

EDCTP Update

September 2021



Highlights

- **Tenth EDCTP Forum: Sponsored symposia and WHO special session**
- **African Union and EDCTP sign Memorandum of Understanding to promote new paradigm in health**

Contents

- Tenth EDCTP Forum - Sponsored symposia and WHO special session
- African Union and EDCTP sign Memorandum of Understanding to promote new paradigm in health
- Process to arrive at a legal basis for a Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking under the Horizon Europe Programme
- Global Forum on Tuberculosis Vaccines report in *Vaccine*
- Survey on priorities for pharmacovigilance in low- and middle-income countries during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Recent events
- Recently signed grants
- Project news
- Resources
- Training and funding opportunities
- Upcoming events

Tenth EDCTP Forum: Sponsored symposia and WHO

special session

The Tenth EDCTP Forum will take place from 17 to 21 October 2021 and will be hosted virtually from Maputo, Mozambique. This Tenth Forum, our first virtual Forum, which is themed **Equity in research for health**, is an opportunity for participants working in global health research around the world to join with us in diverse Forum activities anchored in a compelling scientific programme.

You will find the [programme at a glance](#) 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. On Sunday 17 October Mozambique, the host country and member of the EDCTP Association, will showcase its participation in EDCTP projects and the value EDCTP adds to health research in Africa.

We wish to extend a special thanks to our **sponsors**, and invite you to join the [sponsored symposia](#) organised by Merck, Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), Drugs for Neglected Diseases *Initiative* (DNDi), Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII), European Global Health Research Institutes Network (EGHRIN), Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD), Karolinska Institutet and Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal). Sponsored symposia take place on Tuesday 19 and Wednesday 20 October and are open to all registered Forum participants.

On Monday 18 October, the World Health Organization (WHO) and EDCTP are co-hosting the [virtual plenary session](#) 'A new era for malaria control: the role of malaria vaccines'. During this session, WHO and partners will share two years of data from the Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme (MVIP) and explore next steps for the use of the RTS,S vaccine as part of the broader malaria control toolkit in addition to providing updates on the leading vaccine candidates currently in the pipeline and on new initiatives to evaluate and produce vaccines in Africa.

We gladly acknowledge the support of our partners and **hosts** for the Forum, the National Institute of Health of Mozambique and the Manhica Health Research Centre.

Registration for the Forum is open and free. For more information please visit the [Forum website](#). We look forward to welcoming you to the Tenth EDCTP Forum!



Dr Leonardo Santos Simão
Forum Local Committee
Chair and EDCTP High
Representative Africa



Prof. Catherine Hankins
Forum Scientific Committee
Chair and Chair of the
EDCTP Scientific Advisory
Committee



Prof. Moses Bockarie
Forum Organising
Committee Chair and EDCTP
Director of International
Cooperation (Africa) and
Head of Africa Office



Tenth EDCTP Forum
Equity in research for health
17-21 October 2021, Maputo, Mozambique & virtual



African Union and EDCTP sign Memorandum of

Understanding to promote new paradigm in health

The African Union (AU) through the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), and EDCTP have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at establishing a framework to serve as a firm basis for cooperation in their shared goals to promote a new paradigm in health.

Through the MoU, the Africa CDC and EDCTP express their commitment towards joining efforts and maintaining a close and continuous relationship for the achievement of their common objectives. The scope of the MoU is defined through the following themes: Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, epidemic intelligence and capacity building for preparedness and outbreak response. The MoU also covers implementation and public health research, the one health approach, and data management. AU and EDCTP will cooperate to implement a programme of work for the execution of activities within these themes.

[More information](#)

Process to arrive at a legal basis for a Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking under the Horizon Europe Programme

In February this year, the European Commission made a proposal for the [legal basis](#) of the institutionalised partnerships under Horizon Europe. This includes the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking to build on, continue and expand the work of EDCTP. This type of legislative procedure at EU level involves consultation of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), an opinion from the European Parliament and a decision by the Council.

The discussions on the legal text have progressed well. The Portuguese presidency published a [progress report](#) at the end of June, emphasising the good progress made on the draft legislation. Discussions are continuing under the Slovenian presidency.

