

EDCTP Update | August 2025



Highlights



Professor Marcel Tanner steps down as High Representative of the EDCTP Association

Professor Marcel Tanner has concluded his nearly decade-long tenure as the High Representative of the EDCTP Association, marking the end of an extraordinary chapter in the organisation's history. His tenure has been characterised by visionary insights, tireless advocacy, and a steadfast commitment to advancing global health equity through collaborative partnerships.

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Recent events



EthiXPERT Webinar series 2025: BEYOND SUPERVISION: Promoting Responsible Mentorship for Early Career Researchers

The EthiXPERT Webinar series 2025, titled “BEYOND SUPERVISION: Promoting Responsible Mentorship for Early Career Researchers,” took place on 21 August 2025. The webinar featured a dialogue among thought leaders, scholars, practitioners, and early-career researchers. The discussion focused on the importance of ethical, inclusive, and responsible mentorship in shaping future research leadership in Africa and beyond. Participants shared lived experiences and insights aimed at enhancing research integrity, nurturing leadership, and empowering the next generation of researchers.

One of the panellists, Ms Michelle Nderu, Project Officer at the EDCTP Association, highlighted the institutional role in shaping effective mentorship. She noted that mentorship is not only about advancing research projects but also about developing ethical, independent leaders. For this to happen, institutions must equip mentors with training, recognition, and structural support that foster trust, long-term collaboration, and professional growth. Ultimately, responsible mentorship thrives best when institutions create ecosystems that value guidance, independence, and integrity as much as academic output.

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EDCTP2 project news



MIMVaC-Africa: clinical trial for promising malaria vaccine launches in Burkina Faso

A phase I/IIa clinical trial to evaluate the full-length MSP1 malaria vaccine candidate was launched in Burkina Faso. The trial is part of the MIMVaC-Africa project and aims to assess the safety and immunogenicity of the full-length MSP1/GLA-SE, a promising new malaria vaccine candidate targeting both liver and blood stages. This trial will be conducted among healthy infants and children in Burkina Faso. Should the trial yield positive results, the findings will pave the way for further development of the vaccine, positioning it as a crucial addition to the arsenal of interventions aimed at malaria prevention.

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BabyGel: Determining the reproductive health priorities of women in rural Uganda

In a letter to *The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology, & Women's Health*, the BabyGel team shares their key findings on the reproductive health priorities of women in rural Uganda. The letter highlights how the James Lind Alliance (JLA) methodology has been adapted for a rural community in Uganda, stressing the importance of engaging local community members in the research process. It also emphasises the need to tailor health priorities to the specific context of the community.

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StatinTB Consortium Final Project Meeting

On 21 August 2025, the StatinTB Consortium convened virtually for its Final Project Meeting, where principal investigators presented their progress and future plans for the innovative clinical trial aimed at repurposing statins for tuberculosis treatment in South

Africa. The meeting featured insights from key participants, including Dr Debora Bade, Project Officer at the EDCTP Association, and highlighted some of the project's achievements to date.

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EDCTP Fellows



Madeleine Eunice's story: inspiring women in health research

In the field of health research, women have often faced significant challenges in their pursuit of scientific careers. Dr Madeleine Eunice Betouke Ongwe from Gabon, a recent PhD graduate in immunometabolism from the Leiden University in the Netherlands, shares her inspiring journey and the crucial role of the WISE Fellowship programme in her career development.

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From fellowship to frontline: Uganda's First MSc in infectious disease epidemiology

On 14 August 2025, a major milestone in Uganda's public health journey was celebrated with the grand exit conference of the inaugural Master of Science in Infectious Disease Field Epidemiology cohort at Busitema University. Under the theme "From fellowship to frontline: showcasing the IDEA programme's role in strengthening Uganda's epidemiological workforce," this historic event brought together policymakers, academics, development partners, district leaders, and alumni to recognise a transformative programme in the field of epidemiology.

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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](#).

