

EDCTP Update | March 2025



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World TB Day 2025: Our commitment to combatting tuberculosis



EDCTP2's investments in tuberculosis research



€215.50 M

In 83 projects on tuberculosis awarded to date.



€196.83 M

to support 33 projects with collaborative clinical trials and clinical studies conducted by European-African consortia.



€6.36 M

to support 3 projects that facilitate the translation of research results of medical interventions into policies and practices for national health programmes.



€12.31 M

to support 47 fellowships that focus on the career development of individual researchers.



Supported by the
European Union



On this year's World TB Day, EDCTP reaffirmed its commitment to combat TB through strategic investments, research priorities, and capacity building. This commitment is evident in our investment in research and development of innovative diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutic tools, underscoring the significant impact we can achieve in the global fight against this disease.

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Prof. Kamija Phiri: the impact of the EDCTP Scientific Leadership Prize on global health research



On 9 November 2023, at the Eleventh EDCTP Forum in Paris, France, Professor Kamija Phiri of Kamuzu University of Health Sciences in Malawi received the prestigious EDCTP Scientific Leadership Prize. This Prize recognises distinguished scientists whose contributions have propelled advancements in their fields and aims to foster ongoing leadership in research. The award comprises a recognition trophy and a monetary prize of €20,000, which Professor Phiri has strategically used to bolster his research initiatives and community engagement in global health.

Events

Watch: Presentation on Global Health EDCTP3 at the Public Health Innovations Workshop



The video recording of Dr Thomas Nyirenda's presentation, 'Opportunities from the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking', is now available. This presentation, part of the Public Health Innovations Workshop at the 2024 South African Science Forum, took place on 3 December 2024 at the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in South Africa.

The workshop series, now in its third edition, focuses on implementing the AU-EU Innovation Agenda and aims to provide insights into the impact of innovations in public health. Dr Nyirenda discussed the Global Health EDCTP3 Work Programmes for 2024 and 2025, highlighting opportunities for collaboration between European and African scientists in addressing infectious diseases aligned with EU-AU global health priorities.

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EDCTP2 project news

First preschool-aged child receives arpraziquantel for

schistosomiasis treatment



The Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium has successfully treated the first preschool-aged child with arpraziquantel for schistosomiasis in Uganda as part of the ADOPT project. This new treatment aims to be accessible to all age groups and is part of a broader rollout across Africa to combat the disease.

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INTEGRATION project close-up meeting



The [INTEGRATION project](#) aimed to reduce the malaria burden during pregnancy in sub-Saharan Africa. Implemented in Burkina Faso and Mali, it focused on enhancing coverage of Intermittent Preventive Treatment with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (IPTp-SP) among pregnant women, comparing its effectiveness via health facility visits and seasonal chemoprevention. From 13 to 14 February 2025, the INTEGRATION Consortium convened its Close-up Meeting, which brought together representatives from all participating countries.

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MVPE-CC Consortium: strengthening capacity through collaboration



A recent visit by the Kintampo Health Research Centre team to the European Vaccine Initiative in Heidelberg, Germany, focused on improving project and financial management. The visit aimed to enhance project and financial management within the MVPE-CC Consortium and to explore future collaborations for evaluating the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi. The Consortium aims to assess the vaccine's implementation via routine health systems using a case-control approach.

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SELeCT project: strengthening capacity in Liberia

In this interview, Ana Meyer, head of cooperation projects at JCONGD, discusses the SELeCT project and how it has contributed to strengthening the laboratory



capabilities of St. Joseph's Hospital in Liberia, to enable clinical trials on Ebola and other infections affecting women and children.

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SAVING Consortium: Translating findings into actions



The SAVING Consortium aims to enhance access to new health technologies in Ghana, focusing on malaria and other diseases. On 27 February 2025, the consortium organised a symposium for knowledge sharing, bringing together stakeholders from academia and industry. During the symposium, participants from the consortium presented significant outcomes of the project, leading the way in translating health research into actionable results.

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EACCR3: Science communication beyond journal publications training workshop



The [Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical Research](#) (EACCR) hosted a three-day workshop titled 'Science Communication Beyond Journal Publications' at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), representing the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI-ARCH). This event was held from 19-21 February 2025 under the theme "Science Not Shared is Science Lost." Targeting early career researchers, including early postdocs, PhD, and MSc students, the workshop aimed to foster the development of creative science communication projects.