In the European Parliament the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy [adopted](#) its report on the draft legislation in July. It is expected that the report will be finally voted on in plenary in October.

The EESC adopted its opinion on the draft legislation in June (the opinion is available in all language versions on [this website](#), searching with the term "Joint Undertakings/Horizon Europe"). After the opinion from the European Parliament and agreement in the Council on the text, the Council can adopt the legislation. This is expected to occur in the fourth quarter of this year.

Global Forum on Tuberculosis Vaccines report in Vaccine

The meeting report for the virtual Global Forum on Tuberculosis Vaccines has been published in Vaccine as part of a special issue titled '100 Years of BCG', and is now available online. The Global Forum was held virtually from 20 to 22 April 2021, marking its 20th anniversary. The Forum is the world's largest gathering of stakeholders striving to develop new vaccines to prevent TB. EDCTP was a sponsor of the event and organised a special [session](#) on the [Global TB Vaccine R&D Roadmap](#).

[Read the report](#)

Survey on priorities for pharmacovigilance in low- and middle-income countries during the COVID-19

pandemic

The [Global Pharmacovigilance platform](#) has launched a survey on Priorities for Pharmacovigilance in Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary aim of this survey is to understand which aspects of pharmacovigilance are seen as the most important areas for improvement across low- and middle-income countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. Global Pharmacovigilance is an open-access collaborative forum for sharing experiences, knowledge and tools relating to pharmacovigilance and other patient/research participant safety-related issues.

[Go to the survey](#)

Recent events

DNDi | Innovation for NTDs in the next decade: The critical role of African leadership | 29/09 2021

EDCTP Executive Director Dr Michael Makanga was a speaker at the online webinar 'Innovation for NTDs in the next decade: The critical role of African leadership' organised by DNDi. In this webinar, the speakers discussed how to unpack the role of African leadership in innovation for neglected tropical diseases. In addition, the DNDi strategic plan was launched.

[More information](#)

ECTMIH 2021 | 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, provided several oral and poster presentations, and will organise talks and a workshop on the EDCTP Knowledge Hub during the Young Investigators Day on 1 October 2021.

[More information](#)

EDCTP session at UNGA76 Science Summit | 22/09 2021

EDCTP organised a virtual meeting entitled 'EDCTP: an EU-Africa partnership advancing global health research and cooperation' during the Science Summit around the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA76) on 22 September 2021. The speakers of the session discussed how sustained support and advancement can be ensured 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.

[More information](#)

Recently signed grants

[Capacity development for disease outbreak and epidemic response in sub-Saharan Africa, in collaboration with Africa CDC – 2020](#)

- **MSc EpiBiostat** | Prof Manshinda Kulimba | MSc in Epidemiology and Biostatistics

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

- **EXPERT-CoV2** | Dr Daniel Minja | Evaluation of molecular point-of-care Xpert® Xpress SARS-CoV-2 detection implementation in resource limited settings

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

- **TAGENDI** | Dr Eusebio Macete | TESA addressing gender and diversity regional gaps in clinical research capacity

Project news



Côte d'Ivoire Ethics Capacity Building Initiative (CECaBI) kickoff meeting

The Côte d'Ivoire Ethics Capacity Building Initiative (CECaBI) project that was recently funded through EDCTP's 2020 Ethics and Regulatory Capacities Call had a kick-off meeting on 15 September 2021 at Institut National de Santé Publique, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The meeting was chaired by Dr Louis Penali, Coordinator and chairperson of Côte d'Ivoire's Comité National d'Éthique des Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé (CNESVS), and attended by all the participating organisations, i.e. Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED), EthiXPert, Pharmalys SARL, Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS) and Autorité Ivoirienne de Régulation Pharmaceutique (AIRP) who were represented at the highest level.

