

EDCTP Update | August 2022



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Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Conakry and Rwanda join EDCTP Association



EDCTP is pleased to welcome the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republics of Guinea-Conakry and Rwanda on board as the newest member countries of the EDCTP Association. The Democratic Republic of the Congo will be represented in the EDCTP General Assembly by Dr Julien Ntaongo Alendi, Faculté de Médecin, Université de Kinshasa and Prof. Placide Mbala Kingebeni, Institut National de Recherche Biomédicales, Ministère de la Santé Publique, Hygiène et Prévention. The representatives for Guinea-Conakry and Rwanda will be appointed and announced soon.

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ICGEB visit to EDCTP Africa Office



A delegation of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology ([ICGEB](#)) visited the EDCTP Africa Office on 23 August 2022. The ICGEB is an intergovernmental organisation that runs over 45 laboratories, in Trieste, Italy, New Delhi, India and Cape Town, South Africa and forms an interactive network with almost 70 Member States. It plays a key role in Biotechnology promoting Research excellence, Training, and Technology Transfer to industry, to contribute in concrete terms to sustainable global development. EDCTP and ICGEB Africa offices agreed, among others, to facilitate links between ICGEB networks, [EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence](#) and

WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti prioritises research for health in Africa



In August 2022, the WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, delivered her annual report to delegates attending the [72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa](#) held in Lomé, Togo. The report looked back on a difficult year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and revealed lessons learnt to turn into solutions that will help build resilient health systems and health security into the future.

One of the lessons refers to a requirement of increased and more sustainable investment towards strengthening health systems, most notably among cross-cutting programmes such as health research, health information, laboratory capacity, antimicrobial resistance, addressing determinants of health, and health promotion. This builds on a partnership established in 2017 between EDCTP, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) and WHO-AFRO in recognition of a mutual interest in strengthening the capacity for health research in African countries. Collaboration between these three partners was realised through a [joint call](#) that delivered health research support to government institutions. It also echoes the ongoing collaboration between EDCTP and WHO-AFRO to [strengthen National Health Research systems](#).

EDCTP's High Representative for Africa Dr Leonardo Simão attended the 72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, and met with several health ministers in Lomé to discuss the benefits of African nations joining the EDCTP Association, including receiving funding from the the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking to perform implementation research.

Read the [WHO-AFRO annual report](#)

Project news

SeroSelectTB project kick-off meeting

On 8 August 2022, the [SeroSelectTB](#) project held its local site kick-off meeting in Bahirdar, Ethiopia. The project presented an overview and implementation plan to



evaluate the feasibility, accuracy and effect of a rapid point-of-care serological triage test (SeroSelectTB test) for active TB. The performance of the test in reducing the diagnostic delay and expediting treatment will also be assessed. Additionally, discussions were held to consider the best avenues for implementing the project within the local context.

[Read more »](#)

ACOZI-KIDS: Start of clinical trial for simplified treatment of sleeping sickness in children



Credits: Xavier Vahed-DNDi

The first child participating in the EDCTP2-funded [ACOZI-KIDS](#) clinical trial was treated for sleeping sickness on 15 July 2022 in Bandundu, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). ACOZI-KIDS aims to assess a paediatric indication of acoziborole, a single-dose, oral treatment for all stages of sleeping sickness caused by *T.b. gambiense*, for children aged between 1 and 14 years. The trial is taking place in the DRC and Guinea.

[Read more »](#)

HEPMAL organises inter-junior high schools Hepatitis quiz competition



Following the positive feedback received from the Hepatitis screening activity organised in celebration of World Hepatitis Day 2021, the EDCTP2-funded HEPMAL project hosted by the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), University of Ghana, collaborated with Pan-African Health Advocacy Centre and the Ghana Education Service to organise an Inter-Junior High Schools Hepatitis Quiz competition for 29 junior high schools from 23 June to 21 July 2022. The objective was to teach students about the causes, signs and symptoms, management and prevention of viral hepatitis and for them to be ambassadors of the condition in order to create community awareness.

