

## EDCTP Update | June 2024



### Contents

- A partnership in progress: Africa and the EU strive for global health and equitable access
- Global Health EDCTP3 commits to supporting the completion of EDCTP2-funded clinical trials affected by COVID-19 pandemic
- Recent events
- EDCTP2 project news
- Publications
- Resources
- Training and funding opportunities
- Mark your calendar

**A partnership in progress: Africa and the EU strive for global health and equitable access**



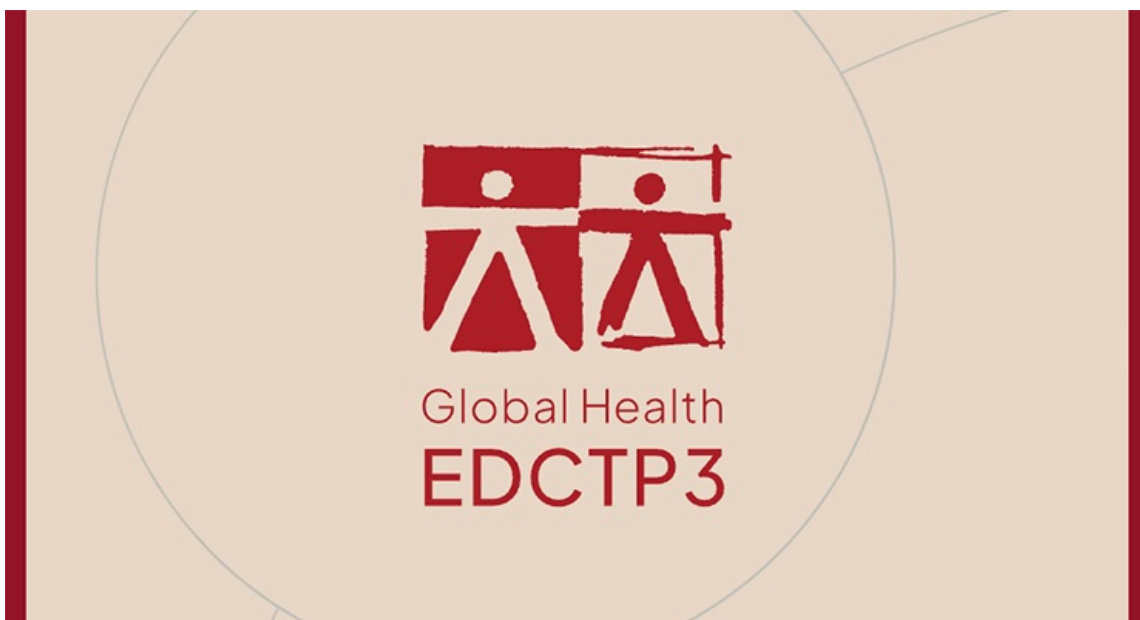
Photo credit: [CDC via Unsplash](#)

EDCTP has been featured in a paper that reviews progress in the AU-EU health partnership and analyses its current direction, identifying converging interests and areas requiring further dialogue and alignment. The paper highlights Global Health EDCTP3 as “the main programme of cooperation with sub-Saharan African countries that focuses on R&I for health. It is a key activity of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, which, as part of the Global Gateway, supports technological transfer and innovation”. The paper was commissioned by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU and also outlines new actions to advance the EU-AU partnership for global health.

[Read more »](#)

---

## **Global Health EDCTP3 commits to supporting the completion of EDCTP2-funded clinical trials affected by COVID-19 pandemic**



Global Health EDCTP3 is [supporting eight projects](#) with clinical studies initially funded by

the EDCTP2 programme and affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, the activities of several EDCTP2-funded studies slowed down significantly. The funding, which comes from a dedicated [call for proposals](#) as part of the 2023 Work Programme, will allow these projects to successfully complete the activities related to ongoing clinical trials. These Global Health EDCTP3 grants will complement earlier contributions of € 3 million from Germany and € 7.7 million from the United Kingdom made available through the EDCTP Association as supplementary funding for 13 EDCTP2 projects affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

