guide serves as a resource for anyone responsible for the organisation, implementation and management of RECs. The guide is now also available in French.

Training and funding opportunities

Get it right! - Horizon Europe Proposal Writing Series

The <u>Horizon Europe Proposal Writing Series</u>, which consists of four 90-minute-long webinars, will take place from 13 to 16 September. You can attend the whole series or each session separately.

Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF) opportunities

The Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF) is offering the following opportunities:

- An Essential Grant Writing Workshop to enable talented early-career health- and health-related researchers to build skills to develop their own research and fellowship proposals of the quality required to win competitive international, regional, and national funding.
- Research Development Fellowships involving a three to nine month placement for each Fellow at a leading research organisation in Europe or Africa to grow their skills, experience, confidence and research outputs.
- Recruitment for our College of Experts where mid/senior-level scientists support us as peer-reviewers, mentors and facilitators.

Capacity building for Female Scientist in East Africa (CAFÉ-SEA) PhD programme open for application (Closing date: 3 September)

The Capacity building for Female Scientist in East Africa (CAFÉ-SEA)'s PhD programme is open for application. CAFÉ-SEA is a project under the Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical Research (EACCR), which is an EDCTP-funded network of excellence. The primary goal of CAFÉ-SEA is to build capacity for research among female scientists in infectious diseases in the Eastern Africa region.

This CAFÉ-SEA PhD programme will be delivered by five partners from the EACCR including Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) in Uganda, National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) and Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI) in Tanzania, Kenya Medical Research Institute and African Research Collaboration for Health in Kenya and University of Rwanda in Rwanda. This PhD programme has five tracks which include: Implementation Science; Non-Communicable diseases; Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Research and Development; and Health Economics. Each track will have one PhD fellow, an MSc student attached to each PhD fellow and will be delivered by one of the partner institutions. However, it is highly recommended that the research projects are focused on emerging diseases, especially COVID-19.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 3 September 2021. More information

AfriBOP course "African Immunobiology of Parasites, Pathogens, and Pathogenesis open for application (Deadline for applications: 3 September)

The AfriBOP course "African Immunobiology of Parasites, Pathogens, and Pathogenesis", which will take place virtually from 25 to 29 October 2021, is open for application. This week-long free online course and expert symposium is targeted at PhD students and early postdocs who have a strong interest in the interaction between the immune system and pathogens, and how this underlies the pathogenesis of a wide range of infectious and non- communicable diseases.

The deadline for application is 3 September 2021. Priority will be given to PhD students and Early Postdocs (within 5 years of PhD) from Africa.

More information

IVI's 20th International Vaccinology Course (Virtual 6 – 10 September) – Registration open

IVI's International Vaccinology Course is one of the longest running vaccinology courses in the Asia-Pacific region. The first course was held in 2000, and this year, we're celebrating its 20th anniversary. The course aligns with IVI's mission to make vaccines available for global health by building capacity in vaccinology and promoting vaccine sustainability in developing countries.

More information

Internship Biomedical Research and Clinical Trials: Regulatory Capacity Building and Ethics

BERC-Luso, an EDCTP-funded project for Biomedical ethics and regulatory capacity building partnership for Portuguese-speaking African countries, is organising an intensive training course on the ethical requirements of biomedical research and clinical trials. The training will take place from 12 to 18 September 2021 in Lisbon, at the Portuguese National Authority for Medicines and Health Products (INFARMED) and the national Ethics Committee for Clinical Research (CEIC). The training course will bring together a total of 25 professionals - five trainees from each of the partner countries: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, and Portugal.

More information

Kofi Annan Fellowship for outstanding leadership potential from developing countries

The Kofi Annan Fellowship is a fellowship grant for an emerging leader from a developing country for a 22 month Master's in Management (MIM) or one-year full-time MBA degree in Berlin, Germany. The goal of the fellowship is to make significant contributions to least developed countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and to strengthen the awareness for responsibility in leadership in developed countries. Five positions are open for application.

More information

Upcoming events

Webinar: Rethinking Malaria in the Context of COVID-19 | 01/09 2021

Harvard's Defeating Malaria Initiative and partners will convene a special global webinar to launch findings from a year-long global consultation called "Rethinking Malaria in the Context of COVID-19." Global health experts from around the world will take stock of the global malaria situation and offer insights on the most effective and innovative response to control and eliminate malaria across the globe - from research and public policy to advocacy and programmatic perspectives. The webinar will take place on 1 September from 14:00 to 17:00 CEST and will be live streamed in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Panel session: The role of Science, Technology, and Innovation and the future of product development partnerships coming out of this pandemic in supporting underserved populations | 02/09 2021

MMV is organising a <u>virtual panel discussion</u> on *The role of Science, Technology, and Innovation and the future of product development partnerships coming out of this pandemic in supporting underserved populations*. The panel discussion will be held on 2 September from 15:00 to 16:30 CEST. The event is hosted by the G20 Health and Development Partnership (HDP) as a session of the G20 HDP Health 20 Summit 2021 and on the occasion of the Italian Presidency of the G20.

ECTMIH | 12th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health | 28/09-1/10 2021

The 12th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) is being held in Bergen, Norway in 2021. The aim of ECTMIH is to provide a platform for experts, scientists and researchers to present state of the arts updates, scientific developments and breakthroughs in tropical medicine and global health. The theme of the conference, which strengthens networks and creates new partnerships, is "Global challenges: Health, migration and equity". EDCTP is proud to join the congress as **silver sponsor**, more information on our involvement and planned activities will follow. More information

EDCTP | Tenth Forum | 17-21/10/2021

The Tenth EDCTP Forum will be held as a virtual meeting hosted from the Joaquin Chissano International Conference Centre in Maputo, Mozambique from 17–21 October 2021. The Forum theme – *Equity in research for health* – is at the core of the EDCTP mission. Registration is **free** of charge to make the Forum as accessible as possible.

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

More information on the Tenth EDCTP Forum website.

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







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