



EDCTP Update | October 2025



Highlights



Portable molecular testing brings life-saving TB diagnosis closer to communities in sub-Saharan Africa

The TB-CAPT CORE study has found that implementing rapid molecular tuberculosis (TB) testing at primary health care clinics in sub-Saharan Africa is feasible and significantly shortens the time to treatment initiation. Funded by the EDCTP2 programme and published in *The Lancet Primary Care* on 14 October 2025, the study provides the strongest evidence to date that decentralising molecular diagnostics—bringing testing directly to where patients first seek care—can transform TB control efforts in high-burden regions.

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Free access to the SPIRIT Electronic Protocol Tool and Resource (SEPTRE) platform

The Global Health Network, EDCTP Association, and Women's College Hospital at the University of Toronto have extended their partnership to provide continued access to the SPIRIT Electronic Protocol Tool and Resource (SEPTRE) platform. Through this collaboration, a limited number of free three-year licenses remain available for researchers in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) who may not otherwise afford access.

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1ST COORDINATED FUNDING CALL LAUNCHED



GloPID-R first Joint Coordination Funding Call

GloPID-R's first global coordinated funding call under the Global Research Improving Pandemic Preparedness (GRIPP) initiative, titled "Outbreak Ready: Accelerating Clinical Trial Site Readiness in LMICs," aims to strengthen the clinical trial ecosystem in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to improve good clinical practices. The call, which is managed by the EDCTP Association, is open until 14 November 2025 and welcomes proposals to build research capacity in LMICs.

An information webinar took place on 13 October 2025, where GloPID-R presented the details of the call and addressed questions from applicants. [Watch the recording.](#)

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Recent events




Meet the Voices Driving Africa's Clinical Trial Readiness

Join the discussion at #CPHIA2025

Speakers



Fridah Mwenda
Africa Market Development Specialist
IQVIA



Waita J. Mukulu
Programme Officer
Science for Africa Foundation



Kizza Daniel
Programme Manager
Advancing Capacity for Early Phase Clinical Trials in Africa



Jacqueline Mirera
Medical Director & Principal Investigator
Clinical Research Health Network



Caxton Murira
Programme Manager
Science for Africa Foundation



Miriam Njoki
Senior Programme Officer
Science for Africa Foundation

Keynote Speaker



Michelle Singh
Project Officer
The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership

Moderator



Dathan Byonanebye
Deputy Head of the Global Health Security Program
Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology

 22 OCT 2025
 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM (South African Time)
 Hilton Durban Hotel (Physical)
Palela meeting room

Africa charts a path to health self-reliance at CPHIA 2025

The 4th International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2025) took place in Durban, South Africa, from 22–25 October 2025, under the theme “Moving Towards Self-Reliance to Achieve Universal Health Coverage and Health Security in Africa.” The conference showcased African-led innovation in vaccines, diagnostics, and health technologies. Key discussions focussed on digital transformation, climate-resilient health systems, and pandemic preparedness.

The Science for Africa Foundation (Kenya), in collaboration with the Infectious Diseases Institute (Uganda), hosted a side-event exploring a critical question: “What should clinical trial preparedness for Africa look like in a pandemic?” During this session, Dr Michelle Singh, Project Officer, delivered the keynote address and highlighted EDCTP as a proven model for building sustainable clinical trial capacity.

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Annual meeting of the VALIDATE Network

Nuraan Fakier, Project Officer, based at the Africa Office, represented the EDCTP Association at the VALIDATE Network Annual Meeting 2025, which took place in Somerset West, Cape Town, South Africa, from 29 September to 1 October 2025. The VALIDATE Network aims to accelerate vaccine R&D by creating an engaged and interactive community of researchers. Members participate in this active global research community, which makes available resources and training opportunities. The annual meeting showcases cutting edge science from Fellows funded by the VALIDATE Network.

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Financial and Project Management training for EDCTP2 beneficiaries

The EDCTP Association conducted a two-day training on final reporting for EDCTP2 projects in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 13-14 October 2025. Participants from the Southern Africa region attended the training, which was led by Mr Abdoulie Barry, Executive Director and Director of Finance and Administration, and Dr Pauline Beattie, Operations Manager and Scientific Adviser. The training supports beneficiaries in completing and submitting high-quality final and periodic reports to EDCTP with the goal of improving transparency, accountability, and sustainability in health research across Africa.



EDCTP Association visit to the XACT-19 project in South Africa and Zimbabwe

On 14 October 2025, an EDCTP Association team visited the University of Cape Town Lung Institute in South Africa for a monitoring visit of the XACT-19 project, which is coordinated by Professor Keerta Dheda. During the visit, the EDCTP team of Michelle Nderu, Project

Officer, Mary Jane Coloma-Egelink, Grants Finance Officer, Dr Phindile Ximba, Research Administration Fellow, and Fowzia Abram Finance Intern, met with Dr Alex Scott (Site PI and Project Manager), Dr Dani Landorec (Quality Control Lead), Prof. Aliasgar Esmail, and Taliah Perumin (PhD student) on the XACT-29 project.