---

## Recent events

### Public Presentation Session of the Lusophone Platform for Clinical Research & Biomedical Innovation (PLICIB)



The public presentation session of the Lusophone Platform for Clinical Research & Biomedical Innovation (PLICIB) took place on 26 June 2024 at the Portuguese Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of NOVA de Lisboa. As an In-Kind contribution to Additional Activities (IKAA) of the Global Health EDCTP3 programme, PLICIB aims to encourage the competitiveness of the Portuguese scientific community in these areas and review its national strategic positioning in the Global Health EDCTP3 programme, reinforcing its links to Africa (especially the PALOP countries). Ms Lara Pandya, Strategic Partnerships (North) and Communications Manager, EDCTP Association, gave opening remarks and presented on the evolution of the EDCTP programmes.

[Read more \(in Portuguese\) »](#)

### EDCTP visit to Kigali, Rwanda





In 2023, Kigali, Rwanda was selected to host the Twelfth EDCTP Forum in 2025. From 10-12 June 2024, staff members of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (Sandra Ramos, Communications Officer and Alice Nsabimana, HR Manager) and the EDCTP Association (Daniela Pereira, Communications Officer) visited Kigali to assess the capacities and facilities for hosting the event. The team also met with representatives from the Rwanda Biomedical Centre, which will co-host the Forum with the Ministry of Health-Rwanda, and the EU Delegation in Rwanda. The Twelfth EDCTP Forum will bring together European and African initiatives, researchers, policymakers and strategic stakeholders to discuss the benefits, challenges, and opportunities to advance health research in sub-Saharan Africa through effective South-South, South-North, North-South partnerships.

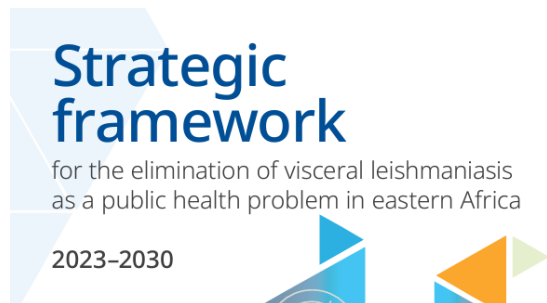
## Advanced Course of Vaccinology



The 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual Advanced Course of Vaccinology ( [ADVAC](#) ) took place at Les Pensières, Annecy, France on 6-17 May 2024 and was attended by 75 participants from 40 countries. 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 2021-2024, EDCTP has supported 32 ADVAC fellows from various African countries. This year EDCTP supported nine Fellows to participate in the course, as part of the UK's contribution to the programme. Congratulations to all who completed this year's course!

## EDCTP2 project news

### New framework for visceral leishmaniasis elimination launched for Eastern Africa



A new, comprehensive framework has been launched to guide health authorities, policy makers and other stakeholders towards elimination of [visceral leishmaniasis](#) as a public health problem in Eastern Africa. Representatives from Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda, together with partners, academia, researchers, donors, and officials of the three levels of WHO (Africa Region, Eastern Mediterranean Region, and headquarters) assembled and launched the Strategic Framework for the elimination of visceral leishmaniasis in Eastern Africa, 2023-2030, during a meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 11-13 June 2024.

[Read more »](#)

### PREV\_PKDL annual meeting



The PREV\_PKDL project held its [6th Annual Meeting](#) for all partners on 3 June 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. For the first time in five years, around 25 leading European and African experts met in person to present and discuss project advancements and upcoming activities.

This project aims to advance the clinical development of ChAd63-KH vaccine for the prevention of visceral leishmaniasis (VL) / post kala azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL) and to better understand the disease as well as drug and vaccine responses.

[Read more »](#)

### ImmStat@Cure study in progress to unravel PKDL pathogenesis and enhance immunology research capacity in East Africa

The multidimensional, multiparameter





phenotyping study (ImmStat@Cure) within the PREV\_PKDL project aims to understand the pathogenesis of post kala azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL) - and the underlying immune mechanism - in patients treated for visceral leishmaniasis (VL). As part of the project's efforts to strengthen immunology research capacity in East Africa, in June 2024, flow cytometry experts from the University of York travelled to partner sites at the Kenyan Medicine and Research Institute (KEMRI) and Makerere University (MU), Uganda to conduct advanced training and to perform mass processing and analysis of clinical samples.

