



EDCTP

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EDCTP Update | May 2023



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EDCTP Forum

Partnering for Global Health Research Innovation
and Impact in Africa

7—10 November 2023 | Paris, France

Celebrating EDCTP: two decades and beyond

Eleventh EDCTP Forum

From 7-10 November 2023, the [Eleventh EDCTP Forum](#) will take place in Paris, France. Various sponsorship opportunities are now available. We invite you to read the following information carefully:

Sponsorship opportunities

Sponsorship opportunities at the Eleventh EDCTP Forum aim to profile and raise the visibility of organisations working in the same field as EDCTP. We invite you to browse through the various sponsorship packages on our Forum website. Please note that sponsorship applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, except for the 60-minute sponsored satellite sessions, which have an (extended) application deadline of **9 June 2023**.

[More information »](#)

Registration

Registration for the Eleventh EDCTP Forum will open in June 2023. Details on both in-person and virtual participation are currently available online. The deadline for early-bird registration is **14 July 2023**.

[More information »](#)



EDCTP 2023 Prizes: Call for nominations

Every two years, EDCTP awards four prestigious international prizes to recognise outstanding individuals and research teams from Africa and Europe who have made significant achievements in their research field. The call for nominations has been extended and we invite you to send your nominations by **16 June 2023**. The following prizes will be awarded at the Eleventh EDCTP Forum:

- Dr Pascoal Mocumbi Prize
- Outstanding Female Scientist Prize
- Scientific Leadership Prize
- Outstanding Research Team Prize

[Read the official announcement »](#)



Sierra Leone joins EDCTP Association

EDCTP is pleased to welcome the Republic of Sierra Leone on board as the newest member country of the EDCTP Association, bringing the total number of African countries to 25. The admittance of Sierra Leone was approved by the EDCTP Association members on 4 May 2023. Additionally, the country formalised its commitment to the EDCTP Association for participation in the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking. Sierra Leone will be represented in the [EDCTP General Assembly](#) by Dr Sartie Kenneh and Dr Sulaiman Lakoh of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

Open call for Global Health EDCTP3 Stakeholders Group membership

A call for expression of interest has been launched for members of the Global Health EDCTP3 Stakeholders Group with a deadline for application on **11 June 2023**. The first call for expression of interest for the selection of the members of the Stakeholders Group was launched in 2022, and ten members were appointed. This new call has been launched in order to broaden the expertise of the group. The Stakeholders Group is open to all public and private stakeholders, including organised groups, active in the field of Global Health EDCTP3, international interest groups from the Member States, associated countries and other countries. Further information can be found on the [Global Health EDCTP3 website](#).



Global Health
EDCTP3

Recent events

Design Analyze Communicate - Africa (DAC-A) official launch event | Yaoundé, Cameroon, 2 May 2023

On 2 May 2023, the official launch of the [Design Analyze Communicate – Africa \(DAC-A\) programme](#) took place at the Hilton Hotel in Yaoundé-Cameroon. One of the primary goals of the DAC-A programme is to promote informativeness as a foundational value for planning and running clinical trials on the African continent. To achieve this, the programme will be offering protocol review services to sponsors, principal investigators and research institutions designing clinical trials to be conducted in Africa. DAC-A equally seeks to create a conducive environment for clinical trials, starting in Cameroon and extending across the African continent. In this light, the programme will collaborate with national ethics and regulatory authorities as well as other major trial stakeholders on the continent.

The EDCTP Africa Office has been collaborating closely with the DAC team of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation since 2022. Dr Thomas Nyirenda, EDCTP Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of Africa Office, took part in the meeting and presented on the linkages between EDCTP2's activities to strengthen health R&D in sub-Saharan Africa, the current WHA 75.8 resolution on 'Strengthening Clinical Trials to provide high-quality evidence and improve research quality and coordination', and the Global Health EDCTP3 programme.

[Read more »](#)

Optimizing, Efficiency and Impact in the African Clinical Trial Ecosystem | Cape Town, South Africa, 16-18 May 2023

African Union/ Africa CDC, AUDA NEPAD, EDCTP and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation organised a three-day meeting themed 'Optimizing, Efficiency and Impact in the African Clinical Trial Ecosystem'. The meeting took place in Cape Town, South Africa from 16-18 May 2023. It aimed to discuss the current state of the Africa clinical research ecosystem and develop a collective vision for strengthening it in order to drive its impact.