[Read more »](#)

PREV_PKDL: ImmStat@Cure multidimensional, multiparameter phenotyping study begun in Kenya

The multidimensional, multiparameter phenotyping study (ImmStat@Cure,



NCT04342715) within the PREV_PKDL project has kicked-off in April 2022. This study aims at understanding the pathogenesis of post kala azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL) - and the underlying immune mechanism - in patients treated for visceral leishmaniasis (VL). ImmStat@Cure is designed as a multicentre study across four endemic East African countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. Following a pre-initiation hands-on training at the field site in Kimalel Sub-County, the first cohort volunteer has been enrolled at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI, Kenya).

[Read more »](#)

SEARCH first General Assembly meeting



The SouthErn Africa Regulatory for Clinical researchH ([SEARCH](#)) held its first scientific and General Assembly meeting at OR Tambo International Airport, South Africa, on 28-29 July 2022. Participants from the partners presented the Clinical Trials National Regulatory Authority and National Ethics Committees landscape from their respective countries, namely: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Mozambique. The second day was dedicated to the SEARCH General Assembly meeting. The project results of the first year were discussed, as well as the critical issues for implementation. Dr Simon Zwane, Primary Secretary from the Ministry of Health Eswatini, was a special guest at the meeting.

EACCR3 third General Assembly and scientific meeting



The Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical Research ([EACCR3](#)) held its third General Assembly and scientific meeting (hybrid) in Arusha, Tanzania on 10-11 August 2022. The aim of EACCR3 is to strengthen the capacity to conduct internationally acceptable health research with specific focus on clinical trials on poverty-related diseases (HIV, TB, Malaria) and neglected infectious emerging and re-emerging diseases.

[Read more »](#)

BERC-Luso visits Angola



The BERC-Luso team visited Angola from 26-29 July 2022. The visit included meetings with national authorities, a meeting with the Portuguese Ambassador to Angola, and a conference on "The importance of biomedical research in Angola" in Luanda.

The BERC-Luso project aims to build regulatory and ethics capacity-building in Portuguese-speaking countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

[Read more »](#)

CETH: participate in survey on strengthening community engagement in clinical trials



Community engagement is key to designing ethically and scientifically rigorous clinical trials involving human participants in low- and middle-income country settings. There is currently public debate in South Africa around the adequacy of community engagement and there is a need to identify what exactly constitutes community engagement and to develop strategies for strengthening community engagement in vaccine trials. This is the focus of the CETH project, that uses a combination of methodologies to develop a language and framework for guiding community and clinical trial stakeholder engagement. The project invites you to participate in a survey and/or telephone interview on this topic.

[Read more »](#)

EDCTP Fellows

Fifteen "EPI-Biostat Fellows" start their Master's training at Busitema University in Uganda



EDCTP and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) are partnering to train 150 epidemiologists and biostatisticians across Africa. This highly anticipated new training programme will establish an African cohort of epidemiologists and biostatisticians through 10 grants supporting institutions in sub-Saharan Africa and Europe that provide Master's degree training in epidemiology and biostatistics as part of Africa CDC's framework for public health workforce

development. Fifteen of these “EPI-Biostat Fellows” have now enrolled in their Master’s training at Busitema University in Uganda. The Busitema University Fellowship Programme in Infectious Disease Field Epidemiology and Biostatistics (IDEA) is led by Busitema University, has eight partners, and is cofunded by the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) with UK Overseas Development Assistance.

[Read more »](#)

Royal Society Africa Prize for Professor Novel Njweipi Chegou



The Royal Society Africa Prize 2022 was awarded to [Professor Novel Njweipi Chegou](#) for his work in the fields of pulmonary and extrapulmonary tuberculosis, and his innovative project proposal. Prof. Chegou is an EDCTP Senior Fellow researching [new biomarker-based approaches for improving the diagnosis of childhood tuberculous meningitis](#) at Stellenbosch University.