[Read more »](#)

## EMPIRICAL project annual meeting



The 5th Annual Meeting of the [EMPIRICAL project](#) was held on 9-10 April 2024 in Madrid, Spain. This significant event followed the DSMB (Data Safety Monitoring Board) meeting that took place a day earlier, where the safety team presented the latest data from the ongoing study. The DSMB members concluded that there are no safety concerns, allowing the trial to continue as planned. The Annual Meeting was a joint event with the 4th TSC (Trial Steering Committee) meeting, featuring presentations and discussions over the course of two days. The TSC members provided updates on the trial's achievements, challenges, and future plans, highlighting the critical importance of early diagnosis and treatment of pneumonia in infants living with HIV.

[Read more »](#)

## PEOPLE project receives Anne-Maurer-Cecchini Award



The [PEOPLE project](#) received the prestigious Anne-Maurer-Cecchini Award on 29 May 2024 at the Geneva Health Forum. The award was received by Dr Younoussa Assoumani, head of Damien Foundation in Comoros and researcher on the PEOPLE study. Dr Younoussa was recognised for his exceptional work in combating leprosy in Comoros. The results of the PEOPLE project, which was the largest study on leprosy prevention in Comoros and Madagascar, was recently [published in the Lancet Global Health](#).

## MTBVACN3 Annual Investigators meeting



The 2nd annual meeting of the [MTBVACN3 project](#) took place on 27-28 May 2024 in Pilanesberg, near Johannesburg in South Africa. Consortium partners from the nine organisations participating in the study had the opportunity to share experiences and review the progress of the study after one year of the start of recruitment. To date, the team has recruited 2,300 infants who have been vaccinated across the 6 recruiting centers. The MTBVACN3 phase 3 efficacy trial aims to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and immunogenicity of the vaccine administered in Healthy HIV Unexposed and HIV-Exposed Uninfected Newborns in tuberculosis (TB)-endemic regions of sub-Saharan Africa such as South Africa, Senegal and Madagascar. MTBVAC is one of the promising TB vaccine candidates for newborns. The target is to vaccinate 7,120 newborns against tuberculosis during their first week of life.

## Biofabri and TBVI sign a contract with the European Health and Digital Executive Agency to accelerate the final development of the new TB vaccine MTBVAC



Biofabri and TBVI have signed a contract with the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) under the EU4Health Programme to accelerate the final stages of the clinical development of MTBVAC by supporting a phase 3 clinical trial in neonates, which is currently well underway in various African countries. MTBVAC is a highly promising vaccine candidate that has the potential to be used as an alternative to BCG vaccination in infants and for prevention of TB disease in adolescents and adults. The EDCTP-funded MTBVAC-Newborns project has evaluated the MTBVAC vaccine in a phase IIa trial in South African newborns. Additionally, EDCTP is currently investing €19.4 million to support a phase III trial of the same vaccine in newborns under the MTBVACN3 project.

[Read more »](#)

## INTENSE-TBM General Assembly Meeting

The 9th [INTENSE-TBM](#) General Assembly



Meeting has been hosted by the University of Geneva (co-Principal Investigator: Prof. Alexandra Calmy) on 6-8 June 2024. At a time that 535 participants out of 768 were being randomized in the clinical trial, the General Assembly brought together 25 face-to-face attendees, including 2 external experts, over 3 days. The INTENSE-TBM study is evaluating a revised, more intensive treatment of patients with tuberculous meningitis, including those with HIV infections.

[Read more »](#)

## Op-ed highlights the work of the Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium



An op-ed has been published in Nikkei Asia highlighting the work of the [Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium](#). The op-ed follows a meeting that took place in Tokyo on 14 May 2024, organised by Uniting Efforts for Innovation, Access, and Delivery – a joint initiative of the [UNDP](#)-led Access and Delivery Partnership, the [Global Health Innovative Technology \(GHIT\) Fund](#), and the Government of Japan.