The meeting built on a discussion convened in 2022 on the heels of the Grand Challenges Annual Meeting in Brussels, and a 2019 Pan African Clinical Trials Alliance (PACTA) meeting organised by EDCTP and hosted by AUDA-NEPAD. Both meetings acknowledged the importance of strengthening the clinical trial ecosystem within low- and middle-income countries, including through approaches such as better visibility of research capabilities in Africa and enhanced clinical trials registration.

[Read more »](#)

EDCTP at INTEREST conference 2023

The annual [INTEREST Conference](#), the foremost scientific gathering focused on HIV in Africa, brought together a global community of scientists dedicated to HIV treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention research. Held in May 2023, this year's conference highlighted groundbreaking insights into HIV diagnosis and treatment, as well as strategies for preventing HIV-1 infection. Moreover, the event served as a



platform for fostering collaboration among African physicians and scientists, aiming to facilitate the implementation of localised solutions for managing patients with HIV-1 and preventing the transmission of the virus. Ms. Michelle Nderu, EDCTP Project Officer, presented on Global Health EDCTP3 funding opportunities and the application process.

[Read more »](#)

EDCTP Fellows at ADVAC



The annual Advanced Course of Vaccinology ([ADVAC](#)) took place at Les Pensières, Annecy, France on 8-19 May 2023. ADVAC is a two-week training programme for decision-makers in vaccinology, including academia, industry, governmental and non-governmental agencies. Following the courses, former ADVAC participants become part of the ADVAC alumni network, and ADVAC alumni meetings are regularly organised in the context of major vaccine-related meetings.

Between 2021-2023, EDCTP has supported 23 ADVAC fellows from various African countries. This year EDCTP – as part of [Sida](#)'s contribution to the programme – has supported six Fellows to participate in the course. In addition, EDCTP Executive Director Dr Michael Makanga was present during part of the course as one of the experts for exchanges on career development in Global Health.

Congratulations to all who completed this year's course!

Project news

PAVIA: A blueprint for strengthening pharmacovigilance systems in resource-limited countries

Many national regulatory agencies in sub-Saharan Africa, which have responsibility for drug safety, lack the expertise, critical mass and infrastructure to monitor drug safety effectively during clinical trials and after licensing. The PhArmacoVigilance Africa ([PAVIA](#)) project, implemented during the period 2018-2022 in Eswatini, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania, set out to strengthen pharmacovigilance in the African context. PAVIA incorporated the lessons and best practices from the project into a 'Blueprint for strengthening pharmacovigilance systems in resource-limited countries', and published the



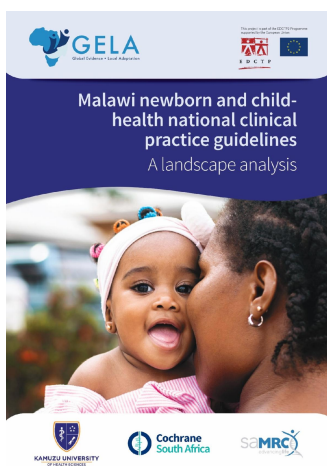
[Download the blueprint »](#)

Consult the [project outputs on The Global Health Network »](#)

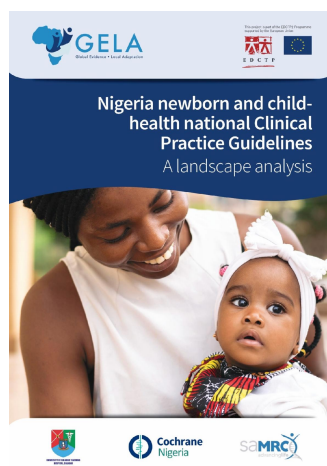
GELA: landscape analyses of child-health clinical practice guidelines (CPGs)

The Global Evidence - Local Adaptation ([GELA](#)) consortium has conducted landscape analyses of child-health clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) for newborn and child health in [Malawi](#), [Nigeria](#) and [South Africa](#). The analyses identified gaps contributing to the burden of disease in newborn and child health in each country, including malnutrition, neonatal and congenital disorders, as well as the coexistence of conditions. The analyses show the importance of ongoing efforts to strengthen capacity and support CPG development in close collaboration with policymakers, researchers and other relevant stakeholders. The findings were recently published, and the three country-specific reports on national guidelines can be found on the [Cochrane-Africa website](#).

