

## EDCTP Update | May 2025



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### Twelfth EDCTP Forum: Overview and highlights

15 - 20  
JUNE 2025



The Twelfth EDCTP Forum is just around the corner, taking place from 15-20 June 2025 in Kigali, Rwanda. With an impressive turnout expected of over 1,200 participants, this Forum promises to be a cornerstone event for health researchers dedicated to tackling poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases.

The comprehensive [programme](#) is now available online, featuring a rich array of topics in the scope of EDCTP. Participants can look forward to engaging [plenary sessions](#) featuring [distinguished guests and leading speakers](#), who are recognised authorities in their respective fields of research.

In addition to the plenary sessions, the Forum's scientific programme includes [parallel sessions](#) and poster presentations in the scope of EDCTP. [Scientific symposia](#) and [sponsored satellite sessions](#), organised by research groups or organisations, will foster interactive discussions that encourage the exchange of ideas among participants.

[Thursday 19 June](#) has become a particularly enriching component of the Forum programme, featuring a series of captivating scientific symposia, workshops, and side meetings. This unique opportunity allows participants to explore relevant topics in depth and engage in training sessions designed to enhance their skills and knowledge as researchers.

For young researchers, the 'Meet the Experts' sessions are not to be missed. These gatherings are tailored for junior to mid-career scientists to network with leading experts in poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases. Participants will have the chance to engage in informal discussions, pose questions, and gain insights that could shape their research journeys. Registrations for the 'Meet the Experts' session will open soon.

Networking is at the heart of the Twelfth EDCTP Forum, with dedicated spaces for one-on-one or small group meetings, which participants can schedule through the Forum's [networking app](#). Additionally, participants can engage in mentoring meetings, enabling early- and mid-career researchers to connect with experienced professionals. This initiative serves as a valuable networking platform, fostering connections that can significantly benefit those in the early stages of their careers.

To learn more and to access the full programme, visit the [Twelfth EDCTP Forum website](#).

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## EDCTP Association at the Twelfth EDCTP Forum

The EDCTP Association is collaborating with Global Health EDCTP3 to organise the Twelfth

EDCTP Forum. Beyond its essential logistical contributions, the Association is actively involved in the Forum's programme, participating in multiple sessions across various days of the event.

On Tuesday, 17 June, a [session led by Dr Pauline Beattie](#) will focus on the results of a bibliometric analysis of the EDCTP2 programme. This session will also highlight other significant impacts of the EDCTP2 programme, providing participants with a thorough understanding of the programme's contributions to global health.

Subsequently, on 19 June, the [EDCTP Africa Office will host a workshop](#) aimed at fostering collaboration among funders dedicated to developing global health scientific leaders. The objectives of this session include:

1. Presenting the funding priorities of various organisations.
2. Exploring opportunities for alignment and complementarity between different fellowship programmes.
3. Facilitating interaction among past, current, and prospective fellows supported by various funding initiatives.
4. Offering a platform for feedback from beneficiaries regarding the effectiveness of their programmes.

Furthermore, the same day will feature a [workshop in collaboration with MMV](#) designed to inspire researchers by illustrating the crucial role of communication in scientific success. Participants will discover that effective communication transcends mere soft skills; it is vital for achieving impact in science, particularly in the conduct of clinical trials and the overall drug development process. Those who embrace the power of communication can transform a good career into a remarkable one.

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## Remembering Dr Louis K. Penali (1953-2025)



We are greatly saddened by the passing of Dr Louis K. Penali, a distinguished member of the EDCTP General Assembly for Côte d'Ivoire and a key figure in the field of health research. Dr Penali served as the Chair of the National Health Research Committee within the Ministry of Health of Côte d'Ivoire.

Renowned as one of West Africa's leading researchers, Dr Penali dedicated his career to enhancing research capacity throughout the region. His unwavering commitment to ethics and community engagement established vital foundations for conducting excellent research.