The op-ed features insights from Osamu Kunii, CEO of the GHIT Fund, and Mandeep Dhaliwal, Director of UNDP's HIV & Health Group, emphasising the importance of innovation and collaboration in improving access to treatments for neglected tropical diseases like schistosomiasis.

[Read more »](#)

## Mentoring within research consortia: lessons learned from the TriageTB Consortium



Capacity strengthening is an important part of many research consortia. This may include individual-focused career development support, through a mentoring programme, or career development planning. The TriageTB Consortium shared what they have learnt from the mentoring activities within the study and offered some recommendations for establishing successful mentoring programmes.

[Read more »](#)



### TEBWA project closing workshop



From 20-21 June 2024, the project Training epidemiologists and biostatisticians for enhanced response to disease outbreaks and epidemics in West Africa ([TEBWA](#)), held its closing in Agoue, Benin. Ms Nuraan Fakier, Project Officer, EDCTP Association, joined the workshop online.

The TEBWA project is coordinated by the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin) in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM, UK) and the National Agency for Primary Health Care of the Ministry of Health (ANSSP/MoH, Benin). It aimed to train 15 Master's-level specialists in Epidemiology and Biostatistics for West Africa. The project is part of the [collaboration between EDCTP and Africa CDC](#) to support institutions in sub-Saharan Africa and Europe to provide Master's degree training in epidemiology and biostatistics.

[Read more »](#)

### Podcast with Prof. Nicaise Ndembi



Former EDCTP Senior Fellow Professor Nicaise Ndembi (Uganda) participated in a podcast to talk about the pressing challenges of infectious diseases, explore the promising new era of public health, and much more. Prof. Ndembi is the Editor-in-Chief of the open-access 'Journal of Public Health in Africa' (JPHIA) and also discussed about the new editorial in the journal, 'The pandemic agreement: Achieving an African win for health security inequity', and the journal's role in shaping the future of health research on the continent.

[Read more »](#)

### **“Big-data” analysis of HIV viral loads reveals the need for targeted HIV-treatment interventions in HIV hyper-endemic settings**

Dr Lilishia Gounder, a PhD student mentored by EDCTP Career Development Fellow Dr Benjamin Chimukangara (South Africa), has published a paper with the findings on a study using spatiotemporal



analysis of detectable HIV VLs amid DTG-transition in KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa.

[Read more »](#)

## 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 Neglected Tropical Diseases: [Knowledge, attitudes and practices towards yaws in endemic areas of Ghana, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire](#). Beiras, C, et al. 20 June 2024
- International Journal of Infectious Diseases: IJID: [Tuberculosis and diabetes mellitus: The complexity of the comorbid interactions](#). Asare Boadu, Augustine, et al. 15 June 2024
- Scientific Reports: [Circulating immunoglobulins and transient lymphocytopenia in a sub-study of CAPRISA 012B, testing HIV monoclonal antibodies in a phase 1 trial](#). Sobia, P, et al. 12 June 2024
- Infectious Diseases of Poverty: [Efficacy of ivermectin and albendazole combination in suppressing transmission of lymphatic filariasis following mass administration in Tanzania: a prospective cohort study](#). Fimbo, A M, et al. 12 June 2024
- PLoS One: [Potential for high dynamic range Sedia Limiting Antigen antibody assay to support viral load monitoring during antiretroviral therapy](#). Sempa, J B, et al. 6 June 2024
- PLoS One: [Day 3 parasitemia and Plasmodium falciparum Kelch 13 mutations among uncomplicated malaria patients treated with artemether-lumefantrine in Adjumani district, Uganda](#). Angwe, Martin Kamilo, et al. 5 June 2024
- Scientific Reports: [PD-L1 expression in squamous cervical carcinomas of Mozambican women living with or without HIV](#). Lovane, Lucília, et al. 5 June 2024
- AIDS Research and Therapy: [Coprevalence and associations of diabetes mellitus and hypertension among people living with HIV/AIDS in Cameroon](#). Ebasone, Peter Vanes, et al. 1 June 2024
- Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses: [High SARS-CoV-2 Exposure in Rural Southern Mozambique After Four Waves of COVID-19: Community-Based Seroepidemiological Surveys](#). de Jesus, Áuria, et al. 1 June 2026
- Journal of Medical Virology: [Malaria and other infections induce polyreactive antibodies that impact SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity estimations in endemic settings](#). Aguilar, Ruth, et al. 1 June 2024
- Journal of Medical Virology: [Rapid detection of Ebolavirus using isothermal recombinase-aided amplification](#). Ceruti, Arianna, et al. 1 June 2024
- Plos Medicine: [Incidence of self-reported tuberculosis treatment with community-wide universal testing and treatment for HIV and tuberculosis screening in Zambia and South Africa: A planned analysis of the HPTN 071 \(PopART\) cluster-randomised trial](#). Telisinghe, L, et al. 31 May 2024
- JMIR Human Factors: [Designing a Smartphone-Based Pulse Oximeter for Children in South Africa \(Phefumla Project\): Qualitative Analysis of Human-Centered Design Workshops With Health Care Workers](#). Ilhan, E I, et al. 30 May 2024
- PLOS Global Public Health: [Geospatial and temporal mapping of detectable HIV-1 viral loads amid dolutegravir rollout in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa](#). Gounder, L, et al. 28 May 2024
- BMC Public Health: [Developing and planning country-specific integrated knowledge](#)