[More information »](#)



[Download](#) the Malawian newborn and child-health national clinical practice guidelines



[Download](#) the Nigerian newborn and child-health national clinical practice guidelines



[Download](#) the South African newborn and child-health national and provincial clinical practice guidelines

PreFIT, Stool4TB and CAGE-TB join forces



In May 2023, [PreFIT](#), [Stool4TB](#) and [CAGE-TB](#) held their annual meetings in Kampala, Uganda, and during one day organised joint activities to foster collaboration. The morning started with PhD presentations from all nine students embedded in the projects, which led to a great exchange of ideas and the formation of cross-project groups of students working on similar topics. It was followed by a roundtable discussion on TB diagnostics. In the afternoon, Makerere University's College of Health Sciences organised a Global Symposium on Tuberculosis moderated by Prof. Frank Cobelens and Prof. Moses Joloba, with five experts addressing the latest advances in TB diagnostics, paediatric TB, TB molecular bacterial load assay (TB-MBLA), and epigenetics in TB.

CHAPAS-4 annual meeting



The [CHAPAS-4](#) annual meeting took place in Lusaka, Zambia in-person and virtually on 25-26 April 2023. The CHAPAS-4 trial evaluated four new drugs/formulations to optimise second-line antiretroviral treatment (ART) for children failing first-line ART as well as options for second-line ART given concomitantly with anti-tuberculosis medication in 919 children living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa (Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) between December 2018 - January 2023. Results of the CHAPAS-4 study were shared during this meeting, and the CHAPAS-4 consortium hope to present the results at the International AIDS Society meeting and Paediatric HIV workshop in Brisbane in July 2023, and at the Eleventh EDCTP Forum in November 2023.

PREV_PKDL annual meeting



PREV_PKDL held its fifth annual meeting on 15-17 May 2023. The meeting allowed approximately 25 leading European and African experts to present and discuss project advancements and upcoming activities. Members of the project's Scientific and Ethics Advisory Committee joined the meeting to provide their feedback and recommendations to the consortium.

[Read the full article »](#)

PEOPLE and PEP4LEP at LRI spring meeting



On 20-21 April 2023, the Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) held its Spring Meeting in Breukelen, the Netherlands. This in-person event brought together over 80 attendees from 20 countries with an interest in leprosy research. Two projects which received joint funding from EDCTP and LRI presented preliminary and final outcomes: the [PEOPLE](#) project and [PEP4LEP](#) project. Dr Michelle Helinski, Senior Project Officer at EDCTP, attended the meeting.

[Read more »](#)

EAPoC-VL annual meeting



The East African Point of Care HIV Viral Load ([EAPoC-VL](#)) project held its second annual general scientific meeting in Kigali, Rwanda on 10-11 May 2023. The purpose of the EAPoC-VL project is to examine the feasibility, acceptability and effectiveness of using point-of-care viral load (PoC VL) monitoring to improve virological suppression among children and adolescents (0-24 years) living with HIV in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The aim of the meeting was to evaluate performance in period 1 & 2 of the project implementation and to establish strategies to expedite performance of research activities in period 3.

[Read more »](#)

WANETAM steering committee meeting



On 4-5 May 2023, the West African Network for TB, Aids, Malaria ([WANETAM](#)) held its steering committee meeting at the Portuguese Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (IHMT), Nova University of Lisbon, Portugal. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Richard Adegbola, and opened by IHMT Director Prof. Filomeno Fortes and WANETAM Coordinator Prof. Souleymane Mboup.

WANETAM Deputy Coordinator Prof. Assan Jaye gave an overview of the network and highlighted progress made in scientific pilot projects, capacity building, professional development, scientific leadership opportunities, partnerships, and engagement with industry partners. Work package leaders presented successes and challenges to be addressed, and the northern partners from Germany and Portugal presented available opportunities in their respective institutions and areas for potential collaborations, which were further discussed in small group sessions. Overall, the WANETAM network teams continue to make progress in implementing work package activities in 16 research institutions across nine West-African countries.

[Read the WANETAM newsletter and subscribe »](#)

4th BCA-WA-ETHICS Congress



The [BCA-WA-ETHICS](#) project held its fourth congress under the theme 'The management of NRECs during health emergencies' in Benin and virtually from 25-28 April 2023. A total of 36 experts in research ethics, quality management, and gender mainstreaming participated, representing Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Spain and Switzerland. The congress organisers are currently working on a roadmap that will share the lessons learned and recommendations from the congress. Additionally, a book of abstracts will be published, and the presentations will be made available on the project website.

[Read more »](#)

EDCTP Fellows



EDCTP Career Development Fellow Dr Felix Khuluza was recently promoted to Associate Professor of Pharmacy at the Pharmacy Department of the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) in Malawi. His research focuses on health challenges related to substandard and falsified medicines in low-and middle-income countries. In a personal account on the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) website, Dr Khuluza reflects on his academic and professional journey and his quest for quality and safe medicine in Malawi and beyond.