The Royal Society Africa Prize is to recognise research scientists based in Africa who are making an innovative contribution to the sciences. Awarded annually, the medal is of bronze and is accompanied by a gift of £2,000. The prize was previously the Royal Society Pfizer Award which was last awarded in 2016.

Publications

EDCTP is a member of [Europe PMC](#). This enables EDCTP-funded researchers to share their publications via one central location. Sharing publications by EuropePMC also ensures that they will satisfy the requirements for EDCTP-funded research projects: making publications openly accessible as soon as possible.

[Submit your manuscript through Europe PMC Plus](#)

- *PloS One*: [Global epidemiology of occult hepatitis B virus infections in blood donors, a systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Takuissu GR et al. (22 August 2022)
- *Int J Equity Health*: ["We should be at the table together from the beginning": perspectives on partnership from stakeholders at four research institutions in sub-Saharan Africa](#). Voller S et al. (17 August 2022)
- *PLoS Negl Trop Dis*: [Occurrence of Lymphatic Filariasis infection after 15 years of mass drug administration in two hotspot districts in the Upper East Region of Ghana](#). Adu Mensah D et al. (4 August 2022)
- *Respiration 2022*: [Diagnosing Tuberculosis: What Do New Technologies Allow Us to \(Not\) Do?](#) Shima M. Abdulgader, Anna O. Okunola et al. (27 June 2022)
- *Int J Environ Health Res*: [Malaria Transmission in Sahelian African Regions, a Witness of Climate Changes](#). Jambou R et al. (1 August 2022)
- *Wellcome Open Res (preprint)*: [Protocol for a pregnancy registry of maternal and infant outcomes in Uganda –The PREPARE Study](#). Davies H et al. (22 August 2022)
- *J Infect Dis*: [Added Value of an Anti-Ebola Serology for the Management of Clinically Suspected Ebola Virus Disease Patients Discharged as Negative in an Epidemic](#)

Context. Nkuba-Ndaye A *et al.* (1 August 2022)

- *Sci Rep*: [Immunological profiles associated with distinct parasitemic states in volunteers undergoing malaria challenge in Gabon](#). Manurung MD *et al.* (3 August 2022)
- *Glob health action*: [Improving disease surveillance data analysis, interpretation, and use at the district level in Tanzania](#). Mremi IR *et al.* (2 August 2022)
- *Infection*: [Creatine kinase-\(MB\) and hepcidin as candidate biomarkers for early diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis: a proof-of-concept study in Lambaréné, Gabon](#). Essone PN *et al.* (8 February 2022)
- *J Pers Med*: [CYP3A and CYP2B6 Genotype Predicts Glucose Metabolism Disorder among HIV Patients on Long-Term Efavirenz-Based ART: A Case-Control Study](#). Tadesse WT *et al.* (30 June 2022)

[Is het einde van dubieuze medische onderzoeken in niet-westerse landen in zicht?](#) ('Is the end of dubious medical research in non-Western countries in sight?')

Article in Dutch newspaper De Volkskrant about ethics dumping and the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings. EDCTP Executive Director Dr Michael Makanga was interviewed for this article (available after free registration).

Resources



[Collaborative clinical R&D](#)
online



[Clinical research capacity](#)
PDF



[Fellowships](#)
online

- EDCTP | [Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research](#)
- EDCTP | [Guidelines for grantees - Progress report](#)
- EDCTP | [Template for Grant Agreement Annex 5](#)
- ERUDIT | [Planning for Financial Sustainability manual](#)
- Europe PMC webinar | [Watch the recording](#) and [download the slides](#)
- TRUST project | [Video introducing the Global Code of Conduct](#)

Training and funding opportunities

ADVAC (Advanced Course for Vaccinology) | 8-19 May 2023

ADVAC is an annual two-week training programme for decision-makers, including academia, industry, governmental and non-governmental agencies. ADVAC has opened a

Call for application with a deadline of **15 November 2022**. Participants (maximum 75) will be selected by the ADVAC Scientific Committee according to their educational background, involvement in vaccinology, decision-making responsibilities in vaccinology, and expected impact of the course at personal, institutional and national levels. With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), EDCTP will provide fellowships for selected candidates from Sub-Saharan African countries.