- [translation strategies: experiences from the GELA project in Malawi, Nigeria, and South Africa](#). Schmidt, BM, et al. 27 May 2024
- BMC Health Services Research: [Non-uptake of COVID-19 vaccines and reasons for non-uptake among healthcare workers in Uganda: a cross-sectional study](#). Kyakuwa, N, et al. 25 May 2024
  - PLOS Global Public Health: [Asymptomatic infections with Chlamydia trachomatis, Neisseria gonorrhoeae, and Trichomonas vaginalis among women in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Fortas, C, et al. 23 May 2024
  - NPJ Biofilms and Microbiomes: [Systematic review of associations between gut microbiome composition and stunting in under-five children](#). Chibuye, M, et al. 23 May 2024
  - Scientific Reports: [CYP2C19 and CYP2J2 genotypes predict praziquantel plasma exposure among Ethiopian school-aged children](#). Gebreyesus, TD, et al. 22 May 2024
  - Plos Neglected Tropical Diseases: [C-reactive protein and high-sensitivity C-reactive protein levels in asymptomatic intestinal parasite carriers from urban and rural areas of Gabon](#). Kono, HN, et al. 20 May 2024
  - Life Sci Alliance: [Full-length MSP1 is a major target of protective immunity after controlled human malaria infection](#). Rosenkranz, M, et al. 20 May 2024
  - The Lancet. Infectious Diseases: [Bedaquiline-pretomanid-moxifloxacin-pyrazinamide for drug-sensitive and drug-resistant pulmonary tuberculosis treatment: a phase 2c, open-label, multicentre, partially randomised controlled trial](#). Cevik, M, et al. 17 May 2024
  - The Journal of Infectious Diseases: [Maternal BCG scars and mortality risk for male and female newborns: observational study from Guinea-Bissau](#). Schaltz-Buchholzer, F, et al. 17 May 2024
  - Frontiers in Microbiology: [Persistence and risk factors of occult hepatitis B virus infections among antiretroviral therapy-naïve people living with HIV in Botswana](#). Anderson, M, et al. 9 May 2024
  - Frontiers in Immunology: [The single-dose Janssen Ad26.COV2.S COVID-19 vaccine elicited robust and persistent anti-spike IgG antibody responses in a 12-month Ugandan cohort](#). Serwanga, J, et al. 8 May 2024
  - Cureus: [Research Ethics in Training Curricula of Cameroon Health Training Institutions: A Cross-Sectional Study](#). Tchio-Nighie, KH, et al. 3 May 2024
  - Viruses: [Low-Level Viremia among Adults Living with HIV on Dolutegravir-Based First-Line Antiretroviral Therapy Is a Predictor of Virological Failure in Botswana](#). Bareng, O T, et al. 1 May 2024
  - Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease: [Distribution and antifungal susceptibility profile of oropharyngeal Candida species isolated from people living with HIV in the era of universal test and treat policy in Uganda](#). Benson, M, et al. 1 January 2024
  - Journal of Clinical Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases: [Isoniazid resistance-conferring mutations are associated with highly variable phenotypic resistance](#). Lale Ngema, S, et al. 26 June 2023
  - 
  - Pharmacogenomics: [Pharmacogenetics of 6-mercaptopurine in a black Zimbabwean cohort treated for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia](#). Chikondowa, P, et al. 30 May 2024
  -