After the welcome address and the opening statement by Dr Penali, the salient points of the project were presented by Francis Kombe (EthiXpert), Félix Tobin (CNESVS), Constant Edi (CSRS), Karim Bagate (Pharmalys), and Bhattacharya Bipasha (COHRED). Particular attention was devoted to the need for timely delivery of the project activities. Another important topic of discussion was access to existing IT networks and those that might be developed during the lifetime of the project. The participants acknowledged that these networks need to facilitate training in Good Clinical Practice and monitoring of approved clinical trials as well as digitalisation of research ethics committees' operations. The participants thanked EDCTP for funding this project, and unanimously welcomed the creation of a steering committee. They agreed on the need to maintain permanent communication among all participating organisations. In this respect, regular consortium meetings will be instrumental in keeping the momentum in order to comply with the timeframe of deliverables.

SeroSelectTB projects starts enrolment

[SeroSelectTB](#) participant enrolment commenced at two of the clinical centres in Cape Town on 21 September 2021. A new triage test for active tuberculosis, SeroSelectTB, is being evaluated in a multi-centre randomised controlled trial at health-posts in South Africa, Tanzania and Ethiopia. The aim is to qualify the performance of SeroSelectTB and determine the extent to which the test reduces diagnostic delay and expedites treatment.

Cost-effectiveness investigations will be conducted to support a value proposition to stakeholders and regulatory authorities, and to support commercialisation requirements. Obtaining informed consent, data capture, specimen collection and SeroSelectTB testing went very well during enrolment of the first participants. The team anticipates that recruitment will be easy, and that minor improvements and modifications will make patient enrolment and data collection faster and better.



Photo: First SeroSelect trial participant during informed consent procedure

Novartis and Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) report positive results for Phase IIb study of novel ganaplacide/lumefantrine combination in children with malaria

As the threat of resistance to current malaria treatment grows, Novartis and MMV have reported positive results of a new non-artemisinin combination in a Phase IIb study. The study tested ganaplacide, a novel agent with an entirely new mechanism of action, in combination with a new formulation of lumefantrine that is optimised for once daily dosing. This combination has the potential not only to clear malaria infection, including artemisinin-resistant strains, but also to block the transmission of the malaria parasite.

The study was led by Novartis with scientific and financial support from MMV and their donors. The ganaplacide/lumefantrine solid dispersion formulation, named as the KALUMI trial ([NCT04546633](#)) is currently under further investigation by the [WANECAM2 consortium](#) in Burkina Faso, Gabon, Mali and Niger, and is funded by EDCTP.

[Read the press release](#)



HEPMAL Project's World Hepatitis Day activities

Since 2011, 28 July has been set aside as [World Hepatitis Day \(WHD\)](#) by the World Health Organization (WHO) to create awareness globally and to garner support for viral hepatitis control and elimination.

In Ghana, the EDCTP2-funded HEPMAL project led by Senior Fellow Dr Kwadwo Asamoah Kusi (studying the clinical and immuno-pathological consequences of Hepatitis-Malaria co-infection) organised a number of activities to mark the day, in collaboration with the Ghana Health Service and the Hepatitis Foundation of Ghana. During a two-day webinar on 26 and 27 July, researchers, hepatologists and government health officials addressed the burden and management of hepatitis in Ghana, the national response and Ghana's Hepatitis Policy, as well as new insights into hepatitis research. In addition, an individual with chronic hepatitis B shared their experience of living with the condition. On 28 July, the project organised medical and educational outreach, including screening and vaccinations that were carried out for free. A donation of medical supplies and consumables was made to the Gastroenterology Unit of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.

[Read the full article](#)

Article on CAGE-TB (Cough Audio Triage for TB)

Stellenbosch University published an article on the EDCTP2-funded CAGE-TB (Cough Audio Triage for TB) project led by Prof Grant Theron:
"The aim of CAGE-TB is to develop a screening app to discern whether someone might be

TB infected and to identify those in need of further laboratory testing. 'Preliminary data suggests that TB has a unique signature – a sound that is specific to a TB cough compared to other coughs such as smokers' cough,' Reeve explains. 'We are going to collect TB cough sounds by asking participants to cough into their phones and this captured audio will eventually be packaged into the app.'"