[Read the blog post »](#)

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](#)

- *Lancet Glob Health*: [Tracking SARS-CoV-2 introductions in Mozambique using pandemic-scale phylogenies: a retrospective observational study](#). Martínez-Martínez FJ *et al.* (1 June 2023)
with linked commentary:
- *Lancet Glob Health*: [SARS-CoV-2 in low-income countries: the need for sustained genomic surveillance](#). Ana S Gonzalez-Reiche *et al.* (June 2023)
- *African Journal of Bioethics*: [Lignes directrices pour l'examen éthique des protocoles de recherche en santé mentale dans une perspective culturellement sensible](#). Mercury Shitindo *et al.* (23 May 2023)
- *Hum Resour Health*: [The abiding, hidden, and pervasive centrality of the health research workforce](#). Ferrinho P *et al.* (11 May 2023)

- *BMJ Open*: [Prevalence and impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection on maternal and infant health in African populations: protocol of a multicentre prospective cohort study \(MA-CoV project\)](#). Figueroa-Romero A *et al.* (May 2023)
- *Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg*: [COVID-19 disease and vaccination in pregnancy: understanding knowledge, perceptions and experiences among pregnant women and community leaders in Uganda](#). Nalubega, Phiona *et al.* (3 May 2023)
- *Mal Journal*: [Coverage of intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in infants after four years of implementation in Sierra Leone](#). Fombah AE *et al.* (2 May 2023)
- *Trials*: [A cluster randomised trial to evaluate the effectiveness of household alcohol-based hand rub for the prevention of sepsis, diarrhoea, and pneumonia in Ugandan infants \(the BabyGel trial\): a study protocol](#). Chebet, Martin *et al.* (17 April 2023)
- *PLoS Comput Biol*: [High rifampicin peak plasma concentrations accelerate the slow phase of bacterial decline in tuberculosis patients: Evidence for heteroresistance](#). Martinecz A *et al.* (13 April 2023)
- *Mal Journal*: [Accuracy of diagnosis among clinical malaria patients: comparing microscopy, RDT and a highly sensitive quantitative PCR looking at the implications for submicroscopic infections](#). Opoku Afriyie S *et al.* (4 March 2023)

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

Global Health EDCTP3 calls for proposals | Deadline: 29 June 2023

Global Health EDCTP3 currently has five topics open for proposal submission. These include topics to:

- Develop and increase access to cost-effective interventions to prevent and treat

- infectious diseases in pregnant women, newborns and children
- Advance knowledge on Ebola virus disease, in particular Sudan virus disease, with the aim of contributing to an efficient patient management and public health response
- Strengthen ethics and regulatory capacity in sub-Saharan African countries to improve the functionality, recognition and performance of ethics committees and regulatory agencies

The deadline for submission of proposals is **29 June 2023**. Details on the calls can be found on the EU's [Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

Grand Challenges call for proposals: Catalyzing Equitable Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use | Deadline: 5 June 2023

As AI technology continues to swiftly evolve and advance, the global community must move with urgency to ensure low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are included in the co-creation process. Therefore, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation launched a new Grand Challenges (GC) request for proposals, "Catalyzing Equitable Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use". This request for proposals seeks innovative and safe approaches to the use of Large Language Models (ChatGPT-4, or other credible sources with equivalent capability). The foundation hopes to build an evidence base on this issue – informed by the communities it serves – to ensure this technology ultimately improves the lives of the world's most vulnerable people.

[More information »](#)

Michelson Prizes Next Generation Grants call for applications | Deadline: 11 June 2023

Michelson Prizes Next Generation Grants are annual awards of \$150,000, which support early-career investigators (35 years and under) who are working to significantly advance human immunology and vaccine and immunotherapy research for major global diseases. The research to be covered by the grant should aim at tackling the current roadblocks that exist in human vaccine development and expanding our limited understanding of key immune processes that are fundamental to successful vaccine and immunotherapy development. The Prizes are awarded by the Michelson Medical Research Foundation and the Human Immunome Project (formerly the Human Vaccines Project). Applications are being accepted with a deadline of **11 June 2023**.