## Resources





[Collaborative clinical R&D](#)  
online



[Clinical research capacity](#)  
PDF



[Fellowships](#)  
online

- EDCTP | [Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research](#)
- EDCTP | [Alumni Network](#)
- 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](#)
- PACTR | [Open access clinical trial registry](#)
- PAVIA project | [PV strengthening blue-print](#)

## Training and funding opportunities

### ODA Research Management Capacity Strengthening | Deadline for applications: 30 October 2024

The British Academy is inviting proposals which seek to embed and enhance working practices and systems within and between institutions to support equitable partnerships in international research through support for skills collaboration between research offices and research management functions. Awards of 18-24 months in duration and up to £50,000 are available. The deadline for submissions and UK institutional approval is 30 October 2024 (17.00 UK time).

[More information »](#)

### Basics of Clinical Trial Management | 9 July-18 September 2024

BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) will host an 11-session digital lecture series focused on clinical trial management basics. This course is designed for professionals in low- and middle-income countries (such as physicians, nurses, research coordinators, research pharmacists, and data managers) who are interested in conducting clinical trials for any disease or condition but have limited experience in doing so.

[More information »](#)

### Medicines for Malaria Venture's 7th African call for proposals | Deadline for applications: 30 August 2024

MMV's 7th African call for proposals is now open to African scientists. The focus is on three priority areas: compounds with confirmed activity on any antimalarial lifecycle stage; assay development and screening to support the discovery or development of novel antimalarials; and computer-aided drug discovery. The deadline to submit applications is 30 August 2024.

[More information »](#)

## Mark your calendar

### 1st Conference on Innovations in Tuberculosis | 3-4 July 2024

The 1st Conference on Innovations in Tuberculosis will be held in Kampala, Uganda from 3-4 July 2024 and will present a high-quality programme on innovations in Tuberculosis with an emphasis on region-specific needs. The meeting aims to provide a platform for scientific interchange, education, and fostering collaborations to advance the field. EDCTP is sponsoring the conference as a Bronze-level supporter and will be represented by Dr Debora Bade, Project Officer, EDCTP Association.

[More information »](#)

### 8th Global One Health Congress | 20-23 September 2024

The 8th Global One Health Congress will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from 20-23 September 2024 and will bring together One Health stakeholders, from science researchers, policymakers, representatives of international institutions, civil society to the private sector from around the world. The agenda includes parallel tracks addressing one health science, antimicrobial agents and resistance, and science policy interface, amongst others. It will enable discussing major One Health challenges, as well as sharing research data and policy developments. The congress will provide a great opportunity to look at global One Health science and policy through an African lens. The final deadline to submit late breaker abstracts is 4 August 2024.

[More information »](#)

### World Congress of Epidemiology | 24-27 September 2024

The World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE2024) will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from 24-27 September 2024. The theme of WCE2024 is "Epidemiology and complexity: challenges and responses" which will engage the full depth and breadth of methods and practice in contemporary epidemiology. The meeting will feature invited speakers presenting plenary lectures, workshops and interactive sessions. The conference invites submission of abstracts for oral or poster presentations showcasing novel research in epidemiology and public health (general abstract submission deadline: 16 February 2023).

[More information »](#)

---

*EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.*



EDCTP | Anna van Saksenlaan 51 | Den Haag, 2593 HW NL

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!