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EDCTP Fellows

IDEA Fellowship: global experts call for rebranding ebola virus disease to combat stigma and strengthen global preparedness

On 13 March 2025, the [IDEA Fellowship Programme](#), led by Busitema University,



Uganda, convened a pivotal global conference that united international experts, policymakers, researchers, and healthcare practitioners. The gathering aimed to enhance preparedness and response strategies for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) under the theme "Strengthening Response and Preparedness in Ebola Outbreak." The IDEA Fellowship programme is part of the [EDCTP and the Africa CDC initiative](#) to support consortia, providing Master's-level training in these critical fields.

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The CETH study: strengthening community engagement in TB and HIV vaccine trials in South Africa



The CETH study, led by EDCTP Career Development Fellow [Dr Bey-Marrie Schmidt](#) (South Africa), was designed to investigate the multi-level factors influencing community engagement (CE) in infectious disease clinical trials within sub-Saharan Africa. CE is recognised as an ongoing process that encompasses the entire life-cycle of a clinical trial (CT). It necessitates the active involvement of communities through participatory approaches and sustainable partnerships with key stakeholders.

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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 compliance with EDCTP grant requirements to make publications openly accessible as soon as possible. [Submit your manuscript through Europe PMC Plus](#).

- Vaccines: [Geographical Differences in SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Response Dynamics and Neutralisation Profiles to Mild COVID-19: Lessons from a UK-Uganda Comparison](#). Kato L, et al. 21 March 2025
- PLOS Global Public Health: [Disparities in anti-SARS-CoV-2 reactivity according to vaccines administered in the era of omicron in Cameroon: Lessons for future outbreak response](#). Ngoufack JS, et al. 19 March 2025
- Nature Communications: [Decreased dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine protection against recurrent malaria associated with Plasmodium falciparum plasmepsin 3 copy number variation in Africa](#). Pernaute-Lau, L, et al. 18 March 2025
- PloS one: [Perspectives of health workers on malaria case referral among pregnant women attending antenatal care in Savelugu Municipality, Ghana: A qualitative descriptive study](#). Adokiya, MN. 18 March 2025
- EbioMedicine: [Safety, reactogenicity, and immunogenicity of MTBVAC in infants: a phase 2a randomised, double-blind, dose-defining trial in a TB endemic setting](#). Tameris, M, et al. 17 March 2025