[More information »](#)

Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme call for proposals | Deadline: 15 June 2023

The European Commission has opened a €27 million [call for proposals](#) for higher education institutions to provide international learning mobility opportunities for African students, trainees and university staff under the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme 2022–2027. The [scheme](#) is part of the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package's flagship initiative [Youth Mobility for Africa](#) that promotes youth exchanges and mobility in Africa and between Africa and Europe, and contributes to strengthening Africa's higher education space. Applications must be submitted by a consortium composed of 4–6 higher education institutions from eligible countries in Africa and one higher education institution from the EU. [The call](#) is expected to finance around 15 projects for a maximum grant amount of €1.8 million each. The application deadline is **15 June 2023**.

SSI/ISID Infectious Diseases Research Fellowships | Deadline for applications: 16 June 2023

The International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID) and the Swiss Society for Infectious Diseases (SSI) are inviting applications for their joint Infectious Diseases Research Fellowship Program. The purpose of this programme is to support infectious disease physicians and scientists from under-resourced countries through multidisciplinary clinical and laboratory training at a select biomedical institution in Zurich, Switzerland. The one-year SSI/ISID Fellowship programme is open to applicants who are 40 years or younger, citizens and permanent residents of under-resourced countries or Eastern Europe. The deadline for applications is **16 June 2023**.

[More information »](#)

GARDP Travel Award | Application deadline: 26 June 2023

The GARDP Travel Award was created to support researchers from low- and middle-income countries who work on R&D of new treatments for drug-resistant infections to attend in-person conferences and training courses in the field of antibiotic research and development. Applications are open with a deadline of 26 June 2023.

[More information »](#)

Fogarty African Bioethics Joint Postdoctoral Fellowship in Global Health Ethics | Application deadline: 30 June 2023

The Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics (BI), Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) and University of Oxford Ethox Centre (Ethox) invite applications for the Fogarty African Bioethics Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program (FAB-PDF) – an 18-month advanced bioethics postdoctoral training programme for scholars from sub-Saharan Africa who hold a bioethics-related PhD. Funded by the Fogarty International Center, NIH, USA, the programme focuses broadly on global health ethics, with particular opportunities for fellows to concentrate on issues involving global infectious disease ethics and advanced international research ethics. The fellowship will begin approximately 15 January 2024. Applications are due by **30 June 2023**.

[More information »](#)

Wellcome Trust (UK) Funding Opportunities for Applicants from LMICs

[Wellcome Early-Career Awards](#)

This scheme provides funding for early-career researchers from any discipline who are ready to develop their research identity. Through innovative projects, they will deliver shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing. By the end of the award, they will be ready to lead their own independent research programme.

Application deadline: **5 October 2023**

[Wellcome Career Development Awards](#)

This scheme provides funding for mid-career researchers from any discipline who have the potential to be international research leaders. They will develop their research capabilities, drive innovative programmes of work and deliver significant shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing.

Application deadline: **27 July 2023**

[Wellcome Discovery Awards](#)

This scheme provides funding for established researchers and teams from any discipline who want to pursue bold and creative research ideas to deliver significant shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing.

Application deadline: **25 July 2023**

MRC Clinical Trials Unit online MSc courses

The Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit (MRC CTU) at University College London (UCL) offers online MSc courses in Clinical Trials and in Statistics for Clinical Trials. The online [MSc in Clinical Trials](#) provides grounding in management and design of clinical trials, and enhances knowledge and understanding of those already working in the field. The online [MSc in Statistics for Clinical Trials](#) develops knowledge and know-how of statistics in clinical trials. This training is relevant for future clinical trial statisticians, and as well as clinicians and other health professionals who have a strong quantitative interest in trials. The courses start in September 2023.

Mark your calendar

EDCTP events

Eleventh EDCTP Forum | Paris, France, 7-10 November 2023

From 7-10 November 2023, EDCTP will hold its Eleventh EDCTP Forum, hosted in Paris, France, at the Palais des Congrès de Paris. The Forum theme is "Partnering for Global Health Research Innovation and Impact in Africa - Celebrating EDCTP: two decades and beyond". Various sponsorship opportunities are available to profile and raise the visibility of organisations working in the same field as EDCTP. Registration for the Forum

will open in June 2023. We invite you to visit the [Eleventh EDCTP Forum website](#) for more information, deadlines and application forms.

Other events

3rd International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2023) | Lusaka, Zambia, 27-30 November 2023

The annual International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) provides a unique African-led platform for leaders across the continent to reflect on lessons learned in health and science, and align on a way forward for creating more resilient health systems.

Expanding the horizons of the conference once again, CPHIA 2023 will showcase how the continent is breaking down barriers, reaffirming Africa as a powerhouse in science and innovation, generator of new knowledge and health products, and exemplar of progress.

[More information »](#)

EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.



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