[More information on how to apply »](#)

Launch of the Product Development Partnerships IV Fund (PDP IV) | Deadline for applications: 16 September 2022

Through the Product Development Partnerships IV Fund (PDP IV), the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made funds available to support the development of healthcare products. PDP IV targets diseases and conditions related to poverty and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The fund focuses on the development and availability of more effective, safe, affordable and demand-driven medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and innovative products. The main target group is women and girls between the reproductive ages of 15 to 49 in Low-Income Countries (LICs) and Middle-Income Countries (MICs).

PDP IV is executed by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency carries on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The available budget between December 2022 and December 2027 is €86.3 million. Product Development Partnerships (PDPs) can apply by the deadline of 16 September 2022.

[More information](#)

African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI) fellowships | Deadline for applications: 30 September 2022

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS), in partnership with the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), opened a call for applications for the third cohort of the African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI) fellowships. APTI Fellows are trained and supported to become scientific leaders who can advocate for increased research and innovation projects in Africa. This is done through 4-year postdoctoral fellowships where APTI Fellows are placed in various laboratories of the NIH Institutes or Centers for two years before returning to their home institutions in Africa for another two years of research. Submission of applications closes on 30 September 2022.

[More information »](#)

Call for proposals: Health policy and systems research on the role of digital interventions in strengthening health systems in LMICs | Deadline for applications: 30 September 2022

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research and WHO's Department of Digital Health and Innovations launched a joint call for proposals on 'Health policy and systems research on the role of digital interventions in strengthening health systems in LMICs'. This programme will have a specific focus: data use solutions for health managers in primary health care (PHC) contexts. Deadline for applications: 30 September 2022.

[More information »](#)

NIH course: Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research | 21 September – 9 November 2022

You can now register for the course Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research. This 7-week course covers essential topics in the ethics of clinical research and is designed for researchers and research teams, clinical staff, Institutional Review Board members, and others interested in the ethics of clinical research. Presentations are given by experts from both within and outside the NIH. The course will run from 21 September to 9 November 2022. If you wish to actively take part in the course and receive a Certificate of Completion, you need to self-enrol and self-register. The course is available to anyone without charge via live video-cast.

[More information »](#)

Mark your calendar

EDCTP events

EDCTP Webinar: requesting amendments to the grant agreement | 29

September 2022

EDCTP2 grant holders are invited to participate in a webinar on requesting amendments to the grant agreement. This webinar is targeted at EDCTP grant holders, and in particular coordinators, who need to request an amendment to the grant agreement. The webinar will be conducted by Dr Louwrens Kiestra, EDCTP Legal Officer, and Dr Johanna Roth, EDCTP Project Officer.

[More information and registration »](#)

Funding research for impact: strengthening the role of science and evidence-based policymaking | 30 September 2022 (virtual)

Despite substantial investment by public and private partners in the development of new diagnostics, vaccines and drugs for poverty-related diseases, these interventions may not reach their target populations or be used to their full potential. This is particularly the case in sub-Saharan Africa, where health systems are generally weak and not adequately prepared for the delivery and uptake of new or improved products and interventions.

EDCTP is investing in the translation of research findings into policy and practice to increase their public health impact in sub-Saharan Africa. As part of the 8th edition of the [Science Summit around the 77th United Nations General Assembly](#) (UNGA77), EDCTP will organise a session to illustrate the value of global partnerships and to present case studies on advancing the production and usage of reliable research evidence in addressing unmet medical needs.