This was followed by the visit of Dr Pauline Beattie, Operations Manager and Scientific Adviser, Mary Jane Coloma-Egelink, and Fowzia Abram, to the Biomedical and Research Training Institute (BRTI) in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 16 October 2025. Dr Junior Mutsvangwa, Principal Investigator for the XACT-19 trial in Zimbabwe, and colleagues introduced the EDCTP team to the work of the BRTI, its mission and research focus, and updated the group on the progress of the XACT-19 project.

[XACT-19](#) is assessing whether the use of computer-assisted X-ray diagnosis of TB combined with molecular testing can improve the detection of TB cases in the community. The visit highlighted the strong collaboration, impressive research infrastructure, and significant progress made by the project team toward advancing accurate and accessible TB diagnostics in Africa.

EDCTP2 project news



Coartem® Baby launches in Ghana

On 7 October 2024, Ghana became the first malaria-endemic country to launch Coartem® (artemether-lumefantrine) Baby, the first malaria treatment specifically designed and approved for young infants. The treatment received [regulatory approval in July 2025](#), following positive results from the CALINA study, which was conducted by the EDCTP2-funded PAMAfrica consortium.

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CAP012 SAMBA project: African innovation driving the future of HIV prevention

The CAP012 SAMBA project, led by the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and supported by the EDCTP2 programme, represents one of the most comprehensive African-led evaluations of broadly neutralising antibodies (bNAbs) for HIV prevention. Focused on young women in sub-Saharan Africa—a population that continues to bear the highest burden of new infections—this project exemplifies the power of African scientific leadership in shaping the next generation of HIV prevention technologies.

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EDCTP Fellows



EDCTP Association mourns the passing of Professor Jean Louis Abdourahim Ndiaye

The EDCTP Association deeply mourns the loss of Professor Jean Louis Abdourahim Ndiaye, joining the global health community in honouring an outstanding researcher whose impact will continue to be felt across the global health research field.

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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](#).

- Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy: [Cerebrospinal fluid penetration of cycloserine/terizidone and clofazimine in patients with pulmonary TB](#). Upton CM, et al. 21 October 2025
- AIDS Research and Therapy: [Moderate agreement between the spot albumin–Creatinine ratio \(ACR\) and urine albumin \(UA\) among virally suppressed adults living with HIV in botswana: a cross sectional study](#). Mosepele M, et al. 17 October 2025
- BMC Infectious Diseases: [Performance evaluation of alternative bacteriological measures of response to MDR/RR-TB therapy during the initial 16 weeks of treatment](#). Ssengooba W, et al. 15 October 2025
- PloS One: [Acceptability of minimal invasive tissue sampling \(MITS\) for stillbirths in Eastern Uganda](#). Chebet M, et al. 13 October 2025
- International journal of infectious diseases: [Increased Risk of Neuropsychiatric adverse events with Dolutegravir-based antiretroviral therapy During Pregnancy: Findings from a Prospective Cohort Study](#). Namwase H, et al. 9 October 2025
- BMC Public Health: [An ethnographic study on the socio-cultural factors that influence adherence to mass drug administration among schoolchildren in schistosomiasis hotspots along lake albert, Hoima District, Uganda](#). Odoi P, et al. 3 October 2025
- Frontiers in Immunology: [Humoral immune response to COVID-19 vaccines in onchocerciasis-infected individuals: a field study from Ghana](#). Meyer J, et al. 1 October 2025
- Scientific Reports: [Impact of epstein-barr virus reactivation on cytokine levels in pregnant women with malaria in the west region of cameroon](#). Chatue I, et al. 30 September 2025
- BMC Medicine: [Gaps in the global health research landscape for mpox: an analysis of research activities and existing evidence](#). Furst R, et al. 29 September 2025
- Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy: [Population pharmacokinetics of ritonavir as a booster of lopinavir, atazanavir, or darunavir in African children with HIV](#). Tsirizani L, et al. 26 September 2025
- AIDS and Behavior: [The Acceptability of a Real-Time Medication Monitoring-Based Digital Adherence Tool Among Young People Living with HIV in Malawi](#). Msosa TC, et al. 23 September 2025
- PLoS Pathogens: [The association of class II HLA alleles with tuberculosis-associated immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome](#). Choshi P, et al. 19 September 2025
- Frontiers in Public Health: [Defying barriers to fight tuberculosis in West Africa: a model of equitable partnerships within a research capacity-strengthening network in the subregion](#). Otchere, ID, et al. 19 September 2025
- Health & Place: [Community insights into societal causes of and solutions for schistosomiasis transmission in Lake Albert fishing villages: A participatory approach](#). Anyolitho MK, et al. 17 September 2025

