Minutes from the virtual meeting of the EDCTP Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of 23 & 24 April 2020

Date and time: Thursday, 23 April, 13:00-17:00 hours CEST
Friday, 24 April, 13:00-17:00 hours CEST

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Members present:
Richard Adegbola (SAC-RA)
Christine Stabell Benn (SAC-CSB)
Christian Burri (SAC-CB)
Eric Delaporte (SAC-ED)
Paulo Ferrinho (SAC-PF)
Harleen Grewal (SAC-HG)
John Gyapong (SAC Vice-Chair) (SAC-JG)
Catherine Hankins (SAC Chair) (SAC-CH), Chairperson
Colleen Masirembwa (SAC-CM)
Martin Meremikwu (SAC-MM)
Keymanthri Moodley (SAC-KM)
Juliet Nabyonga-Orem (SAC-JN)
Michael Ramharter (SAC-MR)
Jutta Reinhard-Rupp (SAC-JR)
Peter Smith (SAC Vice-Chair) (SAC-PS)
Marleen Temmerman (SAC-MT)
Halidou Tinto (SAC-HT)

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Observers present:
Inmaculada Peñas-Jiménez, European Commission (EC-IPJ)
Hannu Laang, European Commission (EC-HL)
Stefanie Sowinski, European Commission (EC-SS)
Julia Molto, European Commission (EC-JM)
Ana Maria Henao Restrepo, World Health Organization HQ (WHO-AHR) *present for agenda item 4
Vaseeharan Sathiymoorthy, World Health Organization HQ (WHO-VS) *present for agenda item 4
Joseph Okeibunor, WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO-JO)

Abbreviations:
Africa CDC - Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
AIGHD - Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development
AREF - Africa Research Excellence Fund
CEPI - Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
CIHR - Canadian Institutes of Health Research
COVID-19 - Corona Virus Disease 2019
CSA - Coordination & Support Action
DNDi - Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative
EC - European Commission
EU – European Union
GA – General Assembly
GAS - Group A Streptococcus
GCLP - Good Clinical Laboratory Practice
GCP - Good Clinical Practice
GPH - EU-Africa Global Health Partnership (EDCTP3)
HR – High Representative
IDRC - International Development Research Centre
IMI - Innovative Medicines Initiative
IPU - Inter-Parliamentary Union
LMIC - Low- and Middle-Income Countries
NHRS – National Health Research Systems
NoE – Network of Excellence
R&D - Research and development
RIA – Research & Innovation Action
RSA - Republic of South Africa
SAC – Scientific Advisory Committee
SARS-CoV-2 - Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2
SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND ACTION POINTS

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<th>AGENDA ITEM</th>
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<td>1.3</td>
<td>Approval of the agenda</td>
<td><strong>DECISION:</strong> The agenda of the SAC meeting of 23-24 April 2020 was approved.</td>
<td>SAC, SEC, and WHO-JR/WHO-JO</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>Approval of the minutes of the SAC meeting of 21 May 2019</td>
<td><strong>DECISION:</strong> The minutes of the SAC meeting of 18-19 September 2019 were approved.</td>
<td>SAC, SEC, and WHO-JR/WHO-JO</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>1.5</td>
<td>ACTION: SAC, SEC, WHO to discuss international standards in research ethics review.</td>
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| Status of actions arising from the SAC meeting of 18-19 September 2019 | **ACTION**: To seek information from WHO about the GAS vaccine strategy.  
**ACTION**: To develop a tool that could be used to objectively evaluate proposals from lobby groups to expand EDCTP’s disease remit. | SAC, SEC, and WHO-JR/WHO-JO | 2020 |
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<td><strong>2.2</strong> Influence of COVID-19 on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRA/SRIA) for 2020 and beyond</td>
<td><strong>ACTION</strong>: SAC to articulate the key scientific and strategic points for formulation in the emerging and re-emerging diseases section of the GHP-EDCTP3 SRIA, based on lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis (and earlier epidemics).</td>
<td>SAC</td>
<td>15 May 2020</td>
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| **8.1 & 8.2** Closing regional and gender imbalances in EDCTP research funding | **ACTION**: Formation of a SAC Working Group on Gender and Diversity. Expansion of the current Working Group on Gender, to focus both on gender and diversity issues in EDCTP research and capacity development.  
**ACTION**: HRs to promote addressing gender issues (in addition to attracting new African members to join EDCTP). | SEC and SAC | SAC meeting October 2020 |
| **8.3** Update from the SAC WG on Industry and Preparatory Fellowships | **ACTION**: SEC to conduct a systemic annual update on career progress of alumni.  
**ACTION**: SEC to follow up on the recommendations from the SAC WG on Industry and Preparatory Fellowships. | SEC (SAC WG) | SAC meeting October 2020 |
| **9.1 & 9.2** Strengthening tools for monitoring and oversight of complex grants – review of measures of success | **ACTION**: SAC to comment on the draft success criteria for the EDCTP Regional Networks and EDCTP-funded Consortia for Epidemic Preparedness. | SAC | 1 June 2020 |