- Diagnostic microbiology and infectious disease: [Field deployment of the mobile suitcase laboratory for rapid detection of Mpox virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#). Kobialka, RM, et al. 12 March 2025
- IJTLD Open: [Anthropometric growth trajectories of children presenting with presumptive pulmonary TB](#). de Geus, MV, et al. 12 March 2025
- IJTLD Open: [Costs and cost-effectiveness of integrated screening for non-communicable diseases in TB contacts](#). Hamada, Y, et al. 12 March 2025
- BMC Pediatrics: [Congenital cytomegalovirus in eastern Uganda: prevalence and outcomes](#). Okalany, N, et al. 11 March 2025
- AIDS Research and Therapy: [High prevalence of low-level viremia among infants initiated on antiretroviral drugs following mother-to-child transmission of HIV](#). Nankya, I, et al. 11 March 2025
- BMC Medicine: [Research prioritisation in preparedness for and response to outbreaks of high-consequence pathogens: a scoping review](#). Antonio, E, et al. 10 March 2025
- BMC Infectious Diseases: [Prospective longitudinal assessment of Albumin-to-Creatinine ratio \(ACR\) in a clinical cohort of people living with HIV in Gaborone, Botswana](#). Mosepele, M, et al. 7 March 2025
- BMC Microbiology: [Improved protocols for isolation of Mycobacterium ulcerans from clinical samples](#). Agbavor, B, et al. 5 March 2025
- Journal of Epidemiology and Global Health: [The Epidemiological Impact of Community-Based Skin Camps on Leprosy Control in East Hararghe Zone, Ethiopia: a Modelling Study](#). Hambridge, T, et al. 4 March 2025
- AIDS and Behavior: [Prevalence and Determinants of Viral Suppression in Young People Living with HIV on Antiretroviral Therapy in Southern Africa: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of HIV Survey Data of 2020 and 2021](#). Msosa, TC, et al. 3 March 2025
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- Frontiers in Immunology: [Reduced plasma levels of GM-CSF is a common feature of Schistosoma mansoni-infected school-aged children](#). Kamdem, S D, et al. 28 February 2025
- PloS one: [Stress-mediating inflammatory cytokine profiling reveals unique patterns in malaria and typhoid fever patients](#). Eric, B, et al. 27 February 2025
- BMC Infectious Diseases: [Patterns of linear growth among children and adolescents living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy in Zimbabwe and Zambia](#). Madanhire, T, et al. 25 February 2025
- PLOS Global Public Health: [Understanding the vaccine hesitancy of COVID-19 in Benin](#). Abdoulaye Alfa, D, et al. 25 February 2025
- BMC Infectious Diseases: [Sexually transmitted infections and bacterial vaginosis in women of child-bearing age in Antananarivo, Madagascar: prevalence and risk factors from a cross-sectional study](#). Fortas, C, et al. 24 February 2025
- Infectious Diseases of Poverty: [Safety and effectiveness of triple-drug therapy with ivermectin, diethylcarbamazine, and albendazole in reducing lymphatic filariasis prevalence and clearing circulating filarial antigens in Mombasa, Kenya](#). Khaemba, C, et al. 24 February 2025
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- Journal of Global Health: [Paediatric healthcare in Manhica district through a gender lens: a retrospective analysis of 17 years of morbidity and demographic surveillance data](#). Balanza, N, et al. 21 February 2025
- Access Microbiology: [Tossing the coin of extended-spectrum \$\beta\$ -lactamase: prevalence of extended-spectrum \$\beta\$ -lactamase-producing Klebsiella pneumoniae isolated from patients with sepsis](#). Achan, B, et al. 19 February 2025
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- AIDS Research and Therapy: [Drug transporter mRNA expression and genital inflammation in South African women on oral pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#). Zondo, N M, et al. 15 February 2025
- EclinicalMedicine: [Tuberculosis-associated respiratory impairment and disability in children and adolescents: a systematic review](#). Romanowski, K, et al. 12 February 2025
- Frontiers in Microbiology: [Whole genomic analysis uncovers high genetic diversity of rifampicin-resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis strains in Botswana](#). Mogashoa, T, et al. 11 February 2025
- PLOS Global Public Health: [A pragmatic pipeline for drug resistance and lineage identification in Mycobacterium tuberculosis using whole genome sequencing](#). Elton, L, et al. 10 February 2025
- Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease: [A Case of Persistent KSHV Viremia in the Context of HIV, SARS-CoV-2, and Other Co-Infections](#). Lambarey, H, et al. 10 February 2025
- Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy: [Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra-resistant and MTBDRplus-susceptible rifampicin results in people with tuberculosis: utility of FluoroType MTBDR and deep sequencing](#). Ghebrekristos, Y, et al. 7 February 2025
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- Plos Neglected Tropical Diseases: [Changes in circulating filarial antigen status in previously positive individuals: Lessons for treatment monitoring and pre-transmission assessment surveys](#). Mensah, AD, et al. 4 February 2025
- Journal of the International AIDS Society: [Acceptability of an annual tenofovir alafenamide implant for HIV prevention in South African women: findings from the CAPRISA 018 Phase I clinical trial](#). Gengiah, T N, et al. 1 February 2025
- Clinical Infectious Diseases: an Official Publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America: [Tuberculosis and Increased Incidence of Cardiovascular Disease: Cohort Study Using United States and United Kingdom Health Records](#). Critchley, J A, et al. 1 February 2025
- BMJ Public Health: [Incidence and determinants of households' catastrophic payments for TB care: evidence from a multi-country trial \(EXIT-TB project\) implemented in East Africa](#). Ngadaya, F D, et al. 1 January 2025
- Open Forum Infectious Diseases: [Community Perceptions of Neonatal Infection in Uganda](#). Nalubega, P, et al. 1 December 2024
- The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease: the Official Journal of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease: [Approaches and processes for paediatric chest X-ray classification used in the SHINE TB treatment-shortening trial](#). Palmer, M, et al. 1 November 2024

Resources

- 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

GHBN Early Career Researcher Webinar | 4 April 2025

The Global Health Bioethics Network is organising the first GHBN Early Career Researcher webinar on the topic of 'Planning a Career Trajectory in Bioethics.' Join this webinar to hear from four prominent bioethicists as they share their career journeys and explore ideas on making an impact in this field. There will also be time for audience Q&A. The webinar will take place on 4 April from 11:00-12:30 (EAT).