- BMJ Open: Evaluating the diagnostic accuracy of WHO-recommended treatment decision algorithms for childhood tuberculosis using an individual person dataset: a study protocol. Olbrich L, et al. 17 September 2025
- PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases: Exploration of tongue dorsum sampling to support clinical diagnosis of leprosy patients in the Comoros: A cross-sectional study. Krausser L, et al. 17 September 2025
- Journal of Public Health in Africa: Understanding sexual violence: Perspectives from an adolescent HIV prevention study. Ahmed N, et al. 17 September 2025
- The Lancet. Infectious diseases: Safety, tolerability, and protective efficacy of a radiation-attenuated, whole sporozoite malaria vaccine in children in Gabon: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 2 trial. Agnandji ST, et al. 16 September 2025
- Open Forum Infectious Diseases: Accelerating Cough-Based Algorithms for Pulmonary Tuberculosis Screening: Results From the CODA TB DREAM Challenge. Jaganath D, et al. 16 September 2025
- PLoS neglected tropical diseases: Fixed-dose ivermectin for Mass Drug Administration: Is it time to leave the dose pole behind? Insights from an Individual Participant Data Meta-Analysis. Echazu A, et al. 15 September 2025
- Frontiers in Immunology: Seroprevalence of antibodies to Plasmodium falciparum transmission-blocking target proteins Pfs230D1M and Pfs48/45 in Tanzanian populations of diverse malaria transmission intensity. Mulamba C, et al. 11 September 2025
- Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology: Population structure and emergence of resistance to new and repurposed drugs in XDR-TB: insights from a 10-year genomic study in the Western Cape, South Africa review. Ngom JT, et al. 4 September 2025
- The Journal of Infectious Diseases: Risk Factors Associated With Tuberculosis Infection Among Household Contacts of Patients With Microbiologically Confirmed Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 3 High Tuberculosis Burden Countries. Ntshiq T, et al. 1 September 2025
- Frontiers in Immunology: Innate immune dysfunction and persistent activation in South African HIV elite controllers. Mohamed A, et al. 27 August 2025
- Open Journal of Epidemiology: Individual Factors Influencing Occupational Burnout among Nurses at Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya. Jeomba MA, et al. 26 August 2025
- Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (1999): Predictors of Concurrent Sexual Partnerships and Association with Recent HIV Infection in a Large Population-Based Survey in Botswana. Moyo S, et al. 22 August 2025
- World Journal of Vaccines: Predictors of COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake among Adults in Kiambu, Kenya. Abdulla SM, et al. 24 June 2025
- African Journal of Thoracic and Critical Care Medicine: Molecular diagnostics improve the yield of diagnosis of community-acquired pneumonia and multidrug-resistant pathogens in hospitalised patients with HIV in a low-income setting. Worodria W, et al. 4 June 2025
- Open Journal of Epidemiology: Supply and Human Resource-Related Factors in COVID-19 Preparedness within Dental Facilities in Nairobi County, Kenya. Chematia H, et al. 15 May 2025
- Fortune Journals: Prevalence and Indications for Antibiotic Prescription Among Patients Hospitalized with COVID-19 Disease at Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenya. Nyoni KT, et al. 24 April 2025
- Lancet (London, England): Suspected and confirmed mpox cases in DR Congo: a retrospective analysis of national epidemiological and laboratory surveillance data, 2010-23. Bangwen E, et al. 1 February 2025
- Lancet (London, England): Epidemiological and clinical features of mpox during the clade Ib outbreak in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo: a prospective cohort study. Brosius I, et al. 29 January 2025
- Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care: A Mixed-Methods Pilot Study to Explore the Feasibility and Acceptability of SMS Reminders to Improve Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting among Adults on ART in Tanzania. Masika LV, et al. 1 January 2025
- Medical Mycology: Clinical importance of cerebrospinal fluid protein levels in HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis: Insights from a prospective cohort study in Uganda. Kasibante J, et al. 1 October 2024
- Annals of the American Thoracic Society: The Hidden Epidemic of Isoniazid-

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](#)
- WHO-TDR | [Global Health Matters podcast](#)

Training and funding opportunities

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. The EDCTP Association is supporting scholarships for African vaccinologists to attend.

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UK-LMIC Research Partnership for the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team (UK-PHRST) | Deadline for applications: 27 November 2025

This is a new funding opportunity to contract a high-quality research partnership to collaborate with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to deliver the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team (UK-PHRST). The UK-LMIC Research Partnership will deliver an ambitious, interdisciplinary programme of research aimed at improving public health responses to infectious disease outbreaks in LMICs.

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Research Communication course

A free, online training course is now available to help researchers bridge the gap between evidence generation and real-world impact. Developed by TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, the new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

provides researchers with practical skills to increase the uptake of their findings for policy and practice changes.

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Mark your calendar

PDP Funders meeting | 4-6 November 2025

From 4 to 6 November 2025, the Product Development Partnership (PDP) Funders Group will meet in The Hague, the Netherlands, for a series of donor meetings. The first day of these meetings will be hosted by the EDCTP Association, followed by a joint meeting of the PDPs and PDP Funders Group, as well as the Dutch PDP Annual Meeting 2025, organised by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency and hosted by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From Evidence to Impact: Launch of the Research into Policy Toolkit | 13 November 2025

The EDCTP Association and The Global Health Network have developed a new open-access Research into Policy toolkit as part of the EDCTP Knowledge Hub. This practical resource is designed to support researchers, policymakers, and health leaders in working together to translate evidence into real-world impact. An online launch event will be held on 13 November 2025 – register for this webinar to learn more about the toolkit.

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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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