- [Parasites & Vectors: The Senegalese and Brazilian strains of Schistosoma mansoni exhibit high compatibility with Biomphalaria pfeifferi and Biomphalaria glabrata.](#) Sarr M, et al. 31 July 2025
- [Journal of public health research: Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Primary caregivers of Preschool children towards Schistosoma mansoni infection in Southern Ethiopia: A community-based cross-sectional study.](#) Tadele T, et al. 30 July 2025
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- [BMJ Open: Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of community-based TB screening algorithms using computer-aided detection \(CAD\) technology alone compared with CAD combined with point-of-care C reactive protein testing in Lesotho and South Africa: protocol for a paired screen-positive trial.](#) Signorell A, et al. 28 July 2025
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- Frontiers in Immunology: [Exploring the P. falciparum antigens associated with reduced risk of malaria in pregnancy.](#) Mwai L, et al. 14 July 2025
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- BMC Pediatrics: [Comparison between dual energy X-ray absorptiometry and calcaneal quantitative ultrasound for determining bone mineral density in children living with HIV in uganda: A cross- sectional study.](#) Natukunda E, et al. 4 July 2025
- BMC Public Health: ["If your CD4 count lowers, that is when you are similar to a person that is non-existent" A qualitative exploration of perceptions around advanced HIV disease in South Africa.](#) Pita TP, et al 3 July 2025
- Journal of Xenobiotics: [A Novel HPLC-MS/MS Method for the Intracellular Quantification of the Active Triphosphate Metabolite of Remdesivir: GS-443902.](#) Palermi A, et al. 3 July 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](#)
 - PREPARED | [Free training materials on research ethics](#)
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Training and funding opportunities

ICGEB SMART Fellowship programme | Deadline for applications: 30 September 2025

The ICGEB SMART Fellowship programme promotes researcher mobility among ICGEB Member States to enhance skill development, provide specialised hands-on training in new technologies, and increase collaboration in science and technology. Applications close on 30 September 2025.

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TBVI Awards 2026 | Deadline for applications: 13 October 2025

TBVI invites researchers to apply for its Awards 2026, which allows them to present their work in a 15-minute session during the TBVI Annual Symposium. This event will take place in Les Diablerets, Switzerland, from 27-28 January 2026. The symposium serves as a platform for researchers, policymakers, and funders to exchange knowledge and develop new initiatives. TBVI will arrange travel and hotel accommodations for the winners. The application deadline is 13 October 2025.

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26th Advanced course of vaccinology | Deadline for applications: 15 November 2025

Applications are now open for the Master of Health Research Ethics (MOHRE) training ADVAC is a two-week training programme for decision-makers, including academia, industry, governmental and non-governmental agencies. The course aims to facilitate critical decision-making in vaccinology by providing participants with a comprehensive overview of the various aspects of vaccinology. The next edition will take place from 11-26 May 2026 in Les Pensières, France. Registrations are open until 15 November 2025.

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Mark your calendar

Digital Health Africa 2025 | 3-4 September 2025

The second Digital Health Africa Conference is set to be a dynamic hybrid event taking place simultaneously in Pretoria, Kampala, and Berlin from 3-4 September 2025, with virtual participation options available. The conference will focus on maternal and child health, aiming to serve as an incubator for innovative ideas and to foster the development of long-term, cross-disciplinary collaborations.

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Clinical Trial Preparedness Compendium of Assessments for Clinical Research Centres | 10 September 2025

The [Clinical Trials Community in Africa Network \(CTCAN\)](#) is hosting a webinar to introduce the Clinical Trial Preparedness Compendium for Clinical Research Centers (CRCs). Given that Africa faces a significant disease burden yet conducts only a small fraction of global clinical trials, this initiative aims to enhance CRCs' capabilities. The Compendium serves as a practical tool to help CRCs identify system gaps, ensure compliance with guidelines, and build readiness for trial participation. Participants will learn about self-assessment, key topics in trial execution, and the importance of ethical conduct in clinical trials across Africa.

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9th World Conference on Research Integrity | 3-6 May 2026

The 9th World Conference on Research Integrity will be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 3-6 May 2026. Open to all disciplines and career stages, the WCRI engages universities, research institutes, funders, publishers, and governments in lively discussions. The programme features a mix of research findings, reflections, and policy development. Abstract submissions are invited on all areas of research integrity, with a focus on Artificial Intelligence, Research Security, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems. The submission deadline is 15 October 2025.

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18th World Congress of Bioethics (WCB) of the International Association of Bioethics | 8-10 July 2026

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics will host the 18th World Congress of Bioethics (WCB) from 8-10 July 2026 in Johannesburg, South Africa. This marks the first time the Congress is held in Africa, supported by leaders from various African countries through the Congress Africa Committee. The theme is "Comforting and Disturbing Bioethics," and will include full and short oral presentations, posters, workshops, and panel sessions.

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