[Read the full article](#)

Article on Genital InFLammation Test (GIFT) in The Conversation

In the article 'New test to diagnose vaginal inflammation could help reduce risk of HIV infection' in The Conversation, the team that developed Genital InFLammation Test (GIFT) highlight recent development and future plans. Within the GIFT project, the team are developing a better way to test for asymptomatic vaginal infections in women in resource poor settings. The project recently received funding from EDCTP2's [2020 Innovative approaches to enhance poverty-related diseases research](#) call.

[Read the article](#)



Jean Pierre K. N'Guessan receives title of Research Management Professional (RMP)

On 30 June 2021, the International Professional Recognition Council (IPRC) granted Jean Pierre K. N'Guessan the title of [Research Management Professional \(RMP\)](#). He is project manager of the West African Network for TB, AIDS Malaria ([WANETAM](#)), an EDCTP supported Regional Network of Excellence, and is the first West African native French speaking national to earn a recognition

associated with Research Management which is a newly emerging discipline.

"This achievement is the result of many years of passionate hard work filled with challenges of all kinds. It is also the fruits of my strong determination to learn, apply and promote best practices associated with research management", N'Guessan says. "As the Project Manager of the West African Network for TB, AIDS Malaria (WANETAM) this recognition is an appeal to keep striving to promote research management within the WANETAM network and across West Africa. I am therefore committed to take all adequate actions to contribute to the promotion of this new discipline in Africa and more specifically, in French speaking academia where research management is still at a starting level."



Awareness campaign Women in Science in Republic of the Congo

An awareness campaign to encourage young women to pursue a career in science is currently ongoing in the Republic of the Congo. The driving force behind this campaign is [Professor Francine Ntoumi](#), coordinator of the EDCTP-funded Regional Network of Excellence 'Central Africa clinical research network – CANTAM2', Vice-President for Central Africa of the African Academy of Sciences, and the representative on behalf of the Republic of the Congo in the EDCTP General Assembly:

"In Africa too, many negative stereotypes are attached to 'women in science'. A woman should not be highly educated, or she will not be able to get married. Being 'an intelligent woman' is appreciated negatively. Fortunately, things are changing with the internet and globalisation of communication. With growing global exposure, African girls are becoming more confident and assertive, and are looking for role models. More and more girls realise that education is key for their independence and freedom."

PUBLICATIONS

PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases | doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0009656 August 30, 2021
[Passive surveillance of human African trypanosomiasis in Côte d'Ivoire: Understanding prevalence, clinical symptoms and signs, and diagnostic test characteristics](#)
 Minayégninrin Koné, Dramane Kaba, Jacques Kaboré, Lian Francesca Thomas, Laura Cristina Falzon, Mathurin Koffi, Cyrille Mambo Kouamé, Bernardin Ahouty, Charlie Franck Alfred Compaore, Emmanuel Kouassi N'Gouan, Philippe Solano, Eric Fèvre, Philippe Büscher, Veerle Lejon, Vincent Jamonneau

Pan African Medical Journal. 2021; 39(89). 10.11604/pamj.2021.39.89.27522
[Correlating WHO COVID-19 interim guideline 2020.5 and testing capacity, accuracy, and logistical challenges in Africa](#)
 Lydia Mosi, Augustina Angelina Sylverken, Kolapo Oyebola, Kingsley Badu, Natisha Dukhi, Nowsheen Goonoo, Priscilla Kolibea Mante, Julien Zahouli, Ebenezer Forkuo Amankwaa, Mai Fathy Tolba, Adeniyi Francis Fagbamigbe, Dziedzom Komi de Souza, Damaris Matoke-Muhia

Front. Med. 8:648660. doi: 10.3389/fmed.2021.648660

[SARS-CoV-2 Viral Shedding and Transmission Dynamics: Implications of WHO COVID-19 Discharge Guidelines](#)

Kingsley Badu, Kolapo Oyebola, Julien Z. B. Zahouli, Adeniyi Francis Fagbamigbe, Dziejdom K. de Souza, Natisha Dukhi, Ebenezer F. Amankwaa, Mai F. Tolba, Augustina A. Sylverken, Lydia Mosi, Priscilla Kolibea Mante, Damaris Matoke-Muhia, Nowsheen Goonoo