Dr Penali led several EDCTP projects aimed at building ethics capacity and sharing expertise among researchers in West Africa.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends as we honour his remarkable contributions to science and research ethics.

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## Recent events

**EDCTP team visit to research centres in Malawi**





From 7 to 11 April 2025, a team from the EDCTP Association visited several key research projects in Malawi. The team, comprising Dr Thomas Nyirenda, Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of the Africa Office; Ms Mary Jane Coloma-Egenlink, Grants Finance Officer; and Dr Montserrat Blázquez-Domingo, Senior Project Officer, aimed to assess progress and foster collaboration with local research institutions.

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## EDCTP at INTEREST 2025: Advancing research capacity in Africa



EDCTP Association's participation at INTEREST 2025, which took place in Windhoek, Namibia, from 13-16 May 2025, focused on two impactful engagements that demonstrated its commitment to strengthening research capacity and advancing scientific leadership across Africa.

[Read more »](#)

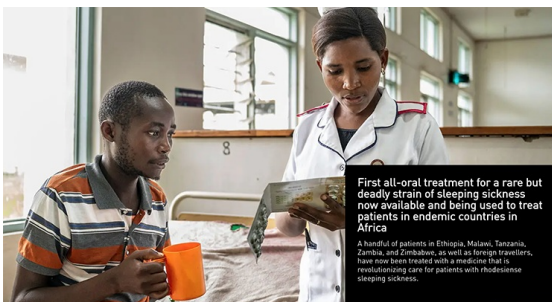
### New antiretroviral combinations show promise for children living with HIV



The CHAPAS-4 trial has presented important advancements in second-line antiretroviral therapy for children living with HIV. Published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the trial results show that new antiretroviral combinations, specifically tenofovir alafenamide (TAF) and dolutegravir (DTG), are superior to older second-line options such as abacavir (ABC) or zidovudine (ZDV) plus lamivudine (3TC).

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### HAT-r-ACC: First oral treatment for deadly sleeping sickness now available in Africa



Fexinidazole Winthrop, the first all-oral treatment for *Trypanosoma brucei* (*T.b.*) *rhodesiense* sleeping sickness, an acute form of the disease, is now available free of charge to patients in specialised treatment centres in Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Clinical trials conducted by the HAT-r-ACC consortium have led to Fexinidazole Winthrop's approval.

[Read more »](#)

### WANETAM: Strengthening data management in West Africa



A training workshop organised by WANETAM in Bamako, Mali from 28-30 April 2025, marked a significant advancement in the region's research capabilities. Attended by 30 participants from 13 institutions across seven West African countries, the workshop focused on best practices in data management, including the Data Management Life Cycle and the implementation of FAIR principles.

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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](#).