[More information »](#)

Women Grant Writing Programme | Deadline for applications: 14 April 2025

The Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF) invites applications for its women grant writing programme, which aims to enable talented early-career health and health-related researchers from African countries to build the skills necessary to develop their own research and fellowship proposals of the quality required to secure competitive international, regional, and national funding.

[More information »](#)

Fogarty African Bioethics Post-Doctoral Fellowship (FAB-PDF) Program | Deadline for applications: 15 April 2025

The Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, and the University of Oxford Ethox Centre invite applications for the Fogarty African Bioethics Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program (FAB-PDF), an 18-month advanced bioethics postdoctoral training program for scholars from sub-Saharan Africa with a bioethics PhD. Funded by the Fogarty International Center, NIH, USA, the programme emphasises global health ethics, particularly infectious disease ethics and international research ethics.

[More information »](#)

ICGEB Research Grants 2025 | Deadline for applications: 30 April 2025

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) funds outstanding projects to enhance collaboration, training for young scientists, and research facility development. The programme supports basic life science, human healthcare, industrial and agricultural biotechnology, and bioenergy research. Applicants must be affiliated with universities and research institutes in ICGEB [Member States](#). The new Early Career Return Grants aim to fund young researchers returning from a minimum of 2 years abroad to establish independent laboratories in the ICGEB Member States.

[More information »](#)

Mark your calendar

EDCTP events

Twelfth EDCTP Forum | 15-20 June 2025

The Twelfth EDCTP Forum will be held at the Kigali Convention Centre in Kigali, Rwanda, from 15-20 June 2025. The event will be hosted by the [Ministry of Health of Rwanda](#) and the [Rwanda Biomedical Centre](#), and jointly organised by [Global Health EDCTP3](#) and the [EDCTP Association](#). The theme for the 2025 Forum is "Better health through global research partnerships".

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Other events

Scientific Research in Health in PALOP Webinar | 9 April 2025

The [Lusophone Bioethics Platform](#) is organising its fifth thematic webinar, focusing on "Scientific Research in Health in Portuguese-speaking African Countries" (PALOP). This event will take place on 9 April 2025 at 17:00 (CET), and will be broadcast live. This session seeks to foster ethical reflection on critical issues surrounding health research in PALOP, including access to funding, infrastructure development, international cooperation and researcher training. The webinar aims to enhance public health outcomes in these nations by addressing these themes. Participants will benefit from insights into the challenges and opportunities within the realm of scientific research.

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TCIS AFRICA 2025 | 7-8 May 2025

TCIS AFRICA 2025 will be held in Cairo, Egypt, on 7 and 8 May 2025. The conference serves as a convergence point for clinical researchers, medical professionals, clinical research organisations (CROs), pharmaceutical companies, regulatory agencies, and academia to network, share achievements, milestones, and challenges, and establish strategic directions for clinical trial management in Africa.

[More information »](#)

2nd Conference on Innovations in Tuberculosis | 12 May 2025

The 2nd Conference on Innovations in Tuberculosis will occur on 12 May 2025 in Windhoek, Namibia, as a pre-event to the [INTEREST 2025 Conference](#). The conference is currently accepting abstract submissions, with a deadline of 14 February 2025.

[More information »](#)

Oxford Global Health & Bioethics International Conference | 8-9 July 2025

The Oxford Global Health & Bioethics International Conference will take place on 8 and 9 July 2025, at the Mathematics Institute, University of Oxford, with selected sessions available online. The conference brings together the global health bioethics community, and provides a platform for sharing research, exchanging ideas, and building collaborations. The Call for Abstracts is now open. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 5 February 2025.

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EDCTP Communications thanks everyone who provided information for this Update.



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