[See the programme and register for the event »](#)

Events with EDCTP participation

The Power of Knowledge (EthiXpert International hybrid symposium) | 1 September 2022

EthiXPERT (South Africa), KIT Royal Tropical Institute (Netherlands) and ASFARI Institute for Civil Society (Lebanon) will jointly host a hybrid symposium. The event will focus on inclusive and fair knowledge partnerships, and will involve dialogue sessions for critical reflections on how equitable knowledge partnerships can unlock the power of knowledge. EDCTP Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager, Dr Thomas Nyirenda, will be a keynote speaker at the symposium.

[More information »](#)

The role of funders in enabling equitable research partnerships for development | 26 September 2022 (virtual)

As part of the 8th edition of the [Science Summit around the 77th United Nations General Assembly](#) (UNGA77), the UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR) and ESSENCE on Health Research initiative are hosting a session to discuss and identify practical ways in which research funders and institutions across the world can embed equity in international scientific collaboration to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The panel discussion, which includes research funders from the Global South and North alongside delegates, will be based around a newly launched good practice document developed by a global taskforce of research funders: Four Approaches to Supporting Equitable Research Partnerships (2022). In one of nine case studies featured in the good practice document, the EDCTP-funded epidemic research preparedness consortia - the African coalition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training ([ALERRT](#)), and the Pan-African Network for Rapid Research, Response, Relief and Preparedness for Infectious Diseases Epidemics ([PANDORA-ID-NET](#)) – are presented as examples of research consortia to build equitable decision-making. EDCTP has been represented in both the global taskforce and ESSENCE on Health Research by Ms Lara Pandya, Senior Strategic Partnerships Officer.

[More information »](#)

World Health Summit workshop: Best Practices and New Avenues for Building Research Capacity in Global Health | 16 October 2022

Research capacity is a long-term, complex process that requires the interplay of individuals, organizations, national and international research systems. No model or mechanism has emerged as the most effective at supporting research capacity development. The aim of the session is to discuss and learn from different approaches of research capacity building, bringing together the perspectives of researchers and funders.

EDCTP Executive Director, Dr Michael Makanga, will be a speaker at this workshop.
[More information »](#)

The Global Health Network Conference 2022 | 24 – 25 November 2022

Under the theme 'Enabling Health Research in Every Healthcare Setting', this conference aims to bring together health research teams, organisations, health-workers, policy makers and practitioners to explore together how health research can be embedded into every healthcare setting. The conference will be hosted by University of Cape Town, South Africa. EDCTP Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager, Dr Thomas Nyirenda, will be a plenary speaker at the conference.

[More information and registration »](#)

Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2022) | 13-15 December 2022

The second Annual Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2022) will take place from 13-15 December 2022. The conference provides a unique platform for African researchers, policymakers and stakeholders to come together and share perspectives and research findings in public health, while ushering in a new era of strengthened scientific collaboration and innovation across the continent. Building on CPHIA 2021, this year's conference will also serve as a catalyst to build more resilient health systems that allow African countries to better prepare for and manage emerging health threats, while also addressing long-standing infectious diseases. EDCTP is represented in the conference's Scientific Programme Committee by Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager.

You can now submit your abstract with a deadline of **30 September 2022**.

[More information »](#)

Other meetings

Lusophone Bioethics Meeting | 14 September 2022

On 14 September 2022, the Portuguese National Ethics Council for Life Sciences is organising the event 'Bioethics and Public Health: Goals for Global Health'. The event aims to create a broad platform for Portuguese-speaking countries for sharing experiences and formulating guidelines in the field of ethics in life sciences. The event will take place between 15:00 and 19:30 CET at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Lisbon, Portugal).

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

European Research and Innovation Days 2022 | 28-29 September 2022

European Research and Innovation Days is the European Commission's annual flagship Research and Innovation event, bringing together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs and the public to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond. Discussions will focus on the new European Innovation Agenda, the European Year of Youth, the richness of European cultural creativity, the EU Missions and many more topics. On the second day of the conference, the Horizon Europe strategic planning 2025-2027 will be launched.

[More information »](#)

EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.



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