- Virus Evolution: [Cameroonian blackflies \(Diptera: Simuliidae\) harbour a plethora of RNA viruses](#). De Coninck L, et al. 5 June 2025
- Plos Neglected Tropical Diseases: [Socio-cultural and structural barriers influencing parents' knowledge and access to information on schistosomiasis in children around Ugandan Lakes](#). Reigl LS, et al. 8 May 2025
- PLOS Global Public Health: [Co-developing a comprehensive disease policy model with stakeholders: The case of malaria during pregnancy](#). Fernandes S, et al. 7 May 2025
- Global Public Health: [The BERC-Luso project: Legislative, institutional, and educational impact evaluation](#). Batista J, et al. 6 May 2025
- BMC Infectious Diseases: [Viral dynamics and factors associated with duration of COVID-19 positivity: evidence from the first-three epidemiological waves in Cameroon](#). Fokam J, et al. 5 May 2025
- BMC Public Health: [Acceptability of dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine as malaria intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women living with HIV in Southern Mozambique](#). Nhampossa T, et al. 2 May 2025
- The Lancet. Global Health: [Fexinidazole as a new oral treatment for human African trypanosomiasis due to Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense: a prospective, open-label, single-arm, phase 2-3, non-randomised study](#). Matovu E, et al. 1 May 2025
- The Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy: [Population pharmacokinetics and exposure-response relationship of the antituberculosis drug BTZ-043](#). Koele S. et al. 1 May 2025
- Trials: [Statistical analysis plan for the "empirical treatment against cytomegalovirus and tuberculosis in HIV-infected infants with severe pneumonia" clinical trial](#). Domínguez-Rodríguez S, et al. 30 April 2025
- Reproductive Health: ['The grave must not be seen by anyone!': Beliefs and practices about stillbirths in Eastern Uganda](#). Chebet M, et al. 29 April 2025
- BMJ Open: [Mortality among children aged 28 days-17 years with pneumonia who are not severely undernourished and the effect of macronutrient supplementation: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Nalwanga D, et al. 25 April 2025
- BMJ Open: [HIV risk perception, trust and PrEP adherence among participants in an HIV prevention trial: a qualitative longitudinal study, South Africa](#). Chimukuche R, et al. 23 April 2025
- Antibiotics (Basel, Switzerland): [Antimicrobial Therapies for Early-Onset Group B Streptococcal Sepsis: Insights from an Italian Multicenter Study](#). Capone V, et al. 16 April 2025
- BMC Public Health: [Finding knowledge: how youth identify their candidacy and sources of information regarding sexual and reproductive health in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa](#). Gumede NA, et al. 16 April 2025
- Pharmaceutics: [N-Acetylcysteine to Reduce Kidney and Liver Injury Associated with Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Treatment](#). Meadows I, et al. 15 April 2025
- Scientific Reports: [Integrated renin angiotensin system dysregulation and immune profiles predict COVID-19 disease severity in a South African cohort](#). Müller T, et al. 14 April 2025
- Infection and Drug Resistance: [Higher Genotyping Performance of the Applied Biosystems TaqPath Seq HIV-1 Genotyping Kit Against ViroSeq HIV-1 Genotyping Kit in HIV Protease, Reverse Transcriptase, and Integrase Regions](#). Choga OT, et al. 13 April 2025
- Medecine Tropicale et Sante Internationale: [Time of entry into care of people living with HIV in two outpatient treatment centers of Libreville, Gabon, between 2012 and 2020](#). Ntsame Owono MM, et al. 11 February 2025

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## Resources

- EDCTP | [Knowledge Hub: Tools and guidance for conducting clinical research](#)
- EDCTP | [Alumni Network](#)
- ERUDIT | [Planning for Financial Sustainability manual](#)

- TRUST project | [A Global Code of Conduct for Equitable Research Partnerships](#)
- PACTR | [Open access clinical trial registry](#)
- PAVIA project | [PV strengthening blue-print](#)

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## Training and funding opportunities

### **Webinar: Lessons from a Reviewer – Best Practices for Post-Market Surveillance, Especially Risk Management Plans | 5 June 2025**

Organised by AREF, this webinar is part of a series dedicated to the theme “Building Capacity and Promoting Harmonization for Facilitating Clinical Trials for Health Products in Africa.” This session will be led by Dr Souleh Semalulu, Head of the Vaccine Access Initiative in Uganda. The event will take place on 5 June 2025 from 14:00-15:30 WAT (Brazzaville).

[Register online »](#)

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## 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*”.

[More information »](#)

### **Other events**

#### **HERA Industry Days | 2-3 June 2025**

Dr Pauline Beattie, EDCTP Association Operations Manager and Scientific Advisor, is a panellist at the [Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority \(HERA\) Industry Days](#) to be held in Brussels on 2-3 June 2025. Dr Beattie is presenting in the session ‘Driving innovation and collaboration for global health preparedness’.

#### **PREPARED project conference | 3 June 2025**

The PREPARED project is organising its final conference, ‘Promoting Equitable Science During Crisis,’ on 3 June 2025 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. This conference tackles the critical need for equitable international collaboration in science, especially in times of crisis. Registration and attendance are free, but space is limited.

[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.

[More information »](#)



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