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[Diagnosis of neglected tropical diseases during and after the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Dziejdom K. de Souza, Albert Picado, Sylvain Bie' ler, Sarah Nogaró, Joseph Mathu Ndung'u

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[Tuberculosis preventive therapy for people with diabetes mellitus](#)

Willyhelmina Olomi, Irene Andia Biraro, Kajiru Kilonzo, Lindsey te Brake, Davis Kibirige, Nyasatu Chamba, Nyanda Elias Ntinginya, Issa Sabi, Julia Critchley, Katrina Sharples, Philip C Hill, Reinout Van Crevel

Clin Infect Dis. 2021 Mar 2:ciab161. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciab161. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33677477

[Fine-scale spatio-temporal mapping of asymptomatic and clinical P. falciparum infections: epidemiological evidence for targeted malaria elimination interventions](#)

Niang M, Sandfort M, Mbodj AF, Diouf B, Talla C, Faye J, Sane R, Thiam LG, Thiam A, Badiane A, Vigan-Womas I, Diagne N, Diene Sarr F, Mueller I, Sokhna C, White M, Toure-Balde A.

Wellcome Open Res 2021, 6:221 doi.org/10.12688/wellcomeopenres.17123.1

[Children's Oxygen Administration Strategies And Nutrition Trial \(COAST-Nutrition\): a protocol for a phase II randomised controlled trial](#)

Kiguli S, Olopot-Olupot P, Alaroker F et al.

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. The EDCTP Knowledge Hub will soon also be available in Portuguese and French.

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

Earlier this year, EDCTP published a [Model for the certificate on the financial statements](#) 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

Call for Applications: Merck Schistosomiasis Research Grant Initiative (Deadline: 31 October 2021 12:00 CET)

The Merck Schistosomiasis Research Grant Initiative is inviting pre-clinical researchers in the field of schistosomiasis to apply to their fast funding program. Up to 15 grants of €30,000 per project are available. Funding is available for pre-clinical research only, and priority will be given to applications from endemic and/or low- and middle-income countries.

[More information](#)

Call for Applications: Master's Fellowship in Epidemiology and Biostatistics 2021/2022 (Deadline: 9 October 2021)

The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) in collaboration with the Amref International University (AMIU) and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOUST) in Kenya invites qualified candidates to apply for a postgraduate fellowship in a Master's Degree Programme in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Successful candidates will be part of a networked cohort of highly skilled applied epidemiologists (Epi fellows) who are able to work with National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) and National Ministry of Health (MoH) Departments to improve their levels of preparedness, field surveillance, and response to disease outbreaks within the Eastern Africa region. The fellowship is supported through the Capacity Development of Applied Epidemiology (CDAE) project in Eastern Africa Region and is funded by EDCTP.

[More information](#)

Online training course on research in global health emergencies available in Portuguese

The Nuffic Council on Bioethics and The Global Health Network have launched a Portuguese version of a free e-learning course on research in global health emergencies. The course covers the core ethical issues that arise when conducting research in global health emergencies, from outbreaks of infectious diseases to natural and human-made disasters. It is based on the report [Research in global health emergencies: ethical issues](#). It is also available in English, French, and Spanish.

[More information \(in Portuguese\)](#)

Guide to pharmacovigilance in the EU

Dokumeds published the free e-book 'The ultimate guide to pharmacovigilance in the EU'. The guides gives an overview of the EU's legislations on Pharmacovigilance, illustrates the type of information that should be collected and who it should be reported to, and shows

Upcoming events

International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2021) | 14-16/12 2021

The first International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2021) comes at a critical time on the continent and in the world. COVID-19 has strained health systems globally, and with limited access to vaccines in Africa, the pandemic has laid bare deep inequities in access to healthcare and scientific innovations. CPHIA will create a unique platform where African researchers, policymakers and stakeholders can share perspectives and research findings in public health, while ushering in a new era of strengthened scientific collaboration and innovation across the continent. This will become an annual conference, hosted by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. EDCTP is represented in the Conference's Organising Committee.

[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 